



Dear Parents and Players:

MYAA welcomes you to the Millcreek Riptide Softball program. The purpose of this letter is to outline the commitments, obligations and expectations of all players & parents participating in the program. Please read this document carefully. Should your child be selected to play on a Riptide team, we ask that you please sign below where indicated and return to your coach at your first practice.

The mission of Riptide Softball is to provide kids with opportunities for a higher level of skill development, competition, and commitment to the game of softball for kids age 7 thru 14. Our coaches will strive to allow players to realize their capabilities as softball players; to develop confidence, self-esteem and poise as athletes and to understand that their achievements are a direct result of their efforts. We hope that this environment will cultivate lifelong friends among their teammates and to understand that sportsmanship, not showmanship, is the major ingredient in playing with class. Thus, participation at this level requires commitment and dedication from all participants (managers, coaches, and players). A commitment to attending practices and games are necessary to achieve our goal.

➤ Attendance

Coaches and managers will make every effort to avoid schedule conflicts with the MYAA Rec League season schedule. Players and coaches are expected to coordinate with, and generally give priority to their regular season teams as well as to abide by the ASA pitching rules. We will do our best to provide a significant amount of advance notice of the dates of all Riptide tournaments to allow families to schedule summer vacations. However, once tournament dates are confirmed, all players are expected to make every effort to attend all tournaments. Be aware that there may be occasions when a practice or pick-up game is scheduled on short notice. We hope that every effort is made to attend those events, but other existing commitments may take priority. In turn, we understand that families may face an unavoidable event that requires a player's absence. But if a player misses an excessive amount of practice and/or games, appropriate consequences will apply (such as reduced playing time). COMMUNICATION between coaches, players and parents is vital. Parents are asked to keep coaches informed of any schedule conflicts as soon as they arise.

➤ Team Selection

Players will be selected for teams by coaches and league officials after tryouts have taken place. Commitment to the team and to the league is essential. Each player will have a short decision period to join the team, and if they do not register and make payment, the team will move on to other players. Rosters are expected to have 11 or 12 players. Weight is given to tryout performance, coachability, commitment and sportsmanship as well as team chemistry and positional needs. If enough players and coaches express interest to form a second full team for that age group, another team will be formed, but only after the first team has been selected. **The first team will be selected based upon individual playing skills with respect to a player's potential contribution to a team's competitiveness as well as their ability to fulfill a role within the team environment. The second team will be formed with a more developmental focus in mind. The two teams will NOT be selected based on equally dividing the available talent.**

➤ Playing Time

Riptide Travel Division is subject to the same mandatory play rules as Regular Season play. These minimums are routinely exceeded by coaches at all levels of play. **However, beyond the minimums, the amount of playing time is not guaranteed and is subject to each coach's discretion. While all players will play in every game, the level of skill, effort, dedication, attitude, and commitment, in addition to game situations are the ultimate factors on the number of innings played.** Coaches are encouraged to not only win ball games, but to win as a team while also maintaining the philosophy of Little League to promote and improve the betterment of skills of all players.

➤ Travel

All tournaments will be scheduled within a 150 mile radius of Erie (Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Buffalo areas). The younger age groups will tend to participate in tournaments closer to home while the older age groups gradually travel to further tournaments. If agreed upon as a team, attending one tournament that provides a unique experience but requires a further distance of travel (within reason) may also be an option.

➤ **Conduct / Sportsmanship**

In representing the community of Millcreek, the Riptide program strives to promote and develop an image of good sportsmanship, team play and discipline of the game. It is expected that all players and parents shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times, on and off the field. Mutual respect is expected for all players, umpires, coaches and opponents at all times. Our goal is to provide a supportive and competitive environment so that the kids can improve as athletes on the field and learn to be young men of good character off the field.

Parents are also encouraged to be supportive of their players and coaches. Part of being supportive is trusting that the players are trying their hardest and the coaches are making decisions that are in the best interest of the team. Coaching philosophies and decisions should be left to the coaches and respected by the players and parents alike.

Again, we encourage communication! If you have any concerns, please talk to your coach. We are all volunteers, and are doing this for the love of the game, and the kids.

➤ **Fees**

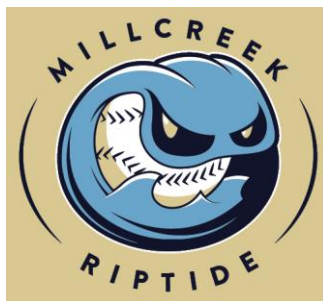
A registration fee payment schedule is offered to help families meet reasonable and affordable commitments. There will be no additional fee's to play Riptide Softball unless for a team's specific need, which will be discussed and unanimously agreed upon by coaches and parents. Should a player quit or be removed from a team, all paid registration fees and fundraising monies are non-refundable - unless for injury which will be handled on a case by case basis. If fees are not paid on the dates that are outlined, the organization has the right to not allow that player to participate in further Riptide events.

➤ **Expenses**

A conscious effort will be made to keep traveling reasonable and affordable. However, when playing games and tournaments outside of our immediate area, parents will be responsible for related expenses including transportation, spectator admission fees, meals and lodging.

➤ **Fundraising**

Players will have the opportunity to solicit sponsors to help defray the cost of individual registration fees. Fundraising events may also be offered at each team's discretion to further offset those fees. Fundraisers may also be offered that benefit the program as a whole. It is expected that every family will volunteer their fair share of support for these events.



Keep in mind that Riptide Softball is a year-round obligation! We are committed to make this obligation pay off in a rewarding and unique experience for each child that allows them to learn, grow and have fun in a positive yet competitive environment. Each player that is selected to play on a Riptide team is privileged to experience this opportunity.

We have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Millcreek Riptide obligation and commitment expectations as outlined above:

Player Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Millcreek Riptide Travel Softball Obligation and Commitment Agreement

By accepting this letter, you agree to fulfill an obligation and commitment as a player and a parent to the Millcreek Riptide Travel Softball program. As with any travel sport program, commitment and dedication are important to the individual success and to the success of the team.

Keep in mind that tournaments typically start in May and run through Labor Day. There is a chance that these tournaments will fall on holiday weekends (Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day). Sometimes there are conflicts that cannot be avoided, like family vacations out of town that have been scheduled very far in advance. If that is the case, you will need to inform the manager of your team before the season starts so the team can find a replacement player ahead of time. However, it is encouraged that such things are scheduled around your commitment to Millcreek Riptide Travel Softball.

Parents must also agree to meet the financial obligation in support of the team. Understand that any player that is removed from, or chooses to leave the team for any reason will forfeit all collected registration fees as well as any sponsorship and fundraising money that has been banked.

Being chosen and accepting to play Millcreek Riptide Travel Baseball is accepting the responsibility of participating in all practices, games and tournaments, and acknowledging and agreeing to the rules set forth by MYAA and Millcreek Riptide Softball and to include the following:

- 1)** Always play in practices and games with sportsmanship and respect for all players, coaches, parents, and umpires. I fully understand that all Millcreek Riptide Travel team players must obey a “code of behavior” on the field.
- 2)** Listen to the coaches, who are trying to improve my skills.
- 3)** Try my hardest in all practices and games. I’ll have patience with myself, keep a sense of humor even when the going gets tough, and realize that softball is still a game that I can enjoy, even at the travel level.
- 4)** Attend as many practices and games as I can possibly make, especially since my team will depend on me to be there for them. Failure to meet this commitment may lead to my removal from the team. I understand that attendance will be taken by the coaches. This will include the fall, indoor winter practices, spring, and summer seasons as a whole. If a lengthy illness of any kind is a factor, the Head Coach must be notified.
- 5)** Understand that the coaches are the ones who make the decisions on the field about line-ups, who plays, and how much playing time is given. Since this is a travel ball team, I also realize that all players won’t play the same amount of innings or games. Failure to play a position or play a game resulting from a disagreement with a coaching/playing decision will be considered a formal protest and may result in removal from the team.
- 6)** Realize that this is a team game, and I will try my best to hustle and do whatever I can to help the team. Any personal goals I have are secondary to team goals.
- 7)** Failure to abide with those items contained in this letter may result in loss of playing time and may ultimately result in removal from the team.



We have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Millcreek Riptide obligation and commitment expectations as outlined above:

Player Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____