

ALBANY HUSKIES SOFTBALL

PLAYER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The following information contains roles and responsibilities that the Albany Huskies Softball Coaching Staff has identified for you as a member of the high school TEAM. We feel these are roles and responsibilities that the TEAM needs you to strive to achieve in order for us, as a TEAM, to reach our goals.

It is important to understand that as a member of the Albany High School Softball TEAM we expect your focus and dedication to be concentrated on the success of the TEAM rather than to be concentrated on just your own individual success. We WIN and LOSE as a TEAM. Working together in order to achieve collective success is one of the great things that makes TEAM sports so special. We rely on and depend on each other.

The Albany Huskies Softball Program focuses on 3 Primary Objectives:

- 1) *Positive Energy:* Have fun, encourage your teammates and bring positive energy to the field.
- 2) *Fundamentals:* Strive to improve your fundamental physical skills as well as your fundamental knowledge of the game of softball.
- 3) *Work Ethic:* Grit and determination in your effort on and off the field. We strive to embrace the grind of sports and work harder than our competitors, even when no one is watching. We sprint on and off the field at all times. Practice Hard, Play Hard, Hustle and Be Coachable.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS A TEAMMATE:

- 1) Ask yourself everyday, “What have I done today to make the TEAM better?”
“What could I do tomorrow to make the TEAM better?”
- 2) Be a positive member of this TEAM. Attempt to bring the team up rather than down. If issues arise on our TEAM, we need to communicate and talk about these issues. Do Not leave them unresolved. Communication is the key.
- 3) Hold each other responsible for the mental side of the game, while also encouraging each other to succeed.
- 4) Recognize that all TEAM members are equally important to the TEAM concept, but not all TEAM members will have the same roles.
- 5) Recognize that no one owns a certain position, even if that TEAM member was a starter in that position the previous season. This is a new year and thus a new TEAM. The coaching staff attempts to put players into positions that we feel will benefit the TEAM.

- 6) Being an upper grade player or a returning varsity player on our TEAM is an incredibly important role. If you are a junior or senior and/or a returning varsity player work hard to set the tone of our practices and game days and help mentor the younger players so that they can learn the level of mental focus and work ethic that is expected.
- 7) Focus on the variables that you can control. You can not always control the decisions of the coaching staff, but you can control how you will respond to those decisions.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES ON THE FIELD:

- 1) Make the basic fundamental fielding and throwing plays. Errors will happen, but we need to keep them to a minimum. No mental errors. Know what to do before the ball is put into play.
- 2) Don't let errors become contagious. After an error occurs, be the player who wants to make the next play and makes the next play.
- 3) Know your fundamental responsibilities for coverages. This includes covering bases, as well as backing up plays.
- 4) Communicate on and off the field. Talk about the current situation, remind each other of the current situation. Be vocal and collaborate.
- 5) Be willing to dive and get dirty, hustle at all times. Be willing to do whatever is necessary to make the play for your teammates. Do not be afraid of the ball, be willing to block the ball with your body if need be.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS A HITTER:

- 1) Learn your style and strengths as a hitter. Ask yourself, "In what way can I be a threat offensively?" Examples: If you have power, how can you best utilize that power and in what situations? If you have speed, how can you best utilize that speed and in what situations?
- 2) Recognize that we can not score runs without putting the ball in play and getting players on base. Anything that gets you on base is a positive for the TEAM.
- 3) Make contact and put the ball in to play. Force their defense to make a play in order to get you out. Strikeouts will happen, but as a TEAM we need to concentrate on keeping strikeouts to a minimum.
- 4) Learn what to do with specific ball and strike counts. (Hitters Counts: 2 balls 0 strikes, 3 balls 1 strike) (Defensive Counts: Anytime with 2 strikes) (Take a Strike Count: 3 balls 0 strikes)
- 5) Concentrate on hitting line drives or hitting the ball on the ground. Fly balls are easy outs against the good teams.