



Melbourne Softball Association

TITANS

Season 2008

Information Booklet

Welcome to TITANS

For many years now Melbourne Softball Association has maintained a program to develop the skills of individuals. Melbourne Softball is committed to providing an opportunity for any individual or group to enjoy the varied experiences of our sport. We provide the opportunity for young members of our softball community to participate in activities that will improve not only their knowledge and skills of our sport, but their life skills. Anyone and Everyone can be involved and benefit if they wish to. New players always welcome.

The Association has a strong policy of ensuring all members have an opportunity to participate in our sport and that their involvement will be enjoyable, beneficial and will reflect the individuals' interests and abilities.

A highlight of this program is our development squad (M Squad), members of which enjoy specialized skills training sessions from where they compete in a team (TITANS) in the Open grade competitions (A, B or C grades). Players are placed in a team relative to their age and or level of ability.

Players from this squad can eventually advance within the program to compete in a club structure and or represent Melbourne at various state squads and competitions. They will also have the opportunity to strive for state, or the ultimate, national selection representing Australia at the Olympic Games.

The program does not just cater for individuals wanting to play softball. If playing is not your style or you wish to broaden your softball experience the program offers the opportunity of learning or improving skills as a coach, scorer, administrator or umpire.

2008 Competition at Fawkner Park

The Melbourne Softball Association's competition at Fawkner Park South Yarra commences on the first Sunday of May annually, in 2008 on Sunday May 4th.

This shall be preceded by pre season training to be held on Sundays, April 20 & 27 from 11am – 1pm.

Games are played each Sunday through until August 24th except for the Queens Birthday weekend in June. The competition finishes with finals commencing on 31st August with the Grand Finals to be held on September 14th. A detailed fixture will be available early in the season.

The scheduled times for the games are:

A, B, C GAME TIMES 1.00pm or 3.00pm - with the occasional double header

Squad training shall commence at 11.00am every Sunday during the season and shall conclude at 12.15pm to allow a break prior to the commencement of the scheduled 1.00pm game.

Members are encouraged to check out the Fawkner Park home page www.melbourne.softball.org.au for updates on the competition and other softball happenings. Also go to Titans own website www.titans.softball.org.au

If you are registered with another Association, you must obtain a permit to participate and the form completed by your club/association must be received by MSA by 18th May.

TEAM MANAGEMENT

The Association appoints personnel to assist in the conduct of the program. These responsible adults are experienced members with a wealth of knowledge and experience to offer.

A Head Coach of the program shall be appointed and he/she and her support team will be in charge of the teams each Sunday. Coaches shall hold accreditation with the National Accreditation Scheme of the Australian Sports Commission, or be in training for attaining accreditation. Similarly personnel have passed the Federal Working with Children Check or are in the process of obtaining their card.

The program will be supported by the Association's Director of Development, Julie Nemeth and General Manager, Elaine Duyvestyn.

HELP

As always it takes more than the players to put a team on the diamond for a game/season.

The call goes out for Scorers and Managers for each of our teams. Maybe you know someone who might like to come to the park and help out?

Or someone who is interested in giving coaching a go? With support and assistance of course.

Also necessary for a game are umpires. Training and support is provided for novices or experienced umpires.

Interested? If you would like to lend a hand, please see any of the Executive members who will steer you in the right direction.

2008 Fees

Fees are levied by the Melbourne Softball Association and shall be paid by all players participating with Titans.

For MSA members this fee incorporates registration with both the Victorian Softball Association and the Australian Softball Federation. Also included is a levy to cover MSA registered players for both public liability and personal accident insurance premiums.

The Association, in an endeavour to keep costs to a minimum, subsidizes fees for members of MSquad. And again this year has maintained the fee for all participants at \$120.00 (one hundred & twenty dollars) for the 19 week program.

An initial payment of \$50-00 **MUST** be paid prior to the second game on May 11th. The balance of fees must be paid by May 25th. We understand that a lump sum payment may be difficult for some, so an arrangement to pay by regular installments can be made with the general manager.

Team Uniform

All players are required to be in full uniform as soon as possible, but by no later than the fourth week.

The uniform consists of black pants and teal polo top with 'Titans' print.

Tops will be available for purchase from the Association at a cost of \$25.00 and individuals should arrange their own black pants (either softball or track pants).

The other required uniform item is socks and these should be plain black.

In cold weather players may wear undershirts or skivvies and these must be black or, alternatively, windcheaters or similar in plain (no writing) black only. Caps or Visors if worn should be plain black with no insignias.

During the first three weeks of the season, orders will be taken for warm-up jackets which feature the Team and players name. These are not a compulsory part of the uniform.

Equipment

The Association provides all the necessary equipment for players including bats, gloves, balls and safety wear such as batting helmets and catchers' protective gear.

As they gain experience, players may choose to purchase their own equipment, particularly gloves. Coaches or committee members are always on hand to give advice on purchasing equipment.

It is advisable for players to wear appropriate footwear such as softball/baseball cleats or boots with moulded soles as the grounds may become soft and slippery. *Please note that boots with metal cleats or screw-in stops are not permitted in any circumstance under the rules of the Melbourne Softball Association.*

The Clubrooms

The clubrooms are there for use of members and supporters. Everyone is invited to congregate and relax in the social room. And there are toilets, change rooms, showers and don't forget the canteen where there is yummy 'stuff' for lunch.

Safety in the Park

The Melbourne Softball Association is committed to providing a safe environment in which to play our game.

Diamonds are inspected regularly to determine their suitability for play, however, as this is a winter competition it is to be expected that playing surfaces may become wet and muddy - so come prepared.

In the event of severely inclement weather, the Association will determine, on the day, if games shall be played. However, if a lightning storm should move in, all play will be suspended or cancelled. If lightning does occur, do not shelter under or near trees - it is safer to be out in the open.

All players will be given a medical form which we ask you to please fill out as accurately as possible. These forms will be kept in each team's kit bag for referral in case of an emergency. The forms are destroyed at the end of the season.

Customarily, if a player is in need of emergency treatment, we arrange an ambulance or transport them to the nearest medical facility, which is the Alfred Hospital on Commercial Road.

Don't panic! Injuries requiring medical treatment are not common place, but players need to know strategies are in place if such an emergency should occur.

Dogs in the Park

If you wish to bring your beloved canine to softball, please be aware that the park has designated areas where your dogs must be kept on leads. There is also a requirement to clean up after your dogs too, so perhaps come prepared with poo disposal equipment. The Ranger patrols regularly and we would hate to see any fines imposed on our softballers.

Team Management

Melbourne Softball Association has a Committee of Management responsible for the overall management of softball at Fawkner Park. Full details can be found on the website but for your information key members relevant to MSquad are :-

HEAD COACH to be advised

Coaching Co-ordinator

Sue James 0419 420660 lafox@hotmail.net.au

General Manager:

Elaine Duyvestyn 0402 051543 melbsoft@satlink.com.au

Director of Development:

Julie Nemeth 0402 014848 juliean2@optusnet.com.au

Director of Technical Areas:

Neil Duyvestyn 0413 147823 duyvo_3977@yahoo.com

Fawkner Park Clubrooms Phone - 9866 1873

Please don't hesitate to contact any of the above committee members for assistance on any matter.

www.melbourne.softball.org.au

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