

PA Ball Hawks

Travel Fastpitch Organization



Player/Parent Handbook

MISSION STATEMENT

The PA Ball Hawks Softball Club is a non-profit corporation developed for athletes to engage in quality, competitive experiences. A competitive athletic experience can produce a good work ethic, enhance social development, contribute to mental and physical health, as well as teach values of personal responsibility, self-discipline, self-motivation, and teamwork. Participation in fastpitch softball also improves the athlete's opportunity to realize the goals of playing at the HS and collegiate level. The travel team experience is becoming a must-have in order to compete at the collegiate level, especially for those hoping to obtain an athletic scholarship.

PHILOSOPHY

The most important consideration in forming a team is developing a philosophy. What is the motivation behind forming this team? Will it be a "participation team" where everyone gets equal playing time or a "performance team" where playing time must be earned? The PA Ball Hawks is most definitely a "performance team." Another critical component of team philosophy includes, "How are new players found and included as regular team members?" The answer to this question is not as easy.

Excess turnover in any organization is very corrosive; no turnover means the team is possibly not growing. **Every player must tryout each season.** Tryouts are typically held in August of each year. Making the team in August only qualifies a player for the team for that season. **It is not a guarantee that they will be on the team for the next season or future seasons.** Additionally, other players may be added throughout the season as needed.

PABH BOARD of DIRECTORS

The purpose of the Board is to provide direction for the Organization. The Board will aid in the decision making of the Organization, provide ideas, structure, and assistance in fundraising, team structure, tournaments, uniforms, hotels and promotion of the PA Ball Hawks. The Board has no authority on the softball field.

A successful team and organization require communication. The parent reps are available to hear concerns and relay them to the coach, parent, player or Board Member. If satisfaction is not achieved, then the player, parent or coach can discuss the situation with BH President, Howie Merriman. If you still have a problem or concern, the player, parent and coach may request a hearing with the Board. The Board's decision will be final in all cases.

The PABH Board Members include:

President/Director -- Howie Merriman
Vice President of Operations/Player Development -- Joe DiCaneloro
Director of Communications and Player Accounts (Treasurer) – Kristina Gartrell
Secretary -- Jill Smith
Coordinator of Camps/Clinics and Field Maintenance -- Nick Hsieh
Event and Fundraising Coordinator -- TBD
Director of Apparel, Sales, and Marketing -- Jill Smith

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

To take the part of the administrative load off of the coach, parent representatives will be selected for each team. They will be responsible for coordinating team lunches for tournaments, travel arrangements, team clothing orders, fees and any other assignment the coach may designate. The parent representative is the primary communication link regarding all administrative matters between the players, the coach, and the PA Ball Hawks Board.

STANDARDS of CONDUCT

There is a lot more expected of our players aside from their softball skills. Players are expected to participate in all scrimmages/practices as scheduled. Failure to do so may result in less playing time in the next tournament. It is the player's responsibility to notify the coach and parent representative if they cannot attend. If a player needs to miss several practices because of extra-curricular commitments, they are required to provide the coach with a schedule to allow for proper practice planning.

Players are expected to sign up for the full “season” and to make all tournaments. All players will be given ample playing time in tournaments – especially during pool play. However, during bracket or championship play where the objective is to advance as far as possible, players will be played at the discretion of the coach based on strategy, current tournament stats and team needs.

The following standards must be observed by our players to continue as an active member of the PA Ball Hawks Softball Club. A violation may result in suspension. Standards marked with (**) may result in the immediate dismissal from the organization.

1. **The use of alcohol and drugs.
2. **Smoking.
3. **24 Hour rule. If you disagree with the coaches' decisions or coaching methods, you must wait for 24hrs before approaching any coach to discuss the situation. You may arrange to meet the coach or have a phone conference, but never approach a coach about a disagreement during practice or gameplay. Approachment of a coach during practice or gameplay in what is deemed to be a confrontational manner will result in immediate dismissal from the team.
4. Excellence in academic performance is required. All players must meet the requirements of the public school system with a “No Pass/No Play” policy.
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 and parent representative 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 illnesses 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 PA Ball Hawks.
10. Each player will keep their coach informed of their presence at tournaments.
11. Each player is expected to treat all other players, teammates, coaches, referees, and fans with courtesy and respect.
12. If players are involved in a dispute, they must immediately work out problems between them. If they are unable to resolve their problems immediately, they must meet with the coaches until their problems are resolved. Problems between players must never be left unresolved.
13. During any overnight travel, the coach will determine curfew. Violations will result in suspension for games.
14. If players choose to participate in social media forums (i.e...Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, etc...), any posts found to be unbecoming of the player standards set forth by our Organization will be reviewed by the coaches and/or BH Board. Violations may result in loss of playing time, suspension for games and/or dismissal from the team and are up to the discretion of the coaches and/or BH Board.

TOURNAMENT PLAY

Because the length of softball matches can be unpredictable and tournament formats and management varies, it is difficult to pinpoint the time a tournament may end. Also, exact tournament schedules or final confirmations are often not available until just before the tournaments begin (often just days or evening before play starts). Common reasons for schedule variance are due to weather, field conditions, late team entries, and team withdrawals all of which impact the actual tournament playing schedule and matchups.

The PA Ball Hawks have no control over the administration of these tournaments. Team entry fees must be paid weeks in advance, and with a large amount of planning required for travel and/or lodging, it is extremely important that the team coach is notified as far in advance as possible of any tournament if a player cannot attend.

PLAYING TIME

Playing time is very important to everyone. It is important to apply those 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. Nevertheless, every player should have an opportunity to play during pool play. **Your team fees go toward practice time and instruction by qualified, experienced coaches, NOT playing time in tournaments. Playing time in tournament play is earned.**

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

The PA Ball Hawk Board has decided to add the *Reserve System* for players. The *Reserve System* is designed for players that are not ready or do not want full-time responsibility for tournament play. The reserve players get to attend all of the practices, team clinics, and events. The reserve player **does not** have to pay dues, but they are required to buy a uniform(s). The reserve players are not a part of the starting lineup. Therefore, they should not expect playing time, but they must be ready to play when called upon. If the coach feels that the reserve player(s) gives the team a better chance to succeed, the coach does have the option to play reserve player(s) over the starters.

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 PA Ball Hawks Organization at all tournaments and will not do anything to embarrass himself/herself or the Organization. The use of any illegal substance will result in the player being suspended from the tournament, sent home at her parents' expense, and may result in dismissal from the team.

Any player caught engaging any illegal activities will be suspended from the tournament, sent home at her parents' expense, and may be dismissed from the team.

If either parent is unable to attend an out-of-town trip with their daughter, the parent must designate **in writing** who is responsible for their daughter. That parent then becomes the designated parent for the tournament. The player's parent(s) needs to provide an insurance card, description of health problems, a medical release and contact number to the designated parent in the event of an emergency.

PRACTICE RULES

1. Players are required to be ready to begin practice at the designated start time, begin practice mentally prepared and have personal goals for all practices. A good time to think about goals is during warm-up.
2. If a player must miss a practice, a telephone call to the coach and parent representative is mandatory before practice. Each practice session is very important to the development of our athletes. Players need to make every effort to be at every practice so they don't miss too much instruction that could affect their performance at tournaments. Also, the coach prepares practice plans according to whom and how many players are attending.
3. Practice time missed must be made up unless a player misses practice due to playing in League games, attending softball clinics or similar softball activities. Players are expected to consistently work on their own to raise the levels of their physical condition and skill.
4. Please bring your own drinks to practice and tournaments.
5. There will be no jewelry allowed at practice. Please leave your jewelry at home. You will not be permitted to wear it on the field, and your coach/team is not responsible for it when you take it off.
6. Cell phones are not allowed on the bench or dugout, and they may not be used during practice hours.
7. Jog instead of walking, at all times during practice, especially when shagging.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Softball Season

The fall tournament softball season for PA Ball Hawks begins on September 1st and typically concludes at the beginning of November. Indoor practices at one of our designated training facilities (Backyard University; Hanover YMCA; Arena Sports) will resume after the holiday season (January – March). Outdoor practices and the spring/summer tournament season continue from March through July/August.

For our younger age groups (10u-16u), we play the majority of our tournaments in PA and MD. However, teams do play in VA, NJ, and DE, as well as other states. Teams also attempt to qualify for Nationals and World Series which is typically held out of state.

For our 18u Showcase and Gold teams, team play location is up to the discretion of the head coach/manager based on entering our teams into top-notch, competitive tournaments and showcases for the sole purpose of gaining collegiate-level exposure.

Annual Teams

Each year the organization works diligently to field teams at the following age groups: 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, and 18U. Some age groups may have multiple teams at a particular level depending on the overall player pool for an age group.

Insurance Coverage

As part of their individual membership fees, all players are covered by a supplemental insurance policy from Bollinger Insurance (preferred carrier for ASA and USSSA Softball). This is a million-dollar liability policy that covers all club activities and injuries that may occur during an event. An event can be either a practice or a tournament. The policy also insures players against any loss that may be incurred while traveling to or from an event. Please note that this is a supplemental policy to your own hospitalization policy. Specimen policies can be found on the web at the Amateur Softball Association website.

Uniform/Equipment

PA Ball Hawks players are required to purchase a uniform (as designated by the Ball Hawks Organization) and use their own equipment (glove, bat, catching gear). The cost of the uniform(s) and/or any other additional equipment is **not** structured into the dues. While the BH Organization does not require 100% uniformity among all team members with respect to equipment bags, bats, etc...it is expected that additional equipment beyond the team uniform matches our organizational black, red, and blue colors. The decision on uniforms and cost is solely left to the discretion of the BH Board. Information regarding uniform requirements and/or costs will be communicated to all families in a timely manner.

Per discussion at the June 2016 board meeting and all-in vote favoring this decision, **ALL** players within the BH Organization must abide by the following in regards to wearing facemasks:

- Corner Infielders (1st/3rd) and Pitchers **must** wear a facemask at all times (even during practices)
- Middle Infielders **must** either wear a facemask and/or protective mouth guard (even during practices)

The primary goal of putting this policy in place is to protect our girls. Our insurance policy dictates that our players are wearing facemasks as a preventive injury measure. Players and/or coaches who choose not to enforce nor abide by this policy face suspension and/or dismissal from the team.

Fundraising

The PA Ball Hawks Organization holds an Annual Bull Roast to raise funds and promote our Organization (tentatively to be held March 2020). Proceeds are used towards the organization and operating expenses. **For the 2020 season, NO tickets will be included in player dues. However, each player's family is required to sell a minimum of two (2) tickets and volunteer in some capacity as needed.** Additionally, we encourage everyone to sell additional tickets to make the event a success.

No age group will be permitted to schedule a tournament on the weekend of the Bull Roast.

Periodically, at the discretion of the parents, additional fundraising activities (such as bingo, pizza sales, sandwich sales, etc.) may be organized. Participation in these fundraisers is **optional**. From some fundraisers, each participant will be credited a percentage (TBD) of the **profit** from the items sold. This credit will be applied to individual and/or team dues/fees. The remaining percentage will go towards the improvement of the Organization.

Sponsorships

The PA Ball Hawks encourage each player and parent to obtain organizational sponsors. This may include local businesses and/or private donations. If a sponsor is obtained, 50% of the sponsorship money will be credited toward the player's dues/fees. The remaining 50% will go toward the improvement of the Organization.

For sponsorship, a sponsor will receive an advertisement on the PA Ball Hawks website and inclusion on a "Game Day" t-shirt distributed to players and available for purchase by fans. Sponsorships must be obtained by March 1, 2020, to be included on the shirts for that season. Sponsorship forms can be obtained on the BH website under the "Forms" tab.

Coaching/Parent Volunteers

Per PA law (ACT 153), all volunteers of the PA Ball Hawks Organization who intend to have direct contact with the players during practice and/or game days must obtain the following clearances:

- PA Child Abuse History
- PA State Police Criminal History Report
- FBI Criminal History Report (only required if you have lived outside PA within the past 10 years).

Volunteers will be required to renew these background clearances **every 60 months** (unless otherwise revised by PA lawmakers).

Information, instructions, and links to apply for these background checks may be found on the [Keep Kids Safe PA website](#).

Volunteers are responsible for any costs associated with obtaining these background checks, although the BH Board may opt to monetarily assist head coaches and assistant coaches with any fees incurred as a result of obtaining these clearances. **Clearances are to be emailed to:** PABHBoardofDirectors@paballhawks.org.

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, and/or teammates. 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 players confused and upset. Please let these athletes follow their coach's instruction and leave the coaching to the coach!

Each team manager and head coach will be provided with guidelines that detail the expectations of the coaches by Organization for all Ball Hawks teams. It is the responsibility of the team manager and head coach to follow these guidelines.

The coaches are giving their time, energy, and best efforts to teach your child the sport of fastpitch softball. The PA Ball Hawks Organization will not tolerate the condemnation of the coaches. Understand that you will not agree with 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 children 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 highly 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.

The following steps **MUST** be taken if any player/parent has a concern with the coach:

1. The player should discuss the concern with the coach and try to arrive at a solution. The coach should not be considered unapproachable. He/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.
2. If, after time, the concern is not resolved, the player and parents may make an appointment to meet offsite to speak with the coach.
3. Please **do not approach a coach** in the dugout or on the field to discuss a concern at practice or a tournament. **Failure to abide by this policy will result in immediate dismissal from the team.**
4. If satisfaction is not achieved, then the player, parent or coach can discuss the situation with BH President, Howie Merriman. If Howie Merriman is the coach in question, the player and parent can request a hearing with the Board. The Board's decision will be final in all cases.

Guest Playing

No player shall be on the roster of another tournament team (guest playing) without the permission of the coach and/or the PABH Board. The following guidelines must be followed with guest playing both within and apart from the Organization. Without such permission, the Organization may be in jeopardy of forfeiture of games, etc. if not done through the appropriate channels. Violation of this policy will result in the player's immediate release from the Organization without refund.

1. **Players/parents MUST communicate with your head coach prior to committing to guest play for another team.** Players have an obligation to their respective teams. Coaches must consider the team first. Our training and travel schedules are extensive. Injuries, time of year, level of play for upcoming tournaments, etc...are all taken into consideration when guest playing opportunities are discussed.
2. **BH coaches looking for players within the organization will contact the player's coach directly to discuss.**
3. **If a team/coach from another organization has asked a player to guest play for them, this coach MUST have the courtesy to contact the player's head coach.** There are several "behind-the-scenes" administrative roster items that must be completed **correctly** for guest playing (especially with USSSA tournaments). In some instances, coaches can't simply just add a player to their roster for the weekend. There are guest player forms to be completed/signed. Our coaches/staff know the proper procedures for each of the sanctioning bodies. We just want to make sure that all is done correctly so as to not jeopardize future playing for our organization.
4. **It will be solely at the discretion of the PA Ball Hawks head coach to grant permission to guest play.**

Having said all that, we have allowed players on multiple occasions to guest play with other teams when it benefits the athlete and/or helps out an organization that we support. We will always support our athletes! We understand that athletes playing for our organization are here to compete at the highest level and possibly play beyond high school. We welcome any opportunity to showcase their exceptional talents! However, **communication with your head coach is a MUST!**

PA BALL HAWKS FEES

The PA Ball Hawks remains a self-funded, non-profit organization. Funds are obtained through either player dues or through contributions/donations. Individual player fees cover (but are not limited to): tournament registration fees, practice field rental, indoor practice facility rental, insurance, field maintenance costs, team equipment/supplies, and ASA, USSSA, Pony, and/or NSA sanction fees.

The PA Ball Hawks fee structure is as follows:

Tournaments -- Given that the PA Ball Hawks is a non-profit organization, we are funded solely by player dues, sponsorships, and fundraisers. We have been very fortunate to have had minimal dues increases over the past several seasons, but just as the cost of living is increasing, so, too, are the fees associated with playing travel fastpitch softball.

Player dues for the 2019 - 2020 season are structured at \$140/tournament for the 10u-16u levels and \$150/tournament or showcase for the 18u level. It is estimated that each team will play 10 tournaments (with 10u playing in approximately 6 tournaments or less as determined by player skill level). More or fewer tournaments may be played at the discretion of the coaching staff. Fees will be adjusted accordingly. The BH Treasurer and/or coach will communicate to their team the dues structure for the season. The final number of tournaments played is at the discretion of each team manager/head coach and based on the team budget.

Uniforms -- Each player must purchase a uniform package. The costs of the uniform packages will vary based on bulk pricing we are able to obtain from the uniform vendors. Uniforms will be paid separately outside of the standard dues structure (as noted above). Uniforms may vary from year-to-year based on style availability. If uniform styles are discontinued or vendors can no longer match uniforms from prior years, it may be necessary to change the uniform package. **Payment for the uniform package (and due dates) will be provided to parents in a timely manner.**

League Fees -- For league play, the player must pay the current league registration fee and purchase a uniform that is determined to be the Organization's "league uniform." PLEASE NOTE: The PA Ball Hawks Organization will not sponsor league teams at age groups above 12U. 10U and 12U teams may still register for league play under the PA Ball Hawks name.

PA BALL HAWKS WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA

The PA Ball Hawks Organization has a website (www.paballhawks.org) that will display important information regarding the organization as well as each individual age group. Relevant PA Ball Hawks documents (Current Version of the Hand Book, Sponsorship Forms, etc...) will also be available on the website.

In addition to the PA Ball Hawks website, please "Like" us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/paballhawksoftball) or follow us on Instagram (www.instagram.com/paballhawksoftball) to stay up to date with organizational notifications, events, and team postings.

If you have exciting news to share about your player or the BH Organization, please feel free to send information/pictures to Kris Gartrell (krisgartrell@paballhawks.org) for posting. Such news might include:

- HS records/milestones achieved
- College commitments/NLI signing
- All-Star nominations and awards

ACCEPTANCE TO PLAY

Upon accepting the offer to play, the PA Ball Hawks **require a \$100 non-refundable deposit** (within 48 hours) per player to secure a player's roster spot. In addition, the first dues payment per player as well as any uniforms fees (to be determined by the BH Board) is due **on or before September 1st**. Information regarding the exact amounts due will be communicated by the BH Organization via email in a timely manner.

Additionally, all players are required to complete, sign and return the following documents to their coach or team representative on or before the first team practice:

1. Player/Parent Consent Form (p. 10)
2. Medical Release Form (p. 11)
3. Parental Waiver, Release of Liability and Indemnification Agreement Form (p. 12)
4. Public Relations/Showcase Release Form (p. 13)

For players new to the Organization, we will also require **TWO copies of the player's birth certificate**. One will be given to the head coach; the other entered electronically in the Organization's database of records. ALL documents received are scanned into the Organization's database and subsequently shredded for privacy purposes with the exception of the one copy of the birth certificate and the Medical Release Form (given to the head coach).

For the remaining balance, equal payments will be due on or before the following dates: **November 1st and April 1st**. Electronic statements will be emailed to all families at least 2 weeks prior to the next payment date to show your current player account balance. ALL payments must be made **on time** to remain eligible to attend practices and/or to play in tournaments.

In the event of a late payment, families will be notified via email by the BH Organization and/or phone by the head coach. Upon receipt of this notification, the player's family has 72 hours to make the payment OR be in contact with the BH Treasurer in the event of financial distress. **Players are not eligible to play or practice if there are outstanding dues or fees owed to the BH Organization**. If a financial distress situation arises or a player becomes injured, the BH Board and our Treasurer will work with families to determine the most feasible payment options. Failure to communicate with the BH Treasurer and/or to comply with this policy may result in the suspension of the player to partake in training sessions, practice and/or tournaments until said balance is rectified.

It is possible that some teams may play fewer tournaments (i.e., 10u). For those teams, the payment structure and due dates will be individually defined.

For the 2019 - 2020 season, we prefer that all payments be made online via bank/credit card using the available PayPal feature on the BH website. This site is SECURE and allows for more efficient and accurate player account crediting. The link to using PayPal can be found at the top of the website. When making a payment via PayPal, please be sure to follow the directions provided on the PayPal Payment page.

If paying by check is your only option, please make checks payable to the **PA Ball Hawks** and send them to:

Howie Merriman
% PA Ball Hawks
19 Eagleton Drive
Jacobus, PA 17407

PA Ball Hawks Player/Parent Agreement & Consent Form

Player Agreement and Consent

I have read, understand, and agree to the policies, procedures, and obligations set forth in the PA Ball Hawks Player/Parent 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

Date

Parent(s) Agreement and Consent

I have read, understand, and agree to the policies, procedures, and obligations set forth in the PA Ball Hawks Player/Parent 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. In addition, I certify that as Parent or/Guardian of this participant, I have explained to my daughter the aforementioned stipulated conditions and their ramifications. I consent to her participation in the programs conducted under the appropriate National Sanctioning body of softball that the team may play under. I agree to pay the fees set forth by the team, allowing my daughter to participate in the program.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Name of Parent/Guardian (Please Print)

Relationship (Mother/Father/Guardian)

Date

PA BALL HAWKS MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

Player's Name/Team

Date of Birth

Player's Address

Home Phone Number(s)

Father/Guardian Name

Cell Phone

Work Phone

Mother/Guardian Name

Cell Phone

Work Phone

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

Name/Relationship to Player

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Work Phone

Name/Relationship to Player

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Work Phone

Player Health Insurance/Treatment Information

Known Allergies

Daily Medication

Additional Information

Medical Insurance Carrier

Policy Holder Name

Policy #

Insurance Contact Phone #

Player's Primary Care Physician

Phone #

Consent for Medical Treatment

I, _____, am the parent/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 to informed consent to such treatment.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

PA BALL HAWKS PARENTAL WAIVER, RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT FORM

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 PA BALL HAWKS girl's fastpitch 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 PA BALL HAWKS 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 PA BALL HAWKS 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 PA BALL HAWKS and/or its officers, coaches, the team sponsors, the owner or operator of any field the team practices on, ASA, USSSA, Pony, NSA, or their owners, officers, agents, servants, associations, employees, or any person or entity connected with the team, league, field 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)

Team/Coach

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

PA Ball Hawks

Public Relations/Recruiting Release Form

2019 - 2020 Season

All Players

The PA Ball Hawks Softball Organization has numerous opportunities throughout the season to post and/or release pictures and news information about our players via our organizational Facebook page and website. This information is shared strictly for the sole purpose of promoting our softball program and goals.

Please initial below if player information may be posted to the PA Ball Hawks website and/or Facebook page. This will be kept on file for each player and updated annually.

_____ The PA Ball Hawks Organization **is granted** my permission to use photographs, images and/or the name of my player listed below in any public relations materials.

Showcase Level Players (16u/18u)

The PA Ball Hawks Softball Organization has the opportunity to post and/or release pictures and personal information about our Showcase Teams' players via our organizational website and/or during tournaments. This information is shared strictly for the sole purposes of college recruiting. Basic information including player name, high school, graduation year and college commitment will be included on the website. In addition, players may opt to have Player Profiles and/or links to individual websites or videos posted on the PA Ball Hawks website. However, because some of this information is confidential, parent permission **is required** before the organization is permitted to post/share this information with potential college recruiters.

Please initial below what (if any) personal player information may be posted to the PA Ball Hawks website and/or shared with potential recruiters. This will be kept on file for each player and updated annually.

_____ Player Profiles (which may include address, phone number, SAT scores, GPA, email, etc...)

_____ Player Websites and/or Player Videos

Player Name (Please Print)

Coach/Team

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date