



Spirit of Morgan Hill – Comp FAQ

Spirit of Morgan Hill Competitive Fastpitch is a travel-ball organization under the Spirit of Morgan Hill Recreational League. Spirit Competitive (Comp) teams consist of the top players from the Spirit of Morgan Hill Softball League. Our mission is to further advance the skills of players in a more competitive environment. All participants of the Spirit Spring Recreational season are encouraged to tryout.

Clarification of Terms for 2019

“C” All-Star Program – 8U, 10U, 12U

“B” Select Program – 10U, 12U, 14U

High School “B” Select Program – 14U, 16U, 18U

Q: When are tryouts and when is more information available?

- An informational meeting is usually held prior to tryouts.
- Tryouts are the *last weekend in April (change from May 1st)* for the summer season.
- Tryouts are typically held in August for the fall season.
- Tentative tournament schedule are available at tryouts.

Q: What do I need to know about tryouts?

- Please arrive 30 minutes early to register, try on uniforms and warm-up.
- Upon arrival at the fields, report to registration table to be assigned a tryout number.
- Please bring your cleats, glove, face mask, bat, batting helmet and water.

Q: What is covered at a tryout?

- Ground plays, fly balls, throwing, running, hitting and bunting, pitching and catching.

Q: Who can try out for the spring/summer competitive travel teams?

- Registered recreational players.

Q: Who can try out for the fall competitive travel teams?

- All girls 16 years and under. Ages are based on January 1st for ASA.

Q: What is the difference between A, B, and C level teams?

- C teams are formed no earlier than *the last Saturday in April*, must cease playing together by March 31st, and all players must be registered in the recreational league.
- B teams are formed at any time and all players must be registered in the recreational league.
- A teams can form at any time and do not need to be associated with a recreational league.

Q: Do I have to try out?

- YES! Tryouts are mandatory. Missing the tryout with making a prior arrangement will result in not being placed on a team. If you are unavailable to be at the tryout, please contact the league President.

Q: Are tryouts the only basis of the selection process?

- No. The basis of the selection process includes performance at the try out, observation of league play, past Spirit performance, coach recommendations, athleticism and **player AND parent attitude**.

Q: Are players guaranteed to play favorite position or play the same position from the rec season?

- No. Positions, along with play time, are **earned**. Players earn their position and play time by attending practice and games, displaying respectful behavior, and completing additional workouts outside of practice (per the head coach instruction).
- The head coach, along with the coaching staff, will determine positions and batting line-up for games. Positions do not carry over from past comp seasons either.

Q: How long is the summer season?

- The summer season typically runs from Memorial Day weekend through July. Practices at the “C” level can begin May 1st.

Q: How long is the fall season?

- The fall season typically runs September through November. Teams can elect to play in additional tournaments through March 31st not covered in the initial registration fees collected.

Q: What commitment is expected of me?

- A full commitment of practices and tournaments.
- Summer 2019 – Nonrefundable payment by Sunday, May 12th in full.
 - *Spirit will be registering for tournaments prior to this date, ordering uniforms and purchasing equipment.*

Q: What if we have a vacation already planned on the weekend of a tournament?

- Please discuss with the appropriate head coach prior to committing to the team.

Q: What is the practice/game schedule?

- Practice and game schedules will vary by coach. Teams will typically practice 2-3 days per week and play tournaments on weekends. Most teams will play 3-6 tournaments. Some coaches elect to play friendlies or super friendlies on weekends not traveling to help keep registration fees down. Friendlies are games played against neighboring teams without the hoopla of trophies and tee-shirt vendors.

Q: Does Spirit allow players to “play up”?

- Yes. If you’re interested in playing in a division higher than your age group, you must go through tryouts with the older division.
 - Example: If you are playing as and 8 year old and want to try out for 10U, you must try out for **both** 8U and 10U. If you do not make the 10U team, you are still eligible to be selected for the 8U team.
- Birth certificates are required for all registered players and team rosters are approved by ASA prior to tournament play.

Q: What is the cost of a (summer or fall) travel ball season?

- This year, Spirit is transitioning to a new look for comp uniforms so the cost will be approximately the same for returning players as well as new players. As a reference, the average tournament TEAM registration fee for supper is approximately \$500.
- Teams may elect to play in additional tournaments not covered in the initial registration fees collected. This may include adding a tournament between originally scheduled tournaments or after the published season in August, late November or December.

Q: Where does Spirit typically play summer tournaments?

- Most tournaments are within the greater Bay Area. However, as the girls get older more tournaments are scheduled requiring overnight stays. Here is an example of some prior summer tournaments that would require hotel stay:
 - 8U – One coastal tournament with optional overnight (Monterey Bay)
 - 10U – North Bay (Vallejo, Pleasant Hill), Tahoe, Central Valley
 - 12U – Northern California, Tahoe, Sacramento, Central Valley
 - In addition, teams may qualify for the Juniors National/California State Games in San Diego or the Western Nationals in Oregon, based on placing at the NorCal Association Championships.

Also, please keep in mind that some tournaments get cancelled the week of the event. These are tournaments that our teams have registered and paid for months in advance. Tournaments occasionally cancel age brackets or divisions due to low registration numbers. Coaches will work with the board to schedule alternative in the event of a cancelled tournament.

Q: Where does Spirit typically play fall tournaments?

- 8U – Bay Area to Salinas
- 10U – Bay Area to Salinas
- 12U – Bay Area to Salinas, possibly Napa and/or Central Valley

Q: Can jerseys be reused from prior comp seasons?

- Since new uniforms are being purchased this summer season, these uniforms will be used again in the fall and most likely next summer and fall for returning players.
- Items can be purchased again if items need replacing.

Q: Do the registration fees include player equipment, such as bags or helmets?

- No, the estimated fees do not include player equipment.
- However, coaches have the option to add them to the fees.
- Teams have the option to fundraise or receive donations to cover the cost of additional equipment.