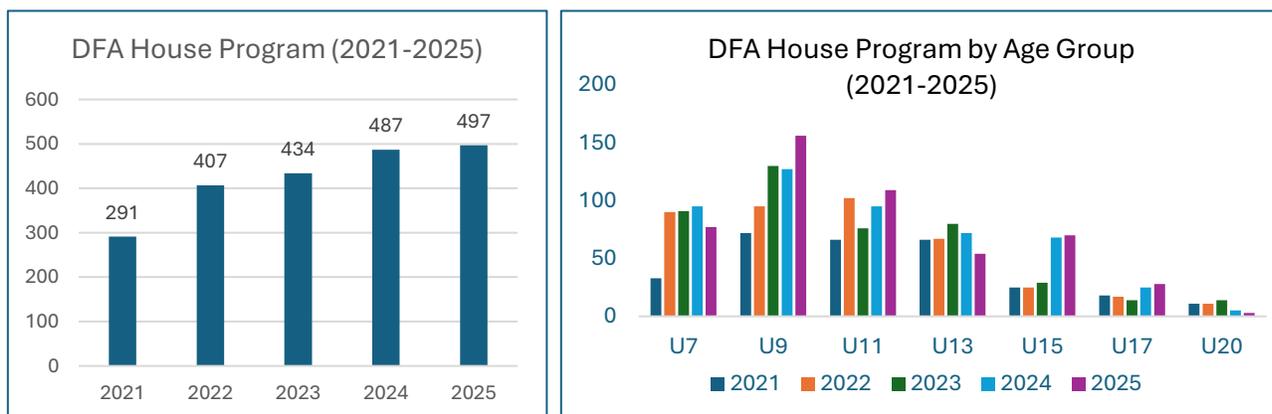


DFA Director of House – 2025 Season Report

Delta Fastpitch Association’s House Program has experienced strong growth, with registrations increasing from 297 in 2021 to 499 in 2025 - a 68% overall increase over the five-year period. This growth reflects targeted efforts following the COVID-19 pandemic to attract new house players through early registration incentives, refer-a-friend discounts, and “Try Softball” events. In addition, DFA has worked to strengthen support for house coaches through training opportunities, engagement events, and DFA-branded apparel.



U7 – U9 Age Group

DFA made an exciting change to the U7 Program (8 teams) and U9 Program (14 teams) for the 2025 season, introducing jamboree-style practices instead of individual practices. During each Jamboree, U7 and U9 players practiced with their teams while following a shared practice plan. This approach ensured that all players received consistent instruction in a fun, structured, and collaborative environment. To support this new format, DFA hired a Jamboree Coordinator to provide on-field technical guidance. Additionally, two weeks of pitching instruction were added to the U9 Jamborees. These sessions were well attended, and feedback indicated a desire for more opportunities to further player development. Overall, feedback from the U7 and U9 Coordinators was very positive, coaches appreciated the organized structure and standardized practice plans.

Recommendations: I recommend that the Jamboree Program continue in 2026, with expanded free pitching sessions for U9 players to build on this year’s success.

U11 Age Group

DFA had nine U11 teams during the 2025 season. Pitching development continues to be an area of focus, as players are transitioning into full-game formats but often lack sufficient pitching depth to sustain competitive play. To extend the season and encourage continued participation, the U11 age group hosted a four-team Fall Ball program, running for five weeks. This initiative provided an excellent introduction to fall ball and received positive feedback from players, coaches, and families. The U11 age group participated in a successful off-season development program involving 17 players, providing consistent skill instruction and opportunities for growth in a supportive, team-based environment. U11 also introduced a Selects team made up of 20 of the top players from evaluations and kids that attended preseason development. They practiced once a week, took part in exhibition games against other organizations and attended a U11 Rep Showcase tournament at the end of the season.

Recommendations: To enhance overall gameplay and build player confidence, I recommend that DFA expand free pitching support and instruction for U11 players. To promote consistent instruction and skill development, U11 teams should adopt a jamboree-style practice format during the first half of the season. This collaborative approach will help standardize coaching and foster growth across all teams. Additionally, I recommend that DFA continue with preseason development initiatives and proceed with the creation of a U11 Selects team to provide advanced opportunities for high-performing players.

U13 Age Group

DFA had four U13 teams during the 2025 Season. Similar to the U11 age group, pitching development remains an area of focus, as players continue to adjust to full-game formats and more competitive play. Despite these challenges, the U13 division demonstrated strong progress throughout the season, with all four teams competing at Regionals in Coquitlam. To extend the season and encourage continued player engagement, several U13 coaches organized a five-week summer scrimmage / pick-up program, providing additional opportunities for development and maintaining momentum heading into the next season.

Recommendations: I recommend that DFA provide subsidized pitching support and instruction for U13 players and that DFA explore opportunities to keep cohorts together so that teams have the opportunity to grow together. Additionally, I recommend that DFA consider preseason development initiatives and the potential creation of a U13 Selects team to provide advanced opportunities for high-performing players.

U15 – U17 Age Group

DFA had five U15 teams and two U17 teams during the 2025 season. At these levels, teams are becoming increasingly competitive, participating in tournaments and competing at Provincials. Coaches have noted that the most successful teams are those that remain together over multiple years, allowing for consistent off-season training, stronger team cohesion, and continued skill development.

Recommendations: I recommended that DFA provide subsidized pitching support and instruction for players who require additional development in this area. Additionally, I recommended that DFA explore opportunities to keep player cohorts between U15-U20 together from season to season, enabling teams to train collectively during the off-season, similar to the approach taken by other associations.

Conclusion

The 2025 season was a year of significant growth and progress for DFA's House Program. Participation reached its highest level in five years, supported by innovative programming, enhanced coach development, and a renewed focus on player experience. Across all age groups, the introduction of structured practice formats, expanded pitching instruction, and extended seasonal play contributed to a stronger and more connected community of players and coaches. Looking ahead, continued investment in pitching development, consistent coaching structures, and team continuity will be key to sustaining this momentum and ensuring DFA remains a leader in grassroots fastpitch development in the region.