

Lisle Slammer 14U Softball 2018-2019 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. However, now that they are older, team success will be emphasized more than when they were younger. During the 2017-2018 season, the Slammer team had a very respectable record of 39-30-3 against normally solid B-Level competition. We will continue to search out competition and tournaments that challenge the team and its advancing skill level.

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 to 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. Also as noted below, parents are expected to help run our tournaments and round robins as these help keep player fees low.

Summer Schedule

We expect a significant portion of this team will be freshmen playing for their high school team. As such, they will be unavailable to play or practice as a team from March to late May. However, we more than welcome 8th graders on our 14U team. We will work closely with parents to have them practice and play with either one of our other Slammer teams or another local team during those three months. They'd then re-join the Slammers in late May with the high schoolers.

Summer Tournament Schedule

Our summer season will consist of approximately 4 or 5 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 & Michigan the last three seasons). All other tournaments will normally be local and within a 45 minute drive.

Summer Regular Season or “Friendly” Game Schedule:

Will be about 15-20 games scheduled for week nights and weekends during the summer. Most of these games will be with local 14U teams 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 30-40 games from late May to mid-July.

Practice Schedule

Will average 2 per week in the fall and summer 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 the end of February. We will generally practice once a week on a weekday evening to work on the fundamentals of throwing, fielding, hitting and pitching. We will also practice 2-4 times on weekends during that time to work on game situations utilizing a larger space.

About the Coaches: Terry Wagner and Mike Norbut will once again coach the Slammers during the season. Terry is 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. Jerry Kedziora will rejoin the coaching staff in late May 2019 after the high school season has completed. He has been coaching high school varsity softball as Head Coach for the past 17 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, as well as a current star of the professional Chicago Bandits team.

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:

Terry Wagner, Coach

Phone (630) 624-5562

Email wagnerterry@sbccglobal.net

Mike Norbut, Coach

Phone (630) 427-7566

Email mjnorbut2@yahoo.com

Fees: \$700, less partial reimbursement for individual instructor fees

Fees will consist of a \$350 **non-refundable** deposit due by August 20, 2018, and a second installment of \$350 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 reasonable profits from the fall and summer round robins and Slammer Tournaments are achieved (parents are required to help run these), the team will reimburse parents for a portion of outside softball instructor fees the player incurs. In the 2017-2018 season, this amounted to up to \$150 per player.