



Member Handbook 2016

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A message from the President

Welcome to the Melbourne University Softball Club. We are very excited to have you on board. This handbook has been designed so that you've got all the information that you will need in one handy place.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our new members for joining the club as well as all our existing members for their continued support. Without you, this club would not exist and it is with your interest and support that this club has become such a success. Furthermore, I'd like to thank the members of the MUSC Committee for all of the hard work and dedication that they have put into this club.

Some key highlights to look forward to this year include lots of social events including our annual fundraiser, mid-season trip, end-of-season trip, Australian Uni Games fundraiser, and presentation night, as well as pub dinners after training, and many, many games of softball in Fawkner Park.

Finally, I'd just like to remind everyone that this club is run entirely through volunteer support. We ask that you respect this, thank people whenever you can and where possible to lend a hand in some way as it makes this club the best it can be!

I'm looking forward to a fantastic season this year. See you all on the diamond soon!

Molly Hoak
President – Melbourne University Softball Club

Our Vision, Mission and Values

Our Vision

Our vision is to continue to develop and grow with the game of softball by providing a friendly and enjoyable environment for all past, current and future members.

Our Mission

Our mission is to build and develop softball in our community by providing all members with the opportunity for further development of their skills. We want our members to be passionate about the game allowing them to fully enjoy their time at the club.

Our Values

We recognise the talents of each individual and treat all club members with respect, fairness and dignity.

We take pride in the inclusiveness of our club and strive to create lasting relationships, which lead to a strong and vibrant community.

Our goals and decisions are founded on the principles of integrity and honesty.

Our goal is to win and to excel at the highest level while acting and competing in a way that reflects our core values. We aim to compete in an environment of respect and fairness at all times.

We understand that we are always learning and therefore seek improvement and development on a continuing basis.

We will respect and comply with the rules of the game.

We will operate the club at the highest possible standard and in a socially responsible manner.

Club Profile

The Melbourne University Softball Club was established in 1961 and continues to provide opportunities for members of not only the university but also the general public.

The last few years has seen the club grow from one team in 2011 to three in 2013. This is an achievement that the committee is very proud of and one that we are keen to see continue beyond 2016.

The club trains at Melbourne University during the week and plays at Fawkner Park in South Yarra on Sunday afternoons from May – September.

We provide opportunities for female players from junior to senior level regardless of their skill base as well as the opportunity for students to represent Melbourne University at inter varsity competition.

Key Contacts

For participation enquires please email secretary@melbourneunisoftball.org.au

Amanda or Molly will be your initial point of contact for all enquiries and they can forward you on to the coaching staff if necessary.

Karen and Cindy are our treasurers for 2016. Please contact them for all enquiries regarding fees or payment plans: treasurer@melbourneunisoftball.org.au

Jayne, Karen and Julia are your welcoming committee and first point of call for any members who require support on or off the diamond. We pride ourselves on being a supportive community and want all members to feel welcomed.

Our head coach for 2016 is Jell Radford. Please speak to her or Molly Hoak if you have any concerns or queries regarding the technical aspects of the game.

Committee Members

President: president@melbourneunisoftball.org.au

Molly Hoak

Vice President: vicepresident@melbourneunisoftball.org.au

Danielle Stephens

Secretary: secretary@melbourneunisoftball.org.au

Amanda Shipp

Treasurer: treasurer@melbourneunisoftball.org.au

Karen Peterson/Cindy Hsiao

Media & Communications: media@melbourneunisoftball.org.au

Caroline Reid

Fundraising & Social Co-ordinator: fundraising@melbourneunisoftball.org.au

Julia Knight/Jayne Perry

Head coach: coach@melbourneunisoftball.org.au

Jell Radford

General Members

Clair Straw – Equipment officer

Tegan Haering

Membership, Fees, Uniforms, Attire and Equipment

Membership

General **\$235**

UoM Students **\$175**

The following are included in the above memberships

- Insurance
- Association registration
- Equipment

Uniforms

All players are expected to purchase a playing top and cap from the club.

These are all available from the club and the prices are to be confirmed closer to the start of the season.

Bottoms are to consist of black shorts or pants. Socks are also to be black. Knee high socks are required. The club can provide these if necessary.

Undershirts/pants are advisable when the weather turns cooler.

Optional Club attire available

There may be the opportunity to purchase club hoodies and other merchandise

Equipment

The club will provide all playing equipment, however you may wish to purchase your own glove, bat or cleats.

Since we play in winter, cleats in particular can be useful due to the slippery conditions of the grass diamonds and must not be metal studs. Football boots work just as well on the grass diamonds at Fawkner Park.

There are a couple of retailers in Melbourne who specialise in softball equipment. They are

Fielders Choice Victoria

fielders.net/

Ausport

www.ausport.com.au/

K2 Baseball & Softball

www.k2baseball.com/store/

Medical Information & Insurance details

The club has basic first aid kits available at every game and ice is available from the canteen at Fawkner Park. Several members of the coaching staff hold Level 1 First Aid certificates.

Ambulance Cover

Please be aware that in the event of an emergency or serious injury an ambulance will be called. Members or guardians in the case of minors will bear the cost of this transport.

It is therefore recommended that all members have ambulance cover.

Insurance Details

Playing memberships provide some health insurance cover (provided by the University) for any injuries sustained while training or playing for the MUSC. This cover is not comprehensive therefore it **is strongly recommended that each player has their own private health insurance to ensure that they are covered completely in the event an injury occurs.**

Competition Fixtures & Events

Training

Training will be undertaken on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 5:45 until 7:30pm.

Tuesday sessions will be held in the batting cages. We utilise an online booking system so you only have to turn up for your allotted time.

Wednesday sessions will be held on the main oval.

We encourage all members to attend at least one training session a week. Please get in touch if you are unsure of the location of our training facilities and we will point you in the right direction.

Melbourne Softball Association Metro League

Commences Sunday May 1st

Game times are 1pm or 3pm.

Warm up to start promptly one hour prior to the game. Be in uniform and ready to warm up.

If you are unable to be there on time it is requested that you let one of the coaching staff know as soon as possible.

The fixture will be distributed as it becomes available.

Events

Major Fundraiser

Date TBA

Uni Games Fundraiser

Late September

Presentation Day

Mid October

Annual General Meeting

Early December

The club holds regular after training dinners as well as monthly social events to allow you to engage with fellow club members in a fun and friendly environment.

Sponsors

Our generous sponsors for 2015 were:



Club Code of Conduct

All players, members, spectators, officials and volunteers are expected to follow our Club's codes. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

COACHES are required to:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion
- Support, encourage and involve all players regardless of their talent level
- Never ridicule or yell at players for errors or poor performance
- Always consider the wellbeing and safety of participants before performance and results
- Encourage participants to value their performances and not just results
- Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behavior both on and off the field
- Maintain respectful and appropriate relationships with all participants
- Ensure all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of participants
- Promote the positive aspects of the sport (eg fair play)
- Always respect the official's decision and support them to carry out their role
- Display consistently high standards of good sporting behaviour and appearance
- Follow all guidelines laid down by the national governing body and the Club
- Hold appropriate valid qualifications before commencing to coach
- Never condone rule violations, unfair or unduly rough play or the use of prohibited substances
- Never smoke or drink alcohol whilst in an official capacity
- Never use offensive language or behavior
- To act as a role model at all times

Club Code of Conduct

PLAYERS are required to:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion
- Play by the rules and respect the umpire's decisions
- Display good sporting behavior at all times
- Never use offensive language or behavior towards anyone or engage in sledging or bullying of any person
- Co-operate with your coach
- Adhere to club policies including smoke-free areas and liquor license requirements
- Never behave in a manner that would damage the reputation of the club either on or off the field

VOLUNTEERS and SPECTATORS are required to:

- Act as good role models and ambassadors for the club at all times
- Always welcome opposition players, spectators, officials etc to the club
- Never use offensive language or behavior
- Treat everyone including the opposition with respect regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion
- Display consistently high standards of good sporting behavior including respecting the official's decisions
- Adhere to the smoke-free policies of the club
- Not to consume alcohol in any place other than where the club's license allows
- Adhere to and support the Club policies
- Be trustworthy

Problems or Complaints

Steps to Making a Complaint / Achieving Resolution

- Speak to the person causing the problem and inform them of the behaviour, decision or action that the complaint or grievance refers to. Discuss possible solutions
- Speak to a Committee Member for advice on possible solutions and/or intervention
- Make a formal complaint in writing to the Committee
- Seek independent arbitration if a suitable resolution cannot be reached
- Refer the complaint to the Equal Opportunities Commission, the Industrial Relations Commission or relevant body.
- It is expected that complaints are made away from training or game day

Remember when considering a complaint that the Club is staffed by volunteers who are giving up their time. We do our best to ensure everyone is treated in a fair and equitable manner.

2015 in Pictures

