

2020 TRAVEL COACHES INFORMATION PACKET

The purpose of this packet is to provide travel coaches with information they will need to successfully manage their team throughout the season. This list is not all inclusive and specifics may vary between age groups but this provides the major milestones and required actions you will need to take.

- Your team roster will be loaded onto the ZGF website (<https://zimmgy.org>) under the TEAMS tab. This is the same website you used to register your girl(s) for softball.
 - The Head Coach and/or Team Manager will be given admin rights to your team webpage so you can load game and practice schedules, email the team etc.
- You will be contacted by the Equipment Coordinator to receive your teams gear.
- As soon as possible, you should send an email to your team's parents. Introduce and provide a brief background of yourself, how you will communicate with them (email, text, app), layout your goals/expectations and provide an overview of the game/practice schedules.
- Fields for home games and practices will be scheduled by our Field Coordinator.
 - Practices will start in the ZMS and/or ZES gyms in late March to early April.
 - Once outdoor conditions allow (~May 1st), we will use three of the High School fields (Field 3, 4 and 5) and one Zimmerman Elementary School field (Field 2).
 - A Field map can be found on the ZGF website.
 - The Field Coordinator will contact the coaches to schedule fields for games/practices.
 - Field time and space is limited.
 - Efforts will be made to accommodate your requested practice days; however, you will need to be flexible. In the past, teams have shared fields for practices and/or set up scrimmages with other Zimmerman teams.
- The ZGF and MN Softball (<https://fastpitch.mnsoftball.com>) websites both utilize the Sports Engine software.
 - Your ID and Password are the same for both websites. Sports Engine also has an APP for your mobile device. Once logged in on your phone, your team should be pre-loaded onto the app or you can search for your team and add it to your favorites.
 - This APP will allow you to see and edit your roster, schedule games and practices and message your team.
- Head Coaches or one coach per team must complete Concussion and SafeSport Act training, a background check and ACE (Aspire-Challenge-Encourage) training. All other coaches must at least complete the on-line concussion training which is free.
 - The background check and ACE training costs \$25 which will be reimbursed to one coach per team by ZGF upon proof of completion.
 - This can all be accomplished from the MN Softball website and by creating an account on <https://www.registerusasoftball.com> and following the SafeSport and ACE links.

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The ZGF Travel Director will send your team information and roster to Minnesota Softball. Minnesota Softball organizes and governs several different leagues throughout the state. Specifically, Zimmerman plays in the Big West League.

- The Big West League will hold a mandatory coaches meeting in early April. This meeting takes place at the Medina Entertainment Center. A representative for each team must be present at this meeting (April 9th, 2020. 10U/12U @ 6 pm, 14U/16U @ 8 pm)
 - This meeting will cover league rules and regulations, new items that need to be addressed and most importantly, you will create your regular season game schedule.
 - Each head coach will determine at which level (A, B or C) their team will play.
 - At the meeting, you will meet with other A, B or C coaches from our surrounding area (Princeton, Elk River, Rogers, STMA, Monticello, Big Lake, Becker etc.) to create a regular season game schedule.
 - You will also be given a team page with admin rights on the Big West website (<https://fastpitch.mnsoftball.com/bigwest>)
 - You must enter your roster, regular season game schedule and game scores on this website
 - Regular Season Game Days
 - 10U – Tuesdays
 - 12U – Mondays and Wednesdays
 - 14U – Tuesdays and Thursdays

ZGF CONTACTS		
President	Bob Stephany	763-234-8515
Vice President	Ben Gallay	720-323-6545
Treasure	Ingrid Borkowski	651-440-3205
Secretary / Coaching / Tournament Coordinator	Roman Becker	763-350-3785
Travel & Website Director	Ben Gallay	720-323-6545
Field, Umpire & FB Coordinator	Ryan Cordes	612-708-8815
Equipment Coordinator	Eric Borkowski	651-387-5905
Uniform/Apparel Coordinator	Ingrid Borkowski	651-440-3205

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Your team will have the opportunity to play in several weekend tournaments throughout the season. Most tournaments require an official approved and signed roster. Go to <https://iosoftball.com>, find your team and print approved USA roster. A parent will need to sign for their girl to play in each tournament.

INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- ZGF will pay the entry fee for your team to play in 2 Invitational tournaments as follows:
 - Zimmerman Classic Invitational (May 30-31st, 2020)
 - The Tournament Coordinator will register your team
 - Your choice of 1 other Invitational Tournament.
 - A list of Invitational Tournaments with registration information can be found on the MN Softball website (<https://fastpitch.mnsoftball.com/invites>)
 - Depending on the tournament, you will need to pay online or send a check. The ZGF Treasurer can send a check payment in for you or provide credit card information for you to pay online.
- Your team may play in additional invitational tournaments, however, it is the responsibility of you and your team's parents to divide and pay the entry fee (Typically \$300 to \$350). This can also be paid for through team fundraising or receiving sponsorship money.

STATE QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT

- The Big West State Qualifying Tournament is A, B or C specific. Your team is automatically entered into this tournament and you will be seeded based on your regular season record.
 - 10U/12U: June 26-28th, 2020
 - 14U/16U: July 11-12th, 2020
- This is a 2-game minimum, double elimination tournament. Locations are posted in May for each age and skill group. Game times will be posted on the Big West Website approximately one week prior to the tournament. No additional fees are required.

STATE TOURNAMENT

- If your team wins one game at the State Qualifying Tournament, you will be entered into this tournament and placed in a Tier based on your team skill level (A, B or C) and qualifier results.
 - 12U: July 11-12th, 2020
 - 10U/14U/16U: July 18-19st, 2020
- This is a double elimination tournament typically in a 16 team bracket. Locations and times get posted after all qualifying tournaments are complete. You will be required to pay a gate fee (typically \$150) for this tournament. The ZGF Treasurer will provide you a check to pay this fee.

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NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- Your team's performance at Invitational, State Qualifying and State Tournaments may award you a berth to play in one or multiple National Tournaments.
 - Typically, invitational tournaments award Nationals berths to first and second place teams in each finishing bracket.
 - The Zimmerman tournament awards berths to the first and second place teams in the Gold and Silver brackets for a total of four per age group.
 - The State Qualifying Tournament awards berths to the top 5 finishing teams.
 - The State Tournament awards berths to the top two finishing teams in each tier.
- National Tournaments occur the last two weeks of July and first week of August. Tournaments are age/skill specific, are 4-5 days in length and are pool play to double elimination
 - NAFA (North American Fastpitch Association) (<https://nafa.sportngin.com>)
 - **NAFA Northern Nationals:** (July 15-19th, 2020)
 - Location varies every year for different age and skill levels.
 - Could be in MN, WI, IL, IA, KS, NE, SD or ND.
 - USA Softball (<https://fastpitch.mnsoftball.com/nationals>)
 - **USA Northern Nationals** (July 22-26th, 2020)
 - Location varies every year for different age and skill levels.
 - Could be in MN, WI, IL, IA, KS, NE, SD or ND.
 - MN Softball (<https://fastpitch.mnsoftball.com/moa>)
 - **Monsta National Championships** (July 29th - Aug 2nd, 2020)
 - Location varies every year for different age and skill levels.
 - Games are typically in the TCs Metro Area
- Entry Fees and gate fees for National Tournaments MAY be paid for by ZGF depending on fundraising efforts. Trading pins and gift bags must be covered by the team.
- Team costs can be split between team parents or covered through fundraising/sponsorship. Typically, the costs are as follows:
 - \$500 team entry fee (May be paid for by ZGF)
 - \$200 team gate fee (May be paid for by ZGF)
 - \$300 for team trading pins and gift exchange
 - Travel and Hotel fees - paid by each family

ALL STAR TOURNAMENT

- By mid-June each head coach will be contacted via email and asked to select two players from their team to participate in the MN Softball All-Star Tournament.
- Your two girls will be placed on a team according to age and skill with other all-star players from the surrounding communities.
- You may also volunteer and be selected to coach an All-star team
- Cost is \$75 per player