



## 2008 OAKLAND GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Welcome!**

Thank you for your interest in the Oakland Girls Softball League. We emphasize sound skill development and fun. Every player participates regardless of skill or previous experience. The spring league is designed to be recreational and inclusive of all skill levels. During the summer, we usually field all-star tournament teams at the older levels (10U, 12U, 14U). These teams play other all-star teams in neighboring leagues.

### **Registration**

Registration is open from now until all teams are full, and takes place online at [www.sportability.com](http://www.sportability.com), a trusted and experienced local company specializing in team sports administration. Please encourage your friends to register. If it is not already accompanying this information sheet, the form is available online at [www.ogsl.org](http://www.ogsl.org) or at drop-in registrations. Please visit our website for drop-in dates and locations. Registrations turned in after January 12th will be considered late, and players will only be allowed onto teams that are not yet full.

### **Team Formation and Team Buddies**

OGSL employs a "buddy system" wherein a player may request one other girl to be placed on your team. The buddy system utilizes a graduated approach: strongest consideration to buddy requests is given to the youngest age groups, the least consideration is given to the oldest age groups. In the youngest divisions, our objective is to allow the maximum number of kids to play the game under the most convenient circumstances. This may include considerations for car pools, similar schedules, familiarity among schoolmates. As the girls grow older, our objectives shift to ensuring balance and parity among teams within an age division. Our player agent, working closely with coaches and division commissioners for each age group, goes to great lengths to ensure that the team formation process yields the best possible results. We require that all prospective 10U, 12U and 14U players participate in a mandatory skills assessment clinic, held on Saturday, January 19. This will be used to balance the teams more effectively. While we must use the age cut-off dates for all tournament play, exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis during the recreation season.

### **Uniforms and Equipment**

The league provides each player with a hat or visor and uniform shirt and socks. Girls in the 7 (and Under) and 8U divisions wear gray baseball pants, girls in 10U, 12U and 14U wear shorts. Sliding shorts and sliding pads (knee pads) are required for older girls to wear under their uniform shorts. The pants and shorts can be purchased at a variety of local sports stores. Each player must also have a ball glove, suitable footwear (preferably cleats) and if necessary, some means of hair restraint.

### **Practice**

Practice for the Spring 2008 season is expected to start approximately the second week of February. Every team has one weekday practice, usually in the late afternoon or early evening. From February until Opening Day in March, coaches may also schedule Saturday practices. The team's coach or manager will contact you in early February to notify you of the practice times and locations.

### **Games**

From mid-March to the first week of June, games will be scheduled for every Saturday. In addition, girls in upper age divisions will also play one game each week on a weeknight, starting after Daylight Savings Time. We play other Oakland teams, as well as teams from surrounding communities such as Piedmont, Albany-Berkeley, Lafayette, San Leandro and Alameda.

### **Staff / Volunteers**

The success of the league and the individual teams depends on the active participation of parents. We need coaches, managers, chaperones, team helpers, umpires, and volunteers to assist at events such as Opening Day. Please help us help your children! Volunteer sign up is included on the registration form, with positions descriptions available on the back of this page or on our website.

### **Questions?**

Check our website at [www.ogsl.org](http://www.ogsl.org), call us at 339-7268, or send an e-mail to [registrar@ogsl.org](mailto:registrar@ogsl.org). Let's have some fun and PLAY BALL!