

LATHAM LASSIES 2011 TRAVEL POLICIES

(Excerpt from 2011 Rules and Procedures)

Travel Team Letter of Commitment

Purpose: Latham Lassies Softball League wants to ensure that players and parents are fully aware of the expectations of Latham's Travel team because there is a greater commitment in Travel as compared to the recreational season. As such it was felt to be in the best interest of all involved that a Letter of Commitment be drawn up to which all parties show acknowledgement of these policies, rules, and regulations.

1. As a **parent** and **player**, we acknowledge that participation in Latham Lassies travel is competitive. Players are not guaranteed equal playing time and playing time is at the discretion of the manager.
2. Because of the higher competitive nature of travel teams, **players** are required to make a full commitment to attending practices, games, and tournaments. Absence for any reason may result in **player** benching. As a **parent**, I agree to make all reasonable efforts to ensure my child fulfills her commitment as a **player**.
3. As **parent** and **player** we understand that in Travel league there may be approximately 25 to 30 games to be played starting towards the end of May and going through the month of July. A number of these games will occur in tournaments that the team will be participating in. We understand that some of these tournaments may be out of the area requiring hotel accommodations. Any such expenses will be the responsibility of the **parent**.
4. Any conduct detrimental to the team or individuals on the team and/or violation of League rules (including Zero Tolerance Policy) will present the coach no options but to enforce disciplinary actions available to him/her. These disciplinary actions can include benching, ineligibility for games, or even removal from the team. If removal from the team is the action imposed by the manager, then the manager will notify the board of the situation.
5. Player evaluations will be conducted based on Latham Lassies Policies. Participants agree in advance to abide by the results.
6. As **players** and **parents**, we will accept constructive criticism from coaches in a positive way and demonstrate a positive attitude and respect towards teammates, coaches, opponents, and spectators.
7. As **players** and **parents**, we will show respect for game officials and their decisions. The officials of any contest are impartial arbitrators who are trained and who perform to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all those involved in the contest are a part of the game. As **player** and **parent** we agree not to rationalize poor or unsuccessful performance or behavior by placing responsibility on an official. As **player** and **parent** we will take total responsibility for our own behavior. We will apply the rule of good sportsmanship and accept, respect, and abide by the decisions made by the officials at all times. We commit to making good sportsmanship a top priority and model winning with class and tolerating defeat with dignity.
8. As a **player** I understand and accept my role on the team as a **player/competitor**, not a coach. As a **parent** I understand and respect the differences between **parental** roles and coaching roles and agree to uphold the authority of officials and coaches who are working with my child and will assist them when possible and use good judgment if I disagree with them. I will inform the coaches of issues and conflicts as soon as they arise.
9. As a **player** I agree to apply the concepts, drills, and skills I am taught and give 100% in practice and games. I will never just 'go through the motions'.

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10. As a **player** I understand I represent Latham, my team and my coaches. I will enhance our reputation and character with my conduct on and off the field. I will respect and the equipment and facilities I practice and play games with whether in Latham or outside of Latham. I will report damages that occur. As a **parent** I will help monitor the areas adjacent to where my child's team practices and plays games in order to prevent any damage caused by horseplay or unsupervised activity by Latham Softball **players**.
11. As a **parent** and supporter of Latham Lassies Softball I agree to volunteer my time in the event my child's team hosts a tournament. Such time may be spent doing concession duty, field preparation or other duties as requested/needed.

I, as a **player**, understand and accept these conditions for playing on a Latham Softball Travel Team.

Player's Signature

Date

I, as a **parent**, understand and accept these conditions for my child playing on a Latham Softball Travel Team.

Parent's Signature

Date

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Travel teams will typically play approximately 25 to 30 games between Hudson-Mohawk League play and tournaments. Hudson-Mohawk League play typically occurs against other teams that are located in the Capital District. Teams will play in a number of tournaments as determined by the manager. Latham Lassies will pay for participation in two tournaments for each travel team. If a travel manager wants to play in more tournaments, the manager must solicit contributions from all players in an equal amount. If Latham hosts a tournament, all travel teams in the tournament's age group will be registered for that tournament at no cost (addition to two paid tournaments). Some tournaments may be out of the area and such tournaments will involve overnight stays. It is the parents' responsibility to cover their child's expenses associated with travel/accommodations. Because of the higher competitive nature of travel teams, players are required to make a full commitment to attending practices, games, and tournaments. While travel teams allow for players to improve their skill level, **players and parents need to be aware that as a competitive team, players are not guaranteed equal playing time. Playing time is at the discretion of the manager.**

When trying out for a team a player must adhere to the age group as determined by ASA rules (see page 6 of this handbook). Players are not eligible to try out for a team that is the next level up.

Because of the competitive nature of player evaluations and the high commitment level required by players and parents, the League requires all travel players and their parents to sign a Letter of Commitment (page 22). Should a player choose to quit a team once they've been selected, then that player will not be allowed to play on any other Latham Travel Team for the remainder of the season. In subsequent years' player evaluations the Travel Team selection committee may take into account a player's past behavior when determining if they've earned a spot on a team.

Latham Lassies will field at least one travel team for Hudson Mohawk Travel League in 16U, 14U, 12U and 10U Divisions. The Board will determine dates of Travel Team player evaluations. Player evaluations for 16U, 14U, 12U, and 10U will occur in August or September. Player evaluations for players not selected to a team in August or September will occur in the spring. In an effort to make sure Latham is fielding the most competitive team at each level, player selection will occur by committee and the manager will be named after the players are selected. The selection committee is to be comprised of 3 Board members (Board member cannot be on a committee if their daughter is trying out) and 2 managers from the previous year (one being the person who managed at the age level for which the player evaluations are being held and the other being the person who managed the team at the next level down), along with any Board approved outside evaluators. The purpose for the managers' presence is to have individuals in attendance who are familiar with players staying at a particular division and with those moving up.

Travel Teams will be limited to 11 players and are to be comprised of players who are registered with Latham Lassies Recreational League. In the event there are not enough players to field a team in a certain age group then the manager is allowed to recruit the number of players needed to complete the team. In such circumstances, none of the Latham players who tried out will be cut from the team. It is recommended that the manager first recruit players from Latham and/or North Colonie School District before going outside the community.

As indicated above, manager selections will occur after the team is selected. Any member of the league may nominate themselves as a travel team Manager by contacting the Travel Coordinator. Once it is known who the players are for a particular team then the Board will determine who the best candidate to manage the team is. In selecting a candidate to manage a travel team, the League looks for a person who has a good understanding of the game, has strong organizational skills, interacts well with players/families, and would be a good representative of the league.

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Once a manager is selected for a travel team, the Manager can select their staff, subject to Board review. It is that manager's responsibility to communicate to all players and parents the date/time of practices, team expectations, game schedule, tournament schedule, etc.

Each Manager is responsible for completing a Hudson Mohawk roster and an ASA team roster and having these rosters signed by the governing officials. It is the Manager's responsibility to verify that all players on their roster are eligible by collecting birth certificates, verifying that all players are of the proper age for their level and that they are registered with the League.

Each Manager is responsible for coordinating with the Equipment/Uniform Manager for the purpose of ordering team uniforms prior to the season. Each Manager is responsible for returning all League equipment at the end of the season.

The League will hold a meeting of coaches, players, and parents for the purpose of discussing rules, regulations, and team information. Each family will receive a copy of the Travel Team Rules and Guidelines and rules of conduct.

Travel teams are responsible for maintaining the fields when they have a home game. Each travel team will be assigned dates for when they are responsible for manning the concession stand. The manager is to ensure that this occurs.

During the course of the season, if a team is short players for a game or tournament then a player can be called up provided that there are no conflicts with the 'called-up' player's team schedule and the 'call-up' player's manager has no objections. The manager in need of player(s) should discuss with other manager before approaching any players.

TRAVEL TEAM FUNDS AND EXPENSES

1. Latham Lassies Softball will designate League funds to be set aside for Travel Team expenses as follows:
 - All equipment (excluding uniforms) necessary for the function of the team
 - insurance coverage
 - ASA fees
 - Hudson Mohawk league dues
 - umpire fees at Hudson Mohawk games for which Latham is designated as the home team
 - entrance fees for up to two tournaments
2. Individual travel players will be responsible to purchase the official Latham Lassies uniform including jersey, shorts, and socks. Visors and additional uniform pieces will be made available at an additional cost.
3. All players must pay a travel registration fee, determined by the Board, to play on the travel team. The Board will set fees, determined by level and amount of play, at the beginning of each calendar year.
4. For Hudson-Mohawk play, Managers will be given checks for the purpose of paying umpires. Any unused checks given to the Managers for the purpose of umpire payment shall be returned to the league at the end of the travel season.

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5. FUNDRAISING

- Any donations collected for the benefit of a travel team are covered under the organization's 501c3 tax-exempt status and must be processed through the League Treasurer. All funds raised must be deposited into the League's funds immediately after they are collected. All donations in the name of Latham Lassies Softball will be distributed equitably amongst all travel teams.
- Sponsorships are defined as donations requiring either printed recognition or a tax exemption. Sponsorships are encouraged; however, disbursement of those funds will be equitably distributed amongst all travel teams. No team-specific sponsorships will be allowed.
- Any fundraising that reduces the league's travel fees must be league sponsored and be open to all teams and players. All funds raised for this purpose will be equitably distributed by the Board amongst the participating teams. Team-specific donations for the purpose of reducing the travel fees are prohibited.
- Although league-wide fundraising is preferred, team specific fundraising is possible only with prior Board approval. These funds are not to be used to reduce league travel fees, but instead to help fund a special event such as an away tournament. Funds raised shall be collected by the League Treasurer and redistributed to the coach prior to the event. Coaches are responsible for the written accounting of the use of these funds. Under no circumstances will these funds be distributed to individuals without proper documentation of reimbursement. Leftover funds become property of Latham Lassies Softball to be used in the general fund.
- No player will be forced to participate in fundraising activities.
 - (a) If a player does not participate in fundraising activities that are to be used specifically to defray general travel expenses, that player will be responsible for the total travel fee.
 - (b) If a team does not participate in a specific fundraising event, that team may not share in the profits from that fundraiser.
- Under no circumstances will funds raised by a team be paid out to the team members even if all funds raised have not been spent. Unused funds will not be carried forward to the next season. Funds not spent or approved to be spent by the last game played by that team become league funds to be used as part of the general league budget.