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To: **Prospective Parents & Players**

From: **PYAA (Pumas Fastpitch Coaches)**

RE: **2021 Team Expectations**

COMMITMENT & COMMUNICATION – We have committed to work with each player in an effort to maximize their respective softball talents. It is our expectation and understanding that each player, and her parents will maintain their commitment to our softball program. This includes supporting our decisions as to team assignments, position assignments, and coaching judgments made during games and the season as a whole.

We also expect each player to be present at all games and practices unless excused by prior arrangement. Part of your commitment is that you will communicate with the coaches. We can only be successful, and each of our players may only prosper if we can rely upon one another to maintain this commitment.

CONCERNS - If there are any concerns, you should feel free to speak directly to us. Discussion should be limited to your daughter. There will not be discussion about other players. This **MUST** be done away from the team and other families. This **CANNOT** happen during a tournament. We respect and openly welcome questions on why we do what we do. If you need to ask questions this must be done respectfully, professionally, without emotion, and without profanity. We are all professionals and we expect that all parents act and display our program as such.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES & PHOTOS – At first practice in January, each player in the organization needs to make sure that they have a copy of their birth certificate and a current photograph. These are required in order to allow the player to participate in certain tournaments.

SCHEDULES – Tournaments and practice schedules for your daughter's team will be emailed to you. Practices and games are typically 1-2 days/week in the Winter/Spring and 1 day/week in the Summer. We will play in approximately 4-6 tournaments between spring/summer/fall. Most of the venues will be within 1-2 hours of Plymouth, WI.

PRACTICES – We will be working on fundamental drills, particularly focusing on throwing mechanics, fielding, sliding, hitting mechanics and base running skills. If your daughter is not a little tired upon returning home from practice, we probably are not doing our job. Throughout the year, we make no bones about the fact that we will be demanding of your daughter regarding her effort and her focus on improving fundamental mechanics and mental approach to the game. We have a lot of ground to cover in a very short time, so we very much need and appreciate your efforts to have your daughter at each of the practices. If there is a conflict, please notify us in advance.

SPORTSMANSHIP - Our coaches, players and fans will be expected to maintain appropriate behavior and respect their teammates and opponents, their coaches and those of the other teams, umpires, fans from their own and opposing teams, and most importantly themselves and the Plymouth organization. There are no exceptions to this rule. NO profanity will ever be used by families towards umpires or other organizations.

PHILOSOPHY, PLAYING TIME & POSITION ASSIGNMENTS – In our program, we attempt to maintain a balance between highly competitive play, having fun, and the player development and opportunity. We do not, however, try to have fun at the expense of learning opportunities. Some of the fun in the game is in having both individual success and team success. Accordingly, there is both a time to mentally focus and a time to play around. As each player moves up through the organization's teams, the competitive issues are assigned more weight in making decisions. Part of our goal is to build an attitude of continuous improvement in the minds of all the players, and a realization of what it takes to win. This is not accomplished by ignoring competitiveness for the sake of playing time.

**We do not promise equal playing time or assignment of a specific position to any player. Playing time is determined based upon the individual player's attitude and effort; the coach's overall assessment of the performance of the player; and the competitive needs of the team.* There is no unimportant position on the field or on the bench – each is critical to overall success that may be achieved by the team! Parents – you need to reinforce these concepts.

By signing this form, you agree with and understand the focus of this organization -

Player Signature

Parent Signature

PLAYER & PARENT COMMITMENT AGREEMENT

As a player for Plymouth Pumas Fastpitch Program, I understand and agree to give my best efforts and maintain the best attitude for the team. I understand that this is a team sport, and that I may be required to make personal sacrifices for the good of the team. I also commit to:

- Attend every practice and every game as scheduled unless excused by my Head Coach in advance.
- Maintain a positive attitude and good sportsmanship.
- Avoid gossip and unkind remarks about my teammates and coaches.
- Maintain a positive and friendly relationship with my teammates and coaches.
- Actively and willingly participate with all organizational activities and scheduled games and events.
- Give my best effort, mentally and physically, always.
- Accept instruction from my coaches and attempt to utilize what has been taught to me by the coaches.

Finally, I agree that I will maintain my commitment as a player to my teammates, my team, and the organization until the season is fully concluded.

Player signature

As a parent, I have discussed each of the foregoing matters with my daughter. Also, I understand and agree that I will do the following:

- Have my daughter at every practice and every game as scheduled unless excused.
- Maintain a positive attitude and good sportsmanship.
- Avoid gossip and unkind remarks about my daughter's teammates, other parents or coaches.
- Maintain a positive and friendly relationship with the parents in the organization and with the coaches.
- Actively and willingly participate with all organizational activities and events.

Finally, I agree that my daughter shall maintain her commitment as a player to the team, and the organization until the season is fully concluded.

_____ *Parent / Legal Guardian Parent / Legal Guardian signature*