



2026 Parent Meeting

February 2nd, 2026

Agenda

- **Welcome & Introductions**
- **SLPSA Player and Family Expectations**
- **Team Offerings**
- **Coach Selections**
- **Fees**
- **Team Plans**
- **Preparing for 2026 season**
- **Evaluations**
- **Uniforms**
- **Panther Classic**
- **Volunteer Requirements**
- **Fundraising**
- **Spirit Wear Store**
- **Questions/Wrap**



About SLPSA

Mission



To offer a community-based fastpitch softball program that allows opportunities for all Spring Lake Park female athletes to learn and enjoy fastpitch softball.

Vision



Provide a fastpitch softball program that teaches fastpitch softball fundamentals in a fun and supportive learning environment by promoting team play, providing individual skill development opportunities (physical & mental), and developing competitive teams regardless of age or level of play.

Values



Fun Foster a positive environment that promotes joy and love of the game	Teamwork Build strong relationships to accomplish shared goals	Sportsmanship Demonstrate respect and fairness in all aspects of the game
Inclusivity Promote a diverse, inclusive culture that is welcoming and accessible	Integrity Operate with honesty and highest degree of ethical conduct in everything we do	Discipline Embody a growth mindset and strive for excellence both on and off the field

Check out our Parent Handbook which includes Code of Conduct expectations for all SLPSA players, parents, and coaches [HERE!](#)



SLPSA Board of Directors



Tom Doran
President



Kristi Cobbs
**Vice President
(interim)**



Kari Gregory
Treasurer



Brad Hunt
**Website & IT
Director**



Cassandra Framstead
**League & Team
Schedule Director**



Amanda Tschakert
**Panther Classic
Tournament Director**



Bree Minor
**Brand & Marketing
Director**



Malynda Zuleger
**Player Development
Director**



Carolyn Balmer
Secretary

OPEN Positions

- **Coaches Director**
- **Community Liaison & Fundraising Director**
- **Director at Large (3)**

Come Join Us!

SLPSA Board of Directors Guiding Principles

Servant Leadership Guide the program with integrity, vision and a commitment to excellence	Transparency Provide open communication and accountability with decisions and actions	Development Ensure ongoing growth and development of the program, athletes and coaches
Ongoing Support Provide resources and encouragement to coaches, athletes and families	Stewardship Manage program operations and resources effectively, efficiently and ethically	Community Engagement Foster relationships and collaboration with the SLP Community

Open Roles

- Coaches Director
- Community Liaison & Fundraising Director
- 3 Director at Large

Upcoming Open Roles (July)

- Vice President

Learn more about the SLPSA Strategic Plan and Board Roles & Responsibilities [HERE](#)



SLPSA Softball - Player and Family Expectations

Commitment Matters

- SLPSA softball requires a consistent and reliable commitment from players and families throughout the season
- Player development, team success and positive culture depend on regular participation

Season timeline

- Feb/March: Spring season evaluations
- March/April: practice begin (weather depending)
- May-July: league games and tournaments
- Early August: nationals possible

Attendance Expectations

- Players at all levels are expected to attend all practices, games and tournaments
- Families should confirm attendance to practice and games in SportsEngine.
This is essential for practice & game planning!
- Schedules for all teams are shared early in hopes to minimize conflicts
- If unavoidable conflict arises, notify coaches as early as possible

Please plan family schedules with the full season in mind.



2026 Team Offerings

Team Age Division Offerings

- 8U
- 10U
- 12U
- 14U

Team Formation

- Available teams are determined by the number of registered athletes
- Per our handbook, our handbook allows for up to 14 players per team, however we strive for 11-12 to maximize player engagement and development opportunities

	8U	10U	12U	14U
Registration Count	35	22	25	9
Number of Teams Expected	3	2	2	1
Level of Play*	B/C	B/C	B/C	B

*Subject to change pending final registrations and team formations



2026 Coach Selections

Coach Evaluation Criteria

- Previous coaching experience
- Fastpitch softball knowledge
- Commitment to the mission of SLPSA
- Feedback from previous year's parent and athlete surveys (when applicable)

Coach Expectations

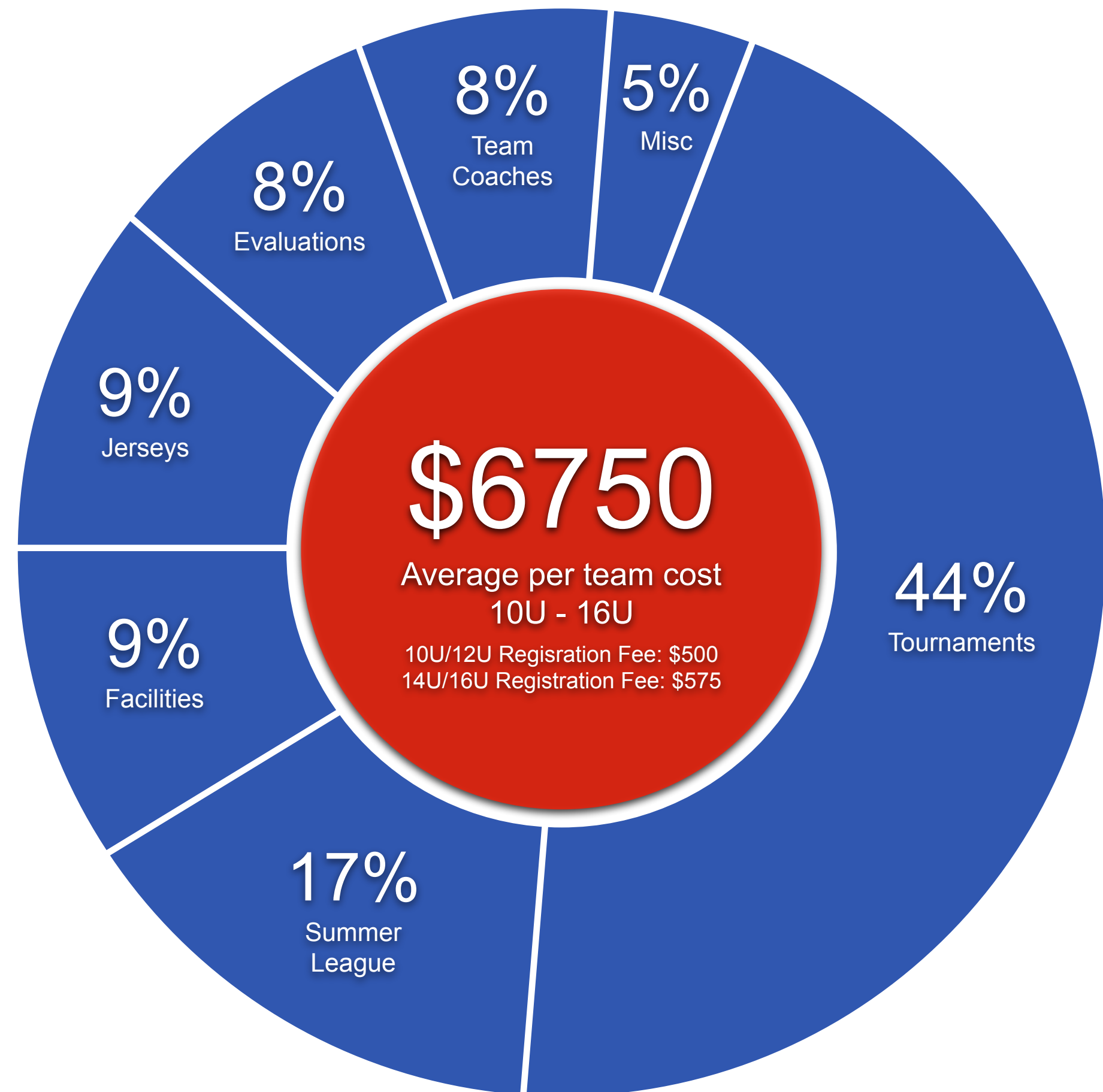
- Fulfill all training requirements (Concussion/ACE/Background Checks) in addition to, coaches meetings and coaches clinic offerings.
- Coaches must complete an application and be approved by the Board in order to be considered

Coach Team Assignments

- We are thankful to have several talented and qualified individuals who have offered to coach this season.
- Coaching applicants will be contacted shortly and final coach assignments are pending evaluation results and will be communicated with team placement announcements.



Registration Fees



Tournaments

3 Invitationals, MN State Qualifier, MN State*, Nationals*, Gate Fees and Umpires for the Panther Classic
(*if qualified; Nationals Gate Fee not included)



Summer League

MN Softball League Registration including League Night Games, Field Maintenance and Umpires



Facilities

SLP High School, Airport and Lakeside Commons Fields and Indoor Facilities for practices and games



Jerseys

Tank and t-shirt jerseys



Evaluations

Pre-evaluation Practices, Indoor Facilities, and Independent Evaluators for summer team formations



Team Coaches

Head Coach tuition reimbursement and Background Checks for all coaches



Miscellaneous

Insurance, Team Equipment, GameChanger (**NEW!**), SportsEngine and misc. Administrative Expenses



Why Do We Have To Fundraise?

With average team sizes of 11-12 players, registration fees typically do not cover core costs associated with fielding a team. Fundraising also helps provide opportunities outside of regular practices at no additional cost to SLPSA families. (i.e. skills clinics)



2026 Team Plans



2026 Team Plans | 8U

8U League | MN Softball Metro 8U League

- **No evaluations:** Teams identified based on birthday and past player experience with a balanced approach
- **Season Length:** Early/Mid April - June
- **Practices:**
 - 1-2 per week during the early season when weather allows us outdoors
 - 1 per week after games start
- **Games:** 1 per week (typically Wed) starting late April
 - If games are rained out they may be rescheduled based on field availability
- **Tournaments:** 3 guaranteed
 - Panther Classic
 - 1 TBD tournament
 - MN Softball State Tournament: June 27-28
- **Special Events:**
 - SLP High School Softball Youth Night Game
 - All age group skills development
 - Team Picture Day
 - SLP Tower Days Parade



2026 Team Plans | 8U Tournament Calendar

Team 1	Team 2	Team 3
Panther Classic May 9 Coon Rapids	Panther Classic May 9 Coon Rapids	Panther Classic May 9 Coon Rapids
TBD	Border Battle June 12-14 Hudson, WI	Border Battle June 12-14 Hudson, WI
State June 27-28 TBD	State June 27-28 TBD	State June 27-28 TBD



2026 Team Plans | 10U

10U League | MN Softball Big West

- **Evaluations required - Feb. 27, 6:15-8:15**
- **Season Length:** End of March - July
- **Practices:**
 - 1 per week while indoors
 - 2 per week once we're able to get outside
 - 1 per week once league night games start
- **Games:**
 - Late April - May: 1 double header per week (typically Tue)
 - June: 2 double headers per week (Tue & Thur)
- **Tournaments:** 4 guaranteed
 - Panther Classic
 - 2 Invitational Tournaments
 - State Qualifier
 - Must play minimum of 10 regular season games to qualify
 - State Tournament
 - Must win a minimum of 1 game at the State Qualifier
 - Nationals if qualified
 - Must finish 1st/2nd in sectioned NAFA tournaments
- **Special Events:**
 - SLP High School Softball Youth Night Game
 - All age group skills development
 - Team Picture Day
 - SLP Tower Days Parade



2026 Team Plans | 10U Tournament Calendar

Team 1 Anticipated B level	Team 2 Anticipated C level
Panther Classic May 9 Coon Rapids	Panther Classic May 9 Coon Rapids
Fast N' Furious Tournament May 29-31 Forest Lake	Wayzata Warmup May 29-31 Plymouth
Spartan Spectacular June 13 Inver Grove Heights	Rock the Ponds June 13 Prior Lake
State Qualifier June 26-28 TBD	State Qualifier June 26-28 TBD
State Tournament *if qualified July 11-12 TBD	State Tournament *if qualified July 11-12 TBD
NAFA Nationals * if qualified July 16-19 Cottage Grove	NAFA Nationals *if qualified July 16-19 Cottage Grove



2026 Team Plans | 12U

12U League | MN Softball Big West

- **Evaluations required-** **March 4, 6:15-8:15 PM**
- **Season Length:** End of March - July
- **Practices:** May be later in evening to accommodate those playing HS
 - 1 per week while indoors
 - 2 per week once we're able to get outside
 - 1 per week once league night games start
- **Games:** 2 double headers per week (Mon & Wed) late April - June
- **Tournaments:** 4 guaranteed
 - Panther Classic
 - 2 TBD Invitational Tournaments
 - State Qualifier
 - Must play minimum of 10 regular season games to qualify
 - State Tournament
 - Must win a minimum of 1 game at the State Qualifier
 - Nationals if qualified
 - Must finish 1st/2nd in sectioned NAFA tournaments
- **Special Events:**
 - SLP High School Softball Youth Night Game
 - All age group skills development
 - Team Picture Day
 - SLP Tower Days Parade



2026 Team Plans | 12U Tournament Calendar

Team 1 Anticipated B level	Team 2 Anticipated C level
Panther Classic May 9 Coon Rapids	Panther Classic May 9 Coon Rapids
Fast N' Furious May 29-31 Forest Lake	Mounds View Madness June 6 Shoreview
Chisago Lakes June 13-14 Chisago Lakes	Rock the Ponds June 13 Prior Lake
State Qualifier June 26-28 TBD	State Qualifier June 26-28 TBD
State *if qualified July 11-12 TBD	State *if qualified July 11-12 TBD
NAFA Nationals *if qualified July 16-19 Cottage Grove	NAFA Nationals *if qualified July 16-19 Cottage Grove



2026 Team Plans | 14U

14U League | MN Softball Big West

- We have enough players to form one team
- No evaluations
- **Season Length:** May - August
- **Practices:**
 - 2 per week prior to league games starting
 - 1 per week after league games start
- **Games:** 2 double headers per week (Tue & Thurs) mid May through early July
- **Tournaments:** 4 guaranteed - **All TBD**
 - 3 Invitational Tournaments
 - State Qualifier
 - State
 - Nationals if qualified: Monsta
- **Special Events:**
 - SLP High School Softball Youth Night Game
 - Team Picture Day
 - SLP Tower Days Parade



Preparing for the 2026 Season



Open Gym | All Age

What do I need to know?

- Dates: week of **Feb 17 & 19**, 6-7:30 pm
- **Optional for all to attend**
- Pre-Evaluation practice at Westwood Intermediate Gym
- Facilitated by Spring Lake park High School coaches and HS players
- Designed to help athletes get some reps and get back in the swing of things
- No HitTrax will be used during these sessions (outside options at the Ballpark, Optimize, MFA)
- Athletes may attend one or both days (attendance is optional)
- Sessions will focus on fielding, throwing, and hitting
- \$5 per athlete to participate - cash or venmo
- **Jersey Try-On, Get in the Game Raffle & Volunteer Check Pickup/Drop-Off**
(Option 1 of 2)



Pre-Evaluations | 10U & 12U

What do I need to know?

- Dates and Time: **Feb 24 and 25**, 6-7:30 pm
- **Optional for 10U and 12U players to attend**
- Pre-Evaluation practice held at Westwood Intermediate Gym
- Facilitated by Spring Lake park High School coaches and select HS players
- Designed to help athletes run through evaluation drills in low-pressure setting
- No HitTrax will be used during these sessions (outside options at the Ballpark, Optimize, MFA)
- Athletes may attend one or both days (attendance is optional)
- Sessions will focus on fielding, throwing, and hitting mechanics used during evaluations.
- **Jersey Try-On, Get in the Game Raffle & Volunteer Check Pickup/Drop-Off**

(Option 2 of 2)

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Evaluations | 10U & 12U

What do I need to know?

- Evaluations are **required** for **all 10U - 12U athletes**
- **NEW Location: Minnesota Fastpitch Academy (MFA)**
 - 899 3rd Street SW New Brighton
- Evaluation **Dates & Times** - Must attend **ONE**
 - **10U:** Feb 27 | 6:15-8:15 PM
 - **12U:** March 4 | 6:15-8:15 PM
- If you cannot attend your assigned time, please reach out to the board.
 - Evaluations cannot be accommodate outside of these dates/times
- All evaluations will be conducted by qualified, independent MFA evaluators
- No board members, parents or coaches allowed inside during evaluations
- HitTrax Technology will be used to measure:
 - Exit velocity & distance (hitting)
 - Speed & distance (throwing)
- A combination of evaluator scores and coaches selections will be used to form teams
- Non-refundable \$35 evaluation fee was included in your registration.

Check out our Parent Handbook [HERE](#) for more details around the team selection process!



2026 Uniforms

- **NEW** t-shirt and tank jerseys for the 26/27 Seasons.
- Fit samples available at **Open Gym** and **Pre-Evaluations** for all athletes regardless of age to try on.
 - Jersey's are the same brand as previous jersey for sizing reference.

T-shirt Jersey

- All Athletes & Head Coaches



Tank Jersey

- 10U-14U Athletes



SLPSA follows a 2-year jersey cycle. During the 2nd year, jerseys will be ordered for returning players on as needed basis. (outgrown, lost, poor condition etc.) Players will have the opportunity to indicate this need during the registration process.



2026 Uniforms Elements

- All players will need to provide their own black softball pants, white belt, and red socks to complete their uniform.
- Each player is responsible for additional equipment including fielding mask, softball helmet with cage, cleats, glove and bat (USA certified softball).
- Required uniform and equipment items can be purchased at your retailer of choice



All Athletes Full Look

8U-14U



10U - 14U Full Look



Volunteer Requirements

Volunteer Requirement Details

- \$200 Volunteer Fee Deposit Check
- Due at **Open Gym or Pre-Evaluations**: Feb 17, 19, 24 or 25
- Volunteer Fee Checks will only be cashed for those families who have not completed their volunteer requirement; checks will be cashed by June 1st
- **Full Volunteer Credit: Board Members, Head Coach, 1 Assistant Coach, 1 Team Manager and 1 GameChanger Manager per team.**

Panther Classic Tournament Details

- May 9th at [Sand Creek Athletic complex](#) - **NEW LOCATION!**
- Rain date is May 10
- Family completes one shift - AM and PM shifts will be available; shift length TBD. Volunteer shifts will focus on field maintenance and additional support help.
- 8U/10U teams will play in the AM and 12U teams in the PM
- Our 14U families are still expected to volunteer even though they do not participate in this tournament.
- Shift sign-up to come via the [DIBS page](#) on our SLPSA website



New Volunteer Opportunities

Team Manager: 1 per team

The Team Manager will support administrative off the field tasks for the team. Examples could include:

- Helping coaches and parents communicate and stay organized
- Manage Sports Engine for Team
- Manage bench during games if needed
- Coordinating team building events and/or off the field team activities
- Coordinate items related to Nationals participation if the team participates (parade costumes, first game gifts etc.)
- Acting as a general resource for Coaches on tasks related to the team

GameChanger Parent: 1 max per team

GameChanger is an app that is widely used by softball teams to track live scorekeeping, stats, and video streaming during games. It's also a great way for family members and friends who can't attend to follow along with games!

- SLPSA is providing access to GameChanger for all of our teams and will be looking for support from parents to help coaches with live scorekeeping
- Training will be provided for those willing to support

Important Note: These roles fulfill your volunteer requirement and play a large role in setting your athlete's team up for success this season!



Fundraising Requirements

Fundraising plays an important role in ensuring we have adequate funding to provide a quality experience for all athletes. To help offset rising program costs, we will be hosting Raffle Ticket Sales again this season in addition to fundraising through our spirit wear store and yearly community sponsorship requests.

Again this year, those not interested in participating in the raffle were able to select a buyout option during registration.

- Minimum of (20) \$5 raffle ticket sales **per family**
- \$100 was collected at registration to cover the cost for the tickets; **the dollars you collect from selling the tickets will be yours to keep**
- Raffle tickets will be distributed at **Open Gym and Pre-evaluations**
- Tickets stubs need to be **returned** on or before the morning of the Panther Classic on **May 9**
- Winners will be announced at the Panther Classic prior to the final Championship game
(Cash Prizes: \$1000, \$700, \$500, \$350, \$100)

**Interested in additional fundraising opportunities for your team? (ie. Cub Bagging)
Let us know and we're happy to help coordinate!**



Spirit Wear Store

- Our SLP Softball Spirit Wear store is now **OPEN!**
- A portion of every purchase will be donated back to SLPSA to support in-season training opportunities and team equipment needs. Thanks in advance for your support!
- Open year-round and we'll be adding fresh designs throughout the season. Check back later this week for our first drop!

Place your order [HERE](#) by March 1 to ensure delivery before league games start!



2026 Important Dates

Confirmed practice and tournament schedules will be communicated via SportsEngine.

You can expect an invite to your team page shortly after team announcements!

Event	Date(s)	Age Division
Open Gym	2/17 and 2/19	All
Pre-Evaluation Practices	2/24 and 2/25	10U - 12U
SLPSA Evaluations	2/27 or 3/4	10U - 12U
Big West Summer League Games	4/27 – 6/19	10U & 12U
8U League Games	4/29 – 6/20	8U
Panther Classic Tournament	5/9	8U, 10U, 12U (play) All Volunteer
SLPHS Youth Night	TBD	All
Big West Summer League Games (14U)	5/19 – 7/7	14U
SLP Tower Days Parade	6/4	All
8U State Tournament	6/27 – 6/28	8U
10U & 12U State Qualifier	6/26 – 6/28	10U & 12U
State Tournament*	7/10– 7/12	10U & 12U
NAFA Nationals*	7/16-7/19	10U & 12U
14U State Qualifier	7/17-7/19	14U
State Tournament*	7/26 – 7/27	14U
Monsta Championships*	7/31 – 8/3	12U/14U

* If Qualified; teams typically choose one Nationals tournament per season



Questions?

Follow us!

We will be using facebook as a main channel for updates this year



Email

slpsoftball@gmail.com



Social Media

[SLP Panther](#)
[Youth Fastpitch](#)



Website

www.slpfastpitch.com



THANK YOU!