



SOFTBALL

PROGRAM GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

The mission of SYC Softball is to offer Springfield area youth the opportunity to play house level softball in a controlled environment that provides entertainment and enjoyment. In addition, SYC Softball will focus on development of softball skills to prepare youth for participation in high school programs at the varsity and junior varsity level. SYC Softball is designated as a girl's sport.

AGES:

- 18 and Under (18U) Division - ages 13-18
- 12 and Under (12U) Division - ages 11-12
- 10 and Under 9 and 10 (10U) Division - ages 9-10
- 8 and Under (8U) Division – ages 8 and under

League age is determined by an individual's age as of January 1 of the calendar year in accordance with Amateur Softball Association (ASA) code.

The 8U Division generally consists of ages 6 through 8. Where a player's skill level is such that they are no longer challenged at their normal age group, a family request for that player to play up with older players will generally be favorably considered.

LEAGUE SEASON

Softball will be offered as both a spring and fall sport. The spring season will run from late-March through mid-June. The fall season will run from early September through early-November. Skills development clinics will be periodically offered throughout the spring and fall seasons.

REGISTRATION/SPECIAL REQUESTS/DROPS

Players must be registered with SYC to participate in the softball program.

SPRING SEASON

Registration for spring softball must be completed during the SYC spring sports registration period – either in person (at the SYC offices during normal business hours) or on-line at www.sycva.com.

FALL SEASON

Registration for fall softball must be completed during the SYC fall sports

registration period -- either in person (at the SYC offices during normal business hours) or on-line at www.sycva.com.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Any special requests should be made at the time of registration. Though SYC Softball cannot guarantee that special requests will be honored, every attempt will be made to accommodate these requests as long as the integrity of play is not compromised.

Players who register late or are on the wait list will be placed at the discretion of the league director of the respective division or the softball commissioner when there are no league directors in place.

DROP REQUESTS

SYC Softball follows the official refund policy of the Springfield/South County Youth Club.

SOFTBALL (REC)

Participants who submit the [Refund Request Form](#) prior to the close of on-time registration will

receive a full refund of the registration fee minus a \$15.00 administrative fee.

Participants who submit the RRF during the late registration period and prior to the date of the first scheduled game will receive a 50% refund of the registration fee.

NO REFUNDS will be issued to participants who submit the RRF after the date of the first scheduled game. Separate uniform refunds do not apply to this sport.

SOFTBALL (TRAVEL)

NO REFUNDS issued to travel softball participants after registration due to tournament and uniform expenses.

Note: Under extenuating circumstances, the individual sport commissioners and/or members of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors may approve deviations to the official SYC refund policy.

LEAGUE PLAY

SYC Softball has formed an alliance with Braddock Road Youth Club's Softball Program ([BRYC](#)) and participates in inter-league play with BRYC and other Fairfax Leagues.

Home games will normally be played in the SYC area and away games normally in the BRYC area, with occasional games at other Fairfax fields.

Additionally, depending upon the number of SYC teams in an age group, SYC only post-season tournaments may be held.

At the conclusion of the Spring season, SYC Softball will also select All-Star teams at the 10U, 12U, and 18U. These teams will play in a post-season tournament against other local All-Star teams.

TEAM SIZE/PLAYER PARTICIPATION

Players are given the opportunity to play at least half of each game in which they are available to participate. Most available players will play more than half of the game. A total of nine players are on the field during a game, though a team may play with as few as eight players without forfeiting the game. 8U Division coaches shall also have the discretion to place all their players in the field, though only six players (four infielders, pitcher and catcher) may play in the infield.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All players, parents, coaches, and spectators are expected to understand and adhere to the SYC Codes of Conduct.

- [Coach's Code of Conduct Policy](#)
- [Player's Code of Conduct Policy](#)
- [Parent, Guardian, and Spectator's Code of Conduct Policy](#)

If these rules are not followed, after having been warned by the umpires or league director, the person infringing on the rules will be asked to leave the playing field area.

PRACTICES/GAMES

Team practices will normally be held once a week for a period of 90 minutes to two hours. These practices may be held either during the week or on Sunday afternoon. Each coach will be assigned a regular practice time and location at the first coaches' meeting. Additional practice time may be provided based on field availability, and a specific request to the Commissioner for access to a particular field.

Once league play begins, games will normally be scheduled as follows:

8U DIVISION

Teams will normally play one Saturday game per week, with possibly an occasional double-header and an occasional weeknight game.

10U DIVISION

Teams will normally play one Saturday game per week, with possibly an occasional double-header and an occasional weeknight game.

12U DIVISION

Teams will normally play one Saturday game per week, with possibly an occasional double-header and an occasional weeknight game.

18U DIVISION

Teams will normally play two games each Saturday, with occasional double-header.

Games will take approximately 90 minutes to two hours to complete, and will be conducted in accordance with league rules regarding time limits for games.

Unless otherwise specified, weeknight games will conclude no later than 9:00 PM.

If games are postponed due to inclement weather, every effort will be made to reschedule the games. The respective League Director will advise affected coaches of disposition (rescheduling/cancellation) of games.

REFEREES/RULES

18U AND 12U DIVISIONS

Amateur Softball Association rules will generally be followed. Coaches will be provided with the list of SYC specific rules prior to the start of league play. Sanctioned umpires will be provided for each 18U and 12U Division game. If for some reason, umpires do not show up for a game, each team is to provide an umpire, with the home team providing the Home Plate Umpire and the visiting

team providing the Field Umpire.

10U DIVISION

Amateur Softball Association rules will generally be followed. Coaches will be provided with the list of SYC specific rules prior to the start of league play. The home team is responsible for providing an umpire.

8U DIVISION

Coaches will be provided with the list of SYC specific rules prior to the start of league play. Umpiring will be done in accordance with these rules.

COACHES

SYC Softball is always in need of parents who are interested and able to volunteer their time to coach—either as a head coach or as an assistant. In the interest of creating a safe environment for our children, each prospective coach will be required to register as a volunteer, complete the team official version of the concussion training, and be submitted for a background check. Interested individuals should indicate their willingness/availability to coach by registering as a volunteer via their [family account](#) or at any time by visiting the [Volunteer Registration](#) on our website.

Though it is desirable that coaches are familiar and experienced with softball rules and play, anyone with an interest and an ability to effectively teach individual skills and communicate the importance of team play and sportsmanship is encouraged to volunteer.

As a small token of thanks to our volunteers, SYC Softball issues volunteers credits about ½ way through the season, once the season is well underway, in accordance with our [Volunteer Policy](#). These credits are automatically applied as a discount to any future regular registrations if the player's family primary phone number matches the volunteer's family primary phone number. If you expect a credit and do not see them applied on the "Payment Summary" page of registration, don't complete the registration. Call the SYC office to have the issue corrected.

TRAINING

Rule books will be provided to each coach. Aspects of the rule book, along with local SYC league rules will be covered at the coaches first meeting prior to the start of the season.

Periodically, clinics focused on skills development in various aspects of softball

play may be offered to players/coaches throughout the season.

EQUIPMENT

A uniform consisting of a team jersey and matching pair of athletic socks will be provided to each player. Players are expected to wear these uniforms to each game.

Most all required equipment (softballs, bats, catcher's protective equipment, batting helmets, rules, First Aid kits, batting tees, etc.) will be provided to each coach for use during the season. Players are expected only to furnish their own softball glove.

No special shoes or additional equipment will be required, though parents are encouraged to consider purchasing softball/soccer cleats for their child's use during games/practices.

FEES

Fees will be established just prior to registration each season. A family discount will be provided for families registering more than one child in any given season.