

MYS Guidelines for Summer & Fall Travel Softball

In the Summer and Fall, Melrose Youth Softball fields teams in local travel leagues. For the past few years, we have participated in the Middle Essex league which is run by USA Softball of MA. MYS has explored and may consider joining other leagues in the future.

Teams are organized based on a player's age, not their grade. [The age chart for 2026 can be seen here.](#) It is possible for players to "play up" and be placed on an older team. This is a rare occurrence and would need to be approved by the MYS Board and the player's family. Players are not able to be rostered on 2 teams during the same season.

The goal is to put forward competitive teams while enabling as many players as possible to play. Typically the team is 11-12 players. We know that the summer especially is a busy time for families. **Players who want to play and are placed on a team are expected to attend a majority (>75%) of the games & practices.**

Summer League

- In most years, we field teams in the 10U, 12U and 14U division. There have been years when we have fielded multiple teams in a division.
- Games are held only during the week and never on the weekend
- Games are a consistent night of the week (Mon & Wed or Tue & Thu). Coaches will also schedule a weekly practice during the week or on the weekend.
- The season is typically 10-12 games. Practice starts in mid June and games usually begin the last week of June. The season ends in early August.
- Half the games will be at home and half will be away. Our opponents are typically towns in the North Shore which can range from Waltham to Charlestown to Andover.
- The game schedule is usually released in late June once the league confirms the number of teams by division.
- If you want to play but you have travel / camp plans in the summer which would make attending 75% of events challenging, you can still try out. We may consider adding you as an alternate to be called upon for a game if needed.

- In prior years, we have fielded an 8U team. The 8U team was a “local” team and not affiliated with the Middle Essex league. Our coach organized a handful of games with local towns. If there is interest in an 8U team, we can explore that option.

Fall League

- In most years, we field teams in the 10U, 12U and 14U division
- Games are held only on Saturday and each game day is a double header
- Games begin the Saturday after Labor Day. Practice starts in late August.
- The season is typically 10-12 games and the season ends in mid October.
- Half the games will be at home and half will be away. Our opponents are typically towns in the North Shore which can range from Waltham to Charlestown to Andover.
- The game schedule is usually released in early September once the league confirms the number of teams by division.

Player Evaluation / Tryouts

Prior to each season, we will have a tryout to evaluate the players. Parents must register their player prior to the tryout and players must attend a tryout. Attendance at a tryout session is a requirement. Tryout exemptions are given on a case-by-case basis.

Parents should plan to drop their player off and are asked not to watch the assessment of players. The evaluators at tryouts will consist of MYS Board Members or Independent Evaluators as determined by the MYS Board. Coaches or Parents who serve on the Board may evaluate players at the assessment, but they will not evaluate their own children.

The panel of evaluators will assess players during tryouts using a standard evaluation form. Players will be labeled with numbers on their shirts at tryouts. Each player will be scored using the evaluation form. All such scores will remain confidential and shall not be disclosed to anyone other than the evaluators and the MYS Board.

After evaluation results are collected and tabulated, an appointed representative from the MYS Board will present team rosters for final approval. Players are placed on teams based on evaluation scores.

It is possible that not all players trying out for a team will make one. Parents/guardians should prepare themselves and their player for that situation.

Parents/guardians will be notified via email of team selection once all player evaluations are reviewed. Any questions or comments regarding the tryouts or team selection should be addressed with the MYS President.

Once the teams are formed, families will be given a link to register their player and pay the fee for the season. Scholarships are available if needed. There is no fee to try out and players who are not placed on a team will not be asked to pay.