



# *Miss Shen Softball*

## *Travel Program Information*

### **To: All potential Travel Players and Parents**

Prior to having your daughter try out, Miss Shen would like you and your daughter to take the following information into consideration:

### **Travel team player rosters**

Travel team player rosters are selected shortly after the try out and carry 12-14 players per team. Generally, each age division will have an "A" level team and a "B" level team. The number of players on a roster is at the discretion of the coach.

### **Practice**

Practice will probably begin when the cold weather arrives. Most teams practice in school gyms beginning in November with a few weeks off during December for the Holidays. Practice will resume after the New Year. When field conditions permit, practice outdoors will begin 1-2 days per week during the months of April and May. Practice with your travel team is in addition to your recreation games and practices.

### **The travel playing season**

The travel playing season begins the first Sunday in June and continues into July and end in early August. Travel teams participate in the Hudson Mohawk (HM) travel league and numerous tournaments throughout the playing season. You can expect that HM games will begin on the first Sunday in June and continue the following Sunday with double header day games. After the school year ends, generally, travel teams play two nights per week beginning at 6:15 PM, but may have more or less games during a week, depending on the HM schedule. Unlike recreational play, games are not necessarily held on the same day from week to week. You may, at the coach's discretion, be expected to be at all game locations at least one hour prior to the start of game time. The team will play a 12-14 game HM season that includes one-half of games played at Miss Shen and the remaining games at visiting locations. The locations of the away games are local (e.g. Latham, E Greenbush, and Saratoga, but may be as far as Amsterdam or Hoosick Falls). In addition to the HM games, at the coaches' discretion, practices may be held during season. Typically, your team will participate in at least four-five tournaments from June-August. Most local invitational tournaments begin with a three game pool play beginning with one game on Friday night and two on Saturday, or all three games played Saturday, with single elimination games beginning Sunday morning. Each player is expected to attend these games. At the team's discretion, additional tournaments may be played out of town and require overnight stay.

### **Commitment**

Commitment from both the player and parent is a very big part of being on a travel team. There is much effort, time, and money invested in a travel team. It is expected, with limited exceptions, that all players attend all practices and games. However, we realize

that special occasions do arise (e.g., school functions, religious commitment, weddings, etc.,) and sometimes they are unexpected.

## **Parent involvement and participation**

Parent involvement and participation is a very big part of being on a travel team. With your daughter's selection to a team, you are also selected to be part of the team. You will be required to bring your daughter to all/most practices. When determining your vacation plans or other activities, you will need to consider the team's HM and tournament game schedule. When a conflict arises with your schedule, you are expected to notify your coach well in advance. In addition, beyond writing the usual checks for the cost of uniforms, registration fee, misc. equipment, tournament fees not covered by the league, and out of town tournament expenses, you will be asked to help prepare fields before games and other duties as requested by the coach. If you are not able to attend your scheduled work assignment, it will be your responsibility to find a replacement.

## **Consequences**

Consequences resulting from failure to comply with any of these rules could affect your daughter's playing time. In fact, if there is a history of a player missing too many games during a season, it could affect whether your daughter is selected on a future team. This is because it is not fair to the other 11-12 players on the team who have worked through practices and prioritized their schedule to accommodate the needs of the team. Absences require a team to carry additional players to compensate for possible shortages. Carrying more players than otherwise needed simply to cover unscheduled absence results in more bench time for all players. This is not fair to the player that has dedicated and committed their time to the team;

## **The travel program is a competitive program**

The travel program is a competitive program and is a separate program and is distinctly different from Miss Shen recreation program. Positions and playing time are earned. There is no guarantee of playing time or that your daughter will play her favorite position. Playing time and fielding positions are assigned at the discretion of the coaching staff and will be made based on the needs of the team and the player's performance.

## **The intention of this notice**

The intention of this notice is to bring to your attention the above expectations of both players and parents. It is not intended to scare potential players from participating. The travel program is very exciting for players and parents. Players have a great time learning the game, supporting teammates, and building friendship through softball.