#### Q: When and where can I go to register?

A: We have online registration through this website and we will hold ONE in-person registrations in the boardroom at our fields at Christina Park. Please see our Registration link for more details!

## Q: What equipment will be required?

A: All players are required to have their own helmet with faceguard. All helmets must meet the NOCSAE standards.

Each player will need her own glove and softball cleats (T-ballers do not need cleats, but they are suggested). WE DO NOT ALLOW METAL CLEATS IN OUR LEAGUE!

Bats are optional, it is not required that each girl have their own bat, they can borrow from the coach or a fellow teammate. Bats must be ISF certified, NSA approved, and have a BPF of 1.20. All bats must also have the USSSA fingerprint. Before purchasing a new bat or glove, you may want to consult with a board member or a coach regarding the size needed. Very often, girls come to practice with gloves and bats that are either too big or too small for them.

T-ball players play with an 11" softee ball, Coach Pitch and Mini-Minors play with an 11" softball, and Minors and Majors play with a 12" softball.

# Q: Do we need coaches/How do I sign up to be a coach?

A: Yes, we are always in need of head and assistant coaches in all of our age divisions. Please check the appropriate coaches boxes on the registration link when registering. You will need to pass a background check and become certified through NAYS. There is more information on the main page under "Coaching Certification."

#### Q: We don't live in Lakeland. Do you have any zoning restrictions?

A: No, we have no zoning restrictions. We accept players from all over central Florida and have had players from all over Polk County, Hillsborough County, and Hardee County.

# Q: When and where will practices be held?

A: All practices will be held at our home fields at Christina Park. The days of practices will vary depending on the team as the head coaches are allowed to select their own practice nights. Coaches can choose any night of the week as well as during the day on Saturdays. For T-Ball and Coach Pitch, practices will start at 6 pm. For the Mini-Minor division, teams may have practices at either/or both the early slots (6 pm for practices) or the late slots (7:30 pm practices). The older divisions, Minors and Majors, will always have late practices with practices starting at 7:30 pm during the week.

## Q: What days and times will games be at?

A: For T-Ball and Coach Pitch, all games will start at 6:15. For the Mini-Minor division, teams may have games at both the early slots (6:15 pm for games) or the late slots (7:45 pm for games). The older divisions, Minors and Majors, will always have late games starting at 7:45. Games may be on any night of the week, excluding Wednesday, and will vary depending on the team. We do not have any regular season games on the weekends.

#### Q: When are try-outs?

A: Try-outs dates (all ages except t-ball) are listed on the main page. What happens if we can't attend try-outs? All girls will be placed on a team, whether they attend try-outs or not. We do a try-out process to try to separate the girls by experience and ability so that we do not have one team with all advanced players and one team with all new players. It is not required to attend, but it does help the coaches when selecting their teams to have all girls there. If you are making any special requests, such as a preferred coach or any players to be on the same team, all players involved in the request MUST attend try-outs in order for their request to be considered.

#### Q: How are the team's selected?

A: Teams are selected by a draft. Each Head Coach is allowed to "save" three players, usually the head coaches child and either the assistant coaches children, the sponsor's child, or the team mom's child. Each coach will then pull a number out of a hat, that number will be the order in which he/she selects their players for their team. We start with number 1's selection and all coaches choose a player until we get to the last number. The person with the last number gets 2 selections and then we work our way backwards back to the beginning where then the coach with #1 will then make 2 selections and so on until the last player that tried out has been selected. All the girls names who did not attend try-outs are placed in a hat and then beginning with the coach with the next selection, names are blindly drawn from the hat until all players have been placed on a team. Once players are selected or drawn, there can be no changes made to the team roster.

# Q: Can we request a specific coach?

A: Yes, you can request a certain coach, however, there is no guarantee that you will receive that coach. The request is placed next to your child's name and the coaches are made aware of the request. It is up to the coaches at draft time whether the request is upheld or not. Because the teams are done by a draft, after a coach selects a player, players cannot be moved to another team. It is up to the requested coach to select your child before another coach has the opportunity. In cases of players with experience or advanced skill where many coaches may want the player on their team, requests for a certain coach will probably not be upheld. If the player does not attend try-outs, they will be drawn at random and coaches will not have the option of selecting them in the draft.

# Q: My daughter has a friend playing, can we request the same team?

A: Yes, you can request the same team as another player, however, there are no guarantees that they will be placed on the same team. The request is placed next to your child's name and the coaches are made aware of the request. It is up to the coaches at draft time as to whether the request is upheld or not. Since the teams are done by a draft, after a coach selects a player, players cannot be moved to another team. Our coaches try their best to uphold requests during the draft, but unfortunately, it does not always work out. Also, if one or both of the players does not attend try-outs, their names are blindly drawn at the end of the draft and there would be no way for a coach to select both players for their team.

# Q: How and when will I be notified of my daughters practices?

A: After the try-outs, all of the coaches will get together and separate the girls into the teams. Once that process is over, the league will need a few days to organize the information and then rosters will be sent to all head coaches. The head coach from each of the teams will contact all of the players on his/her team.

#### Q: What will her uniform consist of?

A: For Spring, players are supplied with a uniform shirt, shorts or pants (shorts for t-ball and coach pitch and pants for the other divisions), and socks. In Fall, we only provide the players with the uniform shirt and they can wear any kind of bottoms that they would like. Once the uniform order is submitted, sizes cannot be changed.

#### Q: I've heard that we may play teams from other cities. Where are those parks located?

A: Yes, we do on occasion play teams from other local leagues. Please follow the link to directions to Miss Winter Haven Softball and Miss Bartow Softball.