

West Boylston Girls' JV and Varsity Softball Expectations 2009

Coaches:

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Athletic Director Todd Smith (508) 835-4475 x 409
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Mission:

- Student athletes will represent West Boylston High School in a competitive softball program that emphasizes skill development, hard work, positive attitude and sportsmanship.

Tryouts:

- Open tryouts will be held each year with an equal opportunity for each student to make the team. There is no guarantee that an athlete who was on the team in the previous year will automatically have a spot in the current year. Coaches will strive to put the best players on the team and on the field to represent West Boylston High School in a competitive program.
- Attendance at all tryouts is expected.
- **TRYOUTS begin Monday, March 16 in the gym.**
- Knowledge of the game of softball and proper equipment is expected.
- Skill at all aspects of the game must be demonstrated.
- A desire to play softball, to improve skills and to be part of a team is expected.
- Age or grade will not be a factor in placement, except that Juniors and Seniors can try out for Varsity level only.
- Respect, enthusiasm and positive rapport, with both peers and coaches is expected in a team atmosphere.

Player Expectations:

- Softball is a Monday through Saturday commitment, from March until June.
- Maintain academic and medical eligibility throughout the year.
- Commitment to the team - attend all meetings, practices and games. Commitment to improving your skills.
- Commitment to improving the skills of your teammates and of the team as a whole.
- Proper diet and sleep and abstinence from alcohol, drugs or tobacco to promote a healthy body.
- Positive behavior in the classroom, in the school, on the field and in the community.
- Pride and care of uniform and equipment.

Special Considerations for the JV Softball Player

Emphasis will be on **skill development**. Players will be expected to improve in all areas of the game to include hitting, bunting, running, sliding, strategy, rules of the game, throwing (strength and accuracy), catching, fielding, pitching and physical conditioning. All players are expected to work hard and develop their skills, regardless of skill level at the start of the season. The goal of the JV program is to develop players for future Varsity competition.

Attitude is everything. When you become a member of a team, you are making a commitment to improve yourself, and help to improve your teammates. I expect cooperation, honesty and hard work. I expect willingness to participate in whatever role is beneficial to the team. I expect no distractions or behavior issues. Middle school can be a challenging time, both academically and socially. I expect your full attention to softball when you are at practice or a game.

Specifically:

- Turn off your cell phone before you get to the field. Your parents should already know when to pick you up.
- Finish all food and drink before you get to the field.
- Be dressed and ready to participate when you get to the field.
- Have all equipment needed when you get to the field.
- Do not allow or encourage your friends to visit you or watch you at practice.
- Encourage them to visit you at a game, but let them know they must stay in the bleachers or spectator area, not visit you on the bench.
- Allow or encourage your parents to visit you or watch you at practice only from a distance.
- Encourage parents to visit you at a game, but let them know they must stay in the bleachers or spectator area, not visit you on the bench.

You will be expected to **assume responsibility** for making the team function in a positive way.

You are competent young women. Playing on a team is a challenging experience and a bonding experience with other young women. You will be jointly responsible for equipment, keeping the scorebook and coaching the bases. You will be responsible for letting your coach and your teammates know in advance if you will miss a practice or a game.

Parents are expected to remain off of the field at practices and games. This is your team, not theirs. Communicate with them about what you are learning and your experiences as part of the team. Encourage them to be positive and supportive of your teammates. Encourage them to communicate if they have any feedback or concerns. I will be happy to discuss anything with them at a time away from the other players and away from the softball field.

I look forward to a great 2009 season!

Lynne Pelto