

ROAD RUNNERS SOFTBALL CLUB (ALSO KNOWN AS “RUNNERS”) MEMBER HANDBOOK

Welcome to Runners

Whether you are new to the Club, returning for another season, volunteering behind the scenes or supporting from the sidelines, we welcome you to Road Runners Softball Club.

Runners is a family-friendly softball club providing opportunities for junior and senior players to enjoy, develop and compete in softball.

At Runners, we keep it simple:
Join. Play. Belong.

Our Club

Runners is based at Tilley Reserve, 416–418 Hancock Road, Surrey Downs, and is part of the Central Districts Softball Association (CDSA) and the wider Softball SA and Softball Australia community.

Our junior and senior programs provide opportunities for players with different abilities and experience levels.

Being a Runner

Being a Runner means being part of a team, a Club and a community. We all play a part in creating a welcoming, supportive and enjoyable environment for everyone. This means:

- Support and encourage your teammates
- Play fairly and enjoy the game
- Show respect to everyone involved in softball
- Listen, communicate and work together
- Come prepared and ready to play
- Take pride in our Club and look after our equipment and facilities
- Let your Coach or Team Manager know when you can't attend
- Lend a hand with team jobs and pack-up
- Help make Runners a place where everyone feels welcome

Communication

The Club may use email, revolutioniseSPORT, Facebook, Instagram, team communication groups, SMS and direct communication from coaches or Team Managers. Members and parents should regularly check approved communication channels and respond to important requests.

Social Media

We encourage everyone to use social media in a positive and respectful way and to represent Runners well.

- Be respectful and considerate in your posts and comments.
- Respect the privacy of others and follow Club requirements when sharing photos or videos, particularly those involving juniors.
- If disagreements arise, take the conversation offline and work towards a positive resolution.
- Take a moment before you post and consider how your words or images may affect others and the Club.

Safety and Member Welfare

Runners is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment. Concerns about bullying, harassment, discrimination, inappropriate behaviour, child safety, member welfare or other serious matters should be raised with an appropriate Club official as soon as possible.

Serious matters may also need to be referred through CDSA, Softball SA, Softball Australia or the appropriate external integrity or statutory authority. Members should not feel they have to manage a serious concern alone.

Complaints and Grievances

Raise the concern

Where appropriate, speak first with your Coach, Team Manager, Junior/Senior Coordinator or relevant Committee member.

If it is not resolved

A formal complaint to be made to the Club Secretary, President or another appropriate committee member.

Serious Matters

Child safety, abuse, harassment, discrimination, serious misconduct and integrity matters should be reported immediately.

Smoking, Vaping, Alcohol and Drugs

Members and visitors must comply with applicable smoke-free and vape-free requirements at Club facilities and events.

Players, coaches and officials should not smoke or vape while representing the Club in a playing or official capacity.

Alcohol must not be consumed by players, coaches or officials while participating in games or training.

Illegal drugs are prohibited at Club activities and events.

No member should attend Club activities while impaired in a way that could compromise safety or appropriate behaviour.

Training

Training is held at Tilley Reserve, on the top oval near the playground.

- Juniors from 5:00pm to 6:15pm
- Seniors from 6:30pm to 7:45pm

Training times may change due to team needs, weather, facility availability, or the season schedule. Please arrive early, ready to change and warm up before training begins. If you cannot attend training, please notify your coach/es or a committee member know.

Game Days

Runners compete within the CDSA softball structure. Competition generally operates from October to March, with games commonly played on Saturdays and occasional games on other days.

Exact game times, venues and team allocations are set by the official competition draw. Always check the current fixture and your team communication before travelling.

Cancellations and Changes

Training or games may be cancelled, postponed or relocated because of weather, ground conditions, facility issues, competition decisions or other unforeseen circumstances. The Club will communicate changes through approved team channels as soon as reasonably possible.

Team Selection

Selection aims to be fair, transparent and consistent with competition requirements. Factors may include:

- Skill and ability
- Age and eligibility
- Attendance, availability and commitment
- Attitude and teamwork
- Positional and team requirements
- Player development and team balance

Junior players will generally be placed in an age-appropriate team, subject to competition rules and Club requirements. Players may move between teams during a season where appropriate.

Junior Softball

Our junior program provides appropriate age opportunities to learn softball, develop skills, build confidence and enjoy being part of a team. Current Club information includes Tee Ball, Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to support their children positively, respect coaches and officials, and allow coaches to coach.

Senior Softball

Runners welcomes senior players with different abilities and experience levels. Seniors can continue playing, develop their skills, compete at an appropriate level, support younger players, develop leadership and coaching skills, and enjoy the social side of softball.

Uniforms

Players representing Runners are to wear the approved Club playing uniform in accordance with Club and competition requirements.

- Clean and presentable
- Complete and appropriate for the game
- Worn in accordance with competition rules

The Club will communicate uniform sizing, ordering and replacement arrangements. Players should also have appropriate footwear, socks, protective equipment, batting helmet and training clothing as required.

Equipment

Players are responsible for their personal equipment. Recommended items include:

- Softball glove
- Suitable sports shoes or cleats
- Water bottle
- Batting helmet
- Protective fielding face mask
- Batting gloves, if preferred
- Sun protection

Shared Club/team equipment may include bats, batting helmets, catcher's equipment, training equipment and team kit bags. Treat shared equipment with care and report damaged, lost or missing equipment promptly.

Everyone Plays A Part

Players

- Attend training and game days and advise your coach or committee member if you are unable to attend
- Arrive ready to play, with your equipment and uniform
- Listen to and work with your coaches and officials
- Support your teammates and show respect to opponents and umpires
- Take pride in your team by helping with equipment, team duties and pack-up
- Help keep your team area clean and tidy
- Let your Coach or Committee member know if you're unable to attend

Parents and Guardians

- Encourage your child and support the whole team
- Be positive and respectful towards coaches, officials and players
- Give coaches the space to coach and support their team
- Help create a positive game-day environment
- Lend a hand with team duties when you can
- Be involved in Club activities and fundraising where possible
- If you have a question or concern, chat with the appropriate person so it can be addressed constructively
- Be a positive role model for your child and the wider Runners community

Volunteers

There are plenty of ways to get involved at Runners, both on and off the diamond. Whether it is by coaching, team managing, scoring, umpiring, helping at events, canteen, fundraising, setting up or simply lending a hand, every contribution helps make our Club stronger.

Game Day

Softball is a team effort on and off the diamond. Players and families may be asked to help with:

- Setting up the team area and equipment, including shades
- Scoring and umpiring (where required)
- Team duties and Club rosters
- Returning equipment
- Packing up after games
- Keeping the area clean

Sharing these jobs helps the day run smoothly and fairly for everyone.

Tournaments and Events

Runners may participate in preseason, junior and senior tournaments, carnivals and other softball events. These provide extra playing experience, development, team time and opportunities to represent the Club.

Details about tournaments, costs, eligibility and selection will be communicated by the Club and relevant team officials.

Fundraising

Fundraising helps Runners maintain affordable participation and support equipment, player development, junior programs, Club activities, facilities, uniforms, training resources and community initiatives. Members and families are encouraged to support fundraising activities where possible.

Sponsorship

Sponsors and local businesses help support Runners through contributions toward equipment, uniforms, junior development, events, facilities, training and Club administration. Members are encouraged to support businesses that support Runners where possible.

The Runners Committee

The volunteer Committee is responsible for the administration, governance and ongoing development of the Club, including membership, finance, programs, coaching, equipment, uniforms, fundraising, sponsorship, facilities, child safety, competition and Club events.

Registration

Registration is completed through the Club's revolutioniseSPORT registration system. All players must be registered before taking part in the competition, and returning members will need their Softball ID.

Players transferring from another Club may require a clearance or permit depending on their circumstances.

Please contact a committee member if you are unsure about registration.

Sports Vouchers

Where applicable, eligible junior members may be able to access South Australian Government sports participation assistance. Eligibility and application arrangements can change from season to season, so check current registration information before applying.

Sports Vouchers are to be handed to the Club Treasurer or Records Officer.

Important Contacts

Training Ground	Tilley Reserve, 416–418 Hancock Road, Surrey Downs
Secretary	secretary@rrunners.com.au
Registration Enquiries	enquiries@rrunners.com.au
President	president@rrunners.com.au
Phone	0412 829 504
Online	https://www.revolutionise.com.au/roadrunnerssoftball/

This handbook is a general member guide. It does not replace the Road Runners Softball Club Constitution, official Club policies, CDSA competition rules, Softball SA requirements, Softball Australia policies, the National Integrity Framework or applicable legislation. Where there is any inconsistency, the relevant governing document, policy, competition rule or legislation takes precedence.

Welcome to Runners!