

**ATHLETE ERA ASSOCIATION CHAMPION**

**Background and Purpose**

Softball Saskatchewan has contracted Athlete Era out of Saskatoon to develop a mobile App for the sport of softball. The App is provided free of charge to all member Minor Softball Associations and all coaches in their Timbits U10, U8 and U6 age divisions. This app is intended to replace the hard copy of the Softball Canada Timbits Manual. For those still wanting to use the Timbits manual it is available from our office. The primary functions of the App include the following:

 **Pre-loaded drills & plan libraries from the Timbits softball Manual to help you start coaching like a pro in no time.**

Easily find and review drills to help develop a variety of softball skill fundamentals. All drills come complete with short video clips, text descriptions outlining how to run the drill, key coaching points, and ways the modify the drill based on players' current ability.

 **Prepare for practice faster by designing, sharing, and managing your plans in-app.**

Build your own plan for upcoming practices in seconds by modifying plans from the library. Linking pre-made drills directly into your plans helps effectively communicate in more detail what is happening during practice with everyone on your team. Spend more time coaching and less time explaining drills.

 **Keep your team organized with scheduling, messaging, and attendance tracking tools.**

Softball Mobile comes complete with the most essential team communication tools for coaches. Manage your schedule, keep track of who is coming to practices or games, and share important information with everyone on your team by posting an announcement. All communication tools are fully integrated with our in-app coaching content libraries.

**Functions**

Following are the primary functions for being an Athlete Era Champion.

* Be familiar with the Athlete Era App and all the functions contained in it. The Athlete Era Champion will play a key role in establishing communication, visibility and awareness of the App to all coaches in their Associations U10, U8 and U6 age categories.
* Act has the Association expert and primary contact for coaches to reach out to for help and guidance in utilizing the App.
* Promote and encourage participation of all U10, U8 and U6 coaches in the Association to use the App to assist with practice plans and communications.
* Prior to the softball season each Champion needs to organize a coach’s meeting/orientation to set up the App and provide information regarding the use of the App and its functions.
* Develop and maintain an up-to-date contact list of all coaches in the Association who were provided the Athlete Era App recognizing it is only for coaches in the U10, U8 and U6 age groups.
* Identify and provide feedback to Softball Saskatchewan with any recommendations and challenges regarding the implementation process or the App itself.

**Softball Saskatchewan Support**

Prior to the start of the season, we will organize and provide an opportunity for all Champions to attend a virtual orientation to assist them with their duties and to become familiar with the use of App. To assist the Association Champions in successfully implementing this program Jacqueline Eiwanger jac@softball.sk.ca from our office is available to help and provide any guidance, information and support for you and your Association.

**Reporting**

The Athlete Era Champion is responsible to his/her Minor Softball Association and provide regular progress updates.

**Evaluation/Recognition**

Upon conclusion of the 2021 softball season Softball Saskatchewan will evaluate the success each Association had in implementation of providing their coaches the Athlete Era App resource. Softball Saskatchewan will provide recognition to those Champions that successfully had engagement from their coaches in all U10, U8 and U6 age categories.

**Acknowledgement**

Softball Saskatchewan would like to thank Softball Canada for allowing us the opportunity to be the first Provincial Softball Association in Canada to implement such a program for it‘s members.