

***FALL YOUTH***

# **SOFTBALL**

**PARENT MANUAL**

*YOUTH*  
**ATHLETICS**

LOMBARDPARKS.COM



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the Lombard Park District Youth Softball Program. We are looking forward to providing a quality program that your child will enjoy. Our goal is to provide your child with a **fun** activity that will help instill **sportsmanship** and **teamwork**, while helping **develop their softball skills and knowledge**. We believe that it's important to stress that winning is not everything – it is not even close. Competition can be healthy, but a “win at all cost” attitude can prove detrimental. Each child has his or her own reasons for participating in this sport and it is our responsibility to ensure they have the opportunity to fulfill this desire. Please keep in mind the values of sportsmanship, learning, and fun that all Lombard Park District athletics programs try to instill.

Inside this manual, you will find important information about the softball season. Please take the time to read through this manual, as it will provide the answers to many of the questions you may have about the program.

Lombard Park District youth athletics programs rely on a combination of volunteer coaches and you, the parents to deliver a quality program. The Lombard Park District appreciates the work you are doing for our children today...their experiences will help shape them into the leaders of the future. We also are very appreciative of the many coaches who volunteer their time to help deliver a positive experience to the children in the program. Please remember that all coaches in the program are volunteers.

On behalf of the Lombard Park District, thanks for having your child participate in the softball program, and for helping us deliver the best possible experience for your child. If at any time you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,  
Martha Houston  
Athletics Program Manager

### **Important Contact Information**

**Lombard Park District Rainout Line** (630) 995-9491

This can also be downloaded as an app on your phone by searching Rainout Line or it can be accessed through our website at lombardparks.com.

**Lombard Park District Main Office** (630) 519-5852  
**Program Manager:** Martha Houston [mhouston@lombardparks.com](mailto:mhouston@lombardparks.com)

### **Game Schedules, and Photo Day Info**

The best source for finding this information quickly is the Lombard Park District website.

Main Website: [www.lombardparks.com/](http://www.lombardparks.com/)  
Sports Information: [www.lombardparks.com/youth-athletics/](http://www.lombardparks.com/youth-athletics/)  
Schedules: [www.quickscores.com/lombardparks](http://www.quickscores.com/lombardparks)

In the event of game cancellations, the posted game schedules are subject to change and parents should defer to the coaches for game re-scheduling information

### **Important Dates**

*Games Begin:* August 12

*Last week of season:* October 23

*Picture Day/Location:* TBD

### **Lombard Park District Equipment Safety Guidelines**

1. Lombard Park District jersey is mandatory for all games. They will be provided to you by your coach prior to the first game.
2. No jewelry is to be worn during games or practices, including watches, rings, necklaces, bracelets and earrings (must be heavily taped). No hard hair clasps.
3. No casts of any kind can be allowed. Splints must be of a padded nature and wrapped.
4. All players with glasses MUST wear a safety strap or sports goggles.
5. Metals cleats are not allowed during practices or games.
6. Softball pants are suggested for all players to wear.
7. Make sure all personal items are marked clearly with the player's name.

#### **Equipment & Safety Guidelines**

##### **Mandatory Equipment**

-**Water bottles**- Please bring a water bottle to all practices/games with your child's name on it.

- **Long Socks.**

##### **Recommended Equipment**

- **Shorts, athletic pants, or sweat pants** for all games & practices

- **Softball cleats** – Note: cleats primarily help with footing and allow players to cut better, run better, and not be as likely to slip. Cleats are probably not critical for the youngest players, but as players get older, and the game moves a little faster, wearing cleats becomes increasingly helpful for the player. We recommend that by 3rd grade, all players wear cleats.

**Ball** – Coaches will be given a limited number of balls to use for practices, so we recommend that your child brings a ball with them to practices and games. Ball sizes: 10U/3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade (11"), 12U/5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>/14U/7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade (12").

##### **Other Equipment/Safety Notes**

- **No jewelry** is allowed to be worn during practices and games, including earrings, watches, rings, necklaces, bracelets, or hard hair clasps or barrettes.

- **No hard casts** are allowed to be worn during practices and games. Splints must be of a padded nature and wrapped

- **Sweatshirts or other garments** are allowed at games, but should be worn UNDER the jersey.

- Any personal items (especially balls and water bottles) should be clearly marked with the player's name.

## **Parents' Code of Ethics**

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports activities by following this Parent's Code of Ethics:

- I will encourage sportsmanship and character development by showing support for all players, coaches, and officials involved at every game and practice session.
- In conjunction with the Lombard Park District, I will place the emotional and physical well being of the children ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will insist and help to ensure that my child and his or her team play under safe conditions at all times.
- I will expect that my child's coach and team adhere to all rules of participation and competition at all times.
- In accordance with the Lombard Park District and Lombard Character Counts! Coalition, we will uphold the principals of the six pillars of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, citizenship, and caring.
- I will not condone the use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco at any Lombard Park District event and will refrain from their use at all games and practice sessions.
- In an effort to aid their development, I will make every attempt to make sure that my child attends all practices/games on a timely basis.
- As a family and team, we will respect all of our teammates, opponents, officials, coaches, and league officials.
- I will do my best to actively take on any role necessary to improve the quality of my child's sports experiences.
- I will remember that youth sports programs are intended for the youth of our community and I will do my best to make these experiences fun and rewarding.

### **Expectations of Parents/Coaches/Spectators**

1. Exhibit good sportsmanship toward all participants, coaches, officials, and other parents, both on one's own team and the opposing teams.
2. Communicate in a constructive way with Lombard Park District staff, including coaches, officials, and program manager.
3. Fill out Youth Sports Information Form upon registration.
4. Help coaches keep the program fun.
5. Adhere to the Parents' Code of Ethics

Behavior contrary to the Park District Policy will not be tolerated. The Park District does reserve the right to limit coach/parent participation in the youth athletic programs.

Violation of the above rules will result in the following:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Minimum 1 game suspension  
2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Minimum 3 game suspension

The Athletic Staff, depending on the severity of the violation, may take further action.

### **Behavior Management**

All participants and spectators are expected to adhere to the Lombard Park District rules and philosophies as well as local, state and federal statutes at all times. Any individual who violates these rules will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including removal from the program. Any coach, player, or parent removed from a game for disciplinary reasons will have to meet with the Program Manager prior to re-instatement. Any removed from a match must leave the field immediately. The officials, site supervisors or Program Manager on duty at that time, will handle all problems.

Any individual who has been administered a disciplinary action has the right to an appeal. This appeal must be in writing and received within 24 hours of the disciplinary action. The Park District will review this appeal in a timely fashion and all disciplinary action will stay in effect while the appeal is reviewed.

**Appeals should be directed to:**

**Lombard Park District  
Attn: Martha Houston, Program Manager  
820 S. Finley Rd  
Lombard, IL 60148**

### **Umpire Interaction**

Please help us promote sportsmanship throughout our athletic programs. Umpires play a crucial role in athletic contests. They have a difficult job and are often underappreciated. Although, we may not agree with every call, please respect all sports officials and keep interactions appropriate, positive, and courteous. Thank you for helping us promote good sportsmanship in our parks and facilities.

Umpire interactions should be made in a controlled and time sensitive manner. If a coach or participant has a question or a comment involving a sports official, it should be made calmly and respectfully during a break in the game. At no point should a coach or participant stop the game to argue or question an umpire call.

Currently there is a shortage of officials across all sports. Due to this, there is a high probability of having a new or young umpire at a game. Regardless of their experience, umpires should be treated with respect both on and off the field. This includes coaches, parents, spectators, and participants.

If you have a concern regarding a umpire, please contact Martha Houston ([mhouston@lombardparks.com](mailto:mhouston@lombardparks.com)) with the details (date, time, field, etc.). Again, please keep in mind that there is a shortage of umpires and without them we will not be able to provide

officials for future games. Let's do our best to promote a positive atmosphere for our sports officials and athletes. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to good sportsmanship in our community.

### **Coach/Player/Parent Conduct:**

1. Any coach, player, or parent removed from a game for disciplinary reasons will have to meet with the Program Manager prior to re-instatement. Any removed from a match must leave the court immediately. The officials, site supervisors or Program Manager on duty at that time, will handle all problems.
2. Eat Healthy! Through the years, it has become common for parents to bring after-game snacks for the team. In keeping with promoting health and fitness, we ask that you choose healthy items when doing so. No food may be consumed inside the gym.
3. No alcohol, drugs, or smoking is allowed at any time during games and practices by coaches or parents. No food or beverages may be brought into the gym (except water). Our rights to use school gymnasiums will be revoked if we don't respect the facilities we are using.
4. On rare occasions, officials and site supervisors have the right to shorten the length of quarters (with notification of both coaches) due to injuries, weather, or any unforeseen problems to keep the program on schedule as a whole. This will only occur in extreme cases.
5. Lost and found items left at Pleasant Lane School will remain in the park district's on-site lost and found box, which may be accessed anytime a site supervisor is on duty during practices or games. Any items lost at any other location will be brought to Sunset Knoll Recreation Center at 820 S. Finley Rd if found by a site supervisor. However, please check at the respective facility in which the item was originally lost as well, in case it was not found by a Lombard Park District site supervisor. Lost and found items are donated to charity on a quarterly basis, so please act quickly if something turns up missing.
6. Parents are expected to pick up their children on a timely basis from all practices and games. Please show respect for your coaches by being prompt. Make every effort to let your coach know if your child will be absent from a game or practice for planning purposes.
7. This program, as are all Lombard Park District youth sports programs are designed for the enjoyment of the participants themselves. We strive to make the programs safe, enjoyable and a positive experience for your child so that they will want to continue participating as they grow older. Your help in achieving this as parents and coaches is greatly appreciated.
8. Please call with any questions or suggestions, (630) 620-7322.

For further guidelines, please see the Parents' Code of Ethics.

## **MOJO App**

The MOJO Sports app (free download and usage), is new to the softball league. This app will provide coaches with an easy team communication tool, house league documents (rules, notes, announcements), as well as provide full lesson plans for all ages and skills. This app is not required to use, but we feel will help coaches throughout the season.