



Freedom Competitive Softball Program

TEAM EXPECTATIONS & COMMITMENT FORM

Last Updated September 2023

PURPOSE:

To clarify for parents and athletes the expectations of all players, parents, and coaches participating in the Folsom Freedom competitive softball program.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Folsom Freedom competitive softball program seeks to provide a positive experience to each and every athlete. The program is based on hard work, teamwork, discipline, dedication, and selflessness. All coaches, athletes, and parents are expected to demonstrate honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY:

The intent of the Folsom Freedom program is to provide a positive experience for each and every girl who participates. We provide a high-quality, competitive, and character driven program. At all levels of play, the goal is to develop an elite team that is both competitive and exemplifies the qualities that are presented in our mission statement. Players will be responsible for exhibiting these qualities, not only in practice and at games, but also at home and at school.

It is a difficult and time-consuming responsibility to be the parent of a competitive softball player. We all want what is best for our athletes. The coaching staff can promise you that they want your daughter to succeed. They will work as hard as possible to help her achieve her goals. Playing time and her role on the team are based on effort, skill, team play, practice habits, attitude, and performance. Playing time is not a guarantee to any player. Some players will not get as much playing time as other girls, and in some games, a team member may not play at all.

The goals of the team as a whole will always come before individual desires. The coaching staff believes that there are many rewards that come from being part of a team. They include the improvement that comes from everyday effort, the friendships made, and the lessons learned. These benefits far outweigh the game time played. Success is earned through commitment and team play. Every girl will have a role on the team. No role is less important than another. The success of the team as a whole, and the success of your daughter as an individual, will be based on how well each player performs her specific role.



PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES:

All athletes participating in the program will be made aware of the following key player responsibilities on the first day of practice:

- Work hard at ALL times to improve softball skills and conditioning to make the team better as a whole.
- Perform with passion at the highest level, giving 100% in practice, games, and in the classroom.
- Keep emotions under control - stay positive.
- Maintain the goals of the team above individual desires.

PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Ensure that all tournament fees are paid in full by no later than the deadlines announced at the beginning of the season. Checks should be payable to Folsom Freedom Softball . If your family is not paid in full on these dates, unfortunately, your daughter will not be able to play in any tournament until payment is made. Please know that quite often, tournament fees are carried by the coach/team manager or Folsom Freedom Softball. For this reason, and in the interest of fairness to all, prompt payment must occur. All players are required to pay their equal share of expenses – this includes the children of the coaching staff. These are volunteer positions and under no circumstances are they exempt from payment.
- Remember that your team leadership is made up of volunteers who are parents just like you. Please be as patient, helpful, and responsive to requests as possible.
- Accept the decision of the officials. Please do not boo or heckle, regardless of your feelings.
- Refrain from name calling or using profane or disrespectful language when addressing players, coaches, and officials.
- Be encouraging to fellow parents.
- Be respectful and supportive to coaches at practices, games, and at home. It is important that a positive atmosphere is fostered at home about your daughter's role on the team. Many successful teams are destroyed at home when parents are not supportive of fellow players or coaches.
- Support your daughter at ALL times (both good and bad).

COACHES' EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES:

TEAM SELECTION: This is solely the coaching staff's responsibility. Selections are made on an open tryout basis at the beginning of each competitive season. Players are selected based on skill level, effort, knowledge of the game, and attitude.

PRACTICE: Players are required to be at practice. Players may be asked to practice on Saturdays and Sundays. Practices may conflict with family events, other sports, social functions, and other events for both players and coaches. This presents difficult choices. Being part of a successful team requires commitment and sacrifices. When a player is selected to be a part of a team, she is making a commitment to put team needs over individual needs. If a player misses a practice during the week of a tournament, she may not start in the first game. If a player misses two practices, she may not play in the first game.



PLAYING TIME: Many factors are considered when determining playing time. A player's ability and skill, work ethic, and adherence to team rules all determine playing time. The challenge is to ensure that in every game, the best players are in the lineup, depending on the opponent. The coaching staff will determine how each girl can make the greatest contribution to the success of the team. Saturdays (typically, a seeding day at tournaments) will be a day when everyone will get playing time. Sundays (typically, a single elimination day at tournaments) will be a day the team will strive to play at the highest level and those athletes that provide the best opportunity to compete will play.

GAME STRATEGY AND DECISION-MAKING: This is at the sole discretion of the coaches. It is based on their knowledge of the game and their evaluation of your daughter at practice and in game situations. You may not always agree with a coach's strategy. However, being negative in the stands or at home will cause damage to team morale and never helps.

24-HOUR RULE - "COOL DOWN": Please do not approach any member of the coaching staff for 24 hours after a game. Preferred method of communication is e-mail with your concerns or issues to the head coach. The 24-hour period is designed to give you time to provide a more objective opinion about any issues and will aid in a more productive conversation with the coach. If a family is unhappy with the approach and decides to leave the team, there will be no hard feelings. This program may not suit every player or family. **Please understand there are no refunds given.**

TEAM DISSOLUTION: Should a team dissolve, all equipment purchased with either team dues or team fundraising, along with all collected dues and fundraising money, becomes the property of the Freedom organization. Player equipment, not expected to be returned to the team/organization includes: practice jerseys, uniforms, bags and helmets. All other equipment is considered Team equipment and the property of the Freedom organization.

NO PARENTS IN THE DUGOUT: Please let the coaches coach your daughters and do not coach from the stands. It confuses the players as to whom to listen to – and we don't want confused players.

By signing below, the player and parent/guardians acknowledge that they've thoroughly read the team expectations and will abide by the rules set forth.

Player Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

