



12U Lisle Slammers

Team Philosophy & Vision: The goal and focus of the 12U Slammers is to develop the girls' fundamentals. We focus not only on the physical game but also on the mental game. This will help to build and create a well-rounded athlete. Research shows that mental toughness is a combination of "Experience, confidence, and great preparation." Along with continuing to improve on fundamentals, we will focus on positive attitudes and controlling the situation. Not to steal from other teams, but we will use concepts and phrases such as "We not me" and "Next pitch, next play." More important than anything else is to have fun, both on and off the field, and to continue to grow and encourage their love for softball.

Player Responsibility: Playing different and multiple sports, as well as other activities, is fundamental for children and helps to prevent burnout and injury. Keeping this in mind, activities and practices will be adjusted to meet the needs of the team, especially in the off-season. With that in mind, the expectation is to attend practices and games. As previously stated, I encourage the girls to play other sports and understand if fall and winter practices are sometimes missed. I would ask that players/parents communicate when practices and games are missed and that the players/parents fill out the RSVP on GameChanger. Players should arrive at least 1 hour early for games and be on time for practices. This means at least 10-15 minutes early, so we can start on time. It is imperative that softball is your daughter's main sport during the spring/summer season.

Good Sportsmanship in Victory and Defeat is Expected: Yelling at ump's, other players, and coaches will not be tolerated by players or parents. Swearing and being disrespectful to coaches, players, parents, and ump's will also NOT be tolerated. All players will have equal opportunities to earn positions and playing time. I am looking for talented athletes as well as coachable athletes. This is a travel team, so playing time will not be equal, but with that being said, each girl will have an opportunity to earn playing time. Coaches will communicate and be honest with the players. It is also expected to do some work at home, or just generally outside of practice. This may include working with a fielding, pitching/catching, or hitting coach. If your

daughter is a pitcher, it is imperative that she takes lessons, preferably weekly, but no less than twice a month. Parents/families are required to help run Slammer-hosted tournaments and round robins, which are used to help keep fees lower. We will be using GameChanger for the bulk of communication.

About the Head Coach - Taylor Hames:

- Recently graduated from Mount Mary University Summa Cum Laude with my Bachelor's in Psychology and Exercise Science
- Will be attending North Central College in the fall to get my Master's in Sports Leadership with aspirations to keep coaching and work higher in athletic administration
- Have been playing softball my entire life, including collegiately at the D3 and NAIA level as a utility player
- Played for the Slammers organization from ages 15-18 and have been the assistant coach to my mom from ages 18-22
- Work for the Chicago White Sox (youth camps) as well as USSSA Softball during the summertime

About the Assistant Coach - Missy Hames:

- Emergency Department RN- have worked at CDH for 25+ years
- Experienced head coach- head coach of 14U/15U/16U/17U Slammers, assistant coach for the 18U Slammers, previous head coach of the Aurora Raiders for 4 years, and a head coach for multiple park district softball/baseball teams in Sugar Grove
- Experienced softball player - played for 12 years - including AAGS, travel softball, and qualified for nationals in New Mexico at the age of 11
- I am married and have 3 kids (Taylor - 22, Hunter - 20, and Hayley - 18)

Fall Season (Mid-August to late October):

- Parent-Player meeting in the beginning/middle of August
- Practice 1-2 times a week on Lisle fields
- A few random/friendly games or weekend double headers
- 1-2 Round Robins
- Approximately between 10-15 games, potentially playing in a fall league

- We will be off in November and December- enjoy the holidays with your families and rest your body! We will be having a team Christmas party in December!

Winter (Mid-January to the end of March):

- 1-2 times a week/weekend indoor practice
- Possible additional batting practice/cages
- We will practice at least 1 time a week, location TBD

Summer Season (April to July):

- Practices and/or "friendly" games 1-2 times a week
- 3-5 tournaments (local, we do not anticipate tournaments requiring a hotel)

Fees: Our fees will be \$1250 per player. They will be collected in 4 nonrefundable installments - the 1st payment of \$350 on acceptance of the position, the 2nd payment of \$350 on October 31, the 3rd payment of \$300 on January 31, and the 4th payment of \$250 on April 30. We will do 2 fundraisers around the NFL: a 17-week Bears Board and then Super Bowl Squares.

What's Included:

- 2-3 sets of uniforms (pants, jerseys, socks, & belts)
- Helmet with team logo and number stickers
- Bat bag with embroidered name
- Tournament/umpire/field fees
- Indoor practice facility and possibly hitting lessons with a paid coach
- Team equipment
- Team bonding/meals!!
- Note: Players will need to have their own personal equipment, including a glove, a bat, cleats, a face mask, and catchers' equipment if they are a catcher

Contact Information:

- The best way to contact us is by text or phone. We will respond to emails, but it is not our preferred method of communication
- Head Coach: Taylor Hames (630-779-2044)
- Assistant Coach: Missy Hames (630-205-2312)

- Team Email: lislslammers.hames@gmail.com