



2025 P.L.A.Y.  
Softball Parent  
meeting

# P.L.A.Y. MISSION STATEMENT

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Prior Lake Athletics for Youth, serves the Prior Lake / Savage School District, to provide competitive yet fun athletic opportunities for kids. Our priority is safety, skills development, and the teaching of life lessons through sports.

Our program promotes the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork, leadership, and integrity. We believe learning both success and failure through competition will benefit our future generations.

**Players Play**

**Coaches Coach**

**Fans Cheer**



# Lakers Against Bullying #PLAB

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## Local Youth Sports Anti-bullying effort

- P.L.A.Y., PLHS, PLSHA, PL Soccer Club and PL Wrestling Club

All Travel softball players will be given a #PLAB bag tag and helmet sticker to wear all season long. When stickers are distributed, teams will be given a brief talk on bullying

- What is bullying?
- How to identify it
- What to do when you see it
- How do we prevent it

## Is it bullying?

- When someone says or does something unintentionally and they do it once, that's **Rude**
- When someone says or does something intentionally hurtful and they do it once, that's **Mean**
- When someone says or does something intentionally hurtful and they keep doing it, even when you tell them to stop or show them how upset you are, that's **Bullying**

**As parents we need to you keep your eyes/ears open for that kind of talk—step in and stop it!**

<https://www.playinfo.org/lakerathleticalliance>



# 2025 In-House Softball Board

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- **Tyler Chambers**—VP Softball
- **Erik Lund**—In-House Director
- **Rob Anderson**—Assistant In-house director
- **Emily Hood**—Pre K/K coordinator
- **Katie Goodwin**—1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade coordinator
- **Kelly Leach**—3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade coordinator
- **Rob Anderson**—Intermediates coordinator
- **Rob Rinaldi**— Seniors coordinator
- **Carl Dahnke**—Equipment Manager
- **Brian Domagalski**—website & rostering



# 2025 Travel Softball Board

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- **Tyler Chambers**—VP Softball
- **Sam Hoppe**—Travel Director
- **Steve Springer**—Assistant travel director
- **Tommy Thompson**—tryout coordinator
- **Brian Domagalski**—website & rostering
- **Julia Walters**—player engagement
- **Cory Williamson**—Coach Development
- **Eva Hoppe**—Volunteer coordinator
- **Cody Chilson**—Equipment Manager
- **Kristi Nichols**— Concessions Manager
- **Krissy Hynes**—Assistant Tournament Director
- **Jaime Chilson**—Field Scheduling
- **Steve Hawks**—Tournament director
- **Shawn Maple**—PCA coordinator
- **OPEN**—Assistant concession manager
- **OPEN**—Secretary
- **OPEN**—Sponsorship Coordinator
- **OPEN**—Intro to fastpitch coordinator



Megan Peterson

Vice President of Positive Coaching  
Alliance for PLAY



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**BETTER ATHLETES**  
**BETTER PEOPLE**

# Positive Coaching Alliance-PCA

## Key concepts for sports parents

- Triple Impact Competitor
- ROOTS of Honoring The Game
- Double-Goal Coach
- No Direction Cheering

# Triple Impact Competitor

A Triple-Impact Competitor works on three levels:

## 1. Self

- a. Growth mindset
- b. Giving max effort
- c. Setting goals
- d. Improving one's mental game
- e. Being a 24- hour athlete

## 2. Teammates

- a. Support
- b. Being a team player
- c. Developing Empathy

## 3. The Game

- a. Guided by the ROOTS of Honoring the Game the athlete represents themselves as a positive athlete at school and in the community

# ROOTS of Honoring the Game

- R Rules
  - O Opponents
  - O Officials
  - T Teammates
  - S Self
-

## Double Goal Coach

- Model and teach your players to Honor the Game
  - Help players develop; it isn't just about the scoreboard
  - Fill your players' emotional tanks
  - Have positive conversations throughout the season- avoid the negative post game lectures
    - focus on "ELM" -Effort, Learning and bouncing back from Mistakes
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## No-directions cheering

- Provide encouragement without direction
- Your Athlete will do better if it is their game
- Let the coaches give directions



# Communications

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**Softball Website**—<https://www.playinfo.org/softball>

- All program related info can be found here
- Dates, notices, season timeline, offerings etc

**Facebook**—Prior Lake Youth Softball and Prior Lake slowpitch softball

- Public notices going forward, quick reminders and notifications
- Turn notifications on!

**Email**—Registered Players Emails

- Updates, season details, registration reminders, league announcements
- Update your SE account if you want to add additional parents/emails



# Registration numbers

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2025 Registration numbers: **401**

- First time over 400 players since before the pandemic!
  
- **In house - 200**
  - Pre k/k – 78 (8 teams)
  - 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> – 66 (6 teams)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>- 56 (5 teams)
- **Travel – 122**
  - 8U –24 (2 teams)
  - 10U – 56 (5 teams)
  - 12U – 42 (4 teams)
- **Slow pitch- 79**
  - 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> – 40 (3 teams)
  - 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> – 39 (3 teams)



# Registration Fee & Other Costs

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- Registration Opened Jan. 3 & Closed Feb 23<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Late Registration Closed Feb. 28th
  
- Fees for 2025 remain the Same
  - Pre k/k- \$97
  - 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- \$150
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade- \$175
  - Slow-pitch 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> - \$240
  - Travel- \$407
  
- Sport Facility Fee: \$5.00-\$20.00
- Admin fee: \$27.00
- Facility: \$3.00
- Field Maintenance Fee: \$10.00-\$20.00
- Tryout Fee: \$47.00 (Travel)



# Equipment

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- Glove
- Each player must have their own helmet with facemask\*
  - All helmets must have a NOCSAE approval stamp
  - \* face cage on the batters helmet is not required, but encouraged.
- Fielding mask
  - Required in infield for slow pitch
  - Recommended for in house
- Bats – supplied by P.L.A.Y.
  - Many players end up with their own bats as well
- Cleats
  - Rubber or plastic molded cleats
  - Tennis shoes are fine for the younger ages as well
- Catching gear supplied to each team as needed



# Helmets

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Helmets must solid White (travel through HS levels)

- Popular brands include Rip-it and Evo Shield
- Any color is acceptable for in house and slow pitch
- If you already have a helmet, no need to purchase a new one. If you need a new one, I would try to find white.



# Season Overview



# Season Overview – Pre K/K

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## Game play

- Games are 65 minutes or 3 innings
  - Girls will rotate positions each inning
  - No catcher at this level
  - First 4 games girls will hit off a tee
  - Game 5 and on will be coach pitch
  - Each batter will get 7 pitches to hit the ball fair (or close to fair!)
  - All batters hit each inning
  - There are no extra base hits at this level
  - There is no limit to the number of coaches/helps on the field at this age level



# Season Overview – 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

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## Game play

- **Games are 65 minutes or 5 innings**
  - Girls will rotate positions each inning
  - We will introduce catchers at this age-We want all girls to give it a try!
  - Blue Flame pitching machine will be used at this age level
    - Coaches will use the machine in practice to help the girls acclimate to it
    - The machine isn't scary!
  - Batters get 5 pitches or 3 strikes
  - Outs are recorded and players come off the base.
    - The entire team will bat each inning, even if 3 outs are recorded
  - A maximum of 2 coaches are allowed on the field to help coach players



# Season Overview – 3<sup>rd</sup>/4th Grade

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## Game play

- **Games are 65 minutes or 7 innings**
  - Coaches will keep score and enter results in sports engine
  - Girls will rotate positions each inning
  - We will have catchers at this age-We want all girls to give it a try!
  - Blue Flame pitching machine will be used at this age level
    - Coaches will use the machine in practice to help the girls acclimate to it
    - The machine isn't scary!
    - Batters get 5 pitches, or 3 strikes
  - After 3 outs, or 5 runs scored, the half inning ends.
  - Outs are recorded and players come off the base.
  - Baserunners can keep running until the ball is secured in the outfield and thrown in
  - Only 2 coaches are allowed in the outfield until May 31<sup>st</sup>, after that that, no coaches in the field of play



P.L.A.Y.  
Code of  
Conduct



# P.L.A.Y Code of Conduct

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Signed during the Registration Process

Please Remember:

Players **will** make mistakes

Coaches **will** make mistakes

Umpires **will** make mistakes

I will not use profanity or offensive language

I will not indulge in the use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs while attending P.L.A.Y. events



# P.L.A.Y. Code of Conduct

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- If issues / concerns arise during the season:
  - **24 Hour Rule is in place**
    - Any issues are not to be addressed until 24 hours AFTER the issue occurs
- Escalation Process:
  - Talk To The Head Coach
  - Talk to the in-house Director, Erik Lund
  - Talk to VP of Softball, Tyler Chambers



# Coaching Requirements –Trusted Coaches

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Coaching Applications must be filled out online (annually)

- PLAY home page and click on the “2025 Spring / Summer coaching application” link
  - **Indicating that you want to coach on player registration is not the same as completing the coaches application**

Background Check (every 2 years)

Concussion Awareness Certificate (every 2 years)

Sexual Abuse & Safe Sport Act Understanding (1-hour video + quiz)

PCA Training is a Mandatory Requirement for ALL Coaches – Head and Assistants

- Annually
- We will be offering this during our coaches meeting on April 21st

Other Key Events / Dates

- PLAY Youth Night, May 5<sup>th</sup>





Uniforms

# Uniforms

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- Jerseys and socks will be provided for each player in their team colors
  - Girls can wear these for practices and games
  - Jerseys should be in sometime the first week of May!
- Softball pants are required for grades 1-12.
  - Grades 1-4 preferred color are Navy
    - If you already have pants in a different color its ok, when its time for new ones, try to get navy.
  - Grades 5-12 required color is Navy
  - Pants can be any brand you chose



In house  
Tournaments



# Under the Light Night

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- Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 6pm
- Fun Filled night for 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Hosted at Ponds, under the lights!
- Minimum of 2 games per team
- Fields will be chalked and set up like a high school game!
- Food Trucks



# 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade year end tournament

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We will wrap up the season with this tournament

- July 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>
- Top teams will earn Trophies/medals
- First games with umpires
- Minimum of 2 games
- Hosted at Schroeder or McCann Park



Fall Ball and  
Beyond



# Fall Ball Options

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## ■ **Fastpitch**

- 5-6 week season, with state tournament
- Games on the weekend
- 1-2 practices per week
- All PL kids on teams

## ■ **Intro to Fastpitch**

- Twice a week for 4 weeks
- Introduction to skills (Hitting, throwing, running, Pitching & Catching)
- 50 kids last year!

## ■ **Slow-pitch**

- Offered through South Metro League (not PLAY)
- End of August – first week of October
- Double headers on Saturdays, season ending tournament
- 1-2 practices on weeknights
- Teams could have kids from other communities as well



# Summer 2026 Options

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## In-house softball

- Prek-4<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Travel Softball

- The level of play is based off birthday, not grade
  - **8U**
    - 7 & 8 year olds (1<sup>st</sup> grade-3<sup>rd</sup> graders)
  - **10u**
    - 9 & 10 Year olds (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders)
  - **12U**
    - 11 & 12 year olds (5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders)
  - **14U**
    - 13 & 14 year olds ( 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders)

## Slow-pitch Softball

- Intermediates 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>
- Seniors 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>



# Off Season training through PLAY

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## General Skills Clinic

- Sunday Nights starting in January (8 Weeks)
  - Savage Dome
- Hitting, fielding, Throwing base running
- Instructed by Prior Lake High School coaches and players

## Hitting Clinic

- Friday Nights starting in December (12 weeks)
  - Catalyst Sports lab in Savage
- Instructed by Varsity coach Erika Smyth and PL Varsity Players

## Pitching (FP)/Catching Clinic

- Sunday mornings/afternoons (12 Weeks)
  - Hidden Oaks Middle School
- Instructed by Prior Lake High School coaches and players



# Prior Lake High School Softball

## Head Coach Erika Smyth

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### Introduction

- 4<sup>th</sup> year as PL Head coach
- Owner of Catalyst softball
- Former MN Gopher softball player

### Fully Integrated with PLAY Softball

- Run Play off season training (hitting, Pitching, skills)
- Coaching winter development teams
- Helping to set a foundation for success at the youth level



- **PURPOSE:** To help navigate student-athletes to unlock their potential in both sport and life in a way that inspires and demonstrates empathy, authenticity, and hard work.
- **MISSION:** To create and maintain a positive softball environment that encourages teamwork & development mentally, physically, and academically.
- **PHILOSOPHY:** Our coaching staff will always prioritize building outstanding people first and foremost.
  - We will be honest and build relationships through positive leadership.
  - We will create an open line of communication between staff, athletes, and families.
  - We will teach the highest level of softball knowledge, fundamentals, and strategies.

Upcoming  
Events



# PLAY Night + Strike out cancer night

- Prior Lake vs. Burnsville
- Monday May 5<sup>th</sup> , 7pm
- Ponds Athletic complex
- Food Trucks
- Proceeds go to the Addy's Army Foundation

# Lakers Softball

## STRIKE OUT CANCER / PLAY NIGHT

MONDAY, 5/5 VS. BURNSVILLE - PONDS SOFTBALL COMPLEX  
9A @ 4:30, VARSITY @ 7:00 PM - FESTIVITIES BEGIN @ 5:00 PM

Join Prior Lake High School Softball as we Strike Out Cancer! Help us honor Addy Shepard & the Shepard Family by supporting our cause. Proceeds from all purchases will benefit the Adalyn Shepard Memorial Fund.

### P.L.A.Y. YOUTH NIGHT

YOUTH PLAYERS WILL GET:

PRE-GAME INTRODUCTIONS  
W/ PLHS VARSITY PLAYERS 

2 FOOD TRUCKS! 

TEAM STICKER FOR FIRST  
50 YOUTH PLAYERS 

AUTOGRAPHS W/ VARSITY  
PLAYERS POST GAME 

YOUTH PLAYERS:  
PLEASE WEAR YOUR JERSEYS!



### FOOD TRUCKS:



# PLAY Night + Strike out cancer night

- Prior Lake vs. Burnsville
- Monday May 5<sup>th</sup> , 7pm
- Ponds Athletic complex
- Food Trucks
- Proceeds go to the Addy's Army Foundation

## *Lakers Softball* STRIKE OUT CANCER APPAREL

**\$5 FROM EVERY ITEM PURCHASED WILL GO TOWARDS  
THE ADALYN SHEPARD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND!  
GET YOUR ORDERS IN BY 4/17!**



**SCAN ME**



# 2025 Prior Lake Tournament Schedule

- **Shake the Lake:** May 2-4<sup>th</sup>
  - 10U and 12U A/B tournament
  - 40 teams total
- **Rock The Ponds** June 14-15<sup>th</sup>
  - 10U and 12U C ONLY
  - 40 teams Total
- **14U NAFA Nationals:** July 24-27<sup>th</sup>
  - 140 Teams from 7 states
  - Exciting, high-level softball
- **Volunteer Hours**
  - NO mandatory hours for in house or slow pitch in 2025. But we would love your help if you are able!
  - There will be a volunteer requirement for slow pitch in 2026
- **Sponsorship Opportunities**



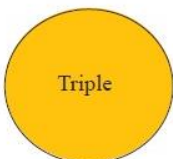
**These Three tournaments are our only fundraisers for the entire season!**

# Sponsorship Opportunities



**OPPORTUNITY Cost:** \$500 per field (\$750 total for both tournaments)

- Two (2) Available
- Tournament/Bracket sponsors
- Championship Game field Sponsors
- Larger logo on t-shirts
- Prominent logo placement on all social media platforms and Website
- All items included in Home run, Triple, Double and Single

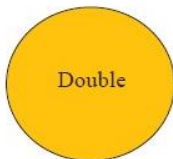


**OPPORTUNITY Cost:** \$400 per field (\$600 total for both Tournaments)

- Six (6) fields are available for sponsorship
- Sponsor's logo appears on sign at the field, on the tournament website, as well as mentions on various social media platforms
- Sponsor's name appears on brackets and official results board each time the field listed.
- All items included in Triple and Double Packages

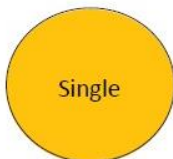
**REQUIREMENTS**

- Reserve ASAP (field sponsorships sell out quickly)
- Art must be provided by March 20, 2020 (please supply art as full-color, 300 dpi, jpg/logo)



**OPPORTUNITY Cost:** \$300 (\$450 total for both tournaments)




- Sixteen (16) t-shirt sponsor opportunities are available
- Sponsor's one-color logo appears on the back of 100+ staff as well as Sportsmanship Winner t-shirts
- Sponsor's logo appears on the tournament website as well as receive social media mentions
- Sponsors logo appears in coaches pre tournament packet



**OPPORTUNITY Cost:** \$150 (\$225 total for both tournaments)

- Unlimited General Sponsorship Opportunities are available
- Sponsors logo appears on tournament website
- Sponsor Logos will be also appear on signs on fences around fields along with social media posts/call-outs

**2024 SPONSORSHIP FORM**

**TYPE OF SPONSORSHIP**

<input type="checkbox"/> Grand Slam	\$ 1,500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Home Run	\$ 900.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Triple	\$ 650.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Double	\$ 450.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Single	\$ 300.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Paid Date \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Received \_\_\_\_\_

Received By \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Email a scan or picture of the completed form to: [softballtournament@playinfo.org](mailto:softballtournament@playinfo.org)
2. Mail checks (with a copy of this form) to:  
P.L.A.Y. Sports  
Attn: Pam Koopman (Softball)  
PO Box 599  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

**Make checks payable to:** P.L.A.Y. Sports

The undersigned authorizes sponsorship of the 2024 Prior Lake Girls Fast Pitch Softball Tournaments as specified above.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Email this completed form to [softballtournament@playinfo.org](mailto:softballtournament@playinfo.org)

**PAYMENT**

- Checks are made payable to P.L.A.Y. Sports
- All sponsors and advertisers must complete this sponsorship form.

**TOURNAMENT QUESTIONS:** Steve Hawks, [softballtournament@playinfo.org](mailto:softballtournament@playinfo.org)  
**SPONSOR QUESTIONS:** Tyler Chambers, [vpsoftball@playinfo.org](mailto:vpsoftball@playinfo.org)



# THANK YOU SPONSORS!

Great Clips®

**SCHEELS**



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WENDY EISCHENS



VanGoPhoto

**CAL-TEX ELECTRIC, INC.**  
Electric and Technology Services



PRIOR LAKE - 2 MINUTES AWAY

**AGEAR**



**State Farm**  
JILL HENNING, AGENT

**OLD NATIONAL BANK**



Questions?

