Competitive fastpitch softball can be a challenging, demanding and enjoyable sport. It is the goal of Burnt Hills Spartans Girls Softball to build competitive fastpitch softball teams while providing an enjoyable environment for players to develop softball skills, knowledge, and the ability to function as a team. In order to ensure that each player clearly understands their expectations the following guidelines have been identified.

**Playing Time**
Travel softball is not Recreation Softball, it is a competitive environment where playing time is earned through ability, effort, and attitude demonstrated at practice and the games. The coaching staff will work to involve the players when possible, however equal playing time is NOT guaranteed.
Parents/Guardians are welcome to discuss questions involving individual playing time with the Team Coach.

**Coach using the following guidelines:**
1) Ask for a meeting 24 hours after a specific game/tournament in question.
2) Allow time for Team Coach to review stats to allow for an informative discussion.
3) Never attempt to discuss individual player playing time during a practice, game, or tournament, including between games (tournaments & double headers) or immediately after a game.

Parental complaints about Travel coaches shall be formally submitted in writing to the Executive Board through an email or letter to the League president or Travel coordinator.  All complaints will be kept anonymous (to the extent reasonably possible).  The Board will review the complaint with the coach and take appropriate actions to rectify the problem if necessary.

**Practices**

**Attendance**
Practices are key in developing the players.  All planned practices are mandatory, and every effort should be made to attend practices. Coaches must be told in advance of a practice that a player will not be able to attend.  Players and parents should understand that failure to attend practices (other than due to religious obligations, mandatory school functions, or illness) may negatively impact playing time.  Attendance is strongly encouraged during the off-season months for continued improvement but understand that players may be committed to other sports. Please note that missing practices or games can affect playing time in future games.

**Dedication to Change**
The coaching staff is motivated to develop the players in the proper fundamentals of fastpitch softball. Each player must display the openness and the dedication to change in developing fundamentally sound softball skills. Parents should encourage their player while incorporating these fundamental skills.

**Practice Time**
In order to maximize practices it is imperative that the players give 100% of their effort and attention to the practice. This requires the players to be at the practice on time and ready to practice.
During practices players are not to talk to parents, friends, siblings, etc. (there will be time after practice).

Players will hustle on and off the field and between stations.
Players will not talk to anyone when a coach is talking to them specifically or to a group they are in.

**Parents/Guardians**
Encourage players to come to practice and encourage them during practice.
Parents should not talk to the players individually during practices.  The player’s attention needs to be focused on practice for the full time.

**Games**
It is important to support our teammates and to learn from the game time situations. In order to support this goal, the following game time rules apply.
1) Players are to remain in the dugout during the entire game.
2) Players should not talk to people outside of the team members and coaches during the game.  Exceptions will be made in the event of an injury.
3) If a Player needs something from a non-team member, they must go through the coach in the dugout.
4) Players playing are to keep a positive attitude and support team members that are currently in the field.
5) Parents/Guardians shall not coach players on the field in either fielding or hitting. The players must learn that they must listen to the coaches.
6) Parents/Guardians shall not enter the dugout during games except in emergencies or requested to do so by a coach.

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to cheer and support all players during the games.
Parents/Guardians and siblings should not attempt to talk to players in the dugout during the game. The players who are not actively involved must pay attention to the game and to their coaches to learn and improve.

If a Parent or Sibling needs to talk to or give something to a player, they must go through the coach in the dugout.

Players and Parents/Guardians are asked to always keep a positive attitude.  They may not berate, demean, threaten, or challenge umpires, coaches, or players.
Parents/Guardians should allow the coaching staff to address any game time situations with the opposing team and officiating staff.

**Volunteering**

**Home Games/Practices**
During home games and practices held at the BHBL Girls Softball Complex at Indian Meadows, parents/families will be required to volunteer to help staff concessions (if available), line fields, rake, etc. We are a team!

**Tournaments**Some teams may host a tournament at the BHBL Girls Softball Complex at Indian Meadows. If your team is hosting a tournament during the season, each player’s parent(s) will be required to assist with tournament responsibilities. This will include mandatory volunteering throughout an entire weekend (Friday – Sunday) and will include field maintenance, concessions, registration, t-shirt/swag sales, etc. Families who do not fulfill their volunteer obligations may be subject to a fee to cover staffing costs.

**Player Continuance**Players are not guaranteed to be retained year to year. All players new and old must try out every year. If a special need is identified, the coaching staff may hold individual tryouts to fill those needs. These tryouts may occur with the team or separate. Once a player commits to the team, they will not be cut during the season to make room for a replacement player.

**Dismissal**
A player’s dismissal by the coaching staff is the last possible resort to resolving an issue that negatively impacts the organization. A player may be released if 3 or more documented violations occur to the Parent / Player Agreement. This includes Parents/Guardians who violate any provisions of this agreement. A violation is considered documented when two coaches talk to a player or parent about a specific violation.

We have read and fully understand the above Parent / Player agreement.

We agree to follow the rules and guidelines outlined in the agreement.

Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Player Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Signature(s):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Signature(s):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_