

Lady
Brancoas
SOFTBALL

"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31

PLAYER & PARENT HANDBOOK

OKC LADY BRONCOS Player/Parent Handbook

LADY BRONCO ORGANIZATION

The OKC Lady Broncos home school softball program was founded in 2005. Our high school and middle school teams play competitive schedules against public, private, and home-schooled teams. We offer opportunities for elementary players, T-ball to 12U ages, as well in league play and tournaments both Fall and Spring. The Lady Broncos have been a part of the Top X Conference at the High School level since 2006. This has allowed us the opportunity to play for a Conference Championship each year. We strive to operate according to the guidelines of the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Athletic Association. This gives the Lady Broncos greater credibility with opposing teams and has helped us earn a long-standing reputation of respectful sportsmanship and integrity.

MISSION STATEMENT

Oklahoma City Lady Broncos is a home-school Christian athletic organization designed to provide the families in and around the Oklahoma City area the opportunity to play on a competitive Fast pitch softball team. The goal of our program and all activities that we support are to promote and provide a Christian environment for spiritual and character growth that honors and glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ through competitive athletics. The Lady Bronco Organization is dedicated to the idea that any athlete, regardless of race, creed, religious affiliation, or socio-economic status should be given that opportunity. A competitive athletic experience can instill a good work ethic, enhance social development, contribute to mental and physical health, and teach values of personal responsibility, self-discipline, self-motivation, and teamwork. Participation in fast pitch softball also improves the athlete's opportunity to realize the goals of:

- **Improving individual skills and ability to play and contribute as a member of a team**
- **Earning and/or keeping a position on the team**
- **Earning a college scholarship**

Each of the above goals involves individual player growth. This includes improvement in skill level AND in the mental outlook necessary to be a successful member of a Select softball team.

PHILOSOPHY

The most important consideration in forming an organization is to develop a philosophy. What is the motivation behind forming this organization in regards to the teams? Will they be “participation teams” where everyone gets equal playing time, or “performance teams” where playing time must be earned? The Lady Bronco teams are most definitely “performance teams”. All players will have equal opportunity to earn playing time but it will ultimately come down to the player’s dedication, work ethic, attitude and desire to reach that goal. **Playing time is not a right but a privilege that must be earned!**

LADY BRONCO BOARD

The Lady Bronco Board is composed of 6 members. All of which have at least one daughter actively playing on a Lady Bronco team during the current calendar year.

The purpose of the Board is to provide direction for the organization. The Board will aid in the decision making of the organization, structure and assistance in fundraising, team structure, uniforms, scheduling of Jr. High and High School games/tournaments and promotion of the Lady Bronco Organization. The Board has no authority on the softball field.

A successful team and organization requires communication. It is imperative that the player, parent or coaches relate concerns to each other. If a resolution is not met by the player, parent or coaches they may request a hearing with the Board. The Board's decision will be final in all cases.

All members of the Lady Bronco Organization will have an equal voice. There will be an organizational meeting once a year. All members will have an opportunity to contribute positive constructive ideas to better improve the growth of the organization. All of which will be voted on by the board at a later meeting.

Board Members:

Susan Decker	sucohome2teach@ aol.com
Shane Hanes	shanehanes@msn.com
Stephan Hankins	hank65@me.com
Wes Jameson	icemanwj2000@yahoo.com
Lisa Marshall	lisam_869@sbcglobal.net
Marcella Sundbye	sundbyewm@sbcglobal.net

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Players are expected to sign up for the **full** “season” and are expected to participate in all practices, scrimmages, games and tournaments as scheduled. Failure to do so may result in less playing time or suspension of games or the season. It is the player’s/parent’s responsibility to notify the coach if they cannot attend.

Players are expected to consistently work on their own to raise the level of their physical condition and skill. All players will sign a code of conduct form as part of their membership with the team. The following standards must be observed for one to continue as an active member of Lady Broncos: violation of standards marked with (*) means suspension for the first offence, followed by counseling/drug testing. Second offence is immediate dismissal.

1. * Alcohol and drugs are prohibited at all times.
2. * Smoking is prohibited.
3. Excellence in academic performance is required. All players must be in good academic standing according to their parent guidelines. Coaches will support parents in suspension of games.
4. As a representative of the Lady Broncos, no actions that will hinder the player’s performance, game, or scholastics will be tolerated. The player’s actions and behavior should always be such as to reflect positively on the player and their team.
5. Players must be on time for all team commitments. Violations will result in loss of playing time.
6. Players must call their team coach when they are going to be late or absent from a practice or tournament.
7. All players are required to pursue all physical conditioning activities and drills unless excused by a doctor or the coach.
8. Players must report all physical injuries or illness to their head coach immediately.
9. Players are required to take proper care of practice equipment, keeping in mind that the equipment is the property of the Lady Broncos.
10. Each player will keep their coach informed of their presence at tournaments or away games.
11. During any overnight travel the coach will determine curfew. Violations will result in suspension for the games. Consistent violations will result in dismissal from the team.
12. Each player is expected to treat all other players, teammates, coaches, umpires, and fans with courtesy and respect.

OUT OF TOWN TRIPS

All regulations previously listed above, under “Standards of Conduct”, apply to out of town trips. Board members are to assist coaches in enforcing these requirements.

Players are representing the Lady Broncos Organization at all times and will not do anything to embarrass themselves or the organization. As noted above, any use of an illegal substance will result in player suspension and parents will be contacted.

Any player caught in a room with a boy without adult supervision will be suspended and parents will be contacted.

If either parent is unable to attend an out of town trip or an away game with their daughter, the parent must designate in writing who is responsible of their daughter. That parent then becomes the designated parent for the event. The player’s parent needs to provide an insurance card, description of health problems, a medical release and contact number for the designated parent. Coaches are not responsible for parenting or accommodating players with regard to travel and hotel accommodations.

PLAYING TIME

Playing time is very important to everyone. It is important to apply the skills and fundamentals taught in practice in a game situation. Only then can a coach and player truly realize which skills the player is proficient at and which skills require more training.

More playing time is earned by being a practice, being coachable and working hard to improve, as well as, executing the skills when given the opportunity to play. All coaches are advised to give everyone opportunities to contribute their individual skills and abilities to the team during the season.

PRACTICE RULES

- Players are required to be ready to begin practice at the designated start time. .
- If a player must miss a practice, a telephone call or email to the coach is required before practice begins.
- Each practice session is very important to the development of our athletes. Players need to make every effort to be at every practice so coaches can prepare practices according to who and how many will be attending.
- Players will be required to bring their own: water jugs, practice attire and equipment.
- NO JEWELRY will be allowed at practice.
- Only players who are current in their dues will be allowed to take part in practices or tournament play unless prior arrangements have been made and approved by the coach or board.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Insurance Coverage

As part of their individual organizational dues, all players are covered by at **supplemental** insurance policy.

Uniforms

Every player is required to purchase her own uniform, equipment bag, and helmet.

Fundraising

Each team will have fundraising opportunities specifically to offset travel and unforeseen expenses.

Fall Softball Season

The Softball season for the Jr. High/High School teams, begin July 5th and typically concludes at the end of September.

The league teams for the younger teams typically start the end of August and conclude the end of October.

Spring Softball Season

The softball season for the league teams typically start in February and conclude the end of June. Tournament teams may extend through July with Nationals.

Practice Schedules/Locations

Practice schedule for each team is decided by the coach and parents. High School players will practice 3 times a week (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday) until games begin. Practice locations are NW 50th and Thompkins (PCO practice fields) and 7201 West Britton Road (Metropolitan Baptist Church). These are subject to change do to availability.

PLAYER/COACH/PARENT RELATIONSHIP

Softball can teach many good traits, such as the spirit of cooperation, and the regard for physical fitness; but it is difficult for these and other desirable traits to take root in young players when the adults around them fail to set a proper example. We ask that parents refrain from criticizing opposing players, other parents, coaches, officials, umpires, or teammates. Parents are to refrain from conversing with the umpires during any game or tournament play. They are there to do a job and focus on the game. Visiting with the officials may appear to other teams that we may be getting special treatment do to some relationship you have with that official. In spectator enthusiasm we are often prone to issue several instructions to the players that may be contrary to those of the coach, leaving the player confused and upset. Please let these athletes follow their coach's instruction and **leave the coaching to the coach!**

The coaches are giving their time, energy, and best efforts to teach your child the sport of fast pitch softball and the Lady Broncos Organization will not tolerate condemnation of the coaches. Understand that you will not agree or like every coaching tactic, comment, or suggestion that is made by the coaches, but this does not warrant criticism or rudeness. This is certainly not intended to reduce spectator enthusiasm. Please continue to cheer and encourage the actions you like and ignore those you don't. Please do not interfere with your child's coach, especially during play, or do anything else that will detract from the enjoyment your child deserves to get from softball. **Parents are strictly forbidden to enter the dugout or onto the field unless instructed by one of the coaches to do so.**

Parents must ally themselves with the coach in teaching their child how to cope with the frustrations of being a member of a team. Sports provide an excellent opportunity to teach young women about the realities of competitive situations. They must be taught how to be a cooperative team member, how to make use of both positive feedback and constructive criticism, how to cope with adversity, how to achieve 'mental toughness', and how to be a gracious winner and loser.

Player should discuss the concern with the coach and try to arrive at a solution. The coach should not be considered unapproachable. He or she is willing to listen to a player's concern and try to arrive at a mutual solution. Until the coach is made aware of the concern nothing at all can be done to alleviate it. Do not wait until the end of the season to voice your concern. However, we do ask that you observe the **24 hour rule**. If you are highly emotional and not able to discuss the issue rationally in a Christ like manner, take 24 hours to pray about it and at an appropriate time and manner voice your concern to the coaches. If a resolution to the problem or concern has not been accomplished the player, parent and/or coach can request a hearing with the Board. The Board's decision will be final in all cases.

LADY BRONCO FEES

The Lady Broncos remain a totally self-funded organization. Funds are obtained through either player/team dues or through contributions and donations. Player's fees are broken down below:

Organizational Fees: (Are paid the first week of practice and only 1 time a year)

T-Ball – 10U \$15.00 (\$5.00 per additional child)

12U – 18U \$30.00 (\$10.00 per additional child)

-insurance, web-site, equipment, practice field upkeep, advertisement costs.

Fall School Fees:

High School/Jr. High -- Approximately \$150 (subject to change per year)

- umpires, field rental, tournaments, equipment, conference dues, coaching

League teams (T-ball – 10U) – Approximately \$30.00 (subject to change per year)

-league fees, equipment

Spring Season Fees:

Fees for the spring are variable depending on the aspirations of the team/coach

- league fees, equipment, tournaments, coaches, cage rental, etc

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Lady Bronco Board has express a desire for the organization to perform community service in order to give something back to the community. It is felt that this will improve the player's self-esteem and generate respect throughout Oklahoma City off the softball field. Therefore, all players are expected to participate in any community service activities that the Lady Bronco Organization performs.

Please complete and sign the attached forms and have them returned to your Coach

- 1) Player/Parent Agreement & Consent Form
- 2) Medical Release Form
- 3) Parental Waiver - Release of Liability Form

Lady Broncos/Parent Agreement & Consent Form
(Please Complete and Return to Coach)

Player Agreement & Consent

I, have read, understand, and agree to the policies, procedures and obligations set forth in the LADY BRONCOS *Player's/Parents Handbook*. As evidence by my signature, I certify that I have read and understand all of the foregoing and consent to abide by the rules as set forth herein.

Signature of Player

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

**LADY BRONCOS PARENTAL WAIVER, RELEASE OF
LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT FORM**

(Please Complete and Return to Parent Coach)

I, the undersigned, as the parent or legal guardian of the minor child named below, do hereby give my full consent and approval for my child to participate as a member of the LADY BRONCOS girl's fast pitch softball team.

I understand that there are certain risks of damages and injuries, including death, inherent in the practice and play of softball, as well as in traveling in other related activities incidental to my child's participation, and I am willing to assume these risks on behalf of my child. These risks include, but are not limited to, those hazards associated with weather conditions, travel, playing conditions, equipment and other participants. I understand that sliding into base is dangerous to my child and to other players and may result in serious injury or death.

I understand that the very nature of the game of softball is hazardous and risky, including, but not limited to, the acts of throwing, fielding and catching of the ball, the swinging of the bat, running, jumping, stretching, sliding, diving, and collisions with other players and with stationary objects, all of which can cause serious injury or death to my child and to other players.

Further, I agree that in consideration for the right to allow my child to participate as a member of the LADY BRONCOS and in consideration for permission to play on the fields arranged for by the team:

1. On behalf of my child and myself, I do voluntarily elect to accept and solely assume all risks of injury incurred or suffered by my child (a) while practicing or playing as a member of the team, (b) while serving in a non-playing capacity as a team member during practice or play by other teams or by other players on my child's team, and (c) while on or upon the premises of any and all of the fields arranged for by the LADY BRONCOS for practice or play.

2. In addition to giving my full consent for my child's participation, I do hereby release, discharge and agree not to sue the LADY BRONCOS and/or its officers, coaches, the team sponsors, the owner, or operator of any field the team practices on, the Amateur Softball Association of America, or their owners, officers, agents, servants, associations, employees, or any person or entity connected with the team, league, field or Amateur Softball Association of America for any claim, damages, costs including attorney fees, or cause of action which I have or may in the future as a result of injuries or damages sustained or incurred by my child from whatever cause including but not limited to the negligence, breach of contract or wrongful conduct of the parties hereby released.

I hereby certify that my child is fully capable of participating in the designated sport and that my child is healthy and has no physical or mental disabilities or infirmities that would restrict full participation in these activities, except as made known to coaches and officers of the team.

I further agree on behalf of myself and my child listed below, that I shall hold harmless and fully indemnify the parties hereby released from any and all claims, damages, costs including attorney fees, and causes of action which may arise from any cause of action made by me or by, through or on behalf of my child, even if the damages, injuries or death are caused in whole or in part by any of the persons or entities hereby released.

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ AND THAT I UNDERSTAND EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THE PROVISIONS IN THIS WAIVER, RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THEM.

Name of Player (Please Print)

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Address of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

LADY BRONCOS MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

(Please Complete and Return to Parent Representative)

Player's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Father's Name: _____ Mother's Name: _____

Player's Address: _____

Home Phone Number(s): _____ Work Phone Number(s): _____

Cell Phone Number(s): _____

In an emergency when parents cannot be reached, please contact:

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Work: _____

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Work: _____

Player Information:

Allergies:

Asthma (Yes or No): _____ Blood Type (if known): _____

Date of last tetanus booster: _____ Regular Medications: _____

Additional Information:

Medical Insurance Carrier: _____ Policy #: _____

Insurance Contact Phone #: _____ Policy Holder Name: _____

Player's Physician: _____ Phone #: _____

CONSENT FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

I, _____, am the parent or guardian having legal custody of the above player. I authorize all medical, surgical, diagnostic, and hospital care or procedures which may be performed or prescribed for my child by a licensed physician or hospital, when efforts to contact me are unsuccessful and when deemed immediately necessary or advisable by the physician to safeguard my child's health. I waive my right of informed consent to such treatment.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

