



## Arizona Storm Softball Guidelines

### **MISSION:**

The primary goal of the club is to provide a competitive environment for our gifted athletes to develop their softball skills to their fullest potential. The organization emphasizes hard work, commitment, and determination. This program is designed solely for gifted softball players and committed families. All playing time and positioning will be earned and will be given at the discretion of the Storm coaching staff. The Storm program ensures that each player will become better softball players. We will also emphasize to all members the importance of team goals, individual goals and academic goals. An emphasis will also be placed on discipline and respect for our parents, siblings, coach's, teammates, officials and the way the game should be played. By choosing to play for Storm, each player understands their commitment to the team's goals should always supersede their individual goals. When the team succeeds, we all succeed, no matter what individual role we played in that success. Lastly, we trust that if we stick to all of these beliefs we will put ourselves in a position to attain our ultimate goal of competing at a National Championship.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Every effort should be made to attend and be on time to all games and practices. That means, "on the field, warming up", fifteen minutes prior to each practice start time and all games. If you are not early you are late! Also, all families should study the team calendar and plan all appointments and family outings around the team calendar. Each family should understand that the calendar is tentative and can change from time to time, mostly due to circumstances beyond the team's control. If a player has a school trip or commitment in the future that may conflict with the team's calendar, please notify the team coordinator immediately.

If a player must miss a practice, she (not her parent) must call or email the coach and let them know. If a player misses a practice, she and her parents should also expect a loss in playing time in the following game(s) and/or tournaments. This is not meant to punish players who must miss a practice, but is meant to encourage and reward players who are there. The more a player is absent from practices the less chance she will play in games or possibly remain with the program. In the event that a player misses a practice or game or has to leave early from either, it is the responsibility of the player to call or email to get any updated information for upcoming events. A player is expected to attend every team function, including events off the field.

### **INJURIES:**

In the event of an injury, if possible, the player should still attend practice. Much can be learned from helping coaches and listening to practice. If you are injured or become ill during a game or practice it is your responsibility to "your team" to report it to a coach immediately.

### **DUGOUT:**

**Only coaches and players are allowed in the dugout!** Parents are encouraged to support their daughter. However, during practices and games they should refrain from approaching the dugout to coach, counsel, or critique their daughter. Players do not leave the dugout during games unless given permission. Drinks, seeds, and gum only. No food, unless approved by a Coach. **DO NOT WALK INTO THE DUGOUT AND HAND YOUR PLAYER ANYTHING.** Players may come to the opening of the dugout and obtain what you want them to have. In order to minimize the need for this, please pack drinks and/or light snacks ahead of time for your daughter to bring to games and practices.

### **UNIFORMS:**

Come prepared to play. It is mandatory that players wear the appropriate equipment at all times. All equipment should be taken care of with respect, at all times.

Players should arrive in the correct uniform for all games and it should be clean and in good shape. Faded shirts and torn kneepads should be replaced whenever possible. **NO ONE** will be allowed to play if not in full and complete uniform. Please take proper care of the uniforms when washing them.

## **CONDUCT:**

Good sportsmanship by all Storm players and family members is expected at all times. “Treat Others as You Would like to Be Treated”. Please refrain from foul language, or conversation with umpires, coaches, players, teammates or parents regarding a perceived bad call or a play. It is also good sportsmanship for parents to allow coaches to coach. Parents are encouraged to work with their daughters, but not during or right before games or practices. Feel free to work with your daughter on off days, but not right before games or practices so that each player is 100% fresh for game warm ups and practices.

Parents are also to refrain from: Negative comments about or to their daughter or one of her teammates. From providing instruction during play, especially after striking out, walking a batter or committing an error. During game time parents should be their daughter's mom and dad. Be her biggest fan.

Friends or parents should not attend practice if it is a distraction to any player. Players should always remember that game time is **not** designated as time to visit with friends or family outside the field of play.

## **ADDRESSING CONCERNS/PROBLEMS:**

We encourage an open relationship between coaches, players, and parents. Parents should call or email the coach to set up an appropriate time to address questions or concerns. For your sake and for the sake of the players, **do not bring up concerns publicly during or after a game, or during or after a team practice.** These concerns will not be addressed at the field unless scheduled in advance. Also, all problems, questions, and concerns pertaining to the team, organization, coaches, or players should not be discussed with other parents on the team nor with friends or acquaintances on other teams. Please keep all issues in house and with the coaching staff only. Encourage your daughters to address concerns with their coaches. This will help the players take responsibility for their situations. **As a general rule, the coaches will not discuss positions or playing time with parents.**

Give yourselves 24 hours after a game or practice to cool down before contacting a coach. Your daughters are all of the age where everyone involved should be encouraging the players to initiate questions with the coaches about their issues. However, we also recognize this discussion, in your opinion, may require the involvement of a parent.

## **IMAGE:**

Your image as an Arizona Storm Student Athlete is an important one. You are a member of Arizona Storm and we will represent ourselves with Pride. **YOU WILL ALWAYS SPRINT ON AND OFF THE FIELD DURING GAMES AND PRACTICES, INCLUDING FROM STATION TO STATION ON THE PRACTICE FIELD.** Every player will also be expected to conduct themselves with integrity, both on and off the field and not sacrifice any of the Organization's core values. This includes using “the common sense rule” when posting information on social media, such as Facebook. There is a reason alcohol is banned from youth softball games and tournaments. I would like to impress on parents to refrain from drinking alcohol or coming to games or practices under the influence. What you do on your own time is your own business but when you are part of this organization we want to keep this athletic endeavor a positive and fun environment.

## **PRIVATE LESSONS/WORKOUTS:**

Each player is required to attend all team practices, and we expect you to adhere to our coaching techniques. We also understand and respect each player's right to see private instructors, as long as it doesn't interfere with our philosophy and scheduled practices. Please see the coaches for references to qualified instructors.

## **PICK UP PLAY:**

We schedule a very aggressive calendar for the girls. It is strategic and designed to put the girls in front of the best competition available. Additionally, there are reasons for weekends off and it isn't to play with another team. Pick Up play by Storm members with other organizations is prohibited, unless it is approved by all coaches involved.

## **WEBSITE (TeamSnap & AZStormFastpitch.com):**

Arizona Storm will use TeamSnap as our primary communication device for dispersing information to players and parents. Please edit your profile with correct email addresses and phone numbers to ensure ease of communication. If this information changes during the season, please go up to the Teamsnap website and update. We will use the [www.azstormfastpitch.com](http://www.azstormfastpitch.com) website to drive college coaches to view the team and individual profiles. Make sure we have all current information concerning your academics, awards, and contact information on the Storm Website. Please check the website regularly.

## **TEAM TRAVELING:**

It is “not” the responsibility of the coaching staff to baby-sit your daughter when traveling. If you are going to send your player on a trip unattended, it is the parent's responsibility to talk with another parent on the team to make sure she is fed, properly equipped to play, has something to drink, supervised, and transported to and from the practices/games. At no time will this responsibility be put on the coaching staff or any Arizona Storm representatives.

**FEES:**

It is the parent’s responsibility to make sure they are up to date with the team’s schedule of fees. The team cannot function without proper cash flow. If you are going to be late for any reason, please contact the coach or the person responsible for collecting fees. Keep in mind falling behind in fee payments may result in an immediate loss of playing time, and possibly removable from the team. We will try to provide fundraising opportunities for parents who are interested. All fees paid by PayPal, Venmo, Zelle, Teamsnap, Check, Cash or Sponsorship does become the property of Arizona Storm and will not be refunded. This includes any equipment or custom uniforms ordered but not yet recieved.

**HIGH SCHOOL FEES / TEAM BUDGETS:**

It is the parents responsibility to understand the team operates on a budget for 10-11 months per year. Team fees will be paid by our High School age girls during those 10-11 months. High School Ball - February - May.

*These guidelines are meant to make the program run as smoothly as possible. Please take each of them as seriously as we do!* Please sign below acknowledging that you understand the team guidelines and as a member of this team, that you will accept and adhere to the goals and rules presented within this document. After signing below, please return that page to the Coach. Thank you for your support and the opportunity to coach your daughters on this team. We look forward to a fun and very successful season.

We acknowledge having read and understand the Team Guidelines for the Arizona Storm Travel Softball Program. Our family will adhere to the goals and rules of the team in order to ensure success for the team and the best season possible.

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**PARENT SIGNATURE**

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**PARENT SIGNATURE**

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**PLAYER SIGNATURE**

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**Todays Date**