



Lisle Slammers Softball – U 13 /14

2018 – 2019 season

My name is Geoff Durian and I am the manager for the Lisle Slammers U13/U14 Softball team. I want to welcome you and thank you for taking the time to try out for the Lisle Slammers softball program.

We are the younger team of the two U-14 teams in our program. We will be putting a team with a main core of U-13 players (players in their 1st year at the U-14 level). Due to the fact we will be a younger U-14 team we will be looking to have all 7th or 8th graders to allow us to play a full spring/summer season from April to early July along with a regular fall softball season. This will be a team structured to develop and grow a core group of girls that can move up together over the next few years.

Team Introduction and Philosophy

The main focus of the team will be the following...

- Developing skills to be a solid and mature competitor. Learning how to win is important but learning how to deal with negative situations and loss to me are equally as important.
- Teaching the girls how to play hard and fast without fear of failure or making mistakes
- Developing a love and a deeper understanding of the game of softball in order to develop the love, desire, and drive to play the game though high school and possibly beyond.
- Understanding how to practice and develop a good sense of self-responsibility and work ethic along with self-confidence in the ability to perform
- Teaching skills and technique that will allow the girls to play high school softball and beyond.
- Have fun, enjoy teammates, and have a memorable season

All girls will be expected to learn both an infield and outfield position. All playing time will be earned by work ethic, effort, acceptance of coaching, development of skills and techniques, and commitment to the team. My goal is to get each girl as equal playing time as possible to allow for development and game experience. That being said there will be times like bracket play in tournaments where girls will be put in positions that are best for the team to succeed. This will be balanced out with development in regular season games and pool play games.

Communication between parents, players, and coaches is important as the coaching staff decides the best role a player will have on the team. Ability, skill set, and physical makeup are all taken in consideration when placing girls in positions on the team as well as what is good for the team in general. Short and long term goals in the development of your daughter is important for you to know and I am available for conversation about those topics throughout the season.

Parent and Player Responsibility

Travel sports is about commitment to the sport outside of the season. Players will be expected to make a commitment to the team by attending practice outside of the season along with during the fall and spring seasons. I am a huge supporter of girls who are multi-sport athletes and I definitely will work with parents and players to be flexible in terms of commitment to softball as well as their other sport. Full time pitchers should be working with a pitching coach outside of the team. Catchers will need to be available more often in order to work with the pitchers. If a girl is working with a private hitting coach all efforts will be made to reinforce the techniques and language that your daughter is learning in lessons in our practices as well.

Parents will be expected to volunteer at all round robins and tournaments sponsored by the Lisle Slammers. There will be tournaments the Slammers will sponsor both in the fall and in the spring.

The goal is to provide an atmosphere where a core of girls will continue to grow relationships and move up with each other over the next several seasons and fostering a positive relationship with the families involved. Work ethic, team relationships, coachability, and effort are the big traits that I have used in the past for offering spots on the team for the next season.

Fall Season Schedule

- 4 – 8 friendly games
- 2-3 round robins or tournaments (All local)
- Practice twice a week

Winter Workout Schedule

- Practice 3 times a week
- Workouts start early to mid January
- Locations include Batting cages at Wheaton Park District and Field House at Marmion Academy

Spring/Summer Schedule

- 15 – 20 friendly games
- 1 or 2 round robins
- 4 or 5 local tournaments ranging in level from U-13, U-14 “C” and U-14 “B” level
- 1 or 2 overnight tournaments – Based on consultation with parents
- 6 or 7 tournaments total for the season

Team Fees

- \$850 - \$1000 (Including uniforms/helmets/bat bags)
- Deposit of \$400 due by August 12 **(NON -REFUNDABLE)**

Assuming reasonable profits from round robins and tournaments are achieved and costs covered by these profits will be reimbursed

Team Coaches for the 2018-2019 Season

Head Coach Geoff Durian

I have been coaching softball, baseball, and football for over 25 years at the travel, high school, and collegiate level. Currently I am a varsity football coach at Marmion Academy and in the past have coached at area schools such as Glenbard West, Lisle, and Harper College. I am also a certified strength and conditioning coach through NSCA. The past two years I have coached and managed travel softball in the Wheaton Wildcat and Bobcat Program along with managing travel baseball in Wheaton for 8 years. I am going into my 18th year as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Harper College.

Cassandra Bidus – Assistant Coach

Cassandra has been involved in softball for her whole life having played high level travel softball and high school softball. Cassandra has spent two years coaching in the Naperville Diamonds program along with serving as an assistant coach/pitching coach for the Wheaton Wildcats last season. She was a big part of the success of the Wildcat team that I managed last season.

I will be looking for a full-time coach or two after tryouts have been completed. I will also be in need of a couple of parents who feel comfortable helping out when available at practice. I am also interested in finding a parent that is interested in keeping score. I use GAMECHANGER extensively to keep track of season stats. If interested, please feel free to contact me

If you have any concerns about the team, tryouts, tryout schedule, or just general questions I look forward to talking to you. You may contact me at the following...

Cell: (630) 624 – 5585

Email: gdurian@harpercollege.edu

Thank you again for trying out for the Lisle Slammers softball program.

GO SLAMMERS!!

Sincerely

Geoff Durian