



2024 Down 'N Dirty Tournament

To: Coaches and Team Managers

Re: **Youth 1st Environment and Team Awards Program**

Thank you for participating in the 2024 Down 'N Dirty Tournament!

Minnesota Softball and the Eagan Fastpitch have partnered with Youth 1st and will be including the Youth 1st Team Awards Program in the Down 'N Dirty Tournament. It is a simple, yet significant program that will enhance the experience for players, coaches, umpires, and fans by placing an emphasis on good sportsmanship and positive conduct!

The Umpires will be handing each coach a Youth 1st Pocket Reminder card as part of the pre-game coach's meetings. This is a reminder that the tournament is a **Youth 1st Environment**. The card emphasizes three main points:

REMEMBER ... It's about the kids.

I WILL ... Keep my competitive energy in check.

I WILL ALWAYS ... Treat officials and opponents with respect.

We are asking all coaches to please partner with your umpires to ensure that this emphasis is maintained throughout each game by yourself, assistant coaches, your players and your fans. We also recommend sharing the card with your other coaches and fans as the game starts. You, as a coach and the leader of your team, are responsible for the behavior of your players, coaches AND FANS.

At the conclusion of each game, the umpire will vote for each team that exhibits the conduct, behavior and attitudes as defined by the three points of emphasis. *Remind your parents the team vote includes players, coaches, AND FANS!* After the tournament, teams that receive exemplary scores will be recognized with a Youth 1st Team Award! Youth 1st Teams will be invited to be recognized at events hosted by the Twins, Saints and Northwoods League clubs.

Sports provide great opportunities for young people to grow and get better, both as a player and as a person. Thank you for being a positive influence during the tournament, making the experience even better for the fans, officials and especially the kids!

Thank you!

Mark Arjes
Founder / Director - Youth 1st

