



EGFA 2026 8U Travel Parent Info Meeting

Arneson Acres and via Zoom

21 January 2026



EGFA: Who are We?

Our Mission and Vision:

EGFA engages girls in fastpitch softball by making the sport **fun, inclusive, and competitively inspiring**—building confident athletes and connected community members.

We support diverse pathways for girls in softball by fostering strong partnerships, collaborative development, and a connected community. We are committed to fostering leadership, opportunity, and excellence at every level of play for our girls.



EGFA: Who are We?

Strategy Statement:

To fulfill our mission and realize our vision, EGFA will pursue the following strategic priorities:

- **Centralized Resource Hub:** Create a transparent, accessible platform for training, communication, and development tools.
- **Player-Centered Development:** Establish clear philosophies for pitching and overall growth, with support for transitions between age levels and competitive tiers.
- **Coaching Excellence:** Invest in coach training and mentorship, with a focus on increasing female leadership and club collaboration.
- **Community Engagement:** Expand outreach events, social connectivity, and partnerships with Edina High School, baseball programs, and local clubs.
- **Inclusive Growth:** Maintain subsidized training, rec-level access, and events like “Try Softball” to welcome new players.
- **Operational Strength:** Improve tournament organization, tryout processes, and volunteer systems to ensure sustainability and clarity.



Philosophy and Expectations

The program's primary focus is player development in nature. Girls will learn the game of softball in a fun, competitive environment. The full roster is batted for all games. Girls will play multiple positions throughout the season. During league games, coaches make their best effort to rotate players through positions and get them as many at bats as possible. Tournament games are typically more competitive, and coaches will play to win to enable playing more games in elimination brackets. The commitment to travel is typically at a high level and attendance is important relative to player development.

The EGFA wants to grow and develop the athletes in the community by providing the right level of training and competition for each athlete. Our goal is to optimize rosters to balance participation numbers with sufficient playing time. To help your player and her teammates be successful it is expected that softball is prioritized during the season. Attendance at practices, games and weekend tournaments is expected of all teams. Coaches will work to provide the Spring/Summer schedule as early as possible to support your planning.



Player Evaluations **New!**

The EGFA requires an evaluation for players wishing to be considered for an 8U travel team. Evaluations allow the EGFA to build teams based on player abilities, skills, and experience. Travel teams are formed based on evaluation results, previous-year coach evaluations, and in some cases, by school. All players who demonstrate sufficient skill and ability to successfully and safely compete in 8U travel will be placed on a travel team. In some cases, players wishing to be considered for travel may be placed on a rec team if the evaluation committee feels a player cannot successfully and safely compete in a travel environment.



Uniform and Equipment

What do I need to play?

Uniform:

- Jersey – Cost included with season fee. Try-on will be available at evaluation. More info to be provided.
- Pants – Black softball pants
- Belt – Black preferred
- Socks – Green preferred
- Shoes/Cleats – Cleats preferred over shoes. No metal cleats!

Equipment:

- Batting helmet – Black preferred. Must have face shield and fitting chin strap
- Fielder's Mask – Black preferred. Metal is more durable than plastic but both are acceptable.
- Glove – Any. Unnecessary to have a catcher's mitt in 8U.
- Bat – Team bats are issued by EGFA. Personal bats not required. All bats must be ASA fastpitch-certified bats.
- Bag/backpack – Highly recommended.



Practices and Games

Practices:

- Offseason indoor training (secondary to winter sport) (approximately early February to early March) **New!**
- After spring break: 2 practices per week
- Coaches will work with parents to schedule practice times based on player availability

League Games:

- Metro 8-Under League plays a 9-week schedule starting April 29.
- First 7 weeks are single games; last 2 weeks are double-headers.
- Games are always on Wednesday at 6:15pm.
- Re-scheduling of any rain-outs is between the two head coaches and can occur on any day/time of the week.

Weekend Tournaments: **New!**

- May 16 – Tournament at Wayzata (one-day, 3 game minimum)
- May 30-31 – Tournament at Edina (two-day, 4 game minimum)
- June 20 – Tournament at Shakopee (one-day, 3 game minimum)
- June 27-28 – State Tournament, location TBD (two-day, usually 3 game minimum)
- July 17-19 – MONSTA Nationals Tournament at Shakopee (if team qualifies)



Fees

Registration Fee:

- All registrants are initially charged the 8U Rec fee (\$150).
- Upon being placed on a travel team, the remaining balance for Travel is charged to the same method of payment (\$100 + \$50 “Host Fee”)

Host Fee:

- The \$50 Host Fee can be refunded by satisfying any of the following volunteer requirements:
 - Coaching a team (Head or Assistant)
 - Serving as a team manager
 - Volunteering for at least (1) four-hour shift at a tournament or event
 - Serving on the EGFA Board of Directors or participating on an EGFA Committee
- Host Fee is refunded at the conclusion of the season provided at least one of the above conditions is met.



2026 Spring/Summer Calendar

Offseason:

- January 4 (Sun) – Winter Clinics Begin (January Session)
- January 5 (Mon) - Registration Opened
- **January 21 (Wed) – Travel Parent Meeting**
- January 25 (Sun) – Optional Open Gym Skills Clinic
- January 28 (Wed) – Travel Registration Closes
- February 1 (Sun) – Winter Clinics Begin (February Session)
- February 1 (Sun) – Player Evaluations
- Teams are announced, offseason indoor training begins
 - *Does not take priority over winter sports*
- Coaches Training (Date TBD, once teams are solidified)
 - Learn how to use pitching machines
 - Learn field maintenance
 - Review coaching philosophy
 - Answer questions
- March 16-March 20 – EPS Spring Break

In-Season:

- **March 23 – Spring/Summer season begins, indoor training continues**
- April TBD – Practice moves outdoors
- April 29 (Wed) – Metro 8-Under League games begin
- May 16-17 – Weekend Tournament (Wayzata)
- May 30-31 – Weekend Tournament (Edina)
- June 20-21 – Weekend Tournament (Shakopee)
- June 27-28 – State Tournament (Location TBD)
- July 17-19 – MONSTA Nationals Tournament (Shakopee) (must qualify)

NOTE: 2027 Season Evaluations will occur in Fall 2026



EGFA Board of Directors Opportunities

Current Board of Directors Open Positions:

- Webmaster
 - Point person to organize the website, add timely and relevant content and support digital experience of our website.
- Director of Fundraising and Sponsorships
 - Leverage relationships and expertise to secure donations that support the program, either strategic or tactical. Help secure grants. Think of something new we aren't doing and go for it! Many local establishments offer programs to raise funds. Work with facilities lead to prioritize fundraising goals.
- Recreation Program Director
 - Manage end-to-end Recreational program engagement (identify opportunities, support rec program engagement and experience including Mayfly exhibition game and year-end tournament for younger age levels).



Questions?

