

Welcome

The Chatfield Charger Softball Booster Club and Chatfield Charger Coaching Staff are sending out this guide to active softball players (and their parents) that are interested the Chatfield softball program.

What are boosters?

The Diamond Dolls Booster Club (otherwise known DDBC) is an organization of parents and other interested parties whose activities help support the Chatfield Senior High softball team during the high school season. We organize fund raising to subsidize team costs. Money collected through fundraising and booster fees pays for the field expenses (e.g.: dirt, chalk, paint, gas for mower, etc), maintenance of the softball field and softball equipment, game balls, All Conference banners, uniforms, spirit packs for players, website, game photographs, memory book, senior scholarship, year-end banquet, and other capital projects like building a batting cage and purchasing a pitching machine. We adhere to bylaws that are at the end of this document. We meet once per month in the library and encourage all parents to attend. Current financials and upcoming events are reviewed at this time. The booster club meeting dates are posted on the website calendar. If you are unable to attend a meeting, minutes from the meeting will be available on the website.

Here is what to expect...

Playing any sport at the high school level is a privilege, and participation in that sport is dependent upon the proper behavior (both on and off the field, academics, as well as your talent and effort). It is possible that you may have participated in softball leagues in the past but it is your ability and eligibility that will dictate whether you make (and stay on) the team. Remember that at the high school level, it is the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA), Jefferson County, and the school, not necessarily parents and coaches that ultimately dictate if you can play. Generally speaking, there is a sequence of events that will occur associated with the softball team over the next several months that are outlined here:

Communication—all communications will be sent through the Chatfield Softball website so please make sure that you and your player are registered. The website address is chatfieldsoftball.org. **If you are not registered on the website then you will not receive the communications.** Additionally, DDBC uses Facebook for communications. Please like the Chatfield Softball Facebook page to receive these communications.

Making the team—once tryouts are complete, the coaches will notify the players as to when the team selection will be finalized. All of the selected girls, regardless of the level, are on the 'Charger Softball Team'. Those who didn't make it are encouraged to work hard, play as much as they can in recreation and club leagues, and try again next year.

Parent & team meeting—girls from all levels and their parents will be invited to a team meeting after the teams have been selected and the girls assigned to their respective teams. During this meeting, you will be introduced to the coaches and the Diamond Dolls Booster Club officers.

Welcome / Field Prep—Field Prep Day is where we take pride in our field and make it look the best we can before the season begins. This is a great team building event and great way to meet the parents of the players. We need athletes and parents to pull weeds, spray weeds, rake, shovel, organize, fix the fence, set up the wind screen, and any other items that may need to be fixed or cleaned up. **Completed- THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR HELP!**

Chatfield Charger Softball website—www.chatfieldsoftball.org is the team's website. This website will be updated with any news about the team, schedules, fields, directions and pictures. Anything you need to know about the season can be found on this website. The website is through League Athletics so you will receive game reminders (text and/or e-mail) if you checked the appropriate boxes when you registered. Friends and Family are welcome to get information sent to them from the website. They just need to go to the website and click on *Join Our Email List* (bottom left tab).

Facebook - DDBC also uses Facebook for communications. Please like the Chatfield Softball Facebook page to receive these communications.

Monetary commitment — unfortunately sports activities cost money, and the coaches' budget provided by the district is never sufficient to cover the program costs. Although the DDBC does arrange fundraisers to offset the financial burden, these fundraisers are not able to raise sufficient funds to eliminate all costs to the parents. As a result, there will be a booster fee that must be collected from each player's family.

Jeffco Athletic fee — the district requires an activity fee for your girl to participate in softball (or any other sport). This fee will be \$150.00 for 2014/2015 school year. The Jeffco Athletic fee stays with the county and does not go to the Chatfield Softball program.

Booster club fee – until our fundraising efforts provide enough income, it is necessary to collect **\$175** from each player's family. This fee covers the field expenses (e.g.: dirt, chalk, paint, gas for mower, etc), maintenance of the softball field and softball equipment, game balls, All Conference banners, uniforms, spirit packs for players, website, game photographs, memory book, senior scholarship, year-end banquet, and other capital projects like building a batting cage and purchasing a pitching machine. This fee is non-refundable due to injury or ineligibility once the teams are formed. In order to make sure we have the money available to pay for the current season expenses, the fee is due by **Sunday, August 17th**. Please make checks payable to DDBC. As discussed the first day of the high school camp, \$5 for each Butter Braids sale and all car wash tickets sold in excess of 10 can be applied against your player's booster fee.

What does the coach's district budget go toward? — The coach is estimated to receive **\$800.00** from the district this year and earns income from the summer camp held for youth in the community. These funds are used to pay for the coaching staff's hat and shirts, bus transportation, game balls (also paid for in part by the booster club), tournament fees, and scrimmage fees. The game balls are about \$300, the tournament fees are about \$400 and the scrimmages are about \$100. As you can see the budget doesn't go very far which is why there is a need for fundraising and booster fees.

Booster functions and fundraisers — as discussed above, fundraisers are a necessary evil in order to help pay for some of the girls' expenses that are not covered by the school. There are several "team" fundraisers organized by the DDBC each year to help minimize the "booster fee" – team car wash, poker tournament (held twice a year in the fall and spring), Chipotle night and Garlic Knot night. The success of these team fundraisers helps determine the budget gap that must be funded through the booster fee. The DDBC also offers several fundraising opportunities to help parents offset their booster fee – reloadable King Soopers cards, Butter Braids sales, and sale of car wash tickets in excess of 10.

Fundraisers

Car wash – this is a mandatory fundraiser and all players must participate. Each player will be asked to sell 10 coupons (\$5/coupon or \$50 in total). Car wash tickets sold in excess of 10 can be applied against the player's booster fee. All money for the sold car wash tickets is due to Jaime Mijares or Jen Gaber by **Friday, August 15th**.

Poker Night -August 16, 2014

6PM to 10PM @ the Draft Sports Grill - 9150 W Cross Drive, Littleton, CO 80123

Bring your friends, neighbors, and co-workers!

No Experience necessary. It is a great time all the while supporting the Chatfield Girls Softball program. Food and drinks are available from the draft throughout the night. Hope to see you there!! Dealer/Players Needed

We are asking that all families contribute something toward the door prize drawings to be held at the poker tournament. This can be something like a gift card, basket, bottle of wine, or other items.

Reloadable King Soopers Cards

Reloadable King Soopers cards are available from Meagan Jarecki (mejarecki@aol.com). You will receive 5% back on all money placed on the cards. The cards can be used for cash, gas, food, etc. at King Soopers. The 5% will be added to your player's account as a credit and can be applied towards fall softball booster fees. The initial card will come loaded with \$5.

Butter Braids

This is an optional fundraiser and \$5 from every sale will be applied against your player's booster fee. All order forms and cash are due to Jen Gaber by **Friday, August 15th**.

Chipotle Fundraiser - August 27, 2014

4PM to 8PM

Chipotle on Ken Caryl (12512 W Ken Caryl Ave, Littleton, CO 80127)

Percentage of all sales will go to the team

Garlic Knot Fundraiser - September 22, 2014

6 PM - 8 PM

\$10 per person all you can eat pizza (\$5 per person goes back to the team)

Additional Information

Pictures – JK Photography will be taking pictures of all the girls at a minimum of two games this season (all three levels). The dates they will be photographing the Varsity and JV games are listed on the website. We will add the dates for the Level III games as soon as the Level III game schedule is finalized. Pictures will be available for download at no charge.

Spirit wear — the DDBC will be selling CSH apparel for both parents and players throughout the season. Payments will be collected at time of order and checks should be made to DDBC. All players will receive a team t-shirt for the season at no charge. This t-shirt will be designed by the senior players.

Volunteers needed — the Charger softball program is extremely lucky to have such generous parents and community. Many parents donate their time and materials. Did you know that the field maintenance, some equipment repair and fence topping are all donated? Yes, they are. In order to make this a memorable season for the girls, we are asking for parent volunteers to help with the following:

- Memory Book Committee
- Video for End of Season Banquet (using pictures taken by JK)
- Senior Scholarship Committee
- Concession Coordinator
- Field prep before home games for JV and Level III
- Scoreboard and announcers for home games – Varsity, JV and Level III
- Oversee table at Back to School Night
- Homecoming – decorate dugouts and assigned window in the bridge (in school) for spirit week
- Breast Cancer Game – decorate dugout
- Senior Game – decorate dugout

An email with a signup genius link for all these volunteer opportunities will be sent out later this week.

Now About the Actual Season....

When do our girls practice? — After being notified of making the team, the coach will notify the girls as to the time and location of the first practice. The coaching staff will also provide a schedule to the girls showing when the subsequent practices, scrimmages and games will be held. Early in the season (August) EXPECT that the girls will

practice SIX (6) days a week (Monday through Saturday). We wanted EVERYONE to know this UP FRONT so that there are no surprises. Note that state law prohibits practices and games on Sunday. In fact, coaches are not allowed to have softball-related contact with the girls on Sunday (including team meetings or breakfasts). This is a CHSSA rule.

Varsity, JV and Level III — we will have three teams for the 2014 season. Here's a brief description of the level structure.

Varsity — Varsity represents the highest level of competition at the high school level. This is the level whose scores are reported on by the news media, and the team that may compete for the state championship at the end of the year.

Junior Varsity — Often just referred to as 'JV', Junior Varsity represents the second level of competition at Chatfield, and the beginning of what is referred to as 'varsity level'. Generally speaking, JV teams are closely associated with the Varsity level team.

Level III- Level III represents the third level of competition at Chatfield.

What is 'swinging up'? — At the coaches' discretion, players may be asked to play on the higher-level team after their own game. While often those players who single themselves out during their game through performance, skill, and/or effort will be the ones that the coach selects, the decision may also be dictated by the needs of the upper team. Your girls shouldn't take it personally if they are not asked by the coach to swing up for any given game. By the same token, it doesn't hurt to put forth a little more effort the next time to further single yourself out. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES does 'swinging up' mean that the player has been 'moved up' permanently to the higher level team – your coach will notify you if this happens. Also, just because you 'swing up' for a game doesn't mean that you will play. However, when you're not playing, you can contribute to the team by 'cheering' on the girls that are playing. Trust us, the coaches notice that attitude and welcome it.

What is a 'swing player'? — In some cases, the coaches may ask a player in advance to be a 'swing player' by playing on two different teams (JV and Varsity, for example). In these cases, the coaches will discuss this with the player in question. There may be many reasons for this, including trying to provide the lower team a talented player to help them along, to get the player more playing time, or to help with a deficiency on one or more of the teams.

School colors — Chatfield colors are Burgundy (technically Cardinal -red 181) and Silver. Our **varsity** softball team will have uniforms separately for home and away games (that is, the jersey is NOT reversible). Softball utilizes the **BURGUNDY** uniform as the home uniform, and the **WHITE** uniform as the away uniform. Note that game uniforms are always subject to change so contact your Team Mom or Coaching Staff for changes. Please make an effort to ensure your girl has the right uniform for the right game.

Tournaments — during the high school season, our girls will be playing in tournaments and compete with other local schools. You'll be given a schedule with this information or refer to the Chatfield softball website for more information. www.chatfieldsoftball.org. Note that only the Varsity plays in the post season tournament (often referred to as the State Tournament).

End of season banquet – After all high school-related softball activity is over (normally after the state tournament has been decided), we will have an end-of-season banquet celebrating the season, giving out certificates to the girls, awarding varsity letters to those girls earning them, and saying goodbye to our senior girls. Again, the activity is a TEAM activity, celebrating the achievement of Chatfield's Charger Softball! Tradition has it that senior parents are in charge of the banquet.

Are there any implications to our girls being in high school sports? — With respect to the

NCAA, the governing body for collegiate sports, YES THERE IS! You may have had a prior relationship with a college, possibly to ask for advice in raising your student-athlete, or even your Alma matter. This was perfectly acceptable when your girl was in elementary or middle school, but as of the first day of high school activity, your daughter is considered 'recruitable' by the NCAA. What this means, in a nutshell, is that you can no longer have 'unrestricted' communication to coaches. Likewise, they cannot contact you with regard to your daughter. Activities, such as skills camps, etc. are still OK, as they are open to everyone, and coaches encourage girls to talk with them 'on campus' but if you've been in the habit of talking to coaches about your girl, that type of communications are not appropriate except within certain constraints. Even during the summer, say during national club tournaments, coaches who are there to assess talent are segregated from the parents and players to prevent inappropriate contact. If you have concerns about this, please contact your coaches or the NCAA liaison at our school for guidance before doing something that might injure your daughter's chances of attending the school of her choice.

Attendance — inevitably a player will need to miss a practice, team function, or even a game. Illness, injury, and death in the family can crop up at any time.

In the case of an absence from a team activity, please contact your immediate coach before the event.

Given the importance of attendance to the team, please make every effort to schedule vacations, etc. (e.g. planned activities) to minimize the time your daughter will miss team activities if possible.

Good luck to you and your daughter in the upcoming season! If you have any questions, please contact any coach.

Nicole Janssen "Coach Janssen" - Varsity Coach

chatfieldsoftball@yahoo.com

Jennessa Horan "Coach Tesone" – Varsity Assistant Coach

jhoran5@cherrycreekschools.org

Ron Dentino- Varsity Assistant Coach

Ron.Dentino@mastec.com

Kevin Quick-JV Head Coach

kevinquick@comcast.net

Dave Moore "Coach Dave" – JV/Varsity Assistant Coach

dsmoore23@msn.com

Terra Washco-Level III Coach

Terraw5@msn.com

Jen Lazzeri-Level III Coach

j24lazzeri@yahoo.com

DDBC Members

Dawnine Haskins-President

tdcountry@aol.com

Tamie Anderson-Vice President

10acious.t@gmail.com

Meagan Jarecki-Treasurer

meagan.jarecki@adelphia.com

Stephanie Sexton-Secretary

stephsexton@msn.com

Jamie Mijares-Fundraising Coordinator

mijaresjm@hotmail.com

Jen Gaber-Co Fundraising Coordinator

jengaber@q.com

Judy Wiese- Communications Coordinator

tpaulet@outlook.com

(Website and Facebook)