

Lisle Slammer 14U Softball 2017-2018 Season

Team Philosophy and Vision:

The 14U Slammers will be focused on skills and player development – and having fun in that experience. We will stress and model sportsmanship in victory and defeat. We will instill in our players a positive attitude, sense of self-responsibility, discipline, respect, commitment, and a strong work ethic. These principles are central as we strive to develop skills, teach solid softball fundamentals, and prepare our athletes the right way for high school and beyond. All players will have playing time for both infield and outfield positions throughout the season and will work on these during practice. The team will have a core number of regular pitchers instead of relying on just one or two. It will also be the coach's responsibility to communicate to the girls and parents what the coaches see as strengths and areas where improvement is needed. Individual playing time will be earned by working hard, participation in practice/games, and demonstrating the skills on the field. In tournament play, we will be putting the team in positions on the field that give us the best opportunity to win, especially during bracket play. Some balance will be achieved by scheduling friendly games where all the girls will be given the opportunity to play in their other primary positions.

Parent and Player Responsibilities:

As a parent or player, it is your responsibility that you work on softball skills that will help a player reach their desired level of play. The expectation is that the girls will train outside of practice and game time. Pitchers should work on their own with a pitching instructor and all players must work on hitting and fielding. We will need parent help to assist in practices, games and other activities. As noted below, the team will support this by reimbursing a portion of outside instructor costs incurred by each player.

Spring Tournament Schedule:

Will consist of approximately 5 or 6 tournaments, and possibly a state or national tournament to be determined. Our goal will be to play the highest quality competition that will allow our girls to be in a competitive, challenging environment. Most of this competition is likely to be at a strong "B" level. As we have in prior years, we may offer one out-of-town tournament to build up the team's camaraderie (Wisconsin Dells the last two seasons). All other tournaments will normally be local and within a 45 minute drive.

Spring Regular Season or "Friendly" Game Schedule:

Will be about 20-25 games scheduled for week nights and weekends during the spring. Many of these games will be with a local 14U softball league that will have most away games within 30 minutes of Lisle. Home games are usually at Community Park's C-5 field. Including tournaments, total games played should be around 45-55 games from April to mid-July.

Practice Schedule:

Will average 2 per week in the fall and spring outdoor seasons.

Fall Game Schedule:

Will consist of 4-8 friendly games and 2-4 local Round Robins or Tournaments. Total games played should be around 15-25 games from late August to late October.

Winter Indoor Practice:

Will begin in the middle of January through March. We will have 8-12 sessions once a week to throw, field, hit and pitch during one weeknight. We will also practice 4-6 times on weekends utilizing a larger space.

About the Head Coach: Jerry Kedziora has been coaching high school varsity softball as Head Coach for the past 16 years at Naperville North High School. Previous to that he coached high school baseball. He is also a member of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. He has had the pleasure of coaching many all-conference, all-area and a few NFCA all-region players.

Assistant Coaches: Terry Wagner and Mike Norbut will once again help the Slammers during the season. Terry was in charge of the communication piece throughout the season. Using TeamSnap, players and parents were continually updated on game and practice schedules. Parents and players also were able to communicate their availability to make two way communications seamless. Mike has helped in many of the drills and game management during the season. Both have years of experience coaching in-house and travel baseball and softball. The three coaches have worked together with this Slammer travel team since Fall 2014. The 14U Slammers will also look to add other specialty coaches to use during practices throughout the season when available. The Slammers are always willing to add coaches/helpers willing to help the girls achieve their potential using the coaching staff's plans.

Contact Information:

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Fees: \$600, less partial reimbursement for individual instructor fees

Fees will consist of a \$300 **non-refundable** deposit due by August 20, 2017, and a second installment of \$300 will be due when practices resume in early January 2018. These fees will cover uniforms, tournament fees, all field and umpire fees, and team equipment. Assuming fundraising goes well (including having parents working the fall and summer round robins and Slammer Tournaments), the team will reimburse parents for a portion of outside softball instructor fees the player incurs. In the 2016-2017 season, this amounted to up to \$100 per player. We expect this reimbursement to be slightly more in 2017-2018.