



LEAD-DEADWOOD GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION 2026 PARENT HANDOUT

*Lead-Deadwood Girls Softball Association Board Members :
John Rystrom, Amber Vogt, Tylissa Geffre, Jenica Griffith, Larry Griffith; Asia Ballert, Cassey Cleveringa, Ashley Bertrand, Casey Davis and Juan Molina*

Parents/Guardians/Players:

The Lead-Deadwood Girls Softball Association welcomes you to the 2026 Softball Season! Our purpose is to teach and educate softball fundamentals by: Preparing girls to learn and play the game of softball in a fun, healthy and safe environment; Emphasizing the importance of respect for teammates, opponents, coaches and officials; Teaching life skills through good sportsmanship, leadership, positive coaching, and peer and parent communication; and Building lasting relationships with good friends. It is our goal to have a fun season and we want to make sure we run a smooth program.

If you have questions please contact Amber Vogt at 605-580-1593 Email us at ldgirlssoftball@gmail.com. We are all volunteers and we hope you will all respect this and know we do the best we can!

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS/COACHES: Coaches contact information is below:

U6: Matt Campbell, *Head Coach, 605-441-0286*
U8: Morgan Nelson, *Head Coach, 720-320-0642*
U10: Taylor Ballert, *Head Coach, 605-591-9986*
U12: Jesse Allen, *Head Coach, 605-591-9171,*
U14: John Williams, *Head Coach, 913-205-4777*
U16: Juan Molina, *Coach, 775-482-4214*

SCHEDULES: Practices will start in April/May depending on age bracket. The ap has all practice & games schedules posted as they are available. A generalized schedule is as follows: Monday nights U6/U8/U10; U12 will have HOME Games and Wednesday nights U14; U16 will have HOME Games in Lead-Deadwood. All teams will travel to Sturgis, Spearfish, Belle Fourche, Hill City, Newcastle and possibly Rapid City at least one other night a week, normally we do not have games on Friday nights. (**ALL U12; U14 and U16 Games will be DOUBLE HEADERS - plan accordingly)

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS: Practices & Games will be played weather permitting - coaches will make this decision and will notify you using the app--please watch this for schedule changes. We have until 4 pm to cancel games.

TOURNAMENTS: U6 and U8 teams will NOT be participating in Tournaments . U10; U12; U14 and U16 teams will participate in tournaments. The Association pays an entrance fee to each tournament -- please commit to participating in every tournament and be considerate of this when making travel plans for the summer. Tournaments will be Spearfish: May 16 - U10/U12 only; Belle Fourche: June 5-7; Sturgis: June 12-14; Lead-Deadwood : June 19-21; State A & B - July 10-12, 2026 - Sioux Falls ; State West Rec: July 18-19 - Rapid City (we would love to have as many teams as possible in order to keep this tournament on the west side of the state)

UNIFORMS: We will provide jerseys & socks! Helmets and bats may be checked out during uniform handout if your child needs them. Jerseys and borrowed equipment will be returned at the end of the season! If it is cold a long sleeve black shirt under jerseys is helpful and /or a Digger sweatshirt. Each child will need to provide their own glove and tennis shoes (no slip ons or Converse); cleats can be worn if the child wishes * No metal cleats until U14. Hair needs to be pulled back in a ponytail. Practices = no jerseys please, Games = full uniforms. Please make sure your name is on all gear because believe it or not kids forget things!

FUNDRAISING: The Association has mailed out letters to our local supporters for collection of donations. Please support the organization by purchasing Lead-Deadwood Softball Gear if possible at <https://alpineimpressions.net/product-category/lead-deadwood-softball/>, a portion of the proceeds goes back to the Association. All SALES are final (check the size charts and order accordingly), must be paid online, picked up at Alpine Impressions in Spearfish! Order early so you can have your items by the beginning of the season. We are always in need of sponsors so if you know of someone please let us know!

AP & WEBSITE/FACEBOOK: <https://leagues.teamlinkt.com/leaddeadwoodgirlssoftballassociation> **Facebook:** @diggersoftball TeamLink T is how we contact players & parents; schedules; changes; cancellations; information about the season and daily need to know items! You can invite fans to your page for outside people such as family. Enable Text Messages and Turn On Notifications in the App in order to receive reminders and messages. If you need help to download the TeamLinkT on your mobile device please visit <https://teamlinkt.com/gettheapp.php> for directions on how to download or call Amber Vogt at 605-580-1593 or email me at ldgirlssoftball@gmail.com.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY & PARTICIPATION:

1. BE ON TIME for practice and 30 minutes early to a GAME START TIME. Your Coach may change this.
2. Let us know if your child will not be in attendance, it is a challenge to create a lineup when you are not sure who will be there. The kids who are present at all practices and games will get priority play time! You can do this on the ap.
3. Watching and participating in practices is encouraged and appreciated, an extra 15 minutes of one-on-one time with someone at home is a huge bonus and can make a big difference to their development!
4. We are VOLUNTEERS! You may not have realized it, but by signing your child up to play, you also volunteered to help! We will be asking parents to sign up to help for each game...if each parent commits to two games a year it really does help!
 - U6, U8 & U10 will need a parent to help with snacks and dugout management (this means making sure kids are prepared to go on the field and ready to bat, but not coaching)
 - U10-U16 will need volunteers for bookkeeper at each game home & away
 - Preparing the field for a game is time consuming. The teams playing the first game of the day are responsible for field set-up (installing bases, raking, watering, chalking; dragging) and the teams playing the last game of the day are responsible for field take down (remove and store bases, be sure that all equipment is put away properly, drag fields and lock the storage area).
 - We hold one tournament a year! We need all hands on deck to make this a success! This means field prep time and gates starting Friday all the way through Sunday!



We ask if you have a complaint or problem with a Coach give yourself 24 hours before calling any of us, this is our league rule!