



Welcome to the 2023 - 2024 Softball Season!

The Geneva Foxes Fastpitch Softball Organization is a **non-profit** fastpitch club softball program founded in Geneva, IL. Our primary goal is to advance female athletes and give them the skill-set necessary to compete at the highest levels throughout their adolescent softball career. There is a fine line in competing at the highest level without losing sight or focus on development of the multi-sport athlete, and we recognize this. Our goal is to provide a rewarding softball experience and to encourage each girl to advance to a level beyond their own expectations.

History of the Organization

Entering our 28th year, the Geneva Foxes have one of the longest tenures of any club softball program in Illinois. We are a self-funded, non-profit organization offering a softball skill development program (see *Offseason Training*) at a rate well below other comparable programs. We are not affiliated with any other Geneva organization but work in conjunction with the Geneva Park District. We follow the guidelines of fastpitch softball governing bodies such as USSSA, NAFA, PGF and USA. In the 2023-2024 season, we will be looking to add select players for our 12U, 14U, 16U, and 18U age groups.

All players are required to attend at least one tryout but can attend multiple dates if necessary and/or they wish to. At the discretion of each Head Coach, returning players may be required to tryout, and earn their spot on the current team, as well as to show support for new candidates. During the tryouts, each player will be asked to demonstrate skills in hitting, fielding, throwing and running (and pitching/catching, if applicable). The coaches will review and rate each player on these skills as well as watch the interaction with the other players and coaches during the tryout.

Not all players that attend the tryouts will be offered a position on a team (which may also include players who were on the 2022-2023 team, at the discretion of the Head Coach). During the selection process, each Head Coach will offer positions to players meeting the needs of his/her team. Each player is notified by a face-to-face meeting, a phone call and/or an Email (Head Coach's discretion). **On-line acceptance and initial payment are required to hold a position on the team.**

Player Fees

Player fees are for the entire season and are used for tournament/round robin costs, umpires, player instruction, administration fees, field preparation & rental, practice equipment and indoor practice space rental. Foxes Spirit Wear, uniforms, any other personal equipment (gloves, bats and catcher's gear), or any travel/lodging expenses for out of town tournaments, are **not included** in the player fee.

The player fee for the 2023-2024 season is \$1,900.00 (plus the cost of uniforms – details below).

The fee payment schedule is as follows:

- \$500.00 upon offer acceptance (roster spot is not "guaranteed" until the initial \$500.00 payment is received)
- \$500.00 on or before September 1, 2023
- \$450.00 on or before November 1, 2023
- \$450.00 on or before January 1, 2024

Parents will have the option to pay registration fees via personal check (made payable to "Geneva Foxes") or by credit card on-line through our website registration page (Sports Engine). There will be a service fee associated with the credit card option (which is a Sports Engine fee, and not a Geneva Foxes fee). A link to the website will be provided with the offer. Please note that the online offer acceptance link must be completed even if the check payment option is the preferred method of payment, just do not enter any payment information when completing the offer acceptance if payments will be made via check. **If fees are not received on-time the player will not be able to practice or play and their roster spot may be vacated to be filled with another player. Player fees are non-refundable.**



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Uniforms

The majority of the Geneva Foxes uniforms are Boombah, with the exception of socks which will be TCK for the 2023-2024 season. The uniform sizing will be done shortly after the teams are established. The exact date, time and place will be communicated through your team's Head Coach/Team Manager. Returning players from the 2022-2023 season may purchase items "a la carte" based on need and/or want, but players who were not on a 2022-2023 team will need to purchase the entire uniform set – 3 game jerseys, 3 pairs of pants, 3 belts, 3 pairs of socks, a helmet (including facemask/chin strap) and a bag – at a cost that will be between \$430-\$487, depending on the type of bag chosen and/or if a larger (A2XL or A3XL) jersey size is needed. Each player/family will need to complete, and sign, the uniform order form, even if nothing is being ordered. **All uniform payments will be due at the time of the sizing or uniform orders will not be placed – THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS! Payment options are check payable to "Geneva Foxes" (preferred) or exact change cash.**

Offseason Training

Fall practices and games/round robins/tournaments will begin in late August, or early September, at the discretion of the individual Head Coach.

Beginning with the 2023-2024 season the Geneva Foxes and the Oswego Outlaws are forming a softball partnership. Foxes teams will gain year-round access to a 14,000 sq. ft. dedicated softball facility, located in Aurora, for the Foxes and Outlaws teams! The facility has a full infield (which also can be used as a speed and agility area), pitching tunnels and several tee stations, as well as a pitching machine. The facility will be used for off-season practices (November-March) and it will also be available to Foxes players (and coaches) throughout the year for additional work if players would like to get additional reps AND full practices can be held inside the facility if there is an inclement weather day and/or an additional practice day may be needed/wanted!

More detailed information will be provided by your team's coach regarding specifics of the winter training, as well as off-season pitching and hitting instruction that will be available to Foxes players at no additional cost!

Parent Participation

Parent opportunities are unlimited and very essential in running a well-organized organization. Just as the team's staff volunteer their time and efforts for the girls, so can our parents. A key point to remember is to ask your daughter's Head Coach/Team Manager what they need, as each Head Coach/Team Manager determines the need for the respective team. Helping where not wanted, or needed, can cause confusion and complications instead of assistance. Some examples of where you can help include running practice stations, being a team manager, drivers, etc.; and, most importantly, just being a positive, supportive and enthusiastic fan. If you are interested in being on the Board of Directors or coaching please contact our Board President.

Sponsorships

Sponsorships are another integral part of any non-profit organization. Sponsors can be any business or individual who wishes to donate to the organization, an individual team or a specific player. Besides getting a possible tax deduction, the sponsors may be honored in a variety of ways. These include their name on each of our teams' travel banners and their name/logo on our website with a link to the sponsor site. The Geneva Foxes are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Fundraising Events

The Geneva Foxes do not require participation in any program-wide fundraising event. Individual teams, however, may choose to select a fundraiser and those proceeds will go to that individual team, not to the organization as a whole, to help with annual team expenses. These are typically Super Bowl Squares, March Madness pools, etc.



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Organizational Commitment

The Geneva Foxes Travel Softball Organization is committed to being highly competitive at all times. Parents, players and family commitment are also required. The Head Coach/Team Manager will distribute the spring/summer tournament, game and practice schedules no later than March, 2024 to assist families in vacation planning. Taking a vacation during the tournament season is discouraged. However, the organization is aware of family commitments and we also fully support the multi- sport athlete. Any conflicts in dates should be discussed with the Head Coach and/or Team Manager as soon as possible to allow for time to adjust game schedules or expand the team's roster for any particular tournament/game.

For additional information, please visit the Foxes website at www.genevafoxes.org, reach out to the Head Coach of your respective team, or you may also reach out to the President of the Foxes, Mike Marro, at 847-254-0234 or via Email at mike.marro@att.net.