



**Melbourne Softball Association**

**FAWKNER PARK  
PANDAS**

**Season 2009**

**Information Booklet**

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## WELCOME TO FAWKNER PARK PANDAS

Melbourne Softball Association 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 girls and boys, aged 10-14 years old, in our softball community to participate in activities that will improve not only their knowledge and skills of our sport, but their life skills. This opportunity is provided by the team, Fawkner Park Pandas.

The focus is on Fun and Friendships!

Anyone and everyone can be involved and benefit if they wish to  
- players of any level of skill, fitness and ability can join in.

New members **always** welcome - no experience necessary.

## 2009 COMPETITION AT FAWKNER PARK

Melbourne Softball Association's competition at Fawkner Park South Yarra commences on the first Sunday of May annually, in 2009 on Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Games are played each Sunday through until August 23<sup>rd</sup> except for the Queens Birthday weekend in June. The competition finishes with finals commencing on August 30<sup>th</sup> with the Grand Finals to be held on September 13<sup>th</sup>. A detailed fixture will be available early in the season.

The scheduled time for the games is **1.00pm - with the occasional double header**

Squad training shall commence at 11.30am every Sunday and shall conclude at 12.30pm to allow a break prior to the commencement of the scheduled 1.00pm game.

Members are encouraged to check out Melbourne Softball Association's home page [www.melbourne.softball.org.au](http://www.melbourne.softball.org.au) for updates on the competition and other softball happenings. Also go to Fawkner Park Pandas own website [www.pandas.softball.org.au](http://www.pandas.softball.org.au).

If you have played softball in another competition other than with your school, you may need to obtain a permit to participate. The form completed by your club/association must be received by MSA by May 17<sup>th</sup>. Please speak to your coach for clarification.

## TEAM MANAGEMENT

Melbourne Softball Association appoints senior members 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 their support team will be in charge of the teams each Sunday. They will be supported by Melbourne Softball Association's Executive Committee.

## **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, Managers and Umpires 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.

Training, support and assistance is provided for novice officials and this is ongoing as experienced is gained.

Interested? If you would like to take on a role or just generally lend a hand, please see any of Melbourne Softball Association Executive Committee members who will steer you in the right direction.

## **2009 FEES**

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

For Melbourne Softball Association members, this fee incorporates registration with both Softball Victoria and Softball Australia. Also included is a levy to cover Melbourne Softball Association registered players for both public liability and personal accident insurance premiums.

Melbourne Softball Association, in an endeavour to keep costs to a minimum, subsidizes fees for development squad members. The fee for all participants is \$100.00 (one hundred dollars) for the 19 week program.

An initial payment of \$50.00 MUST be paid prior to the second game on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The balance of fees must be paid by May 24<sup>th</sup>. 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 royal pants and royal blue tee shirt with 'Pandas' print and these will be provided by Melbourne Softball Association.

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

## **EQUIPMENT**

Melbourne Softball 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.

Players should at all times wear enclosed footwear such as runners or trainers.

Players may wear specific footwear such as softball/football 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**

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, Melbourne Softball 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.

## KEY CONTACTS

Melbourne Softball Association has an Executive Committee 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 the squad are:

|   |                      |  |
|---|----------------------|--|
| <b>Head Coach</b>                                     | <i>to be advised</i> |  |
| <b>Coaching Co-ordinator</b><br>Sue James             | 0419 420 660         | <a href="mailto:suzie01@live.com.au">suzie01@live.com.au</a>           |
| <b>General Manager:</b><br>Elaine Duyvestyn           | 0402 051 543         | <a href="mailto:melbsoft@satlink.com.au">melbsoft@satlink.com.au</a>   |
| <b>Director of Development:</b><br>Julie Nemeth       | 0402 014 848         | <a href="mailto:juliean2@optusnet.com.au">juliean2@optusnet.com.au</a> |
| <b>Director of Technical Areas:</b><br>Neil Duyvestyn | 0413 147 823         | <a href="mailto:duyvo_3977@yahoo.com">duyvo_3977@yahoo.com</a>         |

**Fawkner Park Clubrooms Phone:** (03) 9866 1873

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

And whenever you are logged on to the internet, check out our websites for current information:

[www.melbourne.softball.org.au](http://www.melbourne.softball.org.au)

[www.pandas.softball.org.au](http://www.pandas.softball.org.au)