**West Valley Softball
Pre-season Parents Meeting**

**Team Management Introductions**

1. Head Coach
2. Assistant Coach 1
3. Assistant Coach 2
4. Team Manager

**Coaching philosophy & strategy**

1. Have fun while learning and developing new skills
2. Equal opportunities for playing time & learning, that said, the more the girls show up (to both games and practices) with energy & hustle and positivity, the more playing time will be available to them.
3. Safety is paramount, we will do everything we can to make sure that your daughter is not put in harm's way. Things happen quickly at this level and if a player doesn’t have her head in the game it can be very dangerous, so on a case by case basis, players may need to be pulled from play or moved to a different position, if deemed that they may not be safe in that position at that time.
* Equipment must be in playable shape
* No jewelry
* No metal cleats
* Athletic protectors are mandatory
* Fielding masks for infielders are mandatory
* Helmets to be worn on bench if no caged dugout is present
1. We will attempt to balance rotation amongst defensive positions, however positional play will be somewhat determined by skill and comfort level. The exception to this will be in playoffs, tournaments and provincials where we will be more strategic with positions and batting orders.
2. Within our coaching group, lineups and batting orders will be discussed to avoid individual decisions wherever possible.
3. We will try to have bi-weekly one-on-one meetings with each player to discuss positives and things to be worked on. More importantly, we need to get to know the players and communicate what they see/want/need from the team and coaches. We want players to be comfortable talking directly to coaches, and be able to bring things directly to us.
4. Cheering and peer support is expected from both the parents and the players. There will however be no tolerance for negative cheering. It is imperative that the girls have their full focus on the game, so we ask that parents do not coach from the sidelines and that the girls stay on the bench or in the dugout during games.
5. We will honor the sport and always demonstrate good sportsmanship on and off the field.
* We will not run up the score or play aggressively when leading by large margins
* We may adjust defensively depending on the team we are playing
* Our girls will respect umpires, players, parents, coaches, and volunteers AT ALL TIMES, and the same will be expected of the parents

**Expectations**

1. TeamSnap: Please update the player profile with parents names and phone numbers. Please update availability as soon as possible for all events. Please notify coaches with any known absences no later than noon on game days. Notify coaches with any last minute cancellation due to sickness or emergencies.
2. Be at the field ready to start warm up 45 min prior to game time. We will have a specific pregame routine for the girls to follow at every game
3. Most regular season games will be XXXday and XXXday
4. Practices will be XXXday & XXXday at XXX diamond
5. Late arrivals will be subject to a minimum 15-minute warmup, placed later in the batting order and may sit the first defensive inning
6. Practices are to be considered just as important as games. We get better through practice. We expect the girls to be on time and alert, so we can get the most out of each session

**Finances**

* Discussion of non-registration fee costs
	+ Team uniforms (pants, socks, hats, alternate jerseys)
	+ Team apparel (West Valley will provide options prior to season)
	+ Fundraising
	+ Corporate donations
	+ Cash calls
	+ Umpires
	+ Team activities (see below)
* Try to come to a consensus on rough costs that parents can agree on and budget for

**Team Activities**

Try to come to a consensus on time and financial commitment

* Practices
* Tournaments
* Team outings, team bonding opportunities
* Provincials

**Volunteer Positions**

Team logistics, game preparation, game management and practice planning/execution, require significant commitments from a head coach, assistant coaches and the team manager. This group should share the workload to ensure it is manageable for all.

NOTE: Should you encounter significant resistance or challenges recruiting, do not hesitate to reach out to your age division coordinator or league president.

This includes recruitment of other parents for support positions:

* Diamond set-up and take-down
* Scorekeeper
* Social coordinator (support of team manager)
* Umpire (home games without paid umpire)
* Health and safety (first aid, sanitization, etc.)
* Other duties as required