

Program Standards: Framework for Growth and Excellence

The Bison Fastpitch program is built upon a set of standards that provide a foundation for continuous improvement and the pursuit of excellence. These standards are designed to create a rewarding experience, foster valuable life skills, and promote a competitive spirit among all team members.

- Positive Experience: Participation should be something you eagerly anticipate and later reflect upon with pride, knowing you were part of something meaningful.
- Life Skills Development: The program emphasizes a team-first mentality, positivity, accountability, commitment, consistent effort, personal discipline, the ability to overcome adversity, and strong communication.
- Competitiveness: Players are encouraged to constantly improve their skills, strive to reach their fullest potential, and demonstrate determination and grit in all aspects of the game.

Team Expectations

As a member of the Bison Fastpitch team, every player is expected to uphold a set of core expectations that reflect our team values and commitment to success.

- **Be on time** for all team activities and events.
- **Be present and engaged** during practices, games, and team meetings.
- **Be a tremendous teammate** by respecting and uplifting those around you.
- **Compete in everything we do**, embracing challenges and striving for success.
- **Be prepared** with the proper equipment, mindset, and nutrition for participation.
- **Do the right thing** by making choices that positively impact yourself and the team.
- **Be an energy giver** by contributing positivity and enthusiasm to the team environment.
- **Treat the "locker room" with respect** as a shared commitment and reflection of our standards.
- **Represent yourself, your family, your teammates, and the Bison community well**, both on and off the field.

Season Schedule

Commitment: Our season is short and we ask for your commitment to making the season a priority. When you have schedule conflicts it is important you plan and communicate well in advance. Unexcused, unplanned or frequent absences may lead to reduced playing time or dismissal from the team.

Practice: We practice every weekday and sometimes on Saturday. Outdoor practice is typically 3:45-6:15 PM at the Multi-Sports Complex. Indoor practice will be at the fieldhouse and times will vary depending on availability. You must be in school and you must practice to play in games. One extra practice per week will be available in the fieldhouse in the morning before school begins. This extra practice provides a make-up opportunity when players need to miss an afternoon practice.

Games: Schedule is on the School District website and is subject to change for weather, etc. On game days, coaches will set the release time from school. Please do not seek to be released early- it may jeopardize your eligibility to play. Players, your full commitment and attention is expected during the games. Parents, please stay clear of the dugout and team areas and allow your daughter to fulfill this commitment. If you have immediate health or safety concerns, come directly to the coaches or a trainer.

Communication

Player & Coach: We will communicate directly with players about schedules, skill development, playing time, etc. and expect that this will be two-way communication. They will be fully informed on all things related to GFH Fastpitch and likewise expect they communicate with us about anything that may impact the team (i.e. injuries, school activities, Doctor appt., etc.).

Parents: If you have any questions or concerns, please have an initial discussion with your daughter. If you need further information, contact the coach and we will answer your question(s) or, if needed, schedule some time to have a conversation with you. Let's work together to resolve any significant concerns,. If you wish to discuss skills development, please reach out to the coaches.

Fundraising

The school district provides funding for travel costs and coaching. All other program needs are supported through our fundraising efforts. This money is critical for providing equipment, uniforms and meals. Our main fundraising initiatives include:

- Sale of consumable goods
- Poster sponsorships
- Team apparel store

Volunteer Support

Our volunteers usually provide food for the players and coaching staff to be eaten between games. Your assistance in this is greatly appreciated. This can be paid for out of the fundraising money. Just provide a detailed receipt with your name, signature, and address on it and you will be reimbursed.

Team dinners ("pasta parties") are also a big part of the season and typically are hosted by team parents the night before a home game. Coaches will usually attend for a part of the dinner. If you volunteer to host one of these please consider it an extension of our school & team and its rules and standards.

Travel

We will travel on a bus for away games with departure from the south side of the fieldhouse. Money will be provided for food but it's also a good idea to send additional food or money. All players must ride the bus to the game. If you miss the bus, you will not play. I strongly encourage returning on the bus as it promotes team unity and can be a lot of fun. A release is available in the school office if a player wishes to ride home with a parent or someone else specified on the release. Incomplete or altered releases will not be accepted.

Equipment

The players are issued uniforms, belts & socks which need to be returned at season end (except the socks). Players not returning uniforms (washed) will be assessed up to a $500 fine through the school. The team will provide bats, helmets and catcher's gear. Players will need to provide all other gear- cleats (metal is ok), gloves, etc. Faceguards are required for infielders.

Medical Releases

Concussions and other injuries may occur during the season and result in your daughter seeking attention from the school trainer or other medical professionals. Please keep the coaches informed if you seek medical attention as written authorization from the medical professional will be required before a player may resume participation in practice or games.

School Rules

Our team will follow the school handbook and adhere to the applicable rules and related consequences.

Head Coach: Robb Soltesz 406-899-2301

Lettering

GFH Softball Letter Criteria

Softball players can earn letter points for activities that contribute to the overall success of the GFH Softball program. A player must earn 115 points to letter and also meet minimum academic, attendance, and behavior requirements.

Academic, Attendance & Behavior Requirements

No letter will be awarded if:

- A player has a final grade of F in any class
- A player has 6 or more unexcused absences
- A player has 1 major behavior incident or 2 minor incidents

Key focus areas for earning letter points include commitment to the team, team success, individual peformance, academic standing.

115 Points to Letter

Attendance at Games & Practices	
Practice	1 pt
Game	1 pt
Varsity Game Participation	
Defensive Inning	1 pt
Plate Appearance	1 pt
Pinch/Courtesy Run	1 pt
State Tournament	
On team roster	5 pts
Fundraising	
Achieve individual goal	10 pts
GPA- current semester	
= 3.0	5 pts
= 3.5	10 pts
Intrasquad Teams Placement	
1st- 4th	10,5,3,1 pts