



TRAVELING MEETING

2023 Summer Season



Agenda



- About LFSA
- Youth First
- Board Introduction
- 2023 Season Overview
- League & Practices
- Playing Time
- Player Rotation

- Tournaments
- Fundraising
- Volunteer Policy
- Traveling Coaches
- Team Managers
- Equipment
- Conduct Guidelines



About LFSA



Lakeville Fastpitch Softball Association (LFSA) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to offer supervised, recreational and competitive fastpitch softball programs for the youth of Lakeville in order to instill in them the principles of sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect. LFSA offers two softball programs: In-House and Traveling.



Off and In Season Training



LFSA is committed to the ongoing development of our athletes. We offer several training opportunities during both in-season and off-season clinics. Partnering with both the MN ICE coaches and Strike Zone sports. Here are some of the clinics we offer..

- Off Season – Pitching, Catching, Hitting, and Defense were offered and held at the cages and North dome. All lead by professional instructors from the MN ICE and Strike Zone sports.
- In-Season – Pitching and total skills camp in August lead by Strike Zone sports. We also had a 6-week pitching clinic during fall ball that was led by Sara Moulton.





LFSA is excited to partner with Youth 1st !
Welcome Mark Arjes!

We Put Youth 1st.

We put Youth 1st by promoting an atmosphere in communities where children have the opportunity to participate in programs that encourage them to be active, build relationships and develop into the best version of themselves.



REMEMBER...
it's about the kids.
I WILL...
keep my competitive energy in check.

I WILL ALWAYS...
treat officials and opponents w/ respect.





Conduct 1st

We begin with a focus on **Conduct**. Young people learn what is important by watching adults. The Youth 1st Team Awards program recognizes good sportsmanship and positive conduct from players, coaches, parents and fans. The goal is to model best conduct and encourage positive actions in the competitive environment. At the youth levels, coaches, officials and parents can partner to ensure the kids have a positive experience. To date we have recognized over 1300 youth teams representing over 150 communities in Minnesota, Eastern South Dakota, Northern Iowa and Western Wisconsin for positive conduct and good sportsmanship!



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treat officials and opponents w/ respect.

Proudly Supported By:





Character 1st

Next, we emphasize **Character** by promoting a perspective of development vs performance. Development is a process. It takes years for kids to develop not just the physical skills to compete, but the mental, social and emotional aspects as well. Performance can play a role, but it should be viewed as one aspect of the development process.

Hosting Conduct 1st Environments during competitions and integrating Character 1st Presentations into preseason kick off meetings with parents and coaches help prioritize the development perspective. The importance of Conduct and Character is celebrated and reinforced through the Youth 1st Team Award ceremonies and partner experiences. Partner experiences are provided through the generous support of the MN Twins, MN Timberwolves, MSU Mavericks and Mankato MoonDogs. We have developed tools that include training modules for parents and coaches, Word Play refrigerator magnets, FUN night theme kits and player cards at the professional and collegiate level that include Youth 1st messages.





Community 1st

Once we have established relationships in the **Community**, we help unify community leadership (facility owners, business leaders, youth leaders) to integrate Conduct and Character standards into all youth activity programs. Changing the culture in a community requires consistent and repetitive messaging to parents and leaders. Participation in youth sports and other activity programs offer many physical, social, emotional and cognitive benefits when young people have access and inclusion in quality experiences. Participation matters. Additionally, Youth 1st Community Events encourage partnerships and promote unity between programs, organizations and sponsors.

Thank you for putting your Youth 1st!



Board



With the help of the LFSA Board and player families, we are able to provide the youth fastpitch softball players in our community with the best experience possible. Our 15-member board of directors holds monthly meetings which are open to the public. See our calendar of events for details.

Interested in becoming a board member? Please reach out to a current member for more information.



Board

KEVIN

Lutz

President

JUSTIN

Larson

Vice President

HEIDI

Hebert

Secretary

RICHIE

Brodsky

Treasurer

STEVE

Schumacher

Traveling Director

AMANDA

Gage-Didier

In-House Director

MATT

Mowry

Communications Director

JESSE

Bueno

Coach Development Director

NATE

Teppo

Fields Director

NICK

Borsdorf

Player Development Director

CRAIG

Dose

Equipment Director

MIKE

Miller

Fundraising & Events Director

BOB

Curtis

Concessions Director

JENN

Bernard

Uniforms & Apparel Director

AVAILABLE

Position

Tournament Director

ALLISON

Carpenter

ICE Director



Season Overview



Important Dates

- Social Event – 4/23/23
- Tri County 12U League Games Start – 5/3/23
- Metro Area 8U League Games Start – 5/3/23
- Tri County 10U League Games Start – 5/4/23
- **LFSA at the Saints Game – 5/5/23**
- **Lakeville Classic - May 12-14**
- **Saints Spotlight Game – 5/19/23**
- Tri County 14U League Games Start – 5/25/23
- **Lakeville Grand Slam - June 23-25**
- 10U/12U Qualifiers - June 23-25
- 8U/10U/12U State - July 8-9
- 14U/HS Qualifiers - July 14-16
- Monsta Championships 8U/10U - July 20-23
- NAFA 8U/10U/12U Nationals – July 20-23
- 14U/HS States - July 22-23
- USA Softball Nationals – July 27-30
- NAFA 14U Nationals – July 27-30
- Monsta Championships 12U/14U/HS - August 3-6



League Info



The Tri-County League is affiliated with Minnesota Softball, a subset of USA Softball. The league schedules games between member associations along with hosting a State Qualifier and the largest State Tournament in Minnesota. In 2019, the Tri County league had over 260 teams participating between the 10U-16U levels and Minnesota Softball had 64 teams competing at the 8U level.



League Info



League games are held throughout the Twin Cities Metro and into parts of Wisconsin. Games consist of double headers for 10U and 12U with start times at 6:00 and 7:00 pm. Practice start/end times are at the discretion of the coach. Home fields include Aronson Park, Kenwood Trail and the North & South High Schools.

LEAGUE GAMES & PRACTICE SCHEDULE

- 8U – Monday practice and Wednesday games.
- 10U – Tuesday and Thursday. Tuesday games do not start until 5/31.
- 12U – Monday and Wednesday.



Equipment



Players are required to attend games with the required uniform including cleats, fielder's mask, glove and batting helmet with face mask. Players are required to attend practices in appropriate attire as deemed by the coaching staff. Failure to obtain and use the required equipment may result in loss of playing time.

LFSA can provide helmets, bats and catcher's gear upon request. Any borrowed equipment must be returned at the end of the season. Players should report any damaged or unsafe equipment immediately.



Equipment



EQUIPMENT LIST

- Defensive facemask
- Fastpitch glove
- Softball bat (USA/ASA)
- Cleats (non-metal for 8U-12U)
- Black softball pants
- Carolina blue socks & belt
- Helmet with mask & chinstrap (black preferred)
- Optional: Bat bag, catchers gear, batting gloves



Playing Time



During regular season league games, players will play approximately equal time. Players will be given the opportunity to play different infield and outfield positions. During tournaments and post season games, players will play approximately equal time, but they will play positions that help the team be most competitive. All players will sit out their fair share of time. Teams will bat the entire roster, unless the DP/Flex rule is in play.

Playing time can be affected by missing practices or games, poor sportsmanship or displaying a poor attitude.



Playing Time



Softball is a TEAM sport. Good outfielders are just as important to the team as good infielders and developing skills in both areas is beneficial for the players.

If players or parents have concerns regarding playing time, please contact the head coach. **Concerns about playing time will not be addressed during games or practices, please use the 24-hour rule.**

Communication between the head coach, parents and players is important to overall team success. Any concerns not addressed by the head coach should be brought to the Traveling Director in a timely manner.



Player Rotation



During regular season league games, the following rotation rules should be followed. The development of our players is important to building a strong program.

- 8U players should rotate through all positions during the season.
- 10U players should rotate 4-5 positions during the season.
- 12U players should rotate 2-3 positions during the season.
- 14U, 16U & 18U players earn their positions.
- Players will not sit more than 1 inning in a row, unless due to disciplinary action, injury or unforeseen circumstances.
- A player can play most of the game in one position.



Player Rotation



During tournaments and post season games, coaches should play to win these games and put players in positions that help the team be most competitive.

Coaches will submit their rotation charts for all regular season league games and tournaments to the Traveling Director on a weekly basis.



Tournaments



All traveling teams will participate in tournaments. Tournaments are based on coach's selection. Your tournament schedule will be provided at the start of the season. For 8U, expect to participate in 2-3 local tournaments. For 10U and older, expect to participate in 4-5 tournaments, including a qualifier and state tournament. Teams may join additional tournaments at their expense.



Tournaments



During the season, teams will compete to earn National Tournament berths. If a team earns a National Tournament berth during the summer season, LFSA will pay the registration and gate fees for one tournament, up to \$650. Additional expenses including pins, gift bags, and travel are the responsibility of the team.

These highly-competitive tournaments provide a fun experience for the players!



Fundraising



Registration fees cover the majority, but not all costs associated with operating the LFSA programs. In order to keep registration fees affordable, fundraising and sponsors may be solicited to help cover additional program costs. These funds may be used towards field improvements and maintenance, equipment, facility rental, player development, coaching clinics, tournament registration fees, concession and storage buildings, offseason development, umpire fees, etc.

Member participation is key to the success of these events!



Fundraising



LAKEVILLE CLASSIC

Early season tournament with great attendance!

Tournament Dates: May 12-14, 2023

Location: Aronson Park, Lakeville, MN

Levels of Play: 10U A, B & C



SUMMER GRAND SLAM

Major tournament in MN with over 70 teams expected!

Tournament Dates: June 23-25, 2023

Locations: Aronson Park, Lakeville North & South

Level of Play: A & B (14U, 16U, 18U)



Fundraising



Here is what we have raised/forecast for 2022

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| • Heggies Pizza | \$8,000 |
| • Local Sponsorships | \$2,300 |
| • Classic & Grand Slam | \$25,000 |
| • Fall Classic | \$2,800 |
| • Hosting fall ball league | \$4,300 |
| • B52 Night | \$744 |
| • Hinkenmeyers (Xmas décor) | \$1,000 |
| Total | \$44,144 |

**Thanks to all that volunteered or donated
we could not have done it without you!**



Expenses



- League Fees – This year the league fee for Tri-County was \$150 per 8U team and \$600 per team 10U and older. For 2023 it was \$6,300
- Umpire Costs – With the shortage every sport is seeing in officials means an increase in price.
- Tournament Fees – LFSA covers tournament fees for our traveling teams. This year LFSA covered \$8,900 in tournament fees
- Concession supplies – Food and supplies
- Field prep supplies – chalk, quik dry, gas for the Kabotas, and tools. \$6,400 for this season.
- Uniforms – Coach, Fall Ball, and In-House shirts
- Gear – Softballs, catcher gear, training supplies
- Offseason Training – Space and instructors

Other projects LFSA has funded

- New scoreboards on fields 1-4 at Aronson (2018)
- Irrigation installed throughout the park (2019)
- New storage garage (2020)
- Replace backstop and install dugouts on field 9 (2021)
- New pavilion between fields 6,7, and 8 (2024)



Volunteers

LFSA has a volunteer policy to help strengthen the organization and increase participation. The policy is per family. If you have multiple players in LFSA, you must fulfill the volunteer hours required for your oldest player. Volunteers must be 16 years of age or older. Traveling families must fulfill 9 volunteer hours.



More information at:
lakevillefastpitch.org/volunteers



Volunteers



Families are required to provide a volunteer deposit in the form of a check written to LFSA. Upon completion of the volunteer hours this check will be destroyed. If the full requirement for volunteer hours is not completed by August 5th for summer ball, the check will be cashed.



WE NEED YOUR TIME NOT YOUR MONEY!!



Volunteers



Volunteer opportunities include field preparation, tournaments, and other events determined by LFSA. All shifts will be posted in the online volunteer system (Dibs) on the LFSA website and notification of new shifts will be sent via e-mail. There will be a sign-in sheet at each event to ensure your hours are recorded.

Volunteer Requirements:

- Once you commit to a shift, it's your responsibility to cover it.
- Cancellations are allowed if made at least 7 days before your shift.
- Only shifts tracked on Dibs will count toward the requirement.
- Plan to arrive 10 minutes before your shift starts



Coaches



The traveling program strives to provide the highest level of coaching for its teams. Parent or non-parent candidates are encouraged to apply for coaching positions. LFSA provides mandatory clinics for all coaches. As well as additional resources to ensure the best experience.

- Background Check – ALL head and assistant coaches.
- Concussion Awareness – ALL head and assistant coaches.
- Safe Sport Training – ALL head and assistant coaches.
- ACE Training – Head coaches only.



Interested in becoming a coach?

Reach out to jesse@lakevillefastpitch.org



Team Managers



Team Managers play an important role in our Association. Good communication and organizational skills are essential to the role. This role is responsible for a variety of team activities as directed by the coach. There is a guide on our website intended to help provide resources and ideas for new Team Managers.

Visit lakevillefastpitch.org/team-managers to learn more.



Looking Ahead



In 2023 we will be changing the timing of evaluations for the 2024 season. We will be hosting evaluations in the fall of 2023 for the 2024 season.

There are a few reasons for this change.

- The girls are at their peak performance after playing summer and fall.
- This gives teams a chance to come together over the winter and build cohesiveness as a team by doing some team building activities.
- Provides team specific off season development opportunities.

We understand that many of our girls are multi-sport athletes, and we encourage and support them in their other interests. Participation of all off-season activities are optional. More information will be released closer to the tryout dates which we have slated for the end of September.

Stay tuned...



Let's Play Ball!



We are looking forward to a great season ahead!

Let's play ball!

QUESTIONS?

Please direct questions to:

Steve Schumacher

Traveling Director

steve@lakevillefastpitch.org

