



Lewis Center Lady Sharks Softball

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Organizational Vision

As an athlete with the *LCLS* softball organization all members are expected to understand and support the following Organizational Vision:

Top Four Activity Priorities are: FAMILY, FAITH (Health and Spirit), SCHOOL, and SOFTBALL

These additional priorities are also expected from all athletes:

Set Personal Goals & work to achieve said Goals

Do your best at ALL Times

Do NOT walk onto the Practice/Game field until you are willing and able to give 100% focus and attention to the game of Softball

Show RESPECT for ALL Teammates

Be on time, dressed and properly equipped to begin Practices/Games as scheduled

Attend ALL Practices, Clinics, Strength and Conditioning as possible

Call a Coach if you cannot attend a Practice/Game (24 hours in advance)

Show Good Sportsmanship At All Times

Help With Team Fund Raising.

*Athletes should make every attempt to include teammates in social circles and refrain from developing social cliques within the team structure, **be inclusive, not exclusive.***

GENERAL INFORMATION

Congratulations on being selected to the *Lewis Center Lady Sharks* softball organization! We look forward to a competitive season and we look forward to being part of your athlete development! Please read ALL the information inside this agreement; both athlete and parent will need to sign, date and return the Team Agreement (last page) to the General Manager or Assistant General Manager at the first Team Meeting. **In addition to the Team Agreement, please submit a copy of your birth certificate.**

Please read the following guidelines and expectation the *Lewis Center Lady Sharks* softball organization expects its Athletes, Parents/Guardians to follow. In an effort to clearly define what is expected from each athlete, parent, coach and manager, the following guidelines and expectations have been developed. The *Lewis Center Lady Sharks Organization* reserves the right to amend these guidelines at any time with or without prior notice to Parents/Guardians.

The *Lewis Center Lady Sharks* softball program is registered with the Amateur Softball Association (ASA). Our program is more competitive than the recreational divisions and requires a greater level of commitment from everyone - athletes, parents and coaches. In order for our team/organization to reach full potential, the entire team/organization must be well coordinated and moving in the same direction; **one organization with multiple teams; all having the same vision and goals.**

TEAM POLICIES/GOALS

The Official Season begins with Organizational Clinics hosted by the LCLS Organization October/November of previous calendar year. Followed by a physical “hands-off period” from practices/conditioning during the month of December. The spring/summer season will begin in January starting with organizational strength and conditioning until April. Spring “Pre-Season” scrimmages/round robin tournaments before Memorial Day weekend. The Summer Season will begin after Memorial Day and will end in early August. The fall ball season begins in late August and runs thru the first week in October. Season schedules will be posted on our website and inside our internal team management system once they are finalized. If an athlete has prior or conflicting commitments, the athlete MUST inform the General Management and Coaching staff of such commitments (as soon as the athlete is able).

Goals

Our primary goal is to assist each athlete to excel in the sport in preparation for middle school, high school and college. Our organization is and will remain 90% Olentangy student athletes as our focus is to prepare our athletes for the next level softball experience supporting our school athletic programs. We create relationships with other schools athletic programs and staff as well in order to prepare those athletes “outside of the district” for their respective programs.

Our method of achieving this goal will include but not limited to the following:

- Develop strong, confident and capable individuals with the ability to be strong leaders in today’s society
- Advanced techniques on how to set and achieve personal/individual goals
- Learning the role of a team athlete and its importance
- Build a solid mental foundation on how to compete in a highly competitive environment (both on and off the softball field)
- Improve softball skills and a raised level of understanding for the game of softball

Active Athletes (OHSAA Rules)

When an individual is chosen to be a member of a *Lewis Center Lady Sharks* softball team, the individual becomes an **Active Athlete** once the Team Agreement is signed and submitted to the GM or AGM.

- **Active Athletes are NOT ALLOWED to practice or play for any other travel or recreation softball organization at any time.** Designated time off should be used for the sole purpose of giving our athletes time to rest and recover from the grueling softball schedule. If an LCLS athlete is found practicing or playing for another travel or recreation softball organization, the individual will be immediately terminated from the team, forfeiting all funds and fees paid to the organization. **EXCEPTION: PLAYERS MAY PLAY FOR ANOTHER ORGANIZATION IN SPECIAL CASES, MUST BE “OUTSIDE” OF THE REGULAR SEASON ONLY, AND MUST BE APPROVED BY THE LCLS GM. PLAYERS WILL NOT BE COVERED BY TEAM INSURANCE. PRIORITY OF PLAY IS THE LCLS ORGANIZATION.**
- **Active Athletes ARE ALLOWED to be an active member of an Interscholastic (Middle School/High School) softball team WHILE being a member of the LCLS Softball Organization.** If an LCLS Active Athlete is ALSO an Active Athlete on their respective Middle School or High School softball team; then OHSAA Rules/Regulations apply and TAKE PRECEDENT regarding “Non-Interscholastic Participation.” In this case; said athlete is expected to participate SOLELY for their respective school team at the direction of their respective school’s Coach and NOT for the LCLS organization. During school team season (February-May); any athlete who is a member of a school team CANNOT (by OHSAA rule) actively participate in any LCLS activity. This includes (but not limited to) tryouts, training, practice, scrimmage, or game. Said athlete may resume all LCLS activities following the completion of their school team’s season.
- **Active Athletes ARE ALLOWED to participate in and/or be a member of another team sport such as basketball, soccer, and volleyball;** recreational & select teams ONLY. In this case, the LCLS organization does ask the participation in LCLS organized events is a HIGH PRIORITY. IF, there is not a scheduled event (mandatory practice or games) you must make the effort to participate in the LCLS events (Games, Practices, Clinics, Strength and Conditioning). IF, there are special circumstances, they must communicate said circumstances to the GM/AGM Staff.
- **Active Athletes ARE ALLOWED and may be asked or earn the right to participate and play on multiple LCLS teams during the same season** so long as said athlete is age eligible.
 - All Active Athletes placed on a younger team roster are age eligible to “play up” to the next age division and are allowed to do so during the same season (10U athlete plays up on 12U team or 12U athlete plays up on 14U team). In this case, any Active Athlete may be asked to play on multiple LCLS during the same season. Additionally, any younger Active Athlete has a chance to “play up” at times if their play warrants them moving up.
 - All Active Athletes placed on an older team roster, if still age eligible, may be asked to play in the next age division down in the event that the younger LCLS team is short of athletes (14U athlete that is still age eligible to play 12U or 12U athlete

still able to play 10U)

PRACTICES/TEAM CONDITIONING/GAMES/TOURNAMENTS

All team practices and conditioning, unless otherwise stated, are mandatory. NOTE: IF, there are conflicts with mandatory pre-season conditioning due to more than one sport, this **MUST** be annotated in the contract at the bottom and GM/Coaching staff notified. Multiple sport athletes **MUST** attend at least **ONE** event per week regardless of the conflict (IF, this is **NOT** possible, Staff will work with families on a case by case basis). If an athlete cannot attend a practice session, the athlete (not the parents) must give advance notice of the absence or tardiness (24hr notice). Athlete participation during games may be affected by attendance.

Pitchers and Catchers PLEASE make every attempt to arrive 30 minutes prior to the starting practice time for all other position athletes.

Each athlete shall arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the practice start time with gear on and ready to participate. A positive attitude at all times during practice will be displayed by each athlete, coach and helpers; negative comments and behavior contrary to a positive learning environment are not acceptable and will not be tolerated (including parents). Each athlete is expected to hustle throughout the practice session. While on the playing field each athlete shall run to and from each station as well as in their retrieval of missed balls, collecting equipment and bases at the end of practice. Every athlete shall do their part to make the practice run smoothly and give their undivided attention to the coaching staff and follow directions. If an athlete is unsure of a direction given to them or a drill being conducted – the athlete is encouraged to speak up and ask the coach for clarification. Practices are designed to develop new skills and sharpen skills already acquired. Only the coaching staff is allowed to give instructions and directions during practice and/or games. Parents and spectators are not to interfere with the practice session or the team coaching staff in any way. Please reserve your comments or observations for the coaching staff until after the practice session has ended (**see 24-hour rule**).

Pre-games

Head Coach's will set an early arrival time prior to game time to prepare and begin warming up (Recommended at least 45 mins prior). **Lee-way to be given during weeknight games with start times of 6pm to allow for working parents and work traffic; DO YOUR ABSOLUTE BEST; carpooling will be made available by the coaching staff as needed.** Each athlete shall be wearing the required uniform and will have all required equipment at all times and have it in their bat bags. Uniform shirts shall be tucked in at all times. **ALL JEWELRY SHALL BE REMOVED!!** The team will warm-up, stretch and run together. Restroom runs are to be conducted prior to game time if possible!

Games

Cheers and positive comments are encouraged. Only positive comments and cheers are permitted to both opponents and teammates. Respect your fellow teammates. There are no exceptions for misconduct or inappropriate behavior. Never laugh or make fun of an opponent. No foul or inappropriate language will be tolerated. **Sportsmanship is paramount for our organization.** All participants require proper field decorum at all times. Athletes shall not visit with family, friends, or spectators during the game - and no family, friend or spectators shall distract the athletes during the game. The coaching staff will handle any disputes with the umpires. Parents and athletes shall not become involved. During games, gear bags should always be hung properly on the fence by hooks provided, as well as all helmets. Face masks must be worn in the field of play (in-field only), failure to do so will result in removal from the game. Gear and helmets are not to be thrown, nor shall any athlete display unsportsmanlike conduct. Such conduct may remove the athlete from the game and the line-up. Athletes are to keep warm and stretch at all times, even substitute athletes. Continue to stretch, put jacket on, do hitting practice or run sprints in order to stay warm at all times and ready to play. All athletes are to be cheering and supporting the team - watch the game and be prepared to go into a game at any time. Each athlete shall bring water and healthy snacks. Negative or disruptive behavior at anytime is cause for removal from the bench, the game and team.

Between Games

Rest and prepare for the next game. Stay out of the sun. Eat a light healthy snack or meal (if time permits) unless there is at least three hours between games - or the coach has okayed the athlete(s) leaving or it is unavoidable - please remain at the field with the team (this will prevent late arrivals for warm ups and games).

After The Game

Do not remove any of your equipment until the game is over and the cheer and handshake with the opposing team has taken place. Pick up all trash in the dugout. After the game go directly to the area designated by the coaches for a team meeting. Parents **may NOT** go to this area with their athletes until the coaching staff has finished speaking to the team.

Travel Procedures

When the team travels out of area, the manager or coaches shall make every effort to insure each athlete and parent has a map or proper directions. Prior to each trip the team manager will brief the parents and athletes and provide them with the specifics for that trip. Generally speaking, while traveling, the team will stay as a group. Curfews will be set and the coaching staff would ask that parents observe team and hotel rules while on extended trips.

SAFETY AND SECURITY OF ATHLETES

- All communication / confidential information, written or verbal, passed either between coaches, parents, and/or athletes will remain confidential. Information will be kept internal and will not be made public
- All coaches within the LCLS will, at their expense, have BCI/FBI background checks completed on an annual basis. Copies of those background checks will remain confidential and on file with the LCLS
- All coaches within the LCLS will, at team expense, have ASA and ACE certified training completed on an annual basis. Copies of those training certifications will remain confidential and on file with the LCLS

TEAM DUES/REFUND POLICY

The Registration Fees (Team Dues) are **non-refundable**.

Pay to the Order of: All payments should be made payable to *Lewis Center Lady Sharks* via the Team Snap Website (No Cash Accepted). Online payments via (TeamSnap) will be mandatory after 31 Dec 2016. If online payments are not an option, please submit your check payments to the team's financial liaisons (Ryan Hatfield or Mandy Oberyszyn).

FUNDRAISING AND SPONSORSHIP

Our fundraising events are designed to cover team events, team equipment, apparel and uniform items. Everyone is expected to participate in our fundraising events without exception. Each athlete will be expected to participate in sponsorship events **without exception**.

The ***Lewis Center Lady Sharks Organization*** will attempt to organize fundraisers to help offset costs. However, each athlete should take the initiative to procure sponsors to help offset their own costs; gives the girls a sense of personal and financial responsibility. The monies will be used to help cover costs, i.e. (equipment items, etc.) A budget has been created to begin the season. The ***LCLS*** is a Non-Profit – Sole – Proprietor Company/Organization (LCLS Legal Team is awaiting FULL 501-3© Non-Profit Status from the IRS).

EQUIPMENT

Each athlete will receive a complete set of uniform items from the ***Lewis Center Lady Sharks*** organization after paying their Registration Fee. The following items will be provided:

- 1 complete Uniform (Game Jersey, Game Pants, Socks x 2, Practice Shirt x 2, Belt, Headband, Cinch Bag, Team Bracelet)
- 1 Gear Bag w/ Embroidered LCLS Logo and Athlete #
- 1 Helmet; Custom Fit with LCLS Logo
 - **SPECIAL NOTE – Gear Bag and Helmet will remain PROPERTY OF LCLS and will need to be returned to GM or AGM after completion of the season. Complete Uniform and all its contents will become property of the athlete and are the athlete's to keep.**

Personal Equipment

Athletes will be responsible for providing their own: cleats, bat(s), glove(s), protective face masks and beverage container at each practice and game. Catchers shall supply their own catcher's gear (please consult w/ team GM/Coaching Staff prior to purchase); the team will have two sets available for games only. ***Lewis Center Lady Sharks*** shall provide each athlete with 2 team practice tee-shirts.

Athletes will wear the exact same uniforms at all games. **No exceptions!**

TEAM CODES OF CONDUCT

Athletes' Responsibilities

This is YOUR team and YOUR experience. As a team and as individual athletes, you will get out of this season what you put into it. There are many obstacles that we need to overcome, but if you are willing to work at it, we can do it. There will be demands on you that will be out of your comfort zone, but trust that our intention is to make you the best athlete that you can possibly be. Allow us to be coaches, and we will allow you to be a great athlete on a great team!

Eligibility Requirements for Athletes

- Must conform to state and district regulations.
- Must maintain skill level and physical condition level and show improvement
- Must maintain school grades (GPA).

Participation on a Team

- It's a privilege, not a right.
- Athletes must accept all responsibilities in order to stay on the team.
- Nobody will be accorded equal or guaranteed playing time.
- Athletes must maintain, what the coaches think is an acceptable skill level to maintain their current position and status.
- All playing positions and roster spots are at the sole discretion of the coaches and manager.

Practice Sessions and Games

- Parents are not allowed on the practice or game fields unless asked by the coach (s) to help.
- The field is the athlete's classroom and should be free of distractions.
- Positive support is encouraged at games.
- Lateness and absence must be immediately and properly explained.
- Athletes are encouraged to obtain private instructors for individual skills such as pitching or hitting.
- Athletes are to work on skill individually when not at organized practice.
- Athletes are to maintain a physical fitness regimen and show signs of improvement as the season progresses.

Examples of Responsibilities of the Athletes:

- Put the team's goals, welfare and success before your own.
- Attend all practice sessions AND Be On Time
- Be receptive to coaching.
- Be responsible for all uniforms and equipment
- Represent the team and your community and follow the team's policies
- Report all injuries to a coach. (Immediately)
- Work on improving individual skills outside of team practices
- Work on physical conditioning when not at practice.
- Always strive to improve your skills
- Do Your Best; 100% Effort, 100% of the TIME!

Coach's Responsibilities

Our responsibility as a coaching staff is to develop the fundamental skills of each athlete on our team. Our main objective is to develop, train, and teach each athlete to maximize her ability as an athlete. The demands on each athlete will be rigorous, but the success of each athlete is contingent upon individual desire and effort. It is our job to promote excellent performance of each of our athletes and to help each realize her full potential.

Regardless of the goals of the individual athlete we as a team are committed to play at an elite level, this is an elite organization, and we are an elite team. All athletes will be given equal opportunity for training and development during practice and friendly games. When we compete at tournaments, the team will be playing to its strengths - each athlete will have a role that contributes to the success of our team and

it is our commitment that each athlete on this roster plays and helps the team to succeed. *The safety and security of the athletes' welfare comes first, always.*

Parents' Responsibilities

The parents can be the biggest support or the biggest obstacle for an athlete. We want to be clear on what we expect of you as parents. We are a team – athletes, coaches, parents, and organization. Parents SHOULD support their child by allowing them to experience their frustrations, failures, and successes on and off the field. We want you to know we always have the best interest of your child in mind. Our intention is no secret; it is to be the best. *Understand this is a process and by the end of the season, your child will have improved tremendously.* How much she improves depends upon her effort to be the best, and how much she is allowed to grow. The manager and coaches depend on the parents' support and adherence to the Team/Player Policies and Codes of Conduct.

24-Hour Rule

Parents may have prior experience playing, coaching, etc.; however, *LCLS* has its own coaching staff, coaching from the stands will not be allowed. Any comments or observations that a parent may have can be discussed with the coaching staff, after a 24-hour time period. In other words, if you have a complaint we mandate that you wait 24 hours after the incident (concern) to give you time to think about your concern as well as provide you with a cool down period. If you still feel you want to address the issue with the coaching staff then feel free to call one of the coaches regarding your concerns. This rule is designed to help prevent all parties involved from saying something out of haste that may be regretted later. Should a parent have a problem with the coaching or managing staff of this team; arrange to meet privately with them off the field. No coach or manager shall entertain any discussion during practices and/or games. Parents must realize and remember that the Registration Fee in no way guarantees your child's playing time. Lastly, Parents are asked to keep their child focused on her goals, assist with their outside skill work, and to be positive at all times so the athlete stays positive. "Positive Speak breeds Positive Actions"

Sportsmanship Reminders

- Parents have to demonstrate good sportsmanship and serve as positive role models
- Specific obligations
- No vulgar or inappropriate language
- Taunting and trash talking will not be tolerated
- Outsiders must never intrude upon the field during a game
- Cheerleading should be for our team, not against the opponents
- Keep comments to a positive nature

Fan-Officials Relationship

- Officials are necessary to the game.
- They are bound by a code of ethics that makes them rigidly impartial.
- Fans, and particularly parents, should never harass or taunt officials.
- Please leave the discussion of rules questions to the coaching staff.

REMINDER: Please keep this in mind: Coach's Coach, Athletes Play, and Parents/Fans Cheer. Our staff does NOT support parents coaching from the sideline.

Athlete/Team Contract Agreement

Athlete

I have read and understand the Lewis Center Lady Sharks Policies & Codes of Conduct and pledge to follow them. Furthermore, I understand that NOT abiding by the Policies & Codes of Conduct may lead to removal from the team.

Athlete Signature _____

Date _____

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Parent

As the above athlete's parent/guardian I have read, understand and will abide with the team's Policies & Codes of Conduct. Further, I understand that NOT abiding by the Policies & Codes of Conduct may lead to removal from the team of my daughter.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

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