



ST. PETER GIRLS FASTPITCH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF POLICIES

Annual Board Meeting:

1. The Board of Directors will hold an annual board meeting the third Sunday in October. The meeting will be an open forum for parents to discuss any issues related to the softball program and to allow parents an opportunity to suggest issues the Board of Directors should address in the upcoming year.
2. Election of new Board of Director members will also take place at the Annual Board Meeting. The current President of the Board will open the floor for nominations and select a committee to distribute, collect, and count votes. New board members will be announced and the open forum meeting will come to a close and the new Board of Directors will hold their first official meeting of the year. Subsequent meetings will be scheduled as needed to address issues and activities of the SPGFSA.
3. The Annual Board Meeting will be publicized in the St Peter Herald, posted on the Nicollet County Bank marquee, and an email sent out to all previous season parents at least one week prior to the meeting.
4. Committee chairpersons will be selected for the upcoming year from the current and newly elected board members.

Registration:

1. Registration will be held the first Wednesday of February. The Board of Directors will review registration forms from the previous year and make the necessary revisions for the current season. The February registration is to be posted on the Nicollet County Bank marquee.
2. Registration packets will be e-mailed to registered softball players from the previous season at least 10 days prior to registration. The registration forms will also be posted on the website. Flyers will be distributed to girls in grades 2-12 at South Elementary, North Intermediate, Middle School, High School, John Ireland, and Minnesota Valley Lutheran schools, if allowed.
3. Registration will take place at the St. Peter Community Center and reservations for a room should be made well in advance to assure space and for accurate information to be publicized.
4. Registration for upcoming year may be off-set with the issuance of discount cards. Registrations must be paid for before discount cards will be issued.
4. Registrations are non-refundable unless Board approval.

Uniforms:

1. Uniforms will be supplied by the SPGFSA and each family is responsible for the cost and maintenance of the uniform. Newly designed uniforms will be ordered every 2 years beginning in 2015.
2. Each player will be responsible for purchasing a batting helmet and face mask for the helmet from SPGFSA or a store. The helmet is designed to stay with the player for their softball career in St. Peter.
3. SPGFSA will provide (sanctioned bat(s), catcher's gear, practice and game balls, and access to the pitching machines.)

Head Coach Selection:

1. Head and assistant coaches of each team must receive Board approval to coach a team and pass a background check.
2. The Board will seek nominations for head coaches for each age division. Preference will be given to prior experience, knowledge of the game, coaching style, and ability to relate with athletes and parents.
3. All parent coaches are voluntary positions. The Board reserves the right to compensate nonparent coaches in an amount determined reasonable by the Board. When teams are selected the head coach has 48 hours to contact the athletes on their team.
4. Coaches may have input in selecting teams within the age division they are coaching beginning at the 14U level. Coaches determine practice schedules and locations. League games are scheduled by the Big West League (subject to change). Big West League rules apply and may differ from below:
 - A. 8U:** Traveling league, sling arm or pitching machine, no stealing, 5 runs or 3 outs per inning, equal play. Equal play means that coaches will ensure that each player receives equal playing time and has the opportunity to try various field positions throughout the season. Equal playing time is not guaranteed to a player that has not notified the coach in advance of missing any game or practice.
 - B. 10U:** Traveling league, live pitching, double headers 1 night a week, 5 runs per inning rule, bat entire roster with consecutive batting will be mandatory during regular league play, equal play. Equal play means that coaches will ensure that each player receives equal playing time and has the opportunity to try various field positions throughout the season. Equal playing time is not guaranteed to a player that has not notified the coach in advance of missing any game or practice.
 - C. 12U:** Traveling league, live pitching, double headers 1 to 2 nights a week, 5 runs per inning rule, bat entire roster with consecutive batting will be mandatory during regular league play, emphasis still on equal participation. Equal participation means that coaches will attempt to ensure that each player receives equal playing time. However, coaches will have the option to rotate players to various field positions throughout the season or to assign each player to play primary field positions. Equal playing time is not guaranteed to a player that has not notified the coach in advance of missing any game or practice.
 - D. 14U:** Traveling league, live pitching, double headers 1 to 2 nights a week, bat entire roster during league play, consecutive batting is strongly encouraged during regular league play, competitive softball. Competitive softball means that coaches are not required to ensure that each player receives equal playing time but may choose to do so at their election. Coaches will have the option to rotate players to various field positions throughout the season or to assign each player to play primary field positions. The playing time of a player that has not notified the coach in advance of missing any game or practice is likely to be impacted.
 - E. 16U:** Traveling league, live pitching, double headers 1 to 2 nights a week, bat entire roster during league games, competitive softball. Competitive softball means that coaches are not required to ensure that each player receives equal playing time but may choose to do so at their election. Coaches will have the option to rotate players to various field positions throughout the season or to

assign each player to play primary field positions. The playing time of a player that has not notified the coach in advance of missing any game or practice is likely to be impacted.

F. 18U: Traveling league, live pitching, double headers 1 to 2 nights a week, bat entire roster during league games, competitive softball. Competitive softball means that coaches are not required to ensure that each player receives equal playing time but may choose to do so at their election. Coaches will have the option to rotate players to various field positions throughout the season or to assign each player to play primary field positions. The playing time of a player that has not notified the coach in advance of missing any game or practice is likely to be impacted.

5. Coaches are expected to exemplify the highest level of sportsmanship as explained in the coaches' handbook.

Team Selection:

1. It is the goal of the SPGFSA to provide a competitive softball experience for each player based on a player's skills and abilities. The Board will examine the number of athletes in each age division in setting up league play. The Board has the discretion to move an athlete(s) up an age division if the move serves the best interest of the SPGFSA. Players do not have the right to move age brackets unless they can demonstrate a hardship and get Board approval.

2. The Board reserves the right to adjust age divisions based on numbers to enhance the entire SPGFSA program. Teams within an age bracket will generally be selected by:

A. 8U: Grade level if two or more teams participate. Players must be at least 7 and/or not more than 8 years old on January 1st of the current year of participation. Equal play applies. Equal play means that coaches will ensure that each player receives equal playing time and has the opportunity to try various field positions throughout the season. Equal playing time is not guaranteed to the player that has not notified the coach in advance of missing any game or practice.

B. 10U: Teams frequently divided by grade level/age. Each team should have one strong pitcher and catcher. However, coaches should continue to focus/development of at least 4 pitchers per team is encouraged. Equal play applies. Equal play means that coaches will ensure that each player receives equal playing time and has the opportunity to try various field positions throughout the season. Equal playing time is not guaranteed to the player that has not notified the coach in advance of missing any game or practice.

C. 12U: Teams frequently divided by grade level/age. Each team should have one strong pitcher and catcher. However, coaches should continue to develop up to 4 pitchers per team is encouraged. Equal participation applies. Equal participation means that coaches will attempt to ensure that each player receives equal playing time. However, coaches will have the option to rotate players to various field positions throughout the season or to assign each player to play primary field positions. Equal playing time is not guaranteed to the player that has not notified the coach in advance of missing any game or practice.

D. 14U: Transition to a competitive environment. Coaches may have input in selecting teams within the age they are coaching. Competitive softball applies. Competitive softball means that coaches are not required to ensure that each player receives equal playing time but may choose to do so at their election. Coaches will have the option to rotate players to various field positions throughout the

season or to assign each player to play primary field positions. The playing time of a player that has not notified the coach in advance of missing any game or practice is likely to be impacted.

E. 16U: Competitive environment, with an “A” team and “B” team philosophy. Coaches may have input in selecting teams within the age division they are coaching. Competitive softball applies. Competitive softball means that coaches are not required to ensure that each player receives equal playing time but may choose to do so at their election. Coaches will have the option to rotate players to various field positions throughout the season or to assign each player to play primary field positions. The playing time of a player that has not notified the coach in advance of missing any game or practice is likely to be impacted.

E. 18U: Competitive environment, play time is not equal. Coaches may have input in selecting teams within the age division they are coaching. Competitive softball applies. Competitive softball means that coaches are not required to ensure that each player receives equal playing time but may choose to do so at their election. Coaches will have the option to rotate players to various field positions throughout the season or to assign each player to play primary field positions. The playing time of a player that has not notified the coach in advance of missing any game or practice is likely to be impacted.

F. Open Enrollment will be considered and players may be allowed to try out when situations warrant and allowed by league rules.

G. All final rosters will be approved by the board.

3. Regular attendance at practices and games is essential to the development of a successful softball program. If a player is not able to attend a practice or game, they must notify the coach 24 hours prior to the absence. Failure to do so may result in loss of playing time.

Double Roster Rule:

1. Double roster will not be allowed on teams that already have 13 or more players.
2. Any double roster will need to be pre-approved by the board.
3. Double roster will only be considered if there are not enough players (due to illness, injury, vacation, etc.) and/or there is a need for a back-up pitcher or catcher.
4. If a double roster is requested to gain a pitcher or catcher, this player may only play the pitcher/catcher position and must be considered the back-up for any games/tournament play.
5. Players can only double roster if their primary team is NOT playing on the same day.

Face Mask for Pitchers and Corner Fielders:

All Pitchers and Corner Fields (8U through 18U) will be required to wear facemasks beginning in 2011.

St. Peter Tournaments:

1. The Association will organize a tournament for the 10U and 12U teams the Saturday/Sunday before Memorial weekend (*Rising Star*) and a tournament for the 14U, 16U, and 18U teams the second weekend in June (*Summer Slam*). The tournaments will be posted for registration on www.fastsports.com as soon as the dates have been confirmed. The Jefferson Fields will be reserved in advance to assure we have

fields for the tournament on the desired dates.

2. The Board of Directors will develop committees that will cover the following responsibilities:

- Tournament Committee (includes field reservations and reserving umpires)
- Concession Stand/Tee Shirt Sale
- Field Maintenance
- Parent Volunteer Schedule

Volunteer Hours:

The SPGFSA relies on the volunteer services of coaches, parents, families and friends to provide the best possible program for all the youth involved.

For summer registration, our volunteer program requires each registered family to donate a total of twelve (12) hours of volunteer service. Unless alternative arrangements are approved by the Board, each of these volunteer hours must be completed during the summer season that the player participated in. All families must make a two hundred dollars zero cents (\$200.00) volunteer fee deposit upon registration. When families have completed the required twelve (12) hours of volunteer service, their volunteer deposit is destroyed. If families do not fulfill the required twelve (12) hours of volunteer service, their volunteer deposit(s) will be cashed.

For fall registration, our volunteer program requires each registered family to donate a total of three (3) hours of volunteer service. Unless alternative arrangements are approved by the Board, each of these volunteer hours must be completed during the fall season that the player participated in. This requirement only applies to parents of players who are chosen to play in St. Peter, as opposed to traveling to other locations to play. Therefore, parents of players who do not play any games in Saint Peter during the fall season they register to participate in will not be required to donate these volunteer hours. All families must make a fifty dollars zero cents (\$50.00) volunteer fee deposit upon registration. This check(s) shall be destroyed when the families have completed the required three (3) hours of volunteer service or the season has ended and their player did not play any games in St. Peter. However, if a family's player did play in St. Peter and the family did not fulfill the required three (3) hours of volunteer service, their volunteer deposit(s) will be cashed.

Tournament Selection/Qualification:

1. The Association will pay the registration cost for the league fee and up to one softball tournament for each sanctioned team approved by the Board. It is the coaches/team discretion which tournament is chosen. The Association will cover the tournament registration fee for the St. Peter Annual Tournament. The Big West League fee DOES include the state qualifier and state tournament through Big West League. Each sanctioned team for the Big West League will be able to attend St. Peter Tournament, one tournament of choice, State Qualifier, and State. The Board has the discretion to reject a team's tournament request based on cost, distance, or other relevant matters.
2. Gate fees for the Big West League's qualifier and state tournament will be covered by SPGFSA.
3. Coaches must be sanctioned by the appropriate governing body to attend a tournament. SPGFSA will be sanctioned by NAFA rules and regulations.
4. Coaches can view potential tournaments at the following website location: www.fastsports.com
5. The Association has a limit of \$500 per team for teams attending a national tournament to cover

tournament expenses. The total Association limit of \$1,500 per summer season to be divided by the number of teams qualifying from a berth and subject to the Association's budgetary availability. If more than two teams qualify, the total Association limit of \$1,500 will be split equally between the number of teams attending national tournaments.

Insurance:

1. The Board will provide liability insurance for each team participating in a live pitching league (8U - 18U). Insurance is obtained through Big West League. Insurance would be used as secondary insurance in the event that personal insurance does not cover expenses for an injury sustained while playing home league games or home tournaments.
2. Insurance needs to list City of St. Peter in policy (field use).

League Web Site:

Big West League information, scores, standing, etc. can be obtained at the following website:
www.minnesotasoftball.com

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