



## 2022-2023 Orioles Softball Club – Program Information

Avon Softball Club (ASC) was formed in 2019 as a part of the Avon Junior Athletic Association (AJAA). OSC is a non-profit, community-based Travel Softball program for young players who demonstrate the skills and commitment to develop as players in a competitive setting.

In 2022, the club has been renamed to Orioles Softball Club to promote other communities to join with the program.

### **Mission Statement:**

The purpose of the program is to develop and maintain a competitive softball program that primarily focuses on player and coach development. We thrive to create a program that focuses on athletic development, but also character development on and off the field. Our primary goal and focus is to develop our athletes to become the best player they can be based on their individual potential and goals.

### **OSC Divisions:**

There are multiple tiers of competitive teams for each age group to allow a program that fits all player and family needs.

**OSC Gold (Second Year Team)** strive to compete in a more competitive level within USSSA tournaments and typically will compete in a minimum of 12 tournaments throughout the season. Competition level will be determined by not only the Coach, but also sanctioning bodies that host tournaments.

**OSC Black (First Year Team)** strive to compete at a mid-range level within USSSA tournaments and typically will compete in a minimum of 12 tournaments throughout the season. Competition level will be determined by not only the Coach, but also sanctioning bodies that host tournaments.

### **Tryout Registration:**

Pre-registration for tryouts is highly encouraged. Registration (and the actual tryout) is free. Registration helps leadership plan tryouts, cover each player for liability purposes, and provides contact information to make offers. "Walk-up" tryout participants are discouraged, but accepted. The player will need to register on site before participating in try-outs.

If a player is more than 30 minutes late to a tryout, the player will need to speak with the coach before joining, as tryouts will not be extended as it could interfere with overall schedule and comparison to the other players.

There are multiple try out dates for the club, but players are only required to attend one tryout date to be eligible for the team.

### **Tryout Requirements:**

Players are required to bring their own equipment to the tryouts. This includes a bat, glove, cleats, hats, and helmet. Participation to bat will not be permitted without a helmet. If a player plans to try out for catcher positions, catching equipment must be provided.



**Tryout Guidelines:**

Tryouts may include the following evaluations or assessment, but are not limited to the following:

- Players will be evaluated by experienced softball leaders, including coaches, and other non-affiliated leaders.
  - Fielding: Proper fielding technique and mechanics
    - Each player will throw to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and home, throw to infield from outfield, including RF to 3<sup>rd</sup> Base
  - Hitting:
    - General swing mechanics, contact, bat speed / power / velocity
  - Throwing: Proper throwing technique, accuracy, and arm strength
  - Pitching: Pitching form / technique, accuracy, throwing form, and speed
    - Each player will throw 7-10 pitches; can be done with a screen or catcher.
  - Speed: 60 yd Dash
  - Intangibles: Varies based on coach and team needs for the upcoming season:
    - Catcher position: Notes will be made regarding overall mechanics
    - Parents (negative or positive interactions) can also be included in the overall selection criteria.
    - Sportsmanship and coachability of the player

**Team Selection Guidelines:**

- Head coach and supporting staff will conduct evaluations based on mechanics mentioned above.
- **If a player desires to play-up, this must be declared in try-out registration and prior to try-outs.**
- The Head coach will help determine the playing level of their team, with input from assistant coaches.
- Team selection may be based on specific position needs for the upcoming season.
- Returning players may include coach’s evaluation from the previous season tryout performance, and intangibles.
- All team selections must be completed by date assigned by OSC Commissioner.

**Player Offers:**

Head Coaches will be able to extend roster invitations to players soon after the first tryout is over. For those who need to be evaluated again, the head coach will extend an offer for the call back tryout. Those who have received an offer could be asked to attend a call back, so the coach can evaluate non-offered players against offered players. Players (parents) who receive an offer from a head coach, will be subject to a commitment fee and will have 24 hours to accept and pay the commitment fee guaranteeing their spot on the team.

**Note:** Offers and regrets will be handled by each head coach.

**Breakdown of Costs:**

Travel fees may vary by team. Fees are determined by the following: Cost and number of tournaments entered, AJAA fee, uniforms, professional instruction, indoor rental, player equipment, and other miscellaneous fees. Coaches will be accountable to manage their budget according to AJAA Policy. There will be things that coaches have the option to add to their budget. Also, if returning players already have equipment (helmets or batting bags), they do not have to buy new each year, just if the design / style changes or equipment expires or is a safety hazard.

Player/Team Fee	
10U	\$2,000.00
12U	\$2,000.00



**Fundraising:** It is important to note that fundraising is a strong option for many teams. On average, 25-50% of a team’s budget can be reduced based on utilizing fundraising options. In 2020, more than \$10,000 was raised to offset the costs of player fees in the organization. Team sponsorship opportunities must follow the AJAA sponsorship guidelines as some team sponsorships may result in direct competition with organizational sponsors and will not be eligible. Any fundraising opportunity must be presented to the AJAA office for prior approval. Team fundraising funds will be split evenly amongst the players in accordance with AJAA fundraising guidelines. Teams may elect for funds to be dispersed evenly only amongst participating players, if deemed prior to the start of fundraising.

**Program Fees:**

This expense, built into the OSC registration fee, include, but not limited to: general expenses such as grounds materials, repairs on equipment or fields, AED rental expenses, rental space from Avon Community School Facilities, Liability insurance for each player and facility, depreciation of equipment purchases, etc. Many fees go into keeping our youth players healthy and safe. Some examples that may help explain the program fees are listed below:

Example of AJAA Costs:	
Liability Insurance	\$37,454
ACSC Rental Space	\$33,150
Ground Materials	\$20,334
Facility Mowing/Repairs	\$23,739
AED Lease	\$4,028
Equipment Refurbish	\$8,358
Legal/Professional	\$17,603
Software/Subscriptions	\$2,016
Background Checks	\$9,999
Credit Card Fees	\$5,980

**Uniforms:**

Each team will wear approved jerseys and pants. Teams may not design or order their own jersey’s or use the OSC logo or name without permission. Teams may not add any other sponsorships, logos or team captain designation without prior approval.

Every 2 years, to meet safety requirements, helmets must be replaced. Helmets cost an additional \$70 for each player required to purchase a new or replacement helmet.

Bat Bags are available for purchase each year. Each player should utilize the designated team bag, but may purchase additional bags based on wear and tear.

**Tournament/Game Play:**

Each team has a coach managed budget. This fee includes tournament entry costs, miscellaneous equipment such as spare balls, training equipment, J-bands, etc. This expense will be utilized as the discretion of the team. Tournament fees may include any umpire fees for any double headers or Avon hosted games.

**Samp's Hack Shack Team Training:**

This fee includes Instructor led training sessions, 2 hours each session, 9 sessions budgeted but will be based on the coach's discretion. Sessions will include development training on fielding, pitching/catching, hitting, offensive/defensive drills for development. Sessions may be customized to the individual team based on the coach's discretion. Any team training will be included in the team's budget or may be added at a later date during the season.

**Indoor Practice Rental Space (Winter Season):**

This fee includes indoor practice sessions based on the coach's discretion. Sessions for indoor training may be utilized at ACSC or Samp's Hack Shack. Samp's Shack rentals will include (2) Batting tunnels and (1) pitching lane. Facilities at ACSC will vary based on availability and facilities utilized.

**Payment Schedule:**

Each team has a coach managed budget. Each team budget is set as an estimate only. Many teams may choose to play in more tournaments, utilize additional training sessions, etc. It is up to the discretion of the coach, but each player should be aware of the determined budget upon the start of the season. Fundraising and sponsorship efforts are utilized throughout the season to try to offset the costs to each player. If a team chooses to play in additional tournaments, for example, the final payment may be higher than shown below. Any exceptions to the payment schedule must be requested through the AJAA office and approved prior to payment due date. Exceptions to any payment plan will be evaluated based on payment history and individual circumstance.

Any late addition to a team will pay a prorated payment schedule and will be submitted through the AJAA office with each individual player. Any player that leaves a team early will forfeit any paid fees and fees will be absorbed by the individual team's budget. If a team has committed/paid for any costs that cannot be reimbursed/cancelled, the player will be responsible to cover the portion of the budget for the committed cost.

Any additional funds in a team budget may request an addendum to spend those funds for team purposes. These addendums must be submitted timely to the AJAA office on behalf of the coach. Any additional funds at the end of the budget cycle will be submitted to the Club account for use to cover future spending or improvements for the designated program. These funds will be capped at \$300 per named team for their previous season. Any excess funds above this amount will be absorbed by AJAA.



Payment Schedule	
<b>Due upon Roster Acceptance</b>	\$400.00
<b>First Payment Installment</b> (1/3 of Total Remaining Bill)	1/13/2023
<b>Second Payment Installment</b> (1/3 of Total Remaining Bill)	3/3/2023
<b>Final Payment Installment</b> (1/3 of Total Bill and Any Additional Costs)	5/5/2023

**Financial Policy:**

Orioles Softball Club teams are a part of the Avon Junior Athletic Association (AJAA) organizational umbrella and must operate within the confines of the organization’s mission, approved policies, and subsequent financial policies. Each coach and commissioner must operate with an approved budget from the AJAA Executive Director. Approved budgets will then be submitted to the Treasurer for final approval. Budgets will be effective for the team’s purchases and any individual player fee will be subject to the individual player account for payment. All purchases for the team shall be submitted through the AJAA office. Any coach that pays individually must follow the expense reporting procedure for reimbursement. Failure to follow the process may result in fees not being reimbursed. Any equipment purchased for the program are property of AJAA and will be added to the AJAA equipment depreciation schedule. These fees will be added into the appropriate program fees for future registration costs. Any equipment not returned to AJAA at close of season will be subject to reimbursement by the coach and/or team to cover replacement costs of the equipment.

**Commitment:**

Travel programs require time and commitment from not only the players, but the families and coaching staff involved. The focus on team building and sportsmanship far outweighs an individual win when developing each young athlete. The below guidelines relay expectations and commitments to the program in order to offer the most potential of success for each player. Failure to violate the commitment below may result in an athlete being asked to remove themselves from the team for the season. Each player represents the AJAA Orioles Softball Club Program and our mission is to continue to develop and influence those around us in a positive manner at all times.

**Coaching Commitment:**

- OSC Head Coaches will commit to the following:
  - receive development and coaching instruction by professional instructors
  - have the ability to schedule their entire season (with input from parents)
  - determine the level of play and resulting number of games and tournaments
  - be responsible for the team budget and follow the policy set forth by AJAA
  - determine the roster based on tryouts, player evaluations, as well as intangibles
  - Follow and implement program mission statement with each player



**Parent Commitment:**

- Each parent will commit to the following:
  - Be responsible for words and actions throughout the season, on and off the field, to ensure that the code of conduct policy is followed
  - Encourage good sportsmanship with any player, coach, parent, participant, umpire, or any other attendee to represent
  - Remember that each child is participating to have fun and develop on a personal basis for a sport they enjoy playing
  - Participate and be responsible to get player to practice, events, games, etc., on time or early, to ensure good team behavior
  - Be a positive role model for the player and show respect and courtesy to all players, coaches, spectators, and officials
  - Focus on the development of the player and teach that doing their best outweighs any individual win
  - Respect the coaches and refrain from coaching from the sidelines

**Player Commitment:**

- Each Player will commit to the following:
  - Be responsible for words and actions throughout the season, on and off the field, to ensure that the code of conduct policy is followed
  - Encourage good sportsmanship with any player, coach, parent, participants, officials, or any other attendee to represent the organizational program in a positive manner
  - Commit to Orioles Softball Club and not participate in other travel softball programs
  - Be a positive role model, putting yourself second to team success
  - Practice and play at your full level of effort, at all times

\*The OSC Commissioner shall make interpretations and clarifications of these rules when necessary.



**Orioles Softball Club Commitment:**

**In support of the Orioles Softball Club, I pledge my commitment to the program by reading and agreeing to all terms outlined in the program information. Your signature indicates your public commitment to positively support the AJAA Orioles Softball Club program.**

**Player Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Player Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent(s) Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_