



* Learn to Play Introduction *

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the introductory level of softball in the Pickering Softball Association – **Learn to Play**. We are pleased that you have chosen to introduce your son or daughter to what we hope will be a sport that they will enjoy for many years to come.

The primary objective of this program is for the players to have **FUN**. Although we will not be playing the adult version of softball, the lessons and activities are meant to give your child more opportunities to touch the ball and develop the basic skills that will help them improve their abilities and increase their enjoyment of the game.

The Learn to Play program was designed to address the common characteristics of young children. These include:

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| -Love of FUN | -Love of Action |
| -Need for approval & praise | -Short attention span |
| -Different maturing rates | -Low ability to think abstractly |
| -Low ability to do complex tasks | -Low ability to cope with stress |
| -Low level of fine motor skills | -Low ability to make decisions quickly |

Each night will be split between lessons and skill development followed by a game. The lessons will run for half an hour (6:45 pm to 7:15 pm) and then the game (from 7:15 pm to 7:45 pm).

The success of the Learn to Play program will depend on your help and support. In each lesson we will require the help of several helpers to run activities and provide feedback so that we can ideally maintain a 1:2 or 1:3 helper to child ratio. You are welcome to help out every session if you are available and able to do so. Recognizing that this may not be the case for many of you, the head coaches will be encouraged to create a schedule so that 2 families are planned to help out each night. It is NOT necessary to be knowledgeable about softball or the rules. All you need is a SMILE and ENTHUSIASM.

The program is run by volunteers at all levels who are giving of their time and expertise in numerous capacities. If you are in a position to step forward to coach or be an assistant coach please strongly consider it. It will be a decision that I`m confident that you will find very rewarding.

Each of the coaches will be provided with the Learn to Play Level I guide and a CD that has all of the lessons and documents on it for them to use in assisting them with planning the seasons activities. Coaching clinics are available prior to the start of the season for coaches who volunteered and were able to attend them.

It is important for the coaches and the league to be aware of your expectations as parents of players and of the program overall. We have included a brief pre-season questionnaire that we encourage you to complete and return to us at the address below or through your coach or convener. Please feel free to provide feedback through your coach or the convener or directly to myself at any point throughout the season. This will help us build an honest and open relationship and will also help us align our goals and expectations for the program with yours.

Some key dates for you to be aware of are the following:

Monday, June 2 nd	1 st night of lessons
Saturday, September 6 th	Champions Day – Early Registration 2009

Please go to our website at www.pickeringsoftball.com regularly to watch for updates and league wide information.

Thank you for choosing the Pickering Softball Association for your child`s introduction to softball. We hope that it is just the beginning of a lifelong passion for the sport.

Sincerely,

Dave Northern
President
Pickering Softball Association
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