

**The Lake Norman Lightning Player
Information Sheet**

Name: _____

Age: _____ D.O.B. _____

Address: _____

School you attend: _____ Grade: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Parent/Family Information

Parent/s name: _____

Cell Phone # _____

Email address: _____

Do you have siblings? What are their names?

Besides softball what other sport do you play?

What are your hobbies?

Have you ever done a community service project/s?

List one thing you are proud of accomplishing?

HISTORY

In the summer of 2012 The Lake Norman Lightning Organization was founded by Tommy Strahan and Chase Colbert. After the recreation season came to an end in 2012 they decided that they wanted to do more for the Lake Norman area in the sport of softball. Their idea was to build an organization that allowed each team to possess its own unique identity but together they share a common mission and vision of placing player development, character/personal growth, community involvement and team success as their primary mission.

They chose girls that have a passion and desire to play a game they love and wanted to develop their skills so they could compete in middle, high school and ultimately college softball.

They started with one team in their first summer season and added a 12u team in the fall of 2012. In the spring of 2013 The Lake Norman Lightning added a 10u team giving them 3 teams in the organization. In 2016, The Lake Norman Lightning Organization will have six teams representing them (10, 12u-04 12u-03, 14u-02, 14u-01 and 16u).

In the summer of 2014 the organization had three of their four teams place in the top 5 in The Summer World Series, with the 10-u team taking home the organizations first World Series Championship. Since that time the organization has won many Championships among all their teams in ASA, NSA and Top Gun

The LKN Lightning Organization players are from Lancaster, SC; Concord, NC; Charlotte, NC; Mooresville, NC; Cornelius, NC; Huntersville, NC; Davidson, NC; Denver, NC and Waxhaw, NC.

The Lake Norman Lightning is one of the region's most respected organizations in travel fastpitch, offering competitive travel-ball programs for young ladies of all ages.

We invite you to see how LIGHTNING STRIKES!

PHILOSOPHY

As parents and members of our community we all recognize the value of a great education for our children and the role that a strong organization and its members can play in our community. The Lake Norman Lightning objective is to provide competitive opportunities for youth softball players in the Lake Norman and surrounding communities: to instill proper fundamentals and sound mechanics that prepare these players for middle school, high school and college level play.

The Lake Norman Lightning Fastpitch Organization is made up of young ladies living in or around the Lake Norman area. The Lake Norman Lightning coaching staff is committed to its players not only in developing proficiency in fastpitch softball but fosters an environment that emphasizes academic excellence, encourages community service, promotes maturity and discipline, and cultivates strong, confident young ladies. At the same time we are promoting leadership skills, hard work, sportsmanship, self-discipline and teamwork, which can only benefit our community in the future and instill values that will carry over into their adult lives.

COACHING STAFF

05: Head Coach-JR Burroughs

04: Head Coach-Paul Kirby; Assistant Coaches: John Gerland & Mike Caine

03: Head Coach-Matt Rose; Assistant Coaches: Jason Hamilton & Doug Rongo

**02: Head Coach-Tommy Strahan; Assistant Coaches: Marcus Howell,
Dmetri Moore**

01: Head Coach-John Engle; Assistant Coaches: Scott Treon and Scott Simon

HS: Co-Head Coach-Stephen Romeo/Greg Pearce; Assistant Coach: Billy Mize

COMPETITION

The Lake Norman Lightning is a competitive travel organization we are not a recreational fastpitch team. As such, we will travel to where the competition is; it is our intent to schedule 14 tournaments a year. Even though the competition in this area is strong there will be some tournaments where we travel and stay overnight.

We are sanctioned with ASA, NSA, USSSA and TOP GUN. The coaching staff is committed to balancing competitiveness and maintaining a positive experience for all players. The statement "Playing time is earned not given" means the amount of playing time each player receives will depend on attitude, skill level, commitment, absences, injuries and game situations. **"ALL PLAYERS WILL EARN THEIR POSITIONS!"**

Although we will always play to win, it is not a win at all cost mentality. All players and parents must understand that, unlike recreation softball, the coaches do not guarantee minimum playing time. You have to earn your time and compete for it every practice. The coaches will inform you of where you stand and what you need to improve on to earn more playing time or become a starter.

TEAMWORK

We practice as a team and we play as a team. Therefore, we expect that all players will attend practice, games and team functions as scheduled. Because of the time commitment and other obligations, we understand that sometimes things come up and you are unable to attend. We ask that each player do the best they can to attend and be on time. Everyone is expected to put the best interest of the team first, before any thought of any individual accomplishments. No individual coach or player is more important than the team.

PRACTICE

Player and team performance will improve only with practice. We will practice 2 to 3 times a week. When we are invited to play in scrimmages everyone plays. If we practice at 6 be there 10 minutes early so we can get started at 6. Practice is the time to evaluate a player during drills and game like situations. Parents are encouraged to work with their daughter or daughters on days we are not practicing.

We practice at North Mecklenburg High School. Coach Strahan is the assistant softball coach at North Meck. We are to take care of the field and the facility and leave it better than we found it.

To help in planning, practice schedules and tournament dates will be provided as far in advance as possible. We ask that each player do the best they can to attend and be on time.

There are teams that struggle to find a place to practice and call home but we are very fortunate to have North Meck at our disposal. Take PRIDE in your home field!!!

PARENT/PLAYER INVOLVEMENT

The LKN Lightning Organization is a volunteer organization and is run by volunteers. It is a family oriented organization that relies on the support of the parents and families to run smoothly. If your daughter is or has been selected to become a member of the LKN Lightning Organization, you may help the organization by car pooling, chaperoning, fundraising or helping with any number of other "not too stressful tasks." Sometimes you may be asked to help on the field during practice.

Fundraising is the key to keeping cost down for your daughter and is the only way the LKN Lightning can afford to pay for itself. Without fundraising, the organization would have to raise cost and that is something we don't want to do. Our dues are 700.00 a year. As a member of the LKN Lightning Organization we will expect every player and parent to participate in fundraising activities, IT IS NOT AN OPTION.

If you are a parent that is in a difficult financial situation we have opportunities for your daughter to make up her dues. They can sell extra raffle tickets or if you know of a company that would sponsor your daughter. Dues are what allow us to operate on a regular basis. Dues help pay for insurance, softballs, tees, training equipment, uniforms, field use/maintenance and tournaments.

COMMUNICATION

The key to being successful is communication. We believe that having an understanding of the expectations of all the parties is important for everyone involved: players, parents and coaches. For the LKN Lightning Organization to be successful your voice at the appropriate time and in the appropriate place is encouraged. Parent and player suggestions and ideas are important to the success of each player and the LKN Lightning Organization. Please contact the coach of your team if you are running late, need help with getting your daughter to practice or cannot make practice.

INSURANCE

While playing ASA, NSA, USSSA and Top Gun sanctioned events including practices, scrimmages and tournaments the team is covered by a supplementary insurance plan that covers the players and coaches. This coverage is a secondary coverage. This means, if any other health plan covers a player or coach, the team plan begins coverage after the player's or coaches "primary plan."

TEAM RULES AND GUIDELINES

Participation in the LKN Lightning Organization is a privilege, not a right. The following policies and procedures must be observed for a team member to retain this privilege.

PARENTS

*Parents will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, opponents and officials at every game and practice.

*Parents are NOT allowed around the dugout, come into the dugout or talk to their daughter through the dugout for any reason during the game (Emergency Only).

*Parents must understand and agree to the financial and time commitment.

*Parents will place the emotional and physical well being of their child ahead of their personal desire to win.

*Parents will support coaches and officials working with my child in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable softball experience for all.

*The coaches have made a substantial commitment to every player and the team. If parents have issues or concerns please refrain from complaining to other parents or other teams if something troubles you (it will get back). Issues are to be discussed only with the coach but not directly after the game/practice when emotions may be high.

*NO parent is allowed to interfere with practice or games by coming onto the field or around the dugout to coach their daughter. You brought your daughter/s to our organization for a reason...let the coaches' coach.

*Coaching from the stands is prohibited it causes player confusion and will result in poor play. We are the coaches and parents are there to support their child and the team. Positive encouragement is always welcome.

*DO NOT yell, harass, abuse or disrespect or cause a disturbance against an opposing player, parents of opposing players, opposing coaches or game officials. We expect our parents to display good sportsmanship, no matter the circumstance.

*The coaching staff and team are responsible for the conduct of their spectators; parents please conduct yourself in a manner in which your daughter would be proud.

PLAYERS' RULES OF CONDUCT

*100% effort always (including practice)

*Exhibit a high standard of discipline, both in the dugout and on the field.

*Understand your top priorities should be your religion, your family, education and then sports.

*Players will display good sportsmanship at all times

*Players and their families understand that they must make LKN Lightning activities a priority.

*Players and their families must understand and agree to the time commitment it takes to play at a high level.

*We expect that players will always conduct themselves in a way that their parents would be proud. Discipline and good fair play are hallmarks of The Lake Norman Lightning Organization.

*The coaching staff is available at all times to any team member to listen to any comments, concerns or suggestions they have to offer or answer any questions the team member has to ask.

*Players will carry their own equipment and wear their uniform with pride

*Players are to treat their parents and coaches with respect

*Players are not to leave the dugout during a game (emergencies only)

*Players must work on their skill set outside of regular practice time.

COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES

Each coach will do whatever is possible, to assist every team member to enhance a player skills and abilities, this includes meeting a player for extra practice time.

The coaching staff will lead by example. Their conduct will be professional and above reproach at all times, displaying good sportsmanship and fair play.

The coaching staff will make the ultimate decision regarding positions and playing time.

The coaching staff will not talk about a player to another parent or player regarding playing time.

The coaching staff will be given opportunities to attend coaching clinics to enhance their knowledge of game skills, strategies and professionalism.

Release Forms

The following forms must be filled out completely and turned in to your coach before a player can participate in any team related activities.

Player Data Sheet

Medical Release Form

Liability Release Form

Two copies of child's birth certificate

Dues

**THE LAKE NORMAN LIGHTNING
PARENT/PLAYER AGREEMENT**

I fully understand that by paying the annual Lake Norman Lightning fees to be part of the organization that there is no guarantee of minimum or maximum playing time and that there will be no refund given if a player leaves the team.

Parents/Players also understand that if they leave the team or are removed from the team all game pants, helmet and jersey's are property of The Lake Norman Lightning Organization (except jersey with your name on it).

Parents/Players also have received and read the philosophy, team rules and guidelines by which The Lake Norman Lightning Organization operates, player information sheet and liability release and medical release forms.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Player Signature

Date