



2019 Season

Parent Meeting February 5, 2019



Discussion Points:

- Mission
- Off Season Activities
- Season Expectations
- Youth 1st Partnership
- Code of Conduct
- Team Formation
- Tournaments
- Down 'n Dirty
- Tryouts
- Spirit Wear
- Sponsorships
- Minnesota Stars



Eagan Fastpitch Board

**14 Board Members help run
Traveling Fastpitch and In-House Softball**

We need more volunteers for the Board



Mission of Eagan Fastpitch - Traveling

Our mission is to have highly competitive teams with a strong emphasis on commitment, sportsmanship, teamwork, and knowledge of the game. This cannot be achieved without the dedication of our players, parents, coaches and volunteers.



Off-Season Activities

- **Hired Player Development Director**
- **Friday Night Dome**
 - **Two sessions – Nov/Dec and Jan/Feb sessions**
- **Clinics**
 - **Held specific catcher and pitcher clinics**
 - **Hitting clinic/sessions**
- **Evaluating other ideas to expand training**
- **Tournaments**
 - **Extra activities not coordinated through EFP**



Eagan Fastpitch – Travel

- **Team Definitions**

- **Travel Teams**

- Practice 2-3x per week
 - Play 2-4 League Games per week – Travel around metro
 - Play in multiple tournaments beyond league ending tournament

- **League Only Teams (usually at 10U)**

- Practice 1-2x per week
 - Play 2 League Games per week – Travel around metro
 - Play in season ending league and state tournaments



Travel Fastpitch – Expectations

Practices

- Practices start after Spring Break and continue into July
- Typically will last 1.5-2.0 Hours - 1-3x per week
- Games/Practice Dates – Typical Schedule:
 - 8U/12U – Mon/Wed
 - 10U/14U – Tue/Thu
- Practices are key to development – expect players to attend
 - Exceptions – Illness, School, Family, or Church conflicts
 - Notify coaches right away
- Practice attendance is a key driver to playing time and position



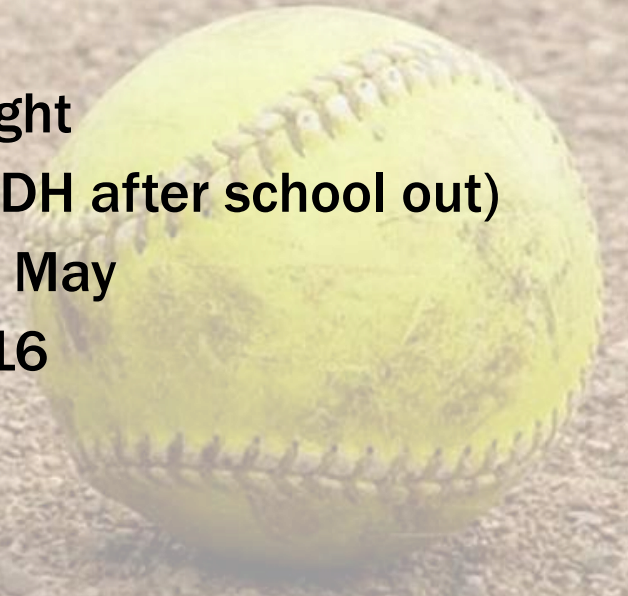
Travel Fastpitch - Expectations

Games – All Teams

- League Games are May to June
 - 8U – 1 game night per week (until school out); 1 practice night
 - 10U – 1 double-header night per week; 1 practice night (2 - DH after school out)
 - 12U – 2 double-header nights per week; season starts early May
 - 14U – 2 double-header nights per week; games begin May 16
- Expectation - focused on development opportunities

Tournaments – Non-League Only

- Three Tournaments – Down & Dirty plus 2 others
- Post-Season – State (2) and Nationals
- Expectation – focused on being competitive and best team effort



Travel Fastpitch - Expectations

Team Meetings

- Will occur after team formation and address various topics
- Coach Philosophy & Expectations
- Tournaments & Schedule
- Equipment needs – bat discussion
- Additional funds
 - Gym Time
 - Team Banner
 - Other Team Activities
 - Nationals



Youth 1st Partnership

Focus on Sportsmanship

Reduce Conflict

Increase Team/Official Retention



Travel Fastpitch - Expectations

In General

- **Code of Conduct – Players, Parents, Coaches**
 - All will sign and be retained by EFP
 - Commitment to EFP – players, parents, coaches
- **Players -**
 - **On Field**
 - In Uniform
 - Belts On
 - Shirts Tucked In
 - No Jewelry, watches, earrings, chokers
 - Help coach with equipment
 - Parents do not carry athlete's equipment



Travel Fastpitch - Expectations

In General

- **Coaches –**
 - **On Field Attire**
 - **Eagan Fastpitch Coach shirt**
 - **Closed Toe Shoes**
 - **Appropriate Shorts**
 - **Provide positive, competitive, developmental experience for players**
- **Parents –**
 - **Players Play; Coaches Coach; Parents cheer for entire team**
 - **Refrain from direct instruction to your daughter – at games or practices**
 - **Only positive comments about any player, especially EFP players**
 - **Resolve any issues away from the field directly with coach; 24-hour rule**



Travel Fastpitch - Expectations

New for 2019

- **EAA Code of Conduct Policy**
 - Clear definition of Harassment & Bullying
 - Clear complaint process with consequences
- **APS Training**
 - Every person involved with the team must take training
 - Plan – it takes 90 minutes and covers a variety of conduct issues



Travel Fastpitch - Expectations

Coach & Volunteer Registration

- **Background Check is Required**
 - All EAA Volunteers
 - Head Coach
 - Asst. Coach
 - Team Parent
 - Other Helpers
- **Concussion Training**
 - All Head and Assistant Coaches
 - Complete once every three years
 - Must provide certificate (save it when done)



Team Formation

- 10U/12U
 - Number of teams based on registration – **closes on February 17th!**
 - Player assignment based on tryout scores as selected by the head coach for that team
 - Gold
 - First Team; typically plays A level; **10-11** Players
 - Silver
 - Second Team; typically plays B level; **11-12** Players
 - Bronze
 - Third Team; typically plays C level; **11-12** Players
- Depending on registration numbers and try-out scores, player cuts may happen
 - We work with every player to get them on some team – we have options



8U & 10U – Signing Up

- 8U Teams

- Girls with 2011 birth year must sign up for 8U; 2010 has the option
- Team are formed based on registration numbers
- If we have enough girls, we will have evaluations on February 15th

- 2010 Birth Year

- If player was born in 2010 and played in Fall Fastpitch may register for 10U
- Players will go through the 10U try-outs and be placed on 10U teams
- Depending on scores, registration numbers, and team needs players
 - 2010 aged players may be moved to League Only or to 8U
 - 2010 aged players may take the spot of another 10U player if there is room at League Only



Travel Fastpitch - Tournaments

Tournaments

- Regular Season
 - Down 'n Dirty - June 14-16
 - 2 others at coach discretion
- State Qualifier
 - 10U/12U - June 21-23
- State Tournament
 - 8U/10U/12U - July 5-7
 - 14U - July 19-21
- Nationals (Qualify during season)
 - Update - More Information To Come



Down 'n Dirty Tournament



Down 'n Dirty Tournament

- **28th year of the Eagan Down 'n Dirty Tournament**
- **June 14th – 16th**
- **Host over 80 teams; A/B Level Tournament**
- **Sites – Lexington-Diffley & Northview Athletic Fields**
- **Partnership with Youth 1st**
- **Expect Eagan Teams to represent EFP well – be good hosts**
- **Looking for Field Sponsors – 2-banners by Dug-outs**



Volunteer Hours – Down ‘n Dirty & Nationals

- Sign up for a DIBS session to work shifts – done online – information sent closer to tournament dates
- Each family for Travel & Stars teams – 2 shifts (approx. 9 hours in total)
- Hosting Tournaments provides funding for a variety of EFP activities including winter dome and gym time, equipment, and keeps registration fees very competitive across all ages
- Update on Northern Nationals:
 - Eagan to Host 12U NAFA Northern Nationals – Eagan Teams will Play
 - Mall of America Nationals – Available for 10U



Tryouts



Tryouts

- February 22 - 10U Players & 12U Pitchers & Catchers
- March 1 - 12U Players & 10U Pitchers
- Players must wear plain shirts – no names or identifying marks
- **What To Bring:**
 - All equipment – bat, glove, mask, batting gloves, water bottle
- Arrive about 5:00pm – Try-outs being promptly at 5:30pm



Tryouts

- **PARENT EXPECTATIONS**
- **No parents allowed to watch – only evaluators and head coach candidates**
 - Parents will be asked to leave the dome and wait outside – no loitering
 - Willing to have a discussion about your daughter's try-out as requested
- **Pitching & Catching**
 - Parent's are not allowed to warm-up their pitchers or catchers
 - We will provide people to warm-up each player
 - Please do not arrive more than 30 minutes ahead of your pitching slot



Tryouts - Uniforms

- Included in Registration Fee:
 - Jersey
 - Pants – 1 pair
 - Socks – 1 pair; Belt – As Needed (new player)
- Pants:
 - 10U/12U/14U – new brand
 - 8U – Pants included in registration



Tryouts - Uniforms

- **Uniform Fittings – New Process (All 10U – 14U)**
 - Get fitted for jersey and pants – wear slider shorts & tank-top
 - Only Try-on Dates – No Exceptions
 - **Uniform Fitting Dates (Blackhawk MS – MPS Room)**
 - Monday, February 11
 - Tuesday, February 12
 - 6:00 – 9:00PM – Both Dates
 - **What To Bring:**
 - \$250 check payable to Eagan Fastpitch
 - Volunteer Deposit – check is destroyed after tournament shift have been worked
 - Birth Certificate (if new to program)
 - Recent Photo of Player (copy is fine)
 - Check-book – Order Extra pants or Jersey – must pay at fitting



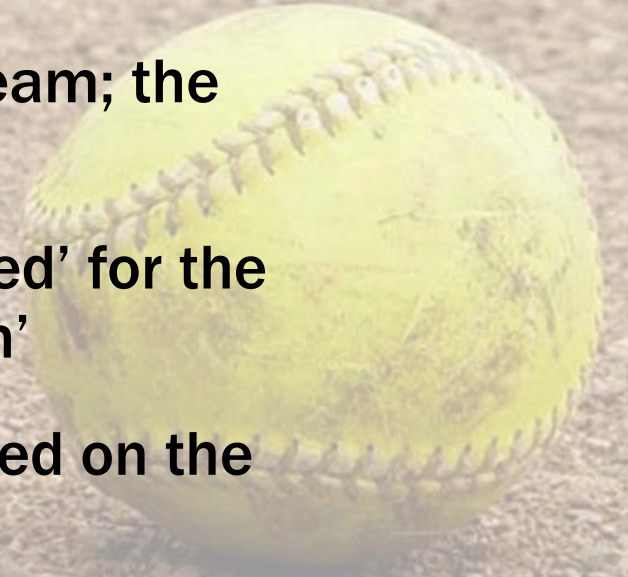
Tryouts

- **Players are evaluated on specific skills and awarded points based on each attempt**
- **Total points available vary by evaluated skill**
- **Focus is on Mechanics and Results**
 - **Hitting - 23%**
 - **Throwing - 22.5%**
 - **Ground Balls - 22.5%**
 - **Fly Balls - 12%**
 - **Bunting - 10%**
 - **Sliding - 5%**
 - **Speed - 5%**
- **All Tryout Information is on the website under “Tryouts”**



Tryouts

- **Players are ranked based on their performance and relative weights**
- **The top 3 players are “locked” and must be on the Gold Team; the remainder of the team is ‘coach selection’**
- **The top 3 players not selected for the Gold team are ‘locked’ for the Silver Team; the remainder of the team is ‘coach selection’**
- **If a player is not selected to the Silver Team, they are placed on the Bronze Team (if enough players)**
- **Similar process for pitchers (10U/12U) and catchers (12U)**



Tryouts – Pitchers (10U/12U) & Catchers (12U)

- Specific skill assessed and ranked similar to Player
- Complete the “Pitcher & Catcher Tryout Selection Form”
- Most teams have 2 main pitchers and 1 main catcher
 - Other pitchers and catchers may see playing time depending on performance
- Trying out as a pitcher or catcher does not guarantee you time in those positions during the season - playing time is a coach decision
- Team Selection Options (on Selection Form)
 - Based on Specialty – will be assigned based on score as pitcher/catcher
 - Based on Player – will be assigned based on main tryout scores
- Select Specialty – if playing a specialty position is considerably more important than which team the player is assigned to
 - Could result in lower team selection depending on try-out results



Tryouts – Pitchers (10U/12U)

- **12 Pitches – Looking to Hit Spots**
 - High-Inside; High-Outside; Low-Inside; Low-Outside
 - 7 Point Scale – Spot =7; Total Miss Strike = 1; Ball = 0
- **5 Pitches – Speed**
 - Must be a strike to count
 - Higher speed = More Points
- **Specialty Pitches**
 - 3 Attempts with each pitch
 - Ball must break correctly
 - Ball must be a strike
 - 1 point for each successful attempt
- **Points are totaled – no weighting**



Tryouts – Catchers (12U)

- **Point Scale – 1 - 6**
- **Techniques – No Weighting**
 - **Stance**
 - **Proper Catching**
 - **Strength (Throw)**
 - **Technique (Throw)**
 - **Accuracy (Throw)**
 - **Pop-Ups**
 - **Bunt Reaction**
 - **Blocking**



Minnesota Stars



Minnesota Stars

- **14U+ Club Team affiliated with Eagan Fastpitch**
- **Age eligible players (2nd Year 12U) start evaluating club options in early summer**
- **Minnesota Stars is reviewing current format – more information soon**
- **Questions – come find a board member**



Sponsorships

Chad Bailey, Vice-President



Sponsorships

- **Recruiting Corporate Sponsors for Down 'n Dirty Tournament**
- **Levels are being worked out – information available soon**
 - **Presenting Sponsor - \$5,000**
 - **Site Sponsor - \$2,000**
 - **App Sponsor - \$1,000**
 - **Field Sponsor - \$350**



Questions?

