

STEWARTVILLE YOUTH FASTPITCH SUMMER SOFTBALL PROGRAM

The Stewartville Rebels Softball Committee is a sub-committee of the Diamond Club. Key decisions will be made by vote at committee meetings and all persons in attendance will have an equal opportunity to vote. There may be times due to sensitive topics or time constraints that decisions will be made without a vote and/or outside a committee meeting. If such a decision must be made, careful consideration will be taken to include key members of the committee and to do what is best for the program.

Guidelines and Code of Conduct

The following are general guidelines Stewartville Youth Softball will follow for the summer traveling program. While the plan is to follow these guidelines as if they are rules, every attempt will be made to do what is right for the youth softball program and the Diamond Club in situations that are not outlined below.

PHILOSOPHY/MISSION:

The youth softball program believes that softball is a fun game and should always be fun. The program is committed to developing players, teams, and the Stewartville softball program in a fun and safe environment.

All players will contribute to the team's success and will be treated with respect. Players are expected to work together as a team to reach the player's and the team's highest potential. We not only strive to teach game skills, but life skills, as well as build lasting relationships with good friends.

To improve and maintain consistency between age levels, the program will take guidance from the Stewartville Varsity Softball coach and his/her assistants. These guidelines will be outlined before each season. The goal is to create and maintain solid, core fundamentals at an early age to benefit the players, teams, and Stewartville softball program.

COACHES:

Being a youth coach can be very rewarding yet challenging in many aspects. The following are a list of guidelines for coaches:

- I will provide a healthy, safe, and positive atmosphere at all games and practices.
- I will coach with a positive attitude, and provide constructive and positive feedback
- I will be respectful and courteous to game officials, other coaches, and players by emulating great sportsmanship
- I will exhibit sportsmanship, self-control, self-discipline, game preparation, and respect for myself and others.
- I will take the time to plan practices and game strategies in advance of each event.
- I will focus on teaching the game vs winning with all players.
- I will be organized and communicate well with players and parents.
- I will not use vulgar (offensive) language, drugs, or alcohol before, or during any practices or games, and I will control my emotions on and off the field.
- I will demand sportsmanship from all my players.
- I promise to keep all players safe from harm and will not play them if they are injured (i.e.... concussions.)
- I will coach all positions to continue to grow each player with a better understanding of the game.

- I will commit to a minimum of one practice a week all season.

Coaches will be selected by the committee. In the event multiple coaches strongly desire the head coach position, the committee may hold interviews to pick the best candidate.

Coaches will be evaluated by a survey at the end of the season allowing players and parents to provide feedback to improve the program.

Coaches will need to read, agree, and sign coaching contract/guidelines

All coaches must undergo a background check and concussion protocol training to participate as a coach in the Youth Softball Program.

PLAYERS:

- I will represent myself, my family, team, and Stewartville with dignity, integrity, and honor at all times.
- I will be respectful, honest, and courteous to my teammates, coaches, game officials, and other team's players and coaches, showing great sportsmanship.
- I will be focused on practices and games (mentally and physically).
- I will support my teammates and maintain a positive attitude.
- I will ask questions if I do not understand.
- I will be on time and communicate with my coach if I will be late or cannot make a practice or game.
- I will learn the fundamentals and continue to practice on my own (very important for pitchers and catchers).
- I will not use vulgar (offensive) language, drugs, alcohol, or other illegal substances at any time.
- I will control my emotions on and off the field.
- I will HAVE FUN!!!

PARENTS:

- I will encourage and support my child regardless of skill level, degree of success, or playing time.
- I will be respectful and courteous to game officials, coaches, players, and Stewartville Rebels Fastpitch Committee members by emulating great sportsmanship.
- I will exhibit sportsmanship, self-control, self-discipline, and respect for myself and others, and be a role model for our children.
- I will not coach my child during games and will allow his/her coaches to coach without criticizing the coach's game strategies and overall team performance.
- I will not put pressure on my child due to performance or playing time.

VOLUNTEERS:

- Stewartville Youth Softball depends on volunteers. All players' parents are expected to volunteer in some capacity (coaching, concessions, and home tournament.)
- There will be a \$100 fully-refundable deposit for each family to ensure there will be volunteers working concessions, grounds keeping, and tournaments. In order to fulfill the volunteer requirement, you will need to work the Rebels tournament & one time in the concession stand in the season.

TEAMS:

- Birth month and year determines player eligibility per the USA Softball Age Chart below.

Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. The player's age and division is indicated on the right.

SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	AGE	DIVISION
2019	2019	2019	2019	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	5	6U
2018	2018	2018	2018	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	6	6U
2017	2017	2017	2017	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	7	8U
2016	2016	2016	2016	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	8	8U
2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	9	10U
2014	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	10	10U
2013	2013	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	11	12U
2012	2012	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	12	12U
2011	2011	2011	2011	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	13	14U
2010	2010	2010	2010	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	14	14U
2009	2009	2009	2009	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	15	16U
2008	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	16	16U
2007	2007	2007	2007	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	17	18U
2006	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	18	18U

NOTE: This age chart is for USA Softball, and only for the 2026 season (September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026.)

- 10U teams may be split by grade, age, or years of experience.
- 12U will be evaluated and EQUAL teams will be formed. These evaluations will be coordinated by the Stewartville Youth Fastpitch Softball Committee.
- 14U, and 16U will be evaluated and leveled by skill. These evaluations will be coordinated by the Stewartville Youth Fastpitch Softball Committee.
- Players may be asked to play up an age group based on skill and need.
- Every attempt should be made to provide equal playing time. Specific games or game situations may require adjustment to line ups, rotations, and playing time as the coach best sees fit, including tournaments.

SKILLS ASSESSMENT:

- Skills assessment will be held in the spring. If a player misses the date(s), the committee will make the decision on what team the player should be placed on based on information from past coaches and other available information.
- To assure the objectivity of the evaluations, the committee will assign evaluators to the respective age groups. The following will apply when evaluators are assigned to tryout groups:
 - Evaluators may not assign scores for their own children.
 - Evaluators will use a standard scoring tool approved by the committee.
 - Players will be evaluated on a series of drills. Player selections will be determined by the rating results, combined with position considerations.
 - Parent team preference will not be considered in the committee's decision.

- o After the evaluations are completed, the teams will be formed using the player rankings and position considerations.
- o Team rosters will be posted on the website no later than 7 days after completion of the tryouts.
- o If you register your child, you are asking for that child to be placed on a team based on her skill level.
- o Once evaluators rank a player and she is placed on a team, no refunds will be allowed.
- The evaluation will be based on the following:
 - o Softball game skills
 - o Attitude, energy, body language, timeliness
 - o Ability to listen, coachability and the ability to focus on the task at hand
 - o Specialty positions like catching and pitching will be assessed separately

TOURNAMENTS:

- Each team may participate in as many or few tournaments as the **TEAM** determines is appropriate. Any tournament expenses will be split evenly between each player on the team.
- Recommended tournaments:
 - o 10U: 1 to 2
 - o 12U: 2 to 3
 - o 14U & HS: 2 to 4
- All teams will participate in the SFC league tournament and the Rebels Under the Lights Tournament.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION:

- Always use the 24-hour rule (wait at least 24 hours before addressing the conflict or issue).
- Discuss the issue with the head coach and appropriate parties in private.
- As a last resort, bring the issue to the attention of the Rebels Committee. A meeting may be held to discuss and determine a solution.
- Any issue resulting in the danger of any individual should be reported immediately to the appropriate authorities.
- Upon violations of the Guidelines and Code of Conduct at any Stewartville Softball event (games and practices) and towards the umpires, coaches, league officials, or the Stewartville Softball Committee's discretion, the manager, coach, player, and or spectators may be **EJECTED**, and immediately removed from the grounds and the team.

- Based on the seriousness of the violation the offending person may not be warned before the ejection.
- Upon receiving the Umpires report that a manager, coach, player, or spectator was ejected, The Rebels Committee will decide to suspend indefinitely or reinstate the manager, coach, player, or spectator. In the case of a spectator, they will not be allowed on the grounds until reinstated by the Committee.
- If needed local law enforcement may be called to assist in the removal of anyone in violation.

OTHER:

- This committee is made up of volunteers who support and want to grow the game of fastpitch softball in the Stewartville Community. The committee will make every effort to do what is best for the players, program, and community. We encourage everyone who has an invested interest to attend all Committee meetings and share comments and questions with the group. The Committee will consider any changes which will benefit the program.
- Registration is typically sent out in January and closes in February.
- Teams and coaches will be identified after the skills assessments in March.
- Once teams are set, teams may practice in an “optional” format up to May 1st.
- Regular practices may start on May 1st.
- School fields may not be available until school spring sports are complete.
- Practices must be planned and coordinated by each coach.
- Players and Parents will be expected to read and sign the Code of Conduct document at online registration.
- Expenses incurred if a player is injured before the beginning of the season will be fully refunded.

COACHING CONTRACT / GUIDLINES

- Minimum one night a week practices, suggested 2 per week before games start
- I will provide a healthy, safe, and positive atmosphere at all games and practices.
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- I will demand sportsmanship from all my players.
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- I will coach all positions to continue to grow each player with a better understanding of the game.

10U / 12U

- Equal playing time infield/out field as much as possible.
- Rotate girls at multiple positions. Make sure they are playing/learning new positions on a regular basis-not the same positions every week. No dedicated positional players.
- Rotate batting order on a regular basis. Not the same girls leading off or at bottom every week.
- Subs- If a team has a full regular roster they cannot add sub/subs to the roster. Only exceptions would be if everyone on roster is playing with nobody on bench for multiple game tournaments, a utility sub can be added to roster. If a team needs a pitcher or catcher due to injury, absence and nobody on roster is willing to pitch /catch sub may be brought in to fill that position. If sub/subs are needed coaches will contact other 10u/12u coaches to see who can/wants to play. Subs shall be brought in on a rotating basis-not the same girls every time. If sub used on a team to make a full roster they should get outfield/infield playing time. Tournament subs should be from same age level teams. 10U for 10U, 12U for 12U

Our goal is to develop well rounded softball players. We want to keep as many girls playing and enjoying softball as possible.