



PARENT/PLAYER HANDBOOK

November 2024 - October 2025

Welcome to the 308 United Softball. The purpose of this handbook is to inform parents and players of the organization and management of the 308 United Softball program. This handbook provides a standard of consistency of expectations for the players, parents, and coaching staff.

308 United Softball Program Objectives:

- ☐ Skill Development:
 - ☐ Players demonstrate improved fundamental softball skills, including hitting, pitching, fielding, and base running.
 - ☐ Enhanced understanding and execution of advanced techniques, strategies, and position-specific skills.
- ☐ Teamwork and Collaboration:
 - ☐ Improved communication and collaboration among team members.
 - ☐ Development of effective team strategies and game plans.
 - ☐ Fostering a sense of unity and shared responsibility within the team.
- ☐ Competitive Success:
 - ☐ Achievement of specific performance goals, such as winning tournaments, league championships, or advancing in playoffs.
- ☐ Sportsmanship and Character Development:
 - ☐ Emphasis on displaying good sportsmanship, respect for opponents, officials, and teammates.
 - ☐ Development of a strong work ethic, discipline, and perseverance in the face of challenges.

Philosophy:

Our beliefs shape the 308 United culture and approach to player development. We are fully committed to fostering the overall growth of our players, both athletically and personally. We believe that fundamental skills form the foundation for success. Continuous improvement of these skills is achieved through disciplined skill development. This continuous improvement is a collective effort that requires strong bonds, effective communication and unwavering

sportsmanship. Setting and pursuing these ambitious goals is a key to achieving excellence on and off the field. Success in competition, as in life, requires mental strength, resilience, and the ability to overcome obstacles. 308 United Softball believes that a passion for the sport extends beyond competitive play and contributes to a lifelong appreciation for health and wellness.

Expectations of the 308 United Coaching Staff:

- ❖ Professionalism in communication with players, parents, and officials
- ❖ Clear and transparent communication about playing time policies, fair and consistent evaluation of player performance, and opportunities for all players to contribute to the team.
- ❖ Provide opportunities for skill development and improvement
- ❖ Encourages team-building activities, emphasizing sportsmanship, and addressing any issues related to team dynamics promptly
- ❖ Tailoring coaching methods to the age and skill level of the players, promoting age-appropriate challenges, and avoiding undue pressure
- ❖ Modeling positive behavior, addressing unsportsmanlike conduct promptly, and integrating sportsmanship into coaching philosophy

Expectations of the players on 308 United Teams:

- ❖ Regular attendance, punctuality, and communication with the coaching staff about any scheduling conflicts
- ❖ Full engagement in drills, exercises, and a positive attitude toward skill development
- ❖ Displaying good sportsmanship, following team rules, and treating everyone with courtesy and consideration.
- ❖ Accepting wins and losses graciously, respecting opponents, officials, and avoiding unsportsmanlike conduct.
- ❖ Open communication about injuries, conflicts, and individual goals as well as active participation in team discussions.

- ❖ Willingness to play different positions, learn new techniques and adapt to different game situations
- ❖ Taking initiative, supporting teammates, and demonstrating a positive attitude, even in challenging situations.

Team Rules:

- ☐ Be on time to all practices, leave times and game times.
 - ☐ Please contact a coach directly if you are going to be late or miss practice or game PRIOR to the event. Unexcused or non-communicated absences from games or practice may result in dismissal from the team.
- ☐ You are representing your family, 308 United Softball, your coaches and yourself. Do not do anything to embarrass any of the above.

Appearance:

- ☐ Softball pants will be worn at every practice, unless instructed otherwise.
- ☐ Jewelry is during games and practices are at the coaches discretion.

Fundraising and Support

308 United families will have multiple opportunities to support our teams. Families are expected to support their daughter(s)'s and her team(s) with positive cheering and emotional support. Another important form of support comes from fundraising and contributions to our home tournament the Summer Slam -first weekend of July.

Tournaments: concessions/field/gates/planning/organizing

- It is an expectation that parents/families will help with concessions and other aspects (field prep, clean-up, etc) of our home tournaments. Your team's coach will communicate the needs and how to sign up. Both of these tournaments raise funds to support the program and are a public representation of our standards and philosophy. It is important that everyone contributes to the ongoing success of these tournaments.

Taco Bar Fundraiser: selling tickets/ sponsorships/ donations

- Fundraising provides an opportunity for team building and this event is likely one of the first times teams have to work together to accomplish a shared goal. The coaches will

provide information about ticket selling goals/requirements for players/families. Families are encouraged to be involved in organizing and facilitating this event. It takes many hours and volunteers to have a successful event. Success is dependent on everyone sharing the load.

Roles

- ❖ Players – Players have the opportunity to practice and play games.
- ❖ Coaches – Coaches have the role of leading, coaching, and disciplining the team.
- ❖ Parents – Parents have the role to provide positive support and cheer on 308 United players
- ❖ Umpires – The umpires have the role or job to judge balls, strikes, safe and out calls and rules of the game.

It is important that everyone understands their role in the 308 United Softball program.

Problems arise when people get their roles confused. Do your best to provide a positive experience for your daughter. If the umpires need to be addressed, let the coaches handle the situation properly.

Please refrain from “booing”, negative comments, swearing, etc. at all games. Support all members of the program, but most importantly show the team positive support. Parents need to remain away from the dugout once we have started our warmups to completion of the team meeting following the game. We ask that you do not have contact with your daughter until said time, to allow her to focus on the task at hand, learn and grow with teammates. Emergency situations will be the only exception (injuries, medication). Supplying your daughter with water, Gatorade, or food etc. will be done before the game or **not at all**. If a parent or fan approaches the dugout, you will be asked to leave. If the situation occurs again, the player will be removed from the game and dugout and serve a 1 game suspension for the following contest. Please plan ahead. Let the ***players play, coaches coach, umpires call the games, and fans be supportive.***

Transportation/Lodging

All members of the 308 United Softball program are required to arrange their own transportation to and from practices & tournaments. If a parent is not able to make it to a tournament, please reach out to another parent or coach in getting help to get your daughter to the tournament. The parents are responsible for getting their own lodging for each tournament. If possible, we will set up a block of rooms at a hotel and send that information out to everyone.

It is highly suggested to try to stay at the same hotel so the team can all be together, but this is not required.

Playing Time

NOT EVERY PLAYER WILL HAVE EQUAL PLAYING TIME. The coaching staff will make their best effort to field the best team to give the team the greatest chance of winning the game. The coaches want each player to be successful and we will strive to give the players the best chance at being successful. Lineups may change from game to game depending on what strategy we are using that day. If you have questions or concerns about playing time, please read under section 6 (the communication section of the handbook)

Personal Conduct Policy

The 308 United coaching staff reserves the right to suspend or dismiss any player for their conduct on or off the field of play. Any on or off the field issues that are detrimental to the team atmosphere or dynamics of the team may result in suspension or dismissal from the team. **This includes but NOT limited to; social media issues, behavior, legal issues (MIP, drugs, assault, etc.), continual negative attitude and effort, blatant disrespect to coaches or teammates.**

- **Social Media Policy**

This policy shall apply to all coaches, players, parents, guardians, or other persons associated with 308 United Softball regarding use of social media. This policy applies to the above participants on and off the field. The goal of 308 United Softball is to assure that its participants – coaches, players, parents, guardians, fans, etc – always maintain the highest standard of sportsmanship and ethical behavior.

We have a zero-tolerance policy for inappropriate use of social media. Social media is defined to include; Web sites, Web logs (blogs), social networks (e.g. TikTok, Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, LinkedIn, Flickr, YouTube, etc.), online forums, virtual worlds, email and any other social media generally available to the public or consumers.

Inappropriate is defined to include:

- Players, parents, coaches, umpires, or any participant associated with 308 United who denigrate (attack the character or reputation of, speak ill of, defame, disparage, or belittle) other individuals, players, teammates or evaluation processes as related to 308 United.
- Parents, who send harassing emails or messages, denigrate the evaluation process, coaches, players, or board members; or swear as it relates to the 308 United.

- **Alcohol/Drug Policy**

The 308 United Softball Program has a "zero tolerance" policy for athletes who consume, possess and/or purchase alcoholic beverages and illegal, non-prescribed drugs. Abstention from alcohol and illegal, non-prescribed drugs is for the entire season (November 2024 – October 2025).

Failure to comply with the "zero tolerance" policy for illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia and controlled substances prescribed by law and alcohol consumption, possession and/or purchase will result in the immediate expulsion of the offender from the team.

The consequences of any acts of misbehavior will be determined by the 308 United Board in conjunction with the coaching Staff. The consequences may include game suspension, extended suspension, or dismissal from the softball team.

Equipment, Uniforms & Player Fees

308 United will **not** provide bats, helmets, gloves, or cleats. You will be responsible for providing that for your child. We will provide your child with their uniforms. Player fees will be set at the beginning of each season. If you are in need of assistance with one of these items, contact your coach and it will be presented to the board.

Communication

As a coaching staff, we will strive to communicate effectively with the players & parents the vital information such as practice times, game & travel times, and other general team information. Please call, text or email to inform of tardiness, early leaves, and emergencies. If your daughter will miss practice/game due to illness, please have her communicate (if possible) with the coaching staff.

If you have any questions about playing time or other players, this will not be discussed. However, ways your daughter can improve at practice can be discussed. We, as a staff, will play the lineup that we feel will give us the best chance to win. If you have questions or concerns about how your daughter can improve, please use the following communication steps:

- I. **Speak with your daughter about the issue.** (many issues can be solved if the player is honest and open about a situation)
- II. **Players need to speak with coaching staff about concerns and communicate the information discussed with parents.** (It is important that appropriate wait time is given for either skill or attitude-based issues, one or two days or contests are most likely not long enough for said adjustments to be made)
- III. **If the previous two steps do not satisfy your concerns, contact your child's coach to set up a meeting about concerns,** (Meetings will not occur or conversations about player improvement will not be discussed immediately after a game)

The coaching staff will NOT discuss playing time, conduct or performance issues via phone, email, or text. In person discussions will not take place unless the previously mentioned steps are taken. Other players will NOT be discussed.

Safe and Transparent Communications

The coaching staff will utilize the team communication app (TeamReach) to communicate with players. Coaches and parents will also communicate through this app. Coaches will not meet or communicate with any player alone. All coaching communications and meetings will have at least one other adult (parent/coach) included. Communicating in these ways will help players, coaches, and parents keep healthy boundaries.

308 United Softball maintains a public facebook page to communicate with parents, families, and the public about general information (tryouts, important dates, etc.). Information specific to teams (travel arrangements, fundraising sign ups, etc..) will be communicated through the Team Reach app.

Coaching Staff:

<u>10U Coach:</u> Tonya Castle Cell: (303) 653-8495 Email: castlet2429@gmail.com	<u>12U Red Coach:</u> Marcus Mathews Cell: (308) 631-6578 Email: marcusmathews@hotmail.com <u>Blue Coach:</u> Tristina Meister Cell: (308) 225-1677 Email: tristina.meister@gmail.com
<u>14U Coach:</u> Krista Sarchet Cell: (308)220-8861 Email: krista.sarchet@gmail.com	<u>HS coach:</u> Dan Fox Cell: (307) 534-5688 Email: dtfox3375@gmail.com

308 United Board of Directors:

President: Krista Sarchet - 308.220.8861 - krista.sarchet@gmail.com

Vice President: Jackie Cawiezel

Co-Treasurers: Kelly Ramirez & Craig Zwetzig

Secretary: Dave & Michelle Hunter

Facility & Equipment Mgr: Justin Sarchet

Members at Large: Justin Cawiezel, Theresa Fox, Kelsey Loutzenhiser, Jared Michaelson

2024-2025 308 United Softball Handbook Agreement Form

By signing below, you are confirming that you have read the 308 United 2024-2025 handbook in its entirety and agree to follow the guidelines, rules & expectations that are set within the handbook. This form must be signed by both parents/guardians, dated, and turned in prior to the athlete starting official participation.

Players Printed Name

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____

Players Signature

Date

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date
