

Welcome to Ashland Youth Softball. Our mission is to offer your children an opportunity to **learn how to play softball and to have some fun doing it**. We have outlined some things you need to know going into the 2010 season.

1> **Safety** is a top priority. All players must abide by our safety rules. There will be an emphasis this year on the NO JEWELRY rule. Players are not allowed on the field with any type of jewelry. Taping over earrings is not allowed! All batting helmets come with chin straps. Players are not allowed to use a helmet without a chin strap.

2> We need your help to be successful. The more adult help we have on the field or behind the scenes the better your child's experience will be. Your coach has only 2 hands & 2 eyes. The coaching staff is always happy to have **a little more help**. We also require that all volunteers who interact with players submit to a **CORI check**.

3> Your child needs a **glove** that works for the level she is playing. Softballs range from 10" for our AA program to 12" for our 7/8 program. The ball needs to be able to rest comfortably in the webbing of the glove. If not, buy one that is appropriate!

4> AYBS provides **bats** for all players. If you choose to buy a bat for your child, make sure it has an ASA Approved seal on it. Umpires will not allow bats without the seal to be used.

5> There are **NO DOGS ALLOWED** on Ashland school or town property. Please leave your dogs at home!

6> We live in an always connected society however players should NEVER have their **cell phones** on during softball games or practices. If they must carry their phone, they need to store the phone in a safe place from the moment they arrive until their session is complete.

7> Repeat after me... it will not rain! It will not rain! Assuming that will not work we will have the misfortune of having to **postpone games** on occasion. Games will be postponed as early as possible but sometimes the weather throws us a curve. Your coach will advise you on how you will be informed. Players at 5/6 & 7/8 should plan to make their games up on Fridays.

8> The annual AYBS **parade** will be on Saturday, April 24th. Please make an effort to attend! We are going to honor the defending state champion softball team as part of the event. If you have any ideas to spice up the day please let us know.

9> We will publish softball **rosters and schedules** in the very near future. They will be posted on our website: <http://www.aybsonline.com/Softball>. Your child's coach should be contacting you as well about practicing.

10> **Concessions** are an important part of the AYBS revenue stream. Please patronize our concession stand which helps keep our costs low. Don't forget we need volunteers to run the stand!

11> We make our **rules** available on our website. Please take the time to review them with your child so they understand what is expected of them.

12> Please make sure you and your children clean up after themselves! All of those empty (and half empty) water bottles, candy wrappers, etc. need help finding their way into the trash cans. For those teams traveling, it's even more important to make sure the dugouts and stands are left cleaner than we found them.

Have a FUN softball season!

Christine Gillis
Vee Dagg
Gerry Leon