

# **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.

### **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.

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.

*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.

## 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
2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	7	8U
2014	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	8	8U
2013	2013	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	9	10U
2012	2012	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	10	10U
2011	2011	2011	2011	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	11	12U
2010	2010	2010	2010	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	12	12U
2009	2009	2009	2009	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	13	14U
2008	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	14	14U
2007	2007	2007	2007	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	15	16U
2006	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	16	16U
2005	2005	2005	2005	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	17	18U
2004	2004	2004	2004	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	18	18U

Note: This age chart is for USA Softball, and only for the 2024 season (September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024)

- When the number of players warrants 2 or more teams for 10U, players will be evaluated and divided by age. 12U, 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.

- o Players will be evaluated on a series of drills. Player selections will be determined by the rating results, combined with position considerations.
- o 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 expense above the allotted money provided will be split evenly between each player on the team.
- Each team will be allotted a specific allowance to participate in tournaments. The money will be used to participate in tournaments and cannot be used in any other fashion.
- Recommended tournaments:
  - o 10U: 1 to 2
  - o 12U: 2 to 3
  - o 14U, 16U, 18U: 2 to 4
- All teams will participate in the "SFC" league.

## **TOURNAMENT TEAMS:**

- A "Tournament Team" should not interfere with regular team practices, games, or tournaments.
- In general, a "Tournament Team" consists of players who wish to play at a higher level and against stronger competition. These teams will typically play in larger tournaments and strive to get to State and National tournaments.
- The Stewartville Fastpitch Committee does not coordinate or regulate tournament team activities

## **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/February and closes in February/March.
- 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 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Regular practices may start on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 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.