The Dynamite Document was developed to provide general information to parents, athletes and coaches about the KVGSA Dynamite Travel Team program and procedures.

A Dynamite player is defined as an athlete that participates on the KV Dynamite Travel Team for their age division. This player is a role model to the other members of the association. They are a team player and treat their teammates, coaches, officials and fans with respect at all times. They will take responsibility for their behaviour, have a positive attitude and understand that youth sports are an opportunity to learn and have fun. All KV Dynamite Travel Team athletes and parents must commit to the Dynamite Protocol by signing the attached document and returning to their team manager. (see attached Appendix A)

A mandatory parent/player meeting will be held once the teams are selected to review the Dynamite Document and participation requirements.

**Tryouts**

There will be a minimum of 2 tryouts for Dynamite team selection if needed. Players must attend at least 1 of the tryouts to be considered for the team. Eight Travel Team players are selected by 2 independent evaluators and the final four players are chosen by the head coach. Underage players wishing to play outside their age division must submit a written request to the association which must then be approved by the board prior to tryouts. Underage players must be selected by the evaluators and be in the top 8 players selected. Underage players cannot be selected in the bottom 4. Those that are not successful are still required to attend tryouts for their correct age division and won’t automatically be placed on the team without trying out first. A desired 12 athletes will be named to each Dynamite Travel team. Additional practice players may be added at the coach’s discretion. If there is enough interest in an age division, a second Dynamite B team could be formed.

**Schedule**

Dynamite Travel Teams can expect to practice at least twice a week and play 3 of the 4 weekends per month. Some games will be at home and others will be away primarily within NB, PEI or NS. Schedules will be provided, wherever possible, for the summer in late May. Specific weekends will be identified as “no play” weekends to allow families to schedule their vacation times around softball.

The John Jellison Fundy League programs are reserved for recreation level players, BUT if a Dynamite player would like the opportunity to play, you can be listed as an alternate and will be contacted if additional players are needed. Dynamite practices and games always take priority over Recreational League play.
U16 Dynamite will be required to volunteer at least 1.5 hours a week teaching the Learn to Play Program.

**Uniforms**

- Uniforms consist of black ball pants, red socks, red belt, hat, Black jersey and Green jersey.
- KVGSA provides a Dynamite hat the first year you play Dynamite. Green and black jerseys are to be purchased by the player. These jerseys are yours to keep and care for while you play Dynamite. Each player is responsible for replacing their jersey if it is damaged or no longer fits. If your number is a duplicate of a senior athlete, you will be provided with a loaner jersey with a different number for that season. Loaner jerseys must be returned at the end of the season to the team manager. At the start of each season the team manager will be responsible for making sure all jerseys are in good shape for the upcoming season. Any players who do not return their loaner jersey by October 1st will be subject to a replacement fee of $50. NOTE: this jersey policy does not apply to U12. U12 will be assigned green jerseys at the start of the season that need to be returned.
- Players are responsible for the purchase of the pants, socks and belt.

**Fees**

- Every participant must first register with the KV Girls Softball Association online using Sport Ngin. This cost is $105.00 before May 1st. This fee covers:
  - Insurance paid to Softball New Brunswick
  - Field Rentals for practices and home games
  - Dynamite hat
  - First aid supplies and ice packs
  - Use of league equipment (bats, balls, catcher gear, bow nets, batting tees, bases)
  - NOTE: Gloves, helmets and infielders masks are the responsibility of the player.

- Every participant must also pay a Dynamite Travel Team Fee. This cost varies each year for each team depending on the schedule, number of tournaments and amount of travel required. It is approximately $150.00. This fee is used for things such as:
  - Umpires for home games
  - Tournament Fees
  - Water and Ice

**Playing Time**

KVGSA supports the Long Term Player Development model which states that for athletes under the age of 12 years, fair play is supported. U12 also follows the Softball Canada Minor Rules as outlined in the Official Rule Book. This means that U12 coaches utilize a rotation to ensure approximate equal playing time. Once you reach U14 and above, we support a more competitive model where playing time is based on performance, participation in practices and positive attitude. Some players at the U14, U16 and U19 levels will receive more playing time than others.

**Coach Requirements**

We encourage all Dynamite coaches to receive coaching certification. At least one coach on each team must have their Level 1 coaching certification to attend Provincials or U12 Easterns. Level 2 coaching certification is required to attend Eastern Canadian Championships. Coaches will be expected to commit to at least 2 practices per week and travel a minimum of 2 weekends per month. Dynamite Coaches must also prepare practice plans for every practice. Volunteer parent coaches must take special care to avoid bias when
coaching their daughter(s). KVGSA expect all coaches to work together, treat each other respectfully and make the betterment of the team top priority. Coaches must work with the team manager to plan the summer schedule.

The Golden Glove Award was created in 2016 to encourage our players to play to their full potential as both an individual and a teammate. The Golden Glove is to be awarded based upon a behavior that the coaches have observed during a recent game or practice. Examples of behavior to be recognized include enthusiasm, responsiveness and respect for coaches, hustling during practices and games, leadership and maintaining a positive attitude.

**Head Coach**
- Once tryouts are complete, the head coach is responsible for nominating their choice(s) for the position of assistant coach(es), which must then be approved by the KVGSA board.
- Head Coach is in charge of leading the team and assistant coaches on and off the field. He/She is responsible to ensure a practice plan is in place for each practice. This task can be delegated to assistant coaches at the head coach’s discretion.
- Head Coach will ensure the gear required for practices and games is at the field. This task can be delegated to assistant coaches at the head coach’s discretion.
- Head Coach will work with the team manager to create season schedule and will have final approval for the season schedule.
- Head Coach will consult with Assistant Coach(es) to determine the recipient of the Golden Glove each week.

**Assistant Coach**
- Assistant coaches support the head coach in all aspects of the game.
- Assistant coaches back up the head coach if he/she is not available.
- Assistant coaches will work together with the head coach on strategy, line ups, player rotation and practice plans.
- Booking fields and umpires for all home games.
- In charge of the team first aid kit and keeping it stocked with supplies

**Manager**
- Team Manager is responsible for all communications to the coaches and team.
- Team Manager will schedule a mid-season meeting with parents and Technical Director to obtain feedback, both constructive and positive which will then be forwarded to the board for discussion.
- Team Manager works with the head coach to create season schedule.
- Booking hotels for away games.
- Managing all team funds.
- Registering and paying for Tournaments
- Coordinate sizing and ordering of uniforms (if needed) with other Dynamite team managers.
- Team’s private Facebook page maintenance, where applicable.
- First point of contact for the team.
- Collection of the Dynamite Protocol forms and Birth Certificates at season start.
- Collection of Team Fees and reconciliation to the KVGSA treasurer.
**Team – Parents and Players**
- Coordinate any fund raising activities.
- Coordinating Team Building events with the coaches.

**Provincials**
- Provincials are held in the province over a weekend and are typically 3 days starting on the Friday. These are SNB sanctioned events and location, schedule, and rules are all provided by SNB. All players and coaches are expected to participate at Provincials. If additional KVGSA players are allowed/needed to assist the team at Provincials, they can be added to the team roster when registering for the event. This is at the discretion of the coaches and KVGSA board. Expenses for this event (hotel, meals, transportation) are the responsibility of the parents. Tournament fees will be paid by the team manager using team funds.

**Easterns (for U12 only)**
- Our U12 Dynamite team will attend U12 Atlantics, regardless of how they finish at Provincials. This tournament is held in a different Atlantic Province each summer and is determined by a rotation. Location, schedule, and rules are all provided by the hosting association. It is typically held in September and starts on a Friday and ends Sunday. Teams from NS, PEI, NL and NB participate in this event. If additional KVGSA players are allowed/needed to assist the team at Atlantics, they can be added to the team roster when registering for the event. This is at the discretion of the coaches and KVGSA board. All players and coaches are expected to participate at Atlantics. Expenses for this event (hotel, meals, transportation) are the responsibility of the parents. Tournament fees will be paid by the team manager using team funds.

**Easterns (U14, U16, U18)**
- Easterns start on Thursday at noon and end on Sunday evening. You must earn first or second place at the qualifier to attend Eastern Canadian Championships unless you are the host team. Host teams automatically get a spot and 2 additional teams from that province are able to attend. Easterns is sanctioned by the Eastern Canadian Committee (www.easterncanadian.ca) and location, schedule, and rules are all provided by this committee. All players and coaches are expected to participate at Easterns. The team is permitted to pick up players within NB to add to the roster at Eastern Canadians. This must be requested through Softball New Brunswick. The objective is to take the strongest possible team to Eastern Canadians. Expenses for this event (hotel, meals, transportation) are the responsibility of the parents. Tournament fees will be paid by the team manager using team funds.

**Communication**
Communication for Dynamite teams will come from the team manager unless delegated to another member of the team. Communication will come via email, private Facebook Group page or another group chat forum. If you have a problem, concern or issue with anything regarding your participation in the Dynamite Program, you can discuss it with your team manager. The team manager may then
recommend that you submit your concern via email to kvnt@kvsoftball.ca. These emails will be reviewed by the Dynamite Committee (a KVGSA sub-committee) and you will be contacted to discuss the issue. Coaches or individual KVGSA Board Members are not to be contacted directly by email or phone regarding complaints. Coaches or individual KVGSA Board Members are not permitted to accept or address complaints that are not submitted by this method.

Surveys may be provided to the U12 parents at the end of the season; the results will be reviewed by the board and then forwarded on to the coaches and team manager as applicable. Surveys may be provided to the U14, U16 and U19 players at both mid-season and the end of the season. They may be completed anonymously if preferred as we wish to have honest and valuable feedback to give to the coaches and team manager.

Team Rules:

- Zero tolerance of inappropriate or unsportsmanlike behaviour to your own team, or the opposing team. (ie: abusive language to anyone, physical abuse, foul gestures, safety issues, booing, taunting, etc.)
- Zero tolerance policy for illegal substance use during team activity. (ie: drugs and alcohol)
- Zero tolerance for disrespectful attitudes and bullying behaviour to teammates, coaches and officials. This includes any display of disrespect on social media.

Disciplinary Process:
Upon signing the **Dynamite Protocol** agreement (Appendix A), the athlete must abide by the **Team Rules** for the season. Depending on the severity of the situation, the athlete will be dealt with in one of the following ways if a rule is not adhered to:

1. The athlete will be taken aside by the coaches and manager to address the issue. The behaviour will be recorded on the player’s code of conduct form.
2. The coaches will have a meeting with the athlete and their parents. The behaviour will be recorded on the player’s Dynamite Protocol form.
3. The athlete can be asked to leave the Dynamite program. Fees will not be refunded.

Player and Team Culture:
1. I will treat my teammates, coaches, officials and fans with respect at all times.
2. I will not use foul or abusive language, taunt, argue or make foul gestures to an official, coach or player.
3. I will address my coaches by their first name or “coach”, not mom or dad, where applicable.
4. I will listen and learn from my coaches and hustle at all times.
5. I will attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my Team Manager if I cannot. I understand that if I miss practices consistently without explanation, that a discussion with the board will ensue, and my playing time may be restricted as a result.
6. I will cheer and encourage my teammates.
7. I deserve to have fun and will alert my parents and coaches if it stops being fun.
8. I will remember that it is only a game but will always give it my all and use it as an opportunity to learn and have fun.
9. I will take responsibility for my behaviour, both in person, and on social media.

Parent Agreement:
1. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
2. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game or practice, and on social media.

3. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting or using profane language or gestures.

4. I will emphasize skill development and practice attendance and how they benefit my child, and will do my best to get my child to every practice and game. I will notify the Team Manager if my child will be absent.

5. I will respect the officials and coaches and their authority during games and will never question, discuss or confront them at the game field.

6. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

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**Player Name**  
**Player Signature**  
**Date**

**Parent Name**  
**Parent Signature**  
**Date**