



Parent /Player Agreement

Our mission is to develop competitive female student-athletes and promote lifelong qualities of sportsmanship, teamwork, commitment, leadership, respect, and integrity.

The Tidal Waves Girl's Fastpitch Organization is a premier girls fastpitch organization in the Northwest Suburbs of Chicago. We are proud to have 22 teams and athletes ranging in age from 8 to 18.

The Tidal Waves organization offers a 12-month training program which includes indoor and outdoor practice facilities. Each team plays a minimum 60-75 games per season.

Originally founded in 1990 as the Crystal Lake Tidal Waves, the organization would later merge in 2014 with the Cary Crush to become CTW (Crush Tidal Waves). Our teams compete in some of the highest-level tournaments each year across a multitude of organizations (PGF, USSSA, NAFA and ASA). Many CTW high school players earn "All Conference" status and go on to play at the collegiate level.

CTW exists and operates under Tidal Waves Girls Fastpitch Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

CTW is affiliated with other National organizations and some of our Premier level teams are branded as such. This provides additional opportunities for teams and players that wish to compete at the highest level. These teams operate within the CTW organization.

The Tidal Waves Girls Fastpitch executive board is the governing body for the organization. This board consists of a minimum of 4 Directors including a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

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General Rules and Guidelines

- 1) Safety is a priority for all players and all players should be equipped with proper safety equipment which includes protective face masks, helmets, catchers gear, etc. We encourage all players to wear protective face masks while playing infield positions.
- 2) Players will not argue with umpires, coaches, or players from either team, or with any spectators.
- 3) During a game, players will remain in the bench area. There should be no visits to parents, siblings, etc., without a coach's permission. No one other than the coaching staff and players will be allowed on the benches or in the bench area, without approval by the coaches.
- 4) Playing time is not guaranteed and determined by CTW coaching staff. Questions regarding playing time, strategy decisions, etc. should be directed to head coaches after games and in a private setting.
- 5) Usage of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, and misuse of prescription drugs is prohibited.
- 6) Maintaining a positive presence on social media.
- 7) Initial deposit of 30% of team fees is needed to secure a roster spot on the team. All player fees are due by March 1. Players are not entitled to refunds of fees paid and fees must be paid timely, or player will be suspended from team activities (practices and games). Team fees vary by team and an example payment schedule is listed below.

| Payment Schedule | Payment Dates | Example Based on \$2,500 Team Fees | |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| % Due | Date Due | Amount Due | Total Paid |
| 30% | Acceptance to Team | \$750 | \$750 |
| 15% | Sept 1 | \$375 | \$1,125 |
| 15% | Oct 1 | \$375 | \$1,500 |
| 15% | Nov 1 | \$375 | \$1,875 |
| 12.5% | Feb 1 | \$312.50 | \$2,187.50 |
| 12.5% | March 1 | \$312.50 | \$2,500 |

- 8) Changes in payment schedules and adjustments to fees must be made in writing to the Board of Directors for review and approval.
- 9) Players may not play for other CTW or outside organizations without approval from their head coach. Failure to comply may result in removal from the team with **no** refunding of player fees.
- 10) CTW is affiliated with other National organizations to provide additional opportunities for teams and players that wish to compete at the highest level. CTW teams that are branded with a National Organization still operate under the rules and guidelines established by CTW.

Student-Athlete Guidelines & Rules of Conduct

The purpose of CTW is to put forth a quality fastpitch softball program for its players. CTW endeavors to coach, teach, and guide its players in the fundamentals of fastpitch softball, team play, and sportsman- ship, while striving for fun for all involved. CTW's goal is to assist its players to achieve and succeed at their highest competitive level of fastpitch softball and develop skills to be used throughout life. It is the collective responsibility of the Players, Parents/Guardians, Coaches, and all involved, to carry out this mission.

As a CTW Player, I will:

1. Enthusiastically participate in all team practices, actives, and games.
2. Notify the Head Coach of my team in advance of any anticipated absences from practices or games.
3. Realize I am privileged to be a highly visible representative of the community and will conduct myself in accordance with good sportsmanship and good conduct at all times, on and off the playing fields, in and out of season, and in victory or in defeat, and most specifically when wearing a CTW uniform for any reason. I play for the name on the front of my jersey and not the back of it.
4. Not use, attempt to use, solicit, possess, sell, or assist any other person in the procuring of:
 - Tobacco or tobacco-based products.
 - Alcoholic beverages.
 - Any form of drugs or steroids other than those prescribed by a physician.
 - Any drug paraphernalia.
 - Any misuse of prescription drugs
5. Although Crush Tidal Waves Fastpitch recognizes athletes and parent rights to fully participate in social media, using social media to post racist, obscene, profane, degrading information or for cyber-bullying will not be tolerated. This also includes derogatory comments regarding coaches, team members, opponents, and umpires. Concerns should be addressed through proper channels with the organization - coach first, then board members. Included in this packet is a Social Media Conduct guide that includes Key Points to remember when online and tips for successful use of social media to help navigate through the challenges of social media.

It is understood that participation in athletics is voluntary and constitutes a privilege and not a right. CTW Players are representatives of their team, CTW, and the community. The following rules of conduct have been determined to apply to all athletes participating in teams involved with CTW / Tidal Waves Girls Fastpitch. To ensure that the rules governing athletic participation are communicated to all participants and their parents / guardians, all athletes and at least one parent / guardian are required to sign this code of conduct document ensuring that the policy was read and understood.

Player Name: _____ Player Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Guidelines and Rules of Conduct

1. Be aware of the eligibility-related guidelines described in this document, and support CTW in its efforts to enforce these guidelines.
2. Understand that possession and/or use of alcohol or controlled substances is both illegal and prohibited at all CTW facilities. Violation of this policy will have consequences as determined by the CTW Board of Directors and could include the related player's removal from the organization.
3. Understand it is my responsibility to be a role model and a positive influence, not only for my own daughter but also for other participants. This includes not exhibiting unacceptable behavior at games or CTW activities and maintaining a positive presence on social media. Examples of unacceptable behavior includes intoxication, negative, demeaning, and abusive behavior towards players, coaches, and umpires --- verbal, texting, social media, email.
4. Acknowledge that I must place the commitment to academic achievement above the commitment made to CTW. However, I also understand CTW provides the benefits of athletic conditioning and competition, as well as recreation, and that a healthy balance of these, along with others (e.g. family, religion, school, etc.) is helpful to my daughter becoming a well-rounded person.
5. Discuss matters with Coaches and Athletes only at appropriate time (i.e., immediately prior to, during, or immediately after a contest is **NOT** the most effective time to engage a coach or player in discussion regarding anything but congratulations). Matters can be discussed 24 hours after the incident, and first with the head coach of the team of the player involved.
6. All game decisions – batting order, positions, substitution, and playing time are the discretion of the Head Coach. There are no guarantees regarding playing time and all questions and concerns should be addressed with the Head Coach at the appropriate time and not during games.
7. Parents are not allowed in the team dugout unless requested by coach (injury, scorekeeping etc.) and players should remain in the dugout during the games unless permission is given by the coach (bathroom breaks, water refills, etc.).
8. The process for communicating unresolved issues can be addressed with CTW Board Members via email.
9. Understand that player fees are non-refundable.

It is understood that participation in athletics is voluntary and constitutes a privilege and not a right. CTW Players and families are representatives of their team, CTW, and the community. The following rules of conduct have been determined to apply to all participants in CTW activities. To ensure that the rules governing athletic participation are communicated to all participants and their parents / guardians, at least one parent / guardian are required to sign this code of conduct document ensuring that the policy was read and understood.

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Violation of Rules of Conduct

Any participant accused of violating rules of conduct shall have the right to be informed that she is suspected of violating the rules and be given an opportunity to explain or deny such allegation. The decision to apply suspension policies for a violation shall be within the discretion of the head coach and/or CTW Board of Directors.

1st Violation: Loss of playing privileges for 10 days or for the duration of the athlete's school suspension if any, and whichever is longer. Players are expected to participate in practices and attend games in uniform but will not be allowed to play.

2nd Violation: Player will be removed from the team.

Violations will be accumulative over a player's career with CTW.

Additionally, a violation of any school policy that results in suspension from school will also result in an equal suspension from game play by the team. Players are expected to participate in practices and attend games but are not allowed to participate in games while serving the school suspension.

Reinstatement will be considered by the Board of Directors upon written request.

Coaches Code of Conduct

The undersigned Head Coach for his CTW Team accepts the foregoing Player and Parent Agreement and endorses the following Coaches Code of Conduct to:

1. Place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.
2. Treat each player as an individual and expect age-appropriate skills from all my players.
3. Direct players always to play by the rules and to show respect for the other players, coaches, and the umpires.
4. Do the coach's best to provide a safe playing situation for players in practice and games. This includes ensuring players equipment fits, players are using protective facemasks while playing infield positions, and helmets while hitting.
5. Teach players in a positive, nurturing manner; and not to berate, intimidate, or bully players.
6. Be respectful of facilities used for practices and games. This includes picking up equipment after indoor practice sessions, performing basic field maintenance on our outdoor fields (filling in low spots, dragging fields, put away of equipment, etc.).
7. Lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all players, coaches, parents/guardians, tournament directors, and umpires, on and off the field.
8. Exhibit respect for the umpires and other coaches, while speaking with umpires and other coaches in a civil, calm manner.
9. Not openly berate, taunt, or otherwise comment negatively to players, parents, umpires, or other coaches.
10. Remember the role of a youth sports coach and that the game is for the kids.
11. Adhere to this Coaches Code of Conduct while participating in any CTW activity.
12. Not use vulgar or discriminating vocabulary anytime.
13. Abide by the guidelines and policies of the facilities that I practice and play games in.
14. Specific fund-raising at the team level **is prohibited** and coaches agree to abide by all organizational accounting rules.
15. Demand a non-prescribed drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free sports environment for teams at games and practices.
16. Lead by example, and exhibit sportsmanship while expecting the same from players, parents, siblings, and coaching peers at all times.

Coach Name: _____ Coach Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Social Media Conduct – Players & Parents:

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN ONLINE

1. ***There is no difference between your online persona and your real-life persona.***
 - Nearly all employers use social media background checks prior to hiring.
 - Regardless of intent, what you post online has real world consequences.
2. ***The internet is forever***
 - Regardless of your privacy settings the Library of Congress is saving all tweets.
 - Snapchat does not actually disappear and can easily have content “screen-shot” as can all other forms of online communication.
 - Courts can subpoena all digital media, including text messages.
 - Once you post or share any form of media that application technically has usage rights.
3. ***What you associate with becomes who you are perceived to be regardless of intent.***
 - What are you sharing, liking, and commenting on? What are your friends “tagging” you in?
4. ***Your social media accounts are your brand***
 - How are you choosing to represent yourself? Are you sending the right message about yourself to the public? What does your social media portfolio say about you?
 - Coaches, Graduate School Admissions, Employers ALL use social media as a reference check.
 - Do you send out negative comments regarding coaching, umpires, teams, players?
 - If asked right now, would you want an administrator, coach, or employer to see your online persona?

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE

1. ***Think First***
 - Once you post online, it is available to anyone – even if you limit access to your site. Privacy is important to safeguard yourself and your identity, but do not use privacy settings to mask poor online behavior
2. ***Mindful Photography***
 - Avoid posting photos of alcohol consumption regardless of legal ability. What story do your photographs tell about you?
3. ***Be Accurate***
 - Make sure your online persona is true to who you are
 - Is your job/education information accurate? Are they consistent across all platforms?
 - Even if it was accidental, out-of-date, or inaccurate, this can make it appear you are misrepresenting yourself.
4. ***Be Authentic***
 - Part of self-expression is taking responsibility for your own thoughts, opinions, and actions. Using an alias, or an identity other than your own, is disingenuous and could cause legal trouble
 - If you feel the need to use an alias, that means you don’t want to be associated with what you are sharing, so that means it probably is not a good idea to begin with.
5. ***Be Respectful***
 - Social media should not be used to defame, attack or disrespect other people
 - If you wouldn’t say it to someone directly, don’t put it online
 - Freedom of Speech will **not** absolve you from the consequences of your actions, words, or expressions.

Emergency Contact Information:

In case of emergency and a parent / guardian cannot be reached, please contact:

Name _____ Phone _____

Relationship _____

Family Physician _____ Phone _____

Family Dentist _____ Phone _____

Health Insurance Carrier _____

Authorization for Emergency Medical Treatment:

The parents / guardians of the Player grant permission to the Crush Tidal Waves Fastpitch (“CTW”) and its head coaches and their representatives to authorize emergency medical treatment considered necessary by qualified medical personnel for the Player. It is understood that every effort will be made to contact the parents immediately when an emergency occurs.

(Waiver and Release)

The parents / guardians of the Player do hereby waive and release, to the fullest extent permitted by law, all claims, demands, actions, and rights of action of whatsoever kind, nature, or description which may hereafter arise against CTW and each and every individual associated therewith, including but not limited to its directors, officers, coordinators, coaches, game officials, and scorekeepers, on account of the Player’s participation in the youth softball program sponsored by CTW.

The parents / guardians of the Player understand and agree that this waiver and release is intended to cover, and does cover, all actions, causes of action, claims, and demands for, upon, or by reason of any damage, loss, or injury which may be traced either directly or indirectly to the Player’s participation in the program no matter how remote.

The parents / guardians of the Player understand that no physical examination is required as a prerequisite to participation in the program; however, a physical exam is recommended.

The parents / guardians of the Player hereby certify the parents / guardians of the Player have read the foregoing waiver and release and know and understand its meaning and contents and are executing this Player Parent Agreement as a free and voluntary act for all uses and purposes.

Please note the following existing medical conditions and medications for the Player:

My daughter has the following limitations and takes the following medications:

I hereby certify that I have read the foregoing waiver and know and understand its meaning and contents and have executed it as my free and voluntary act and deed for all the uses and purposes set herein.

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____