



## 2017-2018 PARENT AND PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

1. **COMMUNICATION** – Players and Parents are expected to maintain an open line of communication with their coaches and team representatives. Players expect to have a coach at each practice, and the coach expects to have each player at PRACTICES AND GAMES. Anything else should involve some type of communication before the scheduled event, so proper arrangements can be made. If you are unable to fulfill any other team obligation, notify the proper team representative for that event.
2. **FUNDRAISING** – Fundraising is being provided this year to help families replace all player monetary goals. After the *mandatory* Oct. 28 fundraiser, you may participate as much or as little as you would like. However, with this arrangement, communication is going to be vital to make preparations for each event, so please keep your coach and fundraiser representative informed. If, through fundraising, you manage to surpass your fundraising goal, the balance will continue to support Diamond Fever's general fund (see the handout in the folder for additional information).
3. **COMMITTEES** – As a part of the Diamond Fever family, players should try to have at least one parent/guardian to participate on at least one of our committees. This may require a few hours a month on your part, but the commitment will help the organization meet its obligations to the girls. If everyone does a little, *no one* will be overburdened. The committee descriptions are included in this folder.
4. **CHARACTER** – One of our goals at Diamond Fever is to teach and to enhance our girls' character. This includes attitude, respect for other people and their property, personal responsibility and honesty. With that in mind, we will not allow any behavior at any Diamond Fever event that would reflect poorly on our organization. This would include, but is not limited to, foul language; fighting; alcohol use; drug use that is not for medical purposes; verbal abuse of any player at any event (ours or theirs); or any other action designed to undermine the safety or chemistry of our teams. We have always had some of the best parents, and we are proud of our reputation as a "class act". We want each parent/player to be the teams' biggest cheerleader and encourage EVERY child to be her best. Disciplinary action can include loss of playing time, temporary suspension, expulsion from Diamond Fever (*without any earned funds returned*), or any other action deemed appropriate by the Board. In an extreme case of parental misbehavior, the player may be allowed to play with the parent banned from certain activities. **We are very proud of our reputation in the travel ball community, and we will defend it vigorously.**
5. **COACHING** – Diamond Fever is always looking for people who are knowledgeable, teachable and able to relate to girls and their parents. If your daughter makes a team, that team may or may not need help. However, if you are interested in helping, let your coach know. You may be called on to help during practice, but not during the games. The youngest teams may need the most help—so ask. Please respect your coaches' decisions. Most of our coaches have years of experience coaching girl's fastpitch softball, and many have taken a team to a World Series title. There are very few, if any, organizations that can say that. However, they are all human and will make a poor decision from time to time, just as we all do. Please remember, our coaches' only compensation for a year of work is your encouragement. If you feel the need to criticize, we ask that you find the opportunity away from a tournament to calmly discuss your topic. Please do not coach your daughter from the sidelines. During games it will be all she can do to pay attention to her coaches and the game. Again, CHEERING, not criticizing is strongly encouraged.

6. **TOURNAMENTS** – Depending on which team your daughter is trying out for, she can expect to participate in eight to twelve tournaments a year. One to four of these may be played in the fall. Some teams will begin play in late March or early April. Others will begin after school ball has ended. Most tournaments involve Sunday play. For those interested, we often try to offer some sort of worship time. Some tournaments make this part of Sunday play. Expect one tournament to require a whole week (World Series). Next year's summer tournament schedule will be released as soon as possible, usually by the end of February, to help with getting days off. Most people will need help with a ride at some point during the season, so don't hesitate to ask. But please remember to allow for any expenses your daughter may require while you are not there. Please remember that sometimes the most important thing you can do for your daughter is to simply be there. **All players are expected to be at every tournament. Once a schedule is made, it is your responsibility to check it against any event you or your daughter cannot miss or reschedule and immediately contact your coach about these dates.**
7. **WINTER PRACTICE** – An important part of our yearly schedule is winter practice. Team practice schedules and requirements may vary according to team needs. In any case, expect to devote quality time to winter softball practice. Your coaches will share the winter schedule with you as soon as it is set, but again, **plan to devote at least two evenings per week to elevating your game.** Every player should commit to being her best at every level.
8. **SEASON PRACTICE** – In season practice is very important to team chemistry and learning in order to take the fundamentals we've learned and use them as a team. **Therefore, during the season every player is expected to be at every practice.** School and illness are the only reasons a player should miss. Players should contact their coach prior to a missed practice in order for the coach to handle that absence at his/her discretion. Each team's coach will determine the appropriate action for missed practice.
9. **PLAYING TIME** – Your daughter's playing time will be at the **sole discretion of her coach.** There are no rules that require girls to have a certain amount of playing time. However, we have no intention of choosing a player who would not be able to play. *Team Rules and consequences are set by each coach and fully supported by the Diamond Fever Board of Directors.*

A couple of hints: Coaches are impressed by

- Hustling all the time
- Listening all the time
- Working at home
- Making the best use of your available talent
- Being early to practices and especially games
- Displaying a great attitude

10. **FUNDING RESPONSIBILITIES**– Each year the Diamond Fever Board sets a BUDGET based on the number of members and teams in the organization, the operational expenses for the facility, and each team's playing expenses. Tournament softball involves many expenses during the year. These include equipment and maintenance cost; insurance; tournament fees (\$225--\$950 per team per tournament); sanctioning fees; helmets and other related expenses; training equipment; building and field maintenance; utilities; gas; and field upkeep. These items create a budget of over \$50,000. **Our organization has covered the facility upgrades (like building dugouts and improving fields) through our attainment of grants.** Again, these grants do not (and cannot) cover the costs it takes to actually play. To cover these player costs, the Diamond Fever Organization has two possible sources of revenue: player yearly fees and corporate or personal donations. Diamond Fever is proud of its status as an organization, a family—not 3-4 individual teams. Part of our mission is to work together as an organization to insure Diamond Fever is strong for all our players—today and tomorrow.

Diamond Fever offers a fundraiser and sets a goal for each player to raise a certain amount for the organization's annual expenses.

## 2017/2018 Fees

18U-\$1,000 + uniform

**College Player Fee-** \$600 + uniform

16U- \$1,000 + uniform

10U- \$1,000 (Partial uniform included)

**Sibling Fee:** If a family has a sibling(s) playing for Diamond Fever during the same year, the monetary goal for this family is reduced. Any player after the first one will be responsible for earning 50% of the primary monetary goal. Ex. Primary monetary goal is \$1000, sibling fee equal \$500. However, if second team goal is less than \$500, ex. 8U goal of \$400, the sibling fee will be the full amount of second team goal.

Each player and her parents are responsible for raising the money to reach this goal. That monetary goal can be paid by the parents, by a sponsor(s), by participating in the mandatory 100-inning Game fundraiser, or by any combination thereof. The board will set the payment schedule, and deadlines *MUST* be met for fees, *or suspension of participation from all practices, tournaments, etc... will be imposed.*

### Payment Schedule for 2017/2018

**First Fall Practice - Sept 10, 2017** (set by coaches): \$100 due (may be reimbursed if the player earns her fees through the 100-inning fundraiser and turns in the additional money by November 30.)

**October 8, 2017** - \$300 due (totaling \$400 or more paid)

**January 1, 2018-** Dues paid in full

These fees may be paid in installments, as long as the full amount required is paid by the deadlines.

**Players who do not make their payments cannot practice until the financial obligations are met. If a player has not paid the \$1,000 dues by January 1, she will be excused from the Diamond Fever organization.** Because the player will have used the facilities and participated in tournaments, that player will not be reimbursed any prior payments.

If a player raises more money through fundraising after she has already paid fees out of pocket, the organization can reimburse her out-of-pocket fees. Contact Cathy Liles (cliles1964@gmail.com) if this occurs. Furthermore, if a player still owes money (fees) from the 2016/2017 softball season (last year), this money will be taken from any fundraising the player completes this year (the 2017/ 2018 season).

**Corporate or Personal Sponsors** – For the past four years, over 80% of our Diamond Fever players have reached their monetary goals by earning sponsors during the fundraising month prior to the 100-inning Softball Game. Please use this fundraiser to ease the financial burden parents can feel if they do not take advantage of this opportunity. If you have corporate sponsors who may agree to help the Diamond Fever organization, please make contact with them. You may also use the enclosed sponsor letter and suggestions for successful fundraising included in this folder. All sponsors who give \$100 or more **MUST COMPLETE AND TURN IN THE SPONSOR FORM** (included in folder) **TO CATHY LILES or KAROL DIXON BY THE END OF NOVEMBER.** This form is also available on the website: [www.diamondfever.org](http://www.diamondfever.org)

**All checks are payable to Diamond Fever and must be turned in to Cathy Liles or Karol Dixon.**

11. **RETURN CHECK POLICY-** The Diamond Fever Organization, Inc. has set a \$35 fee for all returned checks.

12. **UNIFORMS** and Jersey Numbers— Each player and/or parents are responsible for the purchase (16U & 18U teams) and care of the Diamond Fever uniform. You may use the same uniform from year to year as long as it is well kept and there is no conflict with the number of a player from a prior year. Jersey numbers belong to the older team's previous year's players who move up in the organization. For example, if a 10U player moves to the 12U team and a number conflict arises, the returning 12U player owns the jersey number, and the 10U player must choose another number (jersey) to purchase/trade.

**For the 2017/2018 year, partial uniform cost will be covered by the player's monetary goal for the 10U team.**

13. **RELEASE OF LIABILITY**— I (we) understand that participating in the activities of Diamond Fever Organization, Inc. may have inherent danger, and I (we) take full responsibility for my actions and physical condition. I (we) agree to indemnify and hold harmless Diamond Fever Organization, Inc., its officers, and its coaches from any liability, loss, or expense including attorney's fees, medical expenses, and ambulance costs that I (we) might incur while participating in all Diamond Fever Organization, Inc. activities.

**Turn in *just this sheet* to your coach by the next practice.**

I/We have read and understand the above 2017-2018 Parent and Player Responsibility and Expectations document and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions

I (we), the undersigned Diamond Fever, Inc. "Player Parent(s)", do hereby agree to make payments on the specified dates, and in the agreed amounts as stated on the payment schedule below. I (we) understand the consequences that may be brought against me(us) if payments are not made pursuant to the terms herein, including possible legal action for collection of this debt owed, and/or removal from the Diamond Fever organization. I (we) further agree to pay any fees and costs that Diamond Fever, Inc. may incur in collecting any balance owed, as well as a competitive interest rate on the amount owed.

Player Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

2017-2018 Team \_\_\_\_\_

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