Fleetwood Area High School Softball 2024

**Attention Players and Parents/Guardians of High School Girls’ Softball Players:**

**Prior to Tryouts**

Each student athlete must have a completed PIAA physical form (known as the CIPPE) turned into the Athletic Director, Matthew Diehl, and eventually be approved by the Athletic Trainer; Christian Klucsarits or Heather Wood by 2/29/24**.** If a student fails to turn in their completed CIPPE at this time, they will not be permitted to try-out. As a result, they may not make the team. Forms may be found at the Fleetwood Area District website. Go to Departments, Athletics, and then Forms.

Have questions? Contact: Head Coach, Eric Garman (Ergarman@fleetwoodasd.org) ; or Assistant Coach, Willis Stump (wistump@fleetwoodasd.org); or, Athletic Director, Matthew Diehl (matdiehl@fleetwoodasd.org), (610) 944-8111 x 20153; Athletic Trainers: Christian Klucsarits (CKlucsarits@fleetwoodasd.org) and Heather Wood (HWood@fleetwoodasd.org).

**Parents and players are expected to sign the Player and Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement form in order to start the season.**

**Tryouts**

**Tryouts will begin on Monday, March 4, 2024**

Tryouts are held each year. Tryouts are generally held over three to four days. Based upon coaches’ observations, athletes will be evaluated from several perspectives and team membership determined.

Unfortunately, some participants may be released. Any player being released will be informed by the coaching staff with suggestions for areas of improvement.

**All players will have an opportunity to make the team. Recognize, being selected as a member of the team is a privilege; as such, players must assume the responsibilities and behaviors of being a player on the TEAM.**

**Team Focus**

There are several goals of school athletic programs.

1) The further development of student athletes in regard to their sport.

2) Providing students with a chance for socialization and an opportunity for participation.

3) Developing good sportsmanship.

4) Provide an opportunity to experience success.

5) Developing the foundation for making a good athlete (i.e. self-discipline, effort, determination, athleticism, and being coachable, etc.).

**VARSITY** Pg. 2

The varsity program emphasizes competitiveness. Expectations of players will be the highest of all the school’s programs.

Players selected to start, and the amount of playing time received will be determined by the coaching staff. Recognize, playing time is not guaranteed, nor may it be equally distributed.

Player commitment to the team and the program is greatest at the varsity level.

Players at the varsity level should be technically sound and tactically knowledgeable. These players should possess the most advanced skill set.

**JUNIOR VARSITY**

The junior varsity program is designed to continue player development for participation at the varsity level.

This level provides all participants an opportunity to participate in practice and improve their skill set.

There is still an expectation to provide a competitive team on the field for each game.

**General Rules and Expectations**

All school rules will be in force and applied at all practices, competitions, and travel.

**NOTE:** Players must attend school for a legal “school day” in order to practice or play that day. This means students MUST SIGN in to school before 9:00 a.m. if arriving late!

All players will demonstrate respect to all other team members, coaches, opponents, officials, and spectators. This also includes all school staff (teachers, maintenance, administrators, etc.).

 **No player shall haze, harass, or intimidate any other player or group of players.**

Players are to be supportive of all other team members on and off the field.

Player behavior should be exemplary. Players represent the sport of softball, the Fleetwood softball team, the Fleetwood Area High School, and the Fleetwood Area School District.

Players will be committed, responsible, motivated, and accountable. This applies to the school setting and the athletic setting. **Academics shall be a priority for each team member.** Student-athletes ineligible are expected to miss practice and improve their academic performance. Upon the third ineligibility, student-athletes will be dismissed from the team.

 Pg. 3

Players will attend all practices and competitions. All players will be on time; punctuality is a virtue.

Any player unable to attend a practice or competition due to illness, family emergency, or school event shall notify the coaching staff in advance if possible. This is the player’s responsibility.

Any player needing after school tutoring shall bring a SIGNED note (including subject, date, and time) from the teacher(s) providing such additional instruction.

Players should be properly dressed for practice, games, and the weather conditions. This means appropriate pants/sweatpants, shirt/sweatshirt, socks, and softball cleats/sneakers. In addition, all players should bring their necessary equipment (i.e. glove, bat, etc.).

On questionable weather days, players should bring attire for outdoor and indoor practice (pending upon the indoor practice time assigned).

The wearing of jewelry in athletics poses a hazard to the wearer and to other participants in both practices and contests. Therefore, the coaching staff does not support wearing jewelry in practices or games. If a player opts to wear jewelry during practices or contests, it is assumed that as parent(s)/guardian(s), you support the decision of your daughter to wear such jewelry and are aware of the risks it poses.

Uniforms should not be worn out and about as common attire by athletes; they are for competitions.

Uniforms, their upkeep (washing), and condition, are the responsibility of the player. It must be returned at the season’s end in a good, clean, dry condition.

Softball bags, book bags, etc. should be placed behind the team bench. Gloves and bats should be readily accessible.

 Bats must be legal!

All dugouts, bench areas, and the gymnasium when used, shall be kept CLEAN.

No player shall throw equipment, nor damage equipment or facilities.

All players shall wear school provided batting helmets for batting practice and games.

**Cell phones** and other electronic devices are not to be out and in use during any practice or competition without a coach’s permission.

Practices are for players only.

ALL players are responsible for helping get equipment out and to the playing field. They are all responsible for putting all equipment away at the end of practice. Players will not be dismissed from a practice or game until everything is cleaned up and all equipment put away.

 Pg.4

Poor sportsmanship, inappropriate behavior, negative attitudes are not acceptable. The use of inappropriate language will not be tolerated.

Parents/guardians/relatives, etc. should not approach the bench area during practice or games.

Any player found in violation of the district’s policies on illegal substances (steroids, drugs, narcotics, etc.), alcoholic beverages, and tobacco will result in the district being informed and the stated suspensions enforced.

**Behavior**

It is expected that a player’s behavior be appropriate at all times, whether at practice, a game, or riding to or from a contest. Failure to behave properly may result in suspension or dismissal from the team.

In addition, a player is expected to strive to improve her technical ability, tactical skillset, and maintain a positive relationship with the team; failure to apply herself at these tasks may result in suspension or dismissal from the team.

**Games**

Players are to wear the **school issued uniform** for competitions. Failure to wear the proper uniform may result in failure to play in that competition.

All players shall ride to and from all away games on the team bus. It is a great time for team building.

The exception to this would be in instances where the softball and baseball teams are riding upon the same bus. Hence, completion times may differ greatly……

Also. if there is some **emergency** requiring a player to be dismissed from an away site, or the above applies, all sign-out and dismissal procedures will be followed including proper athletic director contact when necessary.

All players shall leave the locker room fully uniformed as a team!

Players and parents shall respect all umpires. Be in charge of your destiny, regardless of the job done by officials.

**Bus Behavior**

Players will remain seated when the bus is in motion.

All players will help in loading and unloading the bus at the school and the away site.

The bus will be clean upon return to the school.

 Pg. 5

Cell phones shall not be used when traveling to a game. Players should focus on preparing for the game and building team comradery.

Nothing will be thrown from a bus window.

Players will not make gestures out bus windows, nor shall they yell out windows.

**Injury**

*\*Any player seeing a medical professional (i.e. doctor) must have a note clearing them to return to sports regardless of when or where the injury occurred. or the illness involved.\**

 *Also, requires trainer approval.*

If any player is injured or falls ill during a practice or game, it is their obligation to notify one of the coaching staff.

**Other information**

Players are responsible for purchasing solid red knee-high tube socks which are to be worn for games.

If the team desires to wear hair ribbons or visors, they must be white, black, beige, or school colors. The purchase of these is also the responsibility of the player.

**Please make sure that you/your daughter carries a large plastic garbage bag in her book bag or softball bag**. This bag is used to store her book bag, books, clothing etc. on days when practice or games are held in inclement conditions. Their school and personal belongings are valuable.

Also, all players should bring **proper** pre-game and post-game **attire** for the weather/climatic conditions.

*In addition, players should not leave anything valuable in the girls’ locker room!!*

Each athlete should bring a water bottle to practice and competitions. In light of health concerns, student-athletes should ***NOT SHARE*** water bottles.

Players should maintain a good level of hydration on a daily basis in order to avoid health problems due to practices and competitions.

**Each player has a responsibility to gather her belongings (book bag, sport bag, glove, bat etc.) at the end of practices/games; this is not the coach’s responsibility!**

Pg. 6

Players are to try to have a ride home promptly after practices and games.

**NOTE:** Athletes arriving home from an AWAY contest will be dropped off at **the High School.**

**Fleetwood Athletics**

Please read the Athletic Handbook for further information regarding the athletic program at Fleetwood. This may be found on the Fleetwood website under Athletics and then Forms.

**General**

**NOTE:** Player contact is expected before parent contact. If you have any concerns, please contact **Coach Eric Garman** via email (***preferred***) ergarman@fleetwoodasd.org. If a personal meeting is required, we will arrange a mutually agreeable time after practice; this may include the athletic director.

**Game Schedule**

The tentative 2024 H.S. Girls Softball schedule may be found on the Fleetwood website under Departments, Athletic Schedules; Spring; Softball; Girls Varsity. The News tab includes a tentative agenda!

Any items not covered in this letter will be evaluated and addressed by the coaching staff on an as add-need basis.