

**LET'S
PLAY
BALL!**

SOLEDAD MISSION REC.

SOFTBALL
BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITY



2023
Season



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WHAT IS A RECREATIONAL LEAGUE?

A RECREATIONAL LEAGUE IS DESIGNED TO FOCUS ON TEACHING SKILLS, HAVING FUN, DEVELOPING A LIFELONG LOVE FOR SPORT, AND INCLUDE ALL CHILDREN REGARDLESS OF SKILL LEVEL. IN A RECREATIONAL LEAGUE, FOCUS IS PUT MOSTLY ON ENHANCING SKILL LEVELS AND NOT ON KEEPING SCORE. WE ALL KNOW THAT THE PARENTS KEEP SCORE IN THEIR HEAD BUT WE AS COACHES SHOULD NOT EMPHASIZE WE WON OR WE LOST. INSTEAD PLEASE FOCUS YOUR EFFORTS ON THINGS LIKE “WE WORKED REALLY HARD THIS WEEK ON HITTING AND IT REALLY PAID OFF.” OR “NEXT WEEK WE NEED TO REALLY FOCUS ON OUR DEFENSE.” YES, KIDS NEED TO LEARN TO WIN AND LOSE WITH DIGNITY, HOWEVER IN A RECREATIONAL LEAGUE WE FOCUS ON SKILL BUILDING AND CONFIDENCE. PLEASE NEVER REWARD THE CHILDREN FOR WINNING OR TAKE AWAY FROM THEM FOR LOSING. INSTEAD, PLACE VALUE ON ACHIEVING REACHABLE GOALS.

SOOOOOOOOO.....

NEW THIS season

***SOFTBALL
VIBES***

FOCUS -

BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITY

BUILDING STRONG PLAYERS

MONDAYS

PITCHERS & CATCHERS PRACTICE



TUESDAYS

ALL TEAMS PRACTICE TOGETHER



PITCHERS & CATCHERS PRACTICE

- **THE GOAL OF A THIS PRACTICE IS TO GET OUR CURRENT PITCHERS AND CATCHERS, NEW PITCHERS AND CATCHERS AND PLAYERS THAT WANT TO LEARN HOW TO PITCH AND CATCH AS MUCH LEARNING TIME AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT TAKING AWAY TIME FROM TEAM PRACTICES.**
- **THIS PRACTICE WILL ALSO HELP ALL THE GIRLS IN THE LEAGUE TO LEARN FROM THE SKILLS OF ALL OF THE COACHES WITH PITCHING AND CATCHING EXPERIENCE. THIS WILL CREATE BETTER PLAYERS OVER TIME.**



**Remember, your opponent today
may be your teammate tomorrow!**

ALL TEAMS PRACTICE

- **THE GOAL OF A THIS PRACTICE IS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL OF OUR COACHES BEST SKILLS!**
- **NOT ALL KIDS LEARN ALIKE AND WE CAN'T ALWAYS MAKE THE BEST MATCH WITH PLAYERS AND COACHES. BY HAVING A PRACTICE WHERE THE PLAYERS GET TO EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT TEACHING STYLES, ALL OF THE PLAYERS WILL LEARN BETTER.**
- **PLAYERS WILL ROTATE THROUGH STATIONS WHERE COACHES ARE TEACHING SPECIFIC SKILLS.**
- **THIS WILL ALSO REQUIRE COACHES TO WORK TOGETHER TO DEVELOP A PRACTICE PLAN**
- **WORKING TOGETHER = STRONG COMMUNITY!**



**Remember, your opponent today
may be your teammate tomorrow!**

PRACTICE SCHEDULES



IN ADDITION TO THE ALL TEAMS PRACTICE

- **5-7 TEAMS - 1 ADDITIONAL 1 HOUR PRACTICE**
- **8-10 TEAMS - 1 ADDITIONAL 1.5 HOUR PRACTICE
& 1 HOUR BATTING CAGE PRACTICE**
- **11-14 TEAMS - 2 ADDITIONAL 1.5 HOUR PRACTICES
& 1 HOUR BATTING CAGE PRACTICE**

GAME SCHEDULES

ALL HOME GAMES WILL BE ON
FRIDAY NIGHTS AND SATURDAYS



ASSESSMENTS

- **AT SIGN IN, PLAYERS WILL BE GIVEN A STICKER WITH THEIR NAME, AGE GROUP AND A #. THIS STICKER WILL BE PLACED ON THEIR BACK.**
- **ASSESSMENT WILL BE DONE IN NUMERICAL ORDER. IN GROUPS OF 10. OTHER PLAYERS WILL BE SHAGGERS.**
- **IF A PLAYER IS GOING TO BE PUT IN A DANGEROUS SITUATION OR COULD BE PUTTING OTHER PLAYERS IN A DANGEROUS SITUATION BY PLAYING IN THEIR DESIGNATED DIVISION, FLAG THEM FOR DISCUSSION WITH COORDINATOR.**



EVALUATIONS

- **PLAYERS WILL BE SCORED ON A SCALE OF 1-3**
- **1 BEING THE TOP SCORE AND 3 BEING THE LOWEST**
- **YOU ARE RANKING PLAYERS AMONGST THEMSELVES MEANING YOU ARE RANKING THEM BETWEEN THE BEST PLAYER ON THE FIELD RIGHT NOW AND THE WORST.**

COMMENTS:		SKILLS					OBSERVATIONS							
#	NAME	SPEED			HITTING		ATHLETICISM			LISTENING				
		1	2	3	1	2	3		/5	1	2	3		
		GROUND BALLS			FLY BALLS		THROWING			CATCHING				
		1	2	3		/3	1	2	3		/3	1	2	3
COMMENTS:														

BEHAVIOR OF COACHES & SPECTATORS

Sportsmanship: In the past, we had some problems with unsportsmanlike conduct from players, coaches and parents in all age groups. This season we will have a zero tolerance policy for unsportsmanlike conduct. This will include all players, coaches and spectators.

**WE WILL MOVE FORWARD
WITH RESPECT & PRIDE!**

PLAYERS/COACHES/SPECTATOR

A penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player/coach:

1. Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language and/or gestures at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
3. Taunting or ridiculing of players, coaches, officials or spectators.
4. Threat of violence toward players, coaches, officials or spectators.
5. Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision.
6. Throwing of any equipment on or off the field
7. Displays unsportsmanlike behavior toward any player.



SMRD Coaches Pledge

- I will remember that we are youth sports coaches and that the game is for the children not the adults.
- I understand children participate in sports to have fun and learn the game. Winning is secondary.
- I will be a positive role model for the children, encouraging sportsmanship, showing respect and courtesy and demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game and practice.
- I will teach our players both the rules of the game and the league rules. I will make our player's parents aware of the rules.
- I will communicate with parents regarding practices, games and other matters.
- I will not ridicule or yell at any child for making a mistake but will encourage them to learn from their mistakes and strive to continuously improve.
- I will remind our team and fans to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times, both when winning and when losing.

SMRD Coaches Pledge

- I will not engage in any form of disrespect toward other coaches, players, parents, fans, officials or league representatives before, during or at any time after a sporting event.
- I will respect the officials and their authority during games. I will not verbally or through gestures, directly or indirectly question or criticize an official's call or decision even though I may disagree with it.
- Should a disagreement arise between myself and an official, opposing coach or league representative, I will discuss it respectfully at an appropriate time and ultimately abide by the final decision of the official.
- Our team will play by the rules and abide by both the letter and spirit of the rules.
- I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of any personal desire we may have to win.
- I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all players.
- I understand that I am subject to the procedures outlined in our zero tolerance disciplinary policy were I to violate any of these rules.

**Go over the protocol for
pregame sportsmanship
reminders!**

Every game!



IMPORTANT DATES



February 18 - Skill Assessment

February 20 - Player Draft

February 23 - Parent Meeting

Week of February 27 - Practices begin

March 9 - Coaches Training & Schedule Review

March 10 - Uniform Delivery

TBD - Fundraiser Delivery

March 12 - May 20 - League Play

April 7-14 - Spring Break

May 15 - 18 - League Tournament Ages 11-14

May 19 - Round Robin Tournament Ages 8-10

May 20 - Closing Day

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