

CHATFIELD SOFTBALL NEW/RETURNING PLAYER/PARENT GUIDE 2019

Welcome and Introductions of Coaching Staff

The Chatfield Charger Coaching Staff and the Chatfield Charger Booster Club are providing this guide to active and new softball players (and their parents) that are interested in the Chatfield Softball Program.

What to expect?

Playing any sport at the high school level is a privilege. It is possible that you may have participated in softball leagues in the past, but it is your *attitude, effort, behavior, ability, and eligibility* that will dictate whether you make (and stay on) the team. Remember at the high school level, it is the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA), Jefferson County, and Chatfield Senior High, not coaches that ultimately dictate if you can play. Generally speaking, there is a sequence of events that will occur associated with the softball team over the next several months that are outlined here.

REGISTRATION- On-line registration at Chargerpride.com, click on the Fall Sports Registration Tab. Deadline to register is August 9th, you must upload a copy of your physical. A physical is good for one year, if you played a spring sport you still must upload your physical again. Athletes with incomplete paperwork will not be allowed to tryout. NO EXCEPTIONS.

COMMUNICATION-all communications will be sent through the Chatfield Softball website so please make sure that you and your player are registered. THIS SHOULD BE DONE TONIGHT! The website address is www.chatfieldsoftball.org. **IF YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED ON THE WEBSITE THEN YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS.** Additionally, our program uses Facebook/Instagram for communications. Please follow Chatfield Softball on Facebook and Instagram to receive these communications. **Players should join Coach Lazzeri's remind group on their phones by texting 81010 and then typing @coachjlaz in the message. This will allow players to get current updates on workouts, practices, games, volunteer events, and activities. This is also a way for players to reach Coach Lazzeri.**

CHATFIELD CHARGER SOFTBALL WEBSITE- www.chatfieldsoftball.org is the team website. This website will be updated with any news about the team, schedules, fields, directions and pictures. Anything you need to know about the season can be found on this website. The website is through League Athletics so you will receive game reminders (text/and or email) if you checked the appropriate boxes when you registered. Friends and family are welcome to get information sent to them from the website. They just need to go to the website and click on Join our Email list (bottom left tab).

What are boosters?

Our Booster Club, called Chatfield Softball, is an organization of parents and other interested parties whose activities help support the Chatfield Senior High softball team during their season. We organize fundraising to subsidize the team costs. Money collected through fundraising and booster club fees pays for the field expenses (e.g.: dirt, chalk, paint, gas for mower, tractor and golf cart care, etc.), maintenance of the softball field and softball equipment, All-Conference banners, uniforms, website management, game photography, a senior scholarship, year-end banquet, and other capital projects. We adhere to bylaws, and meet approximately once per month in the library and encourage all parents to attend. Current financial documents and upcoming events are reviewed at this time.

Upcoming Events

Youth Camp-first big volunteer event! We will be hosting our second annual FREE softball camp for elementary students. The camp will be run with the volleyball and basketball team as well, and will be held at the school on **May 11th from 9 am to 4 pm**. ALL players are encouraged to be here to help run the camp. Lunch break will be between noon and 1. Players should pack a sack lunch to be enjoyed together during this time.

Summer Softball Skill and Drill camp, June 3-July 10, Monday and Wednesday mornings, 8:00-9:30am. Highly encouraged for any player wanting to sharpen their softball skills before the actual high school season in August. Camp will be run by Coach Lazzeri. Cost of camp \$150

Summer Advanced Strength and Conditioning Camp- June 3-July 12, Monday-Wednesday-Friday mornings, 9:30-10:45 am. Highly encouraged for any player wanting to increase her speed, power, reaction time, and strength. This camp will be run by Coach Tara Shaffer, with Coach Lazzeri there as well. This camp is for ALL female athletes attending Chatfield, a great way to build relationships across our sports teams. Cost of camp \$175

Preseason High School Mini-Camp- All players are strongly encouraged to attend our High School Mini-Camp, **August 7th from 9-noon, and August 8th and 9th from 3-6pm**. The cost of this camp is \$75, and although the camp is not mandatory, it is highly recommended. Players will participate in competitive softball skills and drills and will also play in live game situations. This camp officially kicks off our season.

Sign up for all camps at chargerelitecamps.com

Field Prep Day- is where we take pride in our field and make it look the best we can before the season begins. This is a great team building event and a great way to meet the parents of the players. We need athletes and parents to pull weeds, spray weeds, rake, and shovel, organize, fix fence, set up the wind screen, and any other items that may need to be fixed or cleaned up. **FIELD CLEAN UP is on SATURDAY, August 10th starting at 9:00 AM.** **Players are expected to put in a certain amount of community service hours in order to receive their senior designed shirts.**

Making the Team-Tryouts will take place on **August 12th and 13th**. Once tryouts are complete, the coaches will notify the players as to when the team selection will be finalized. All of the selected girls regardless of the level are on the "CHARGER SOFTBALL TEAM". Those who do not make any team or their team of preference, are encouraged to work hard, play as much as they can in recreation and club leagues, and try again next year. **Coach Lazzeri is determined to field three full levels, a varsity, a junior varsity, and a level three. This will provide many girls with the opportunity to make the team.**

TEAM DESCRIPTIONS:

- **Varsity:** This team is made up of the best softball players at Chatfield High School. Their schedule will be made up of 23 non-conference and conference games, followed by the potential of a Regional Tournament and State Tournament appearance. Players on this team play at an extremely high level of play, and one of the main goals of the Varsity program is to win ball games and compete at the highest level of competition. Playing time at the Varsity level is NEVER guaranteed. Playing a certain position at the Varsity level is also NEVER guaranteed. We are focused on putting the best team on the field every day.
- **Junior Varsity:** This is a sub-level varsity team. Their schedule is made up of 19 non-conference and conference games. Typically if games are cancelled due to inclement weather or umpire scheduling issues, they are made up. At times, JV games are cancelled and are NOT rescheduled to be made up. Players on this team play at a competitive level with the hopes of developing into a future Varsity level athlete. Playing time at the Junior Varsity level is NEVER guaranteed. While the focus of the JV league is less competitive than Varsity, we still want to field the strongest team possible and win games.
- **Level 3:** This is a team for freshmen and sophomores. Not all Jefferson County Schools have Level III teams. We choose to field a Level III team here at Chatfield to give more girls an opportunity to play softball for their high school. The Level III team will **not** practice at Chatfield High School. This team will practice at Falcon Bluffs Middle School to ensure that they have enough field time to allow for quality practices. The Level III game schedule will be built as the season progresses, based on who has Level III teams, when we can schedule umpires, and what fields are available. There are not a guaranteed number of games, and if Level III games are cancelled, they are often not rescheduled.

Parent and Team Meeting- Girls from all levels and their parents will be invited to a team meeting after the teams have been selected and the girls assigned to their respective teams. During this meeting you will be introduced to the coaches and the Booster Club Officers. **This meeting will be on WEDNESDAY, August 14th, starting at 5:00PM in the auditorium.**

Carwash (Main Fundraiser)-Our big carwash fundraiser will be held from **10:00am-2:00pm on August 18th.** Tickets can be sold by players before the carwash date for any amount in order to help supplement the Booster Club fee. The Booster Club does not refund excess amounts raised from fundraising to individual players, however, it can be applied towards the next year's fee.

MONETARY COMMITMENT- Unfortunately sports activities cost money and the coaches' budget provided by district is never sufficient to cover the program costs. Although the Booster Club does arrange fundraisers to offset the financial burden, these fundraisers are not able to raise sufficient funds to eliminate all costs to the players/parents. As a result there is a booster club fee that must be collected from each player's family.

Jeffco Athletic Fee-the district requires an activity fee for your player to participate in softball (or any other sport). This fee is **\$175.00 and will be due BEFORE tryouts on August 12th** and is paid through Jefferson County fees. The Jeffco Athletic fee goes to the county and does NOT go to the Chatfield Softball Program.

BOOSTER CLUB FEE-the Booster Club fees are \$230.00. This fee can be offset through selling carwash tickets and butter braids – more information to come. Checks can be made out to Chatfield Softball. Booster Fees are due by Friday, August 23rd.

WHAT DOES THE BOOSTER CLUB FEE COVER/PROVIDE? - The Booster Club fees make up the difference in what the coaches' budget does not cover. The coach's budget covers items such as coach uniform costs, game balls, practice balls, bownets, tees, scrimmages, and tournament fees. THE BOOSTER CLUB helps with additional field improvement costs and also provides to the players, team building activities, senior scholarship, end of season banquet for the player, plus one guest, as well as extraneous team spirit wear, and additional team uniform costs. ****New Dugouts****

PLAYER PACKS-each player will be **REQUIRED** to purchase a player pack through ID Promotions. The cost for each player will be \$55, and will be paid online or with a check or cash. The player pack will include 4 shirts and a pair of game socks that players will get to keep. These shirts will be worn at practices.

PARENT/GUARDIAN VOLUNTEERING IS EXPECTED- The Charger Softball program has always had a great tradition of generous and committed parents. Many parents donate their time, talent, and materials to the program. Field maintenance, equipment repair, and fence maintenance are usually taken care of through donations of time and materials. This season is no different: We are in need of parent volunteers for the following tasks.

- *Senior Scholarship Committee (cannot be a parent on the booster club/nor coach)
- *Field prep before home games for Varsity, JV, and Level 3
- *Game announcer for home games
- *Oversee table at back to school night
- *Homecoming-decorate dugouts and assigned window on bridge (in school) for spirit week
- *Senior Game-decorate dugout, etc
- *Snack Shack sign up coordination (Each player's family must volunteer a minimum of two games)
- *Team Parent-coordination of team dinners, activities, etc.

An email with a sign-up genius will be available after the teams are announced.

WHAT DOES PRESEASON AND THE ACTUAL SEASON LOOK LIKE?

When do the players practice?-After being notified of making their respective team, the coach will communicate to the girls the time and location of their first practice. The coaching staff will also provide a schedule to the girls showing when the subsequent practices, scrimmages, and games will be held. Note that state law prohibits practices and games on Sunday.

SWING PLAYER? At the coach's discretion, players may be asked to help another level. Players will be selected based on their performance in games and practices, attitude, effort, and leadership. The decision may also be dictated by the needs of the team. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES** does "swinging up or down" mean that the players have been "moved up or down" permanently to the other team. Your coach will notify you if this happens. Also, just because you are "swinging up" for a game, doesn't mean that you will play.

ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR GIRLS PLAYING HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS? - With respect to the NCAA, the governing body for collegiate sports, **YES THERE IS!** You may have had a prior relationship with a college, possibly to ask for advice in raising your student-athlete, or even your Alma mater. This was perfectly acceptable when your child was in elementary, or middle school, but as of the first day of high school activity, your daughter is considered "recruit worthy" by the NCAA. What this means, in a nutshell, is that you can no longer have unrestricted "communication" to coaches. Likewise, they cannot contact you with regard to your daughter. Activities such as skills camps, etc. are still ok as they are open to everyone, and coaches encourage girls to talk with them "on campus", but if you have been in the habit of talking to coaches about your player, those types of communications are not appropriate except within certain constraints. Even during the summer, during national club tournaments, coaches who are there to assess talent are segregated from the parents and players to prevent inappropriate contact. If you have concerns about this, please contact your coaches or the

NCAA liaison at our school for guidance before doing something that might injure your daughter's chances of attending the school of her choice.

ATTENDANCE-inevitably a player will need to miss a practice, team function, or even a game. Illness, injury, death in the family can happen at any time. Communication is the key. IN CASE OF AN ABSENCE FROM A TEAM ACTIVITY, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR IMMEDIATE COACH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Given the importance of attendance to the team, please make every effort to schedule vacations, doctor and orthodontist appointments, and other planned events, at a time outside of our practices and games to minimize the time away from team events if at all possible. **Coach Lazzeri will discuss specific attendance requirements in the Fall.**

GOOD LUCK TO YOUR PLAYER IN THE UPCOMING SEASON! IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT ANY COACH!

COACHING STAFF

Jen Lazzeri "COACH LAZZERI" –Varsity Coach jlazzeri@jeffco.k12.co.us

Darin Shepard "COACH SHEPARD"-Asst. Varsity Coach darin.shepard@sunbeltrentals.com

Rich Lerudis "COACH LERUDIS"- JV Coach Richard.Lerudis@jeffco.k12.co.us

Dave Moore "COACH MOORE"- Assistant JV Coach dsmoore23@msn.com

Katie Goldner "COACH GOLDNER"- Level III Coach kgoldner@jeffcoschools.us

BOOSTER MEMBERS:

Terra Washco- President and Website/Social Media

Jim Rossman- Vice President and Fundraising

Carla Bidwell-Treasurer

Cara Hochevar- Member at Large and Snack Shack Chair

Annie Packard- Member at Large

Erin Walton- Secretary