

I-SRA SUMMER GIRLS' SOFTBALL - 2011

Mr. Anderson: I will be your I-SRA summer softball coach for this summer. I teach 5th grade at the Iola-Scandinavia Elementary School. I coach the high school girls' softball team. The best way to communicate with me is through the *Softball Hotline* (715-445-2411, Ext. 500). I check the *Softball Hotline* messages later in the evening or early in the morning. If you need to get a hold of me in a more timely fashion, you can call or text my cell phone (715-570-3643). You will most likely have to leave a message calling my cell phone.

First Practices: Our first practices are scheduled for Thursday, June 9th and Friday, June 10th. 4th 5th and 6th graders will have their first practice on Thursday, June 9th at the times listed on the calendar. 7th and 8th graders will have their first practice on Friday, June 10th at the times listed on the calendar.

Missing Games or Practices - Attendance Form: I have attached an *Attendance Form* for you to complete and return to Mr. Anderson by Tuesday, June 7th or bring to me at your first practice. I understand that transportation issues may cause your daughter to miss practices or games. I also understand that situations pop-up during the summer that may cause you to miss practices or games. In either case, just keep me informed through the hotline (715-445-2411, Ext. 500).

6th Grade Girls: To help me deal with the number of girls for practices and Night League games, I divided the 6th grade girls into two groups: (**6A**-Abbie Briquet, Karissa Christianson, Katie Dobbertin, Elise Erdmann, Leighton Fischer, Brooke Gray, Brooke Johnson, Kendall Johnson, Madelyn Nelson and Amie Smith; **6B**-Brooklyn Podgorny, Autumn Russell, Hayley Schultz, Sadie Schustek, Rachel Seering, Clare Taylor, Erin Thompson and Jessica Trzebiatowski).

Softball Skills: I will do my best to give your daughter a positive experience playing softball. We will work on learning the game of softball, throwing, catching (groundballs and fly-balls) and hitting a softball. The distance to throw the ball from shortstop or third base to first base is from 60-80 feet. We play with a 12" optic yellow softball. Any extra throwing, catching (groundballs and fly-balls), and hitting that can be done at home would be fantastic! Our softball practice and game time is not enough to develop good players. The extra time put in at home makes the difference!

Pitching: Having good pitching is a very important part of a softball team. I encourage all the girls to try and work on pitching. You will have very little time to work on pitching at practice. To become a good pitcher, you must put in lots of practice time at home (15-30 minutes per day / 3-5 days a week). I would be willing to help get any girl started with pitching, but nothing beats putting in the time! The distance from the front edge of the pitcher's plate to the back point on homeplate for 12&U is 35 feet and 14&U is 40 feet. The distance for high school and college pitchers is 43 feet.

Travel League: We currently have 21 girls signed-up to play *12&U Travel League*. I will only take 14 players to play for each *Travel League* game. We only schedule 10-11 *Travel League* games for the season. I hope to have each player play at least 5 games. I will post *Travel League* rosters a week ahead of time. **Note:** If you are scheduled to play *Travel League*, you do not need to come to practice on that morning.

We currently have 28 girls signed-up to play *14&U Travel League*. I will only take 14 players to play for each *Travel League* game. We only schedule 10 *Travel League* games for the season. I hope to have each player play at least 5 games. I will post *Travel League* rosters a week ahead of time. **Note:** If you are scheduled to play *Travel League*, you do not need to come to practice on that morning.

Other Travel League Notes: We travel by school bus to the games. The bus departs/returns from the high school parking lot near the bandroom. We usually return between 4-5 p.m. Parents may transport your daughter to and from the games in your own vehicle. **Note: If you would like your daughter to ride home**

with another parent/guardian, please write me a note indicating your permission. When your daughter's team is not playing, supervision of your daughter is limited due to me coaching the other team. I ask that you talk to your daughter about their responsibility to behave and to be very careful during this time. I ask that all the girls travel in groups and not go near any water! I also ask that the parents attending the games to help keep an eye on all the girls and let me know if you have any concerns.

Community Night League: We currently have 48 girls playing Night League! Night League for 4th, 5th and half of the 6th graders (see 6th Grade information above) will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:15-6:30. Night League for the other half of the 6th graders (see 6th Grade information above), 7th and 8th graders will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:45.

I-SRA Softball Website: > <http://www.iola.k12.wi.us/hs/israsummersoftball.cfm>< To help save on mailing and paper costs, I post the softball calendars and Travel League rosters on the website. If you don't have Internet access, you will need to let me know so I can get you this information a different way.

Softball Hotline: The hotline (715-445-2411, Ext. 500) is the primary way I use to communicate with parents and players on a daily basis during the season. I update the hotline each weekday morning. I use the hotline to announce the day's schedule and to make changes or cancellations. Please get in the habit of checking the hotline several times during the day. You may also leave messages for me on the hotline, but I only listen to those messages later in that evening or early the next morning.

Bats: We do supply bats for the girls. If you are thinking about buying a bat for your daughter, I would recommend trying some of our bats before purchasing one. Softball bats and baseball bats are different. For 10&U girls, I would recommend a bat 29-30" long and 18-20oz; for 12&U girls, I would recommend a bat 29-31" long and 19-21oz; and for 14&U girls, I would recommend a bat 31-33" long and 20-23oz. Bat size depends on the strength of the batter and the speed of the pitcher. Our high school players use a bat 33" long and the weight ranges from 20-23oz. The cost of bats can vary greatly (\$25-\$300)! I would recommend staying away from the expensive bats!

Gloves: I would find a glove that is big enough to hold a 12" softball. It is also helpful if the glove is soft and broken-in enough so it can be squeezed shut to catch and hold on to the ball.

Spikes: Spikes with rubber cleats may be worn, but not absolutely necessary. You may wear regular tennis shoes, but they may be slippery on dirt and grass. Soccer spikes and baseball/softball spikes are different. Baseball/softball spikes have a toe cleat that is not legal in soccer. Spikes with metal cleats are not allowed in our summer softball leagues. However, when considering buying spikes, we do highly recommend black spikes with metal cleats at the high school level.

Jerseys/T-Shirts: Each girl will again be receiving an ash color sleeveless jersey/t-shirt with orange lettering and number. The t-shirts are the same style and color as last year. This allows that girls to continue to use their t-shirts from previous years.

College Women's Softball World Series: The NCAA college women's softball World Series is being played this weekend. Up to 17 softball games may be shown on ESPN and ESPN2 over the weekend and into early next week. Those of you who have not seen much fast pitch softball; this is an opportunity to see fast pitch softball played at the highest level.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks,

Mr. Anderson