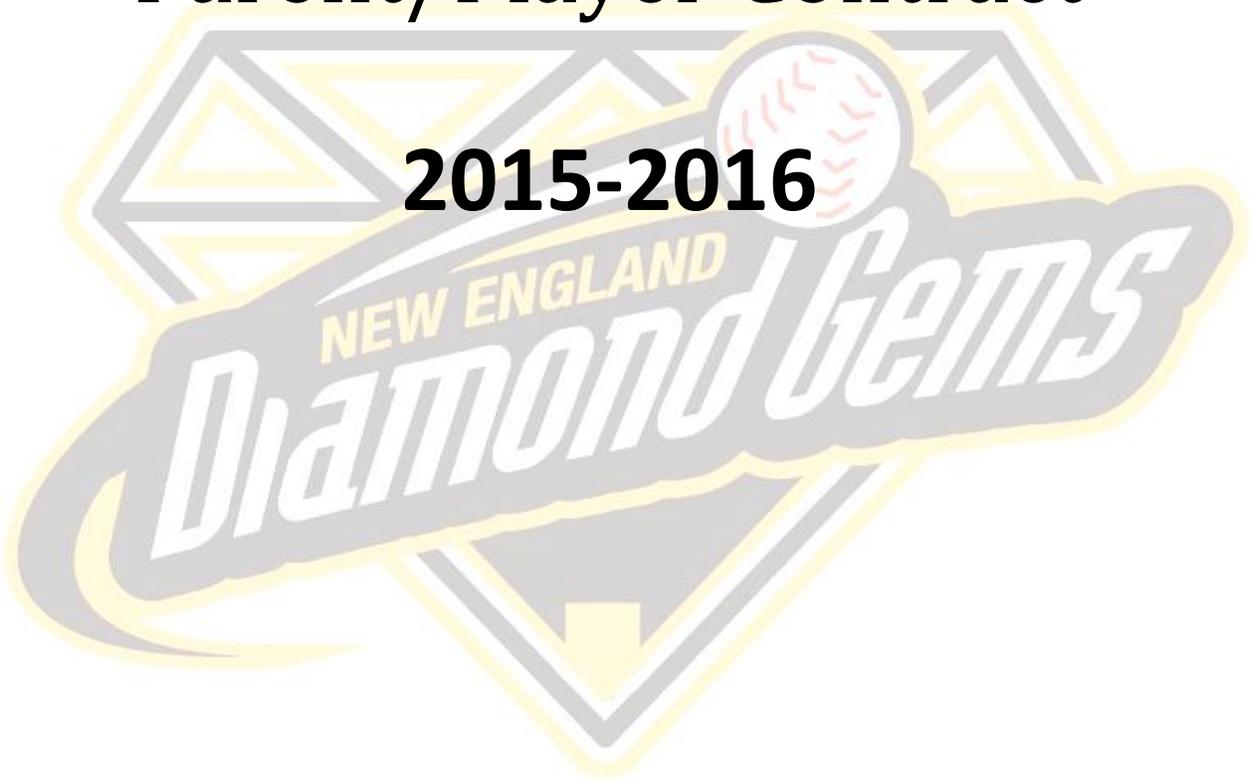


New England Diamond Gems

Parent/Player Contract



2015-2016

“Quality Organizational Values + Quality Coaching + Quality Athletes = Excellence on and off the Field!”

General Information

Congratulations on being selected to the *New England Diamond Gems* softball team! We look forward to a competitive season and we look forward to being part of your player development! Please read this information and then both player and parent need to sign, date and return the Tea Agreement (last page) to your team's head coach. **In addition to the Team Agreement, please submit a copy of your birth certificate.**

Please read the following guidelines that the *New England Diamond Gems* softball organization expects its players and parents to follow. In an effort to clearly define what is expected from each player, parent, and coach the following guidelines have been developed. The *New England Diamond Gems* reserves the right to amend these guidelines at any time with or without prior notice to players and parents.

Active Players

When an individual is chosen to be a member of the *New England Diamond Gems* softball team, the individual becomes an Active Player once the Team Agreement is signed and submitted to the head coach. Active Players are not allowed to practice or play for any other team (except for their school teams) at any time. When we schedule time off, that time should be used for the sole purpose of giving our athletes time to rest and recover from the grueling softball schedule. If a *New England Diamond Gems* athlete is found practicing or playing for another travel ball team, the individual will be immediately terminated from the team, forfeiting all funds and fees paid to the organization.

Fundraising

Our fundraising events are designed to assist a player and their family with the cost of tuition and lessen the financial burden to each player and their family. All players are expected to partake in in New England Diamond Gems fundraising events to keep the individual financial burden to the players and their families to a minimum.

Sponsors

Each player can take the initiative to procure sponsors to help offset their own costs and tuition. The New England Diamond Gems are an IRS 501 C-3 organization and can furnish all appropriate information needed to secure individual and corporate sponsors.

New England Diamond Gems Parent, Family, Fans Code of Conduct Agreement

I understand that travel softball is a highly competitive sport and there are no guarantees as to the amount of playing time or position that my daughter will play during games. I am aware that the team has limited membership, and as such that my daughter's participation is crucial in maintaining the high standards of play the team is working to attain.

The objective of the New England Diamond Gems softball organization is to provide your child with a wholesome atmosphere in which to engage in a healthy athletic competition.

Another goal of the New England Diamond Gems is to build character in our young adults. Because of the excitement and high emotion of some of our games, guidelines regarding what the organization expects from parents and their children appear in this agreement and the player's code of conduct.

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship.

Please know that cheering, excitement and exuberance is encouraged, but please be careful and always express this in a positive manner. Even when being vocal in an attempt to help a child, you should avoid acting or saying anything that is demeaning to your child or someone else's.

By signing this agreement you understand you are not by yourself in a vacuum when things are said and done at games. Your daughter, the players and parents from both teams observe and hear everything that is said and done. Parent's poor or over-the-top behavior will ruin the experience for others.

Parents are welcomed to help at practice. ***At Games, only the coaches will be allowed in the dugout and/or on the bench.***

The organization will not tolerate any behavior on the playing field or in the stands which would hinder the spirit of sportsmanship and cooperation that we are trying to encourage.

1. **DO NOT COACH YOUR CHILD FROM THE STANDS.** The coach and player on the field may have specific signs, or prearranged scenarios to ask a player to do something. Do not interfere with that Coach's instruction.
2. Abusive and foul language is not permitted.
3. I will emphasize skill development with my daughter and agree to practice softball on a weekly basis.
4. Conduct of any guests of parents is the responsibility of the parent/guardian whose child will participate on the team.
5. This is an elite travel program. I will do my part to have my player attend all practices, tournaments/ scrimmages, and fundraisers at the designated time. Because the manager and coaches are volunteers, think twice before saying something critical.
6. Reinforce and remind your daughter to honor the player's code of conduct she is bound to uphold.
7. I will make sure my daughter remains in the dugout and/or on the bench when she is not in the game, and to cheer her teammates.
8. I will remember that children participate in sports to have fun and that the game is for youths, not adults.
9. I will inform the coaches of any ailment, injury or physical disability that may affect the safety of the child or the safety of others.
10. I will not openly complain about or, bring up, team issues or my displeasure about other players in front of my daughter, other players or team parents.
11. I will respect the officials and their authority during the games and will never question, discuss, or confront the coaching staff after the game. I will take the time to speak with the coaches at an agreed time or place.

12. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to understand the concept of what it means to be a team player.
13. I will demand that my child treat other players and coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, ability, or difference of opinion.
14. I will learn the rules and policies of the team, and of the game we play.
15. I will not yell at, criticize, or ridicule my child or any participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
16. I will reinforce to my child not to ask the coaches during a game, scrimmage, or practice about playing time, batting order placement, starting or substitute status. Should I have any questions concerning specific playing time, positions(s), and/or concerns regarding interest in specific areas of the game, I will discuss this matter with the coaches directly at the appropriate time and place (outside of team events).
17. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner. Even after a loss or bad game.
18. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility, verbal abuse, or violence.
19. I will not disrespect the property and equipment used at any sports facility. This includes disposal of trash, restrooms, and parking lot.
20. No alcohol or drug use is allowed at any games, scrimmage, or practice.
21. I will not force my child to play on the team if she does not want to.
22. It is understood that I may withdraw my player from the team at anytime upon written notice to the Head Coach. No fees will be refunded. Any uniforms or equipment must be returned to the organization upon request. Unpaid items ordered prior to withdrawal are forfeited.

Player Code of Conduct

I understand that travel softball is a highly competitive sport and there are no guarantees as to the amount of playing time or position that I will play during games. I will agree to listen and follow the instructions of the team Manager and coaching staff at ALL TIMES.

I am aware that the team has limited membership, and as such that each player's participation (including my own) is crucial in maintaining the high standards of play we are striving to attain. As such, I understand my attendance at all games practices, team meetings, scrimmages and official games is important to the Team's success.

I agree to display good sportsmanship, positive behavior, cheer on my teammates, take pride in personal & team accomplishments, and accept winning or defeat with dignity at all times.

Obey and understand the following:

- During games: I understand that team rules require me and my team mates to remain in the dugout and/or on the bench while the game is going on (AT ALL TIMES). I am not allowed to sit with parents or with spectators. Even, if I am not in the game. (Excused illness only)
- Take pride, care and wear my uniform properly at all times.
- Wear my entire uniform at games (removal of any part for any reason must be first approved by the coach)
- During the game, I will know where my equipment is at all times
- While in the dugout, I will cheer on my teammates. No distracting horse-play.
- I will pay attention to the game on the field at all times. I will watch and pay attention for base running instructions from the base coaches and not from fans watching the game, including parents.
- NO player is to question a coach about player position or playing time during a game. Either about themselves or in second hand conversation to others. There are proper times and place for this. Tournament weekend or games isn't one.
- **I agree not to:** use foul language, physical aggression, and uncooperative behavior/body language (including: facial expressions, back talk, body gestures that criticize my Manager or any member of the coaching staff or players), arrive to practices, tournaments and team functions at designated time (that means I am ready to walk onto the field and play the game at all times regardless of position or playing status). When in the game, I will pay attention to the game and be ready to make a play to help my team at all times.
- **I agree to:** arrive to practices, tournaments and team functions at the designated time (that means I am ready to walk onto the field and play the game at all times regardless of position or playing status). When in the game, I will pay attention to the game and be ready to make a play to help my team at all time.
- I am aware and understand that there will be the consequences for not following these rules and that they are:
 - Change of playing position and or, reduced playing time.
 - Removal from the game/ lineup
 - Released from the team
 - Running laps, sprints, etc.

- Should I have any questions concerning specific playing time, positions(s), and/or concerns regarding interest in specific areas of the game, I will discuss this matter with my manager or coaches directly at the appropriate time and place (outside of games, practices, the team dug out).

Consequences and Penalties

Failure to live up to the Code of Conduct, whether it be by the athlete or parent, may result in one of the following sanctions being imposed by the Coach and/or the Board of Directors upon the athlete:

- a) Suspension from the team - the suspension imposed may range anywhere from one game or practice to one or more games or weeks, depending upon the severity of the misconduct and the surrounding circumstances.
- b) Dismissal from the team for the remainder of the season.
- c) Permanent dismissal from the New England Diamond Gems Organization.

Two Sport Policy

A player/athlete should play softball only during the spring season and not play any other sports during this time. We encourage our player/athletes to participate in sports during the fall and winter seasons of the school year. Playing a second sport during the softball season should be avoided at all costs due to scheduling conflicts and time commitments that both sports will involve. Any other sport being played during the softball season can lead to decrease playing time to dismissal from the team.

Financial/Payment Policy

Each year the Board of Directors of the New England Diamond Gems will develop and implement an organizational and team operating budget. Based upon this operating budget player fee's and dues will be outlined along with a detailed payment schedule.

This player/team payment schedule will outline dates and times that certain fees are due. Failure to fulfill this payment schedule or failure to pay all team fees and dues by December 1st will result in the player not being eligible to play until full payment is received. **Once a due or fee is paid it is non-refundable.** No exceptions.

Financial hardship cases can be submitted to the Director of Operations and the Board of Directors for consideration. Each case is confidential between the Board and the family/player and based on an individual basis and no case will set a precedent.

Possible Reasons for Suspension or Expulsion from the Team

- Failure to comply with New England Diamond Gems Player/Parent Handbook guidelines.
- Two or more unexcused absences from scheduled practices, games, or meetings.
- Walking out on practices, meetings or games.
- Exhibiting disrespectful or negative behavior towards teammates, coaches, officials, or spectators. **Each case will be handled on an individual basis.**

- Use of Alcohol, Illegal Drugs or Tobacco during the season. **Players caught using these will be immediately dismissed from the team. Not only is the use of these drugs illegal, but they also severely inhibit a player's ability to perform at a championship level.**
- Failure to comply with team expectations and rules.



Waiver / Release of Liability

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in the New England Diamond Gems Softball Program, related events and activities, the undersigned acknowledges, appreciated and agrees that:

1. The risk of injury from the activities involved in the program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment and personal discipline may reduce the risk, the risk of serious injury does exist and,
2. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASES or others, and assume all responsibility for any participation; and,
3. I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the nearest official immediately, and
4. I for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, hereby release and hold harmless the New England Diamond Gems Softball Program, their officers, officials, agents and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event ("Releasees"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE.

I have read this release of liability and assumptions of risk agreement, fully understand its terms, understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it, and sign it freely and voluntarily without any inducement. By signing, I agree to the above statements and verify that the date of birth is correct.

Player Signature _____ Date _____

Parent / Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Validated By _____ Date _____



**Quality Organizational Values + Quality Coaching + Quality Athletes :
Success On and Off The Field!**



Player Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

State/Prov. _____ Postal Code: _____

Age: _____ DOB: _____

Email Address: _____

Divison/Team: _____

Guardian Name: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

Guardian Name: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

Medical Information (Allergies, Medical Condition, etc):

Medical Facility Information

Preferred Doctor Name: _____

Phone: _____

Preferred Denist Name: _____

Phone: _____

Preferred Hospital: _____

Insurance Carrier: _____

Policy Number: _____

Medical Authorization

In the event reasonable attempts to contact the parents or guardians have been unsuccessful, I hereby give my consent for (1) the administration of any treatment deemed necessary by preferred Dr. (2), or preferred Dentist or in the event designated Dr or dentist is not available, by another licensed physician or dentist; and (2) the transfer of the child to preferred hospital or any hospital reasonably accessible.

NOTE: This authorization does not cover major surgery unless the medical options of two other licensed physicians or dentists, concurring in necessity for such surgery are obtain BEFORE the surgery IS PERFORMED.

Player Name: _____

Parent/Guardian/Custodian: _____

Date: _____

Signature

AUTHORIZATION TO USE PHOTOGRAPHS AND/OR AUDIO-VISUAL

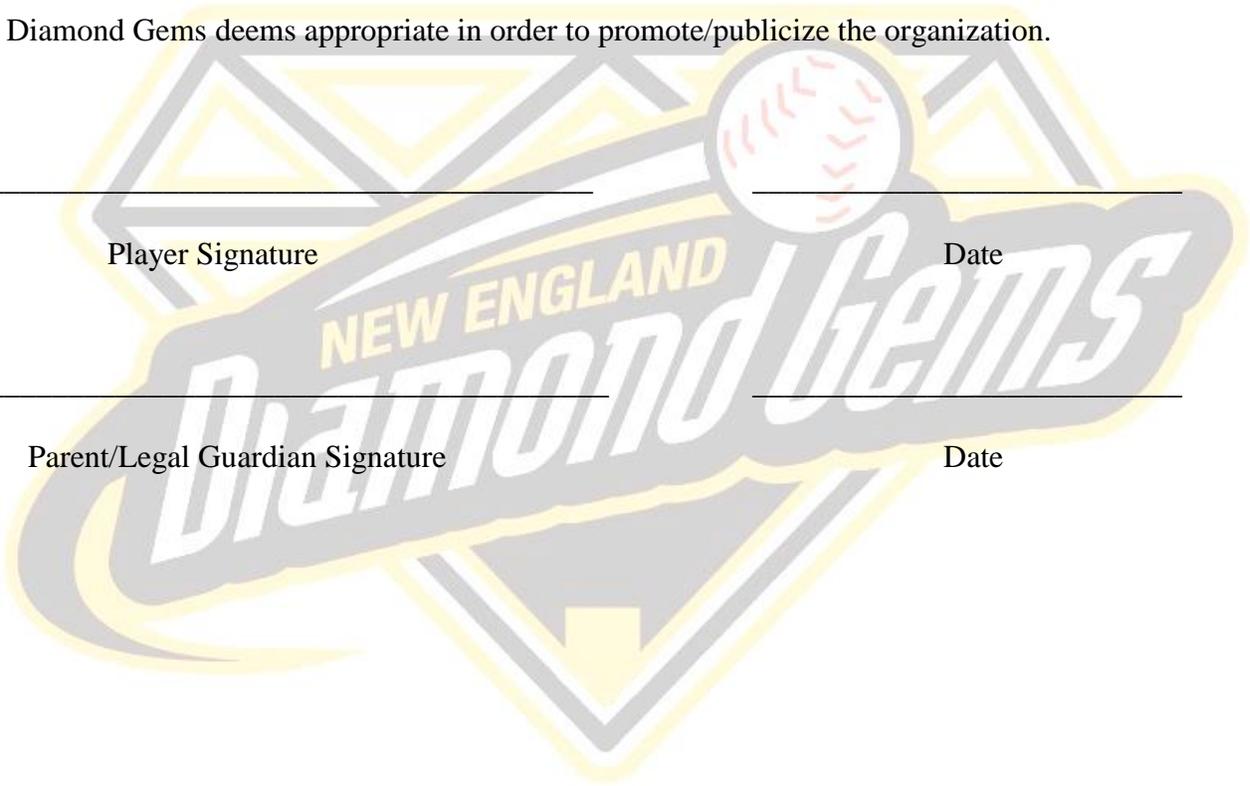
I, _____, hereby authorize the New England Diamond Gems to use, reproduce, and/or publish photographs and/or video that may pertain to me—including my image, likeness and/or voice without compensation. I understand that this material may be used in various publications, public news releases, recruitment materials, broadcast public videos or for other related endeavors. This material may also appear on the New England Diamond Gems Internet Web Page. This authorization is continuous and may only be withdrawn by my specific rescission of this authorization. Consequently, the New England Diamond Gems may publish materials, use my name, photograph, and/or make reference to me in any manner that the New England Diamond Gems deems appropriate in order to promote/publicize the organization.

Player Signature

Date

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date



Player and Parent Contract Acknowledgement

I, _____, have agreed to play solely for the New England Diamond Gems Fastpitch Softball Team for the period September 01, 2014 through August 15, 2015 and further agree to all terms and conditions set forth below.

I agree there are no guarantees about player position or playing time and that these decisions are at the sole discretion of the Coach.

I understand there will be ongoing player development costs, tournament fees, occasional equipment fees, and other miscellaneous fees associated with the expense of funding the New England Diamond Gems operations and agree to pay all expected tuition by the requested due dates..

Any funds, personal property or personal time contributed toward purchasing these items are a **non-refundable usage fee**.

Player and Parent Team Agreement

Player

I have read and understand the New England Diamond Gems Policies & Codes of Conduct and pledge to follow them.

Furthermore, I understand that NOT abiding by the Policies & Codes of Conduct may lead to removal from the team.

Player

Date

Parent/Guardian

As the above player's parent/guardian I have read, understand and will abide with the team's Policies & Codes of Conduct. Further, I understand that NOT abiding by the Policies & Codes of Conduct may lead to removal from the team of my player.

Parent/Guardian

Date

Coach

Date