

# Exclusives Academy Teams Softball Player/Parent Agreement

Exclusives Academy Teams is dedicated to the development of student athletes. “It’s not about the next 4 years; it’s about the next 40 years.” Our mission is to help our student athletes not only be successful until they graduate from college, but also throughout their adult careers.

FOUNDATION FOR  
SUCCESS

$(E + P) \times D \times L = \text{True}$



Success

These are the three ideals of our Triangle of Success, the philosophy of our academy. Each part of this formula not only pushes your kids to be great athletes but also great adults. We believe this formula will set them up for success, and we are honored that you are a part of this exceptional organization!

**Education/Preparation:** We support that our players are students first, athletes second, so we provide them with the tools to excel beyond the game because “it’s not just about the next 4 years, it’s about the next 40 years.”

**Dedication:** We instill a sense of commitment in our players through hard work and perseverance in their game and their studies. We believe this learned dedication translates to lifelong success.

**Leadership:** We strengthen our players’ leadership skills by promoting team and self responsibility, because a strong, confident individual develops into an effective leader.

If you take a closer look at our logo, you will see three smaller triangles intertwined within one main triangle. That’s because we all contribute!

You, the player, become a successful adult by leading, learning, and committing to all that you obligate yourself. In the end, YOU own your triumphs and failures.

You, the parent/guardian, elevate your player to become successful an individual by encouraging, supporting, and being their biggest fan. You are the person they see day after day, pushing them to be their best and loving them through their struggles.

We, the coaches, to the best of our ability will teach, inspire, and dedicate our time to your players to ensure that they become successful leaders.

## *Playing Time*

Tournament softball is not Recreation Softball; it is a competitive environment where playing time is earned through ability, effort and attitude demonstrated at practice and in games. The coaching staff will work to involve the players when possible, however Playing Time is NOT Guaranteed.

Players will see playing time in a number of ways: fielding, base running, pinch-hitting, etc. Parents/Guardians are welcome to discuss questions involving individual playing time with the coaches 24 hours after the conclusion of the tournament (ex. Monday). Please make sure that all discussions are private and away from all players.

**Guest playing** with other teams **MUST** be approved by the coach. It cannot interfere with Exclusives Academy practices or game times.

**Practice Attendance** Practices are the key in development of all players. All planned practices are mandatory. At least one coach must be told in advance of a practice that a player will not be able to attend, except in the case of emergencies. All players should arrive for practice and be ready to take the field on time and in practice uniform. All necessary equipment should be brought to practice including glove, bat, arm bands, catching gear and batting helmets. If you are late to practice you will be expected to run. Missing two practices without an excuse from the coach is grounds for dismissal from the team.

### *Practice Time*

In order to maximize practices, it is imperative that players give 100% of their effort and attention to the practice. This requires the players to be at the practice on time and ready to practice.

1. Players will hustle on and off the field and between stations.
2. Players will not talk to anyone when a coach is talking to them specifically or to the group.
3. All equipment must be treated with respect and picked up at the end of practice.
4. All trash will be picked up before leaving the fields and dugouts.
5. All cell phones must be turned off or on vibrate in player's bags at all times.

### *Games*

It is important to support our teammates and to learn from the game time situations. In order to succeed in this the following game time guidelines apply:

1. Players are to remain in the dugout during the entire game.
2. Players not playing are to keep a positive attitude and support team members that are currently on the field.
3. Parents/Guardians shall not coach players on the field.
4. Parents/Guardians are not allowed behind the dugout during the game unless the coach has asked the parent to check on the wellbeing of the player.
5. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to cheer and encourage all players during the game. Negative statements will not be tolerated.
6. All cell phones must be turned off or on vibrate in player's bags at all times.

### *Player Continuance*

Players are not guaranteed to be retained season to season. All players new and old must tryout every season. If a special need is identified on the team for a new player, the coaching staff may hold individual tryouts to fill those needs. These tryouts may occur with the team or separate. Once a player signs a commitment to Exclusives Academy Teams, they will not be cut during the season for the purposes to make room for a replacement player.

### *Dismissal*

A player's dismissal by the coaching staff is the last possible resort to resolving an issue that negatively impacts the organization. A player may be released if more than 3 documented violations occur to the Player/Parent Agreement. When a player asks to be released from Exclusives Academy Teams, *they are still required to fulfill the original financial obligations*. All equipment issued by the team is to be returned in good condition.

### *Grievance Process*

The grievance process will be as follows:

- a) The Head Coach of each team will try to resolve any issues arising on his/her team.
- b) If unsuccessful, the Head Coach will refer the grievance to the President for resolution.
- c) If unsuccessful, the President will refer the grievance to the Executive Board for resolution. The decision of the Executive Board is final.
- d) If the President is the Head Coach of the team, and/or if the parent is uncomfortable speaking to the President, for any reason, the issue may be raised to any Exclusives Academy Teams leadership board member for resolution. Current leadership board members are reflected on the EA website at: [www.ExclusivesAcademy.com](http://www.ExclusivesAcademy.com)

### ***Financial Obligations***

It is important to be reminded of your Financial Obligation & ensure that every effort be made to pay your fees on time. Payment due dates will be defined by a season payment schedule once the player has accepted an offered team position. In order to keep Exclusives Academy operating (reserve spots in tournaments, order uniforms & equipment, and provide field & facility use), it is absolutely essential that all fees be paid timely.

If player fees are behind the player's participation with the team/organization may be affected. If you cannot meet this financial responsibility, or have questions, please contact your coach and/or team coordinator as soon as possible. If the due date should fall on a holiday or Sunday, please make your payment on the business day prior to the due date. All checks should be made payable to Exclusives Academy. During the season there may be specific fundraising activities available to individual players to help with player fees.

Fall season - The costs will include tournaments, practice fields, indoor training, college recruitment support & resources, and misc. supplies.

Spring/Summer - The costs will include tournaments, practice fields, indoor training, college recruitment support & resources, and misc. supplies.

Should player/parent quit, withdraw or leave the team at any point, **for any reason** (including injury) once a team position has been accepted WILL NOT RECEIVE A REFUND of any kind. Player fees/budgets are set based on the number of players that originally join the team and monthly dues are based on these figures. Should a player decide to leave the team & still have a balance due - they will not be held liable for the remaining balance. However, all fees paid up to the player's departure will not be refundable. Players ending a season with an open and delinquent balance will be reported to ASA, USSSA, PGF and other fastpitch associations.

1. Team uniforms will include (2) tops, (2) softball pants - black and white, (2) uniform socks - black and white, (2) practice uniform - gray and black, (2) belts - black and white and one Helmet - matte black. The purchase of the uniforms, including game jerseys and practice jerseys are the financial responsibility of the parent/player and are not included in any fees. At different times during the year the team will be adding other items to each player's uniform, for example practice sweats, tournament specific uniforms (Halloween tourney, breast cancer tourney, boxer blowout) etc. At that time the player will be required to pay the fee for the items being ordered.
2. Each player will be required to participate with all fundraising events sponsored by the team. For example: car washes, spaghetti dinners, raffle tickets and/or the sale of fundraising products.
3. Each player is encouraged to solicit businesses and individuals for sponsorships or donations. All monies collected will be applied to the individual(s) who participated in the solicitation. If the player/parent leaves the organization all monies are forfeited and will remain the property of Exclusives Academy.
4. At certain times players will be required to help offset the cost of using indoor training facilities.
5. When a player asks to be released from Exclusives Academy Teams, they are **still required to fulfill the original financial obligations.**

## Exclusive **Academy** Teams Softball Player **Triangle**

By being a part of the Exclusives Academy Teams Softball organization, players are asked to uphold the Player **Triangle of Success**. The coaching staff will hold every athlete to a high standard and will expect all team members to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. **You, the player,** become a successful adult by leading, learning, and committing to all that you obligate yourself. In the end, YOU own your triumphs and failures. Behavior that is deemed disruptive and detrimental to the team can bring consequences ranging from diminished playing time to dismissal from the team. The following items are in place to make you a better person and promote the image of our softball program.

- a) Always be on time for all softball related activities. Please be courteous enough to call if you cannot attend or will be late.
- b) Practice at “Game Pace.” You are expected to treat practice just like a game. Practice is the time to learn and improve. We will not coach poor attitudes, we cannot coach effort, and effort comes from the player.
- c) Always support your teammates on and off the field. We have stepped between the lines and the season has started. We are in this together.
- d) Be Coachable. Listen to your coaches’ instruction. Ask questions if you are not sure. Be willing to try new positions, new techniques. Be willing to do whatever your team needs you to do.
- e) Accept your role on the team. If you do not like it, work harder to change it. Playing time is earned in practice and on the field.
- f) Do not transfer blame or make excuses. It is not acceptable. Learn from your mistakes and get better.
- g) Do not question the Coaches during a game, ever. We will meet 1-on-1, in a productive manner to clear up any misunderstandings. Coaches do make mistakes.
- h) Disrespect for coaches, parents, teammates, and umpires will not be tolerated.
- i) Always lead by example on and off the field.
- j) Be the good example and set the standard high for future Exclusives Academy Players to follow.
- k) Injuries will be taken seriously. It is important that players and parents have open and honest communications with coaches regarding injuries. Playing with soreness and slight pain is part of sports; however, playing injured is not. Health of the player is paramount. If you are injured, you are required to visit your doctor. A doctor’s note will be required, and the doctor’s orders will be followed by the coach. Injured players are still required to attend practices and games.

## Exclusives Academy Teams Softball Parent **Triangle**

Parents play a huge role in the development of a successful softball player. **You, the parent/guardian**, elevate your player to become a successful individual by encouraging, supporting, and being their biggest fan. You are the person they see day after day, pushing them to be their best and loving them through their struggles.

- a) Encourage your player to communicate with the coaches. It is very important that the players build the confidence to interact with, and establish a healthy interactive relationship with their coaches.
- b) Make sure your player is on time to all team activities. Always know, if you as parents cannot get your daughter to an event, we are a team and someone will help you.
- c) Communicate with the coaching staff and respond to emails or texts so we know you got information provided; we want all to be on the same page.
- d) Please come to any of your child's coaches if you have a problem or concern. Your thoughts are important to us. We will work to address your concerns. If we cannot help, we will explain why and work with you to find another way to address your concerns. Complaining to other parents cannot solve your problems, nor can we solve problems that we do not know about. If you respect our organization enough to allow us to play such a big part in your child's life, please respect us enough to know that we have your child's best interest in mind.
- e) Parents play their role at home and outside the softball field. On the softball field, the coaches play their role. Please do not coach your child during practices or games. Your comments detract from what the coach is doing, they give the player another thing to think about, and it interferes with the development of the player/coach relationship.
- f) Parents are not allowed behind the dugout during games. Make every effort to ensure that your player has everything she needs prior to the start of the game (water, equipment, etc.) If your player needs something, the coach may give her permission to leave the bench area or request a parent's assistance or the coach will invite you to check on the player's wellbeing.
- g) Do not question the Coaches during a game, ever. We will meet 1-on-1, in a productive manner to clear up any misunderstandings. Coaches do make mistakes. 24 hour rule applies.
- h) Be supportive of your player after good games and poor games, your support matters more than you realize.
- i) Please tell the coach before practice or games, if you think your child has an illness or injury that will prevent her from participating. Please do not rely on the coach to make medical decisions.
- j) Be prepared for tournament weekends. Tournament play often starts very early in the morning (8:00 AM), and can last all day. Sometimes games are played back-to-back, and other times the team may have to wait several hours between games. Coaches will communicate tournament schedules as soon as they get them; however, Saturday game times are usually not set until Wednesday/Thursday prior to the weekend.

Tournament weekends can be a great time to interact with other Exclusives Academy families, and build an atmosphere that allows the girls to develop "Team Chemistry," which is a winning quality that cannot be coached. If you are new to tournament softball please ask the coach and other parents for advice. It can be great fun, but if not prepared, it can be a difficult experience.

- k) Be an example for your player. They are still impressionable kids and young adults.

l) Parents are expected to comply with all park rules, including the use of alcohol while at the park. Most parks prohibit or restrict the use of alcohol without a special permit.

## Exclusives Academy Softball Coach **Triangle**

**We, the coaches,** to the best of our ability will teach, inspire, and dedicate our time to your players to ensure that they become successful leaders.

- a) Exemplify behavior that is representative of being an adult, a coach, a member of EA, and a leader of young women.
- b) Demonstrate high ideals, good sportsmanship, and desirable attitudes in personal behavior and demand the same standards from his/her players.
- c) Emphasize to his/her players and support personnel the importance of proper behavior and the necessity of restraining from entering the playing field to engage in an altercation of any kind.
- d) Maintain self-control at all times.
- e) Cooperate with and assist the EA Executive Board in the planning, scheduling, and conduct of organization activities.
- f) Utilize positive educational methods in coaching; giving all players an opportunity to develop and use initiative, leadership, and judgment.
- g) Pay close attention to the physical condition and well-being of players; refusing to jeopardize the health of an individual for the sake of improving his/her team's chances of winning.
- h) Discourage profanity or abusive language directed toward anyone involved with EA and its activities.
- i) Refuse to disparage opponent, officials, or others associated with the EA or its activities.
- j) Conduct himself/herself properly when raising a question about or discussing a call with an official.
- k) Exclusives Academy coaches have an obligation to participate in the building of the Exclusives Academy organization, not just their team.
- l) Coaches are expected to interact with parents, fostering an atmosphere of open communications, trust and team.
- m) The coaching staff should ensure that players and parents understand what is involved in tournament play, and provide enough guidance to ensure families are properly prepared for the early and long days that often accompany tournament play.
- n) Coach should establish team rules, coaching philosophy, and properly set player and parental expectations on practice participation, playing time, in-game interaction between player and parents, etc.
- o) Coaches should conduct organized and productive practices. Practice should be conducted in a serious, "Game pace" manor. Practice is for learning and improving. Be prepared for practice and set the tone for your team.
- p) Responsible for budget.
- q) Coaches are strictly prohibited from using alcohol during all team activities, including but not limited to games and practices.
- r) Coaches must ensure that they are in compliance with all park rules.



## Social Networking Policy

Web sites and social media are powerful communications tools that have a significant impact on organizational and individual reputations. Because they blur the lines between personal voice and institutional voice, the Exclusive Acadmey Teams organization has crafted the following policy to help clarify how best to enhance and protect personal and organizational reputations when posting content on our web site and participating in social media.

The [www.ExclusivesAcademy.com](http://www.ExclusivesAcademy.com) website will be maintained by the EA Teams Webmaster. The webmaster will develop and enforce a set of guidelines that ensure consistent, effective and appropriate use of the web site, as both an informational and communications platform. These guidelines will be presented and approved by the board. The web site is the external face of the organization, and the implementation and enforcement of these guidelines are an important element of our mission as an organization.

Social media are defined as media designed to be disseminated through social interaction, created using highly accessible publishing techniques. Examples include but are not limited to LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram.

Both in individual and organizational roles, Exclusive Acadmey Teams members need to follow the same behavioral standards online as they would in real life. The same laws, expectations, and guidelines for interacting with our student athletes, parents, sponsors, media, and other softball organizations apply online as in the real world. Exclusive Acadmey Teams members are responsible for anything they post to social media sites.

The Exclusive Acadmey Teams web site and social media guidelines include the following:

- Protect confidential and private information: Do not post confidential or private information about Exclusive Acadmey Teams , players - including self, parents or coaches.
- Don't use Exclusive Acadmey Teams logos. Do not use Exclusives Academy's name to promote a product or cause, without prior written permission from the Exclusives Academy Board.
- Think twice before posting: Privacy does not exist in the world of social media. Consider what could happen if a post becomes widely known and how that may reflect both on the poster and the Exclusives Academy organization.
- Strive for accuracy: Get the facts straight before posting them on social media. Review content for grammatical and spelling errors. This is especially important if posting on behalf of the Exclusives Academy organization in any capacity.
- Be respectful: Understand that content contributed to a social media site could encourage comments or discussion of opposing ideas. Responses should be considered carefully in light of how they would reflect on the poster and/or the Exclusives Academy organization.
- Remember your audience: Be aware that a presence in the social media world is or easily can be made available to the public at large. This includes prospective Exclusives Academy players, current players, other softball organizations, high school coaches, etc.
- Photography: Photographs posted on social media sites easily can be shared by visitors. Before posting photography to social media sites, please consider the

appropriateness of those photos.

- Be aware, be careful. If you have any questions or concerns, contact your coach or a Exclusives Academy board member before posting anything on social media.



# EXCLUSIVES ACADEMY

I, \_\_\_\_\_, has committed to Exclusives Academy Teams for the period of through \_\_\_\_\_ and agree to follow the policies and procedures contained in the Player/Parent agreement and all terms and conditions set forth below.

I agree there are no guarantees about player position or playing time and that these decisions are at the sole discretion of the Head Coach.

I understand there will be ongoing tournament fees and other miscellaneous fees associated with the expense of funding team operations and agree to pay all fees by the requested due dates.

\_\_\_\_\_  
In the event the player leaves the team or is dismissed from the team, they are **still required to fulfill the original financial obligations.**

Photo Release Form: The Exclusives Academy organization has my permission to use my or my child's photograph publicly to promote the organization. I understand that the images may be used in print publications, online publications, presentations, websites, and social media. I also understand that no royalty, fee or other compensation shall become payable to me by reason of such use.

Player: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Effective 05/29/2020



