

April 2023

All-Star Applicants and Parents,

Thank you for your interest in the Poway Girls Softball League (PGSL) All-Star Program. We have had many fantastic All-Star seasons throughout PGSL history. We have a well-deserved reputation as a respectful and competitive organization. As a USA Softball "B" class league, we have earned several District Champions and have sent a number of teams to the USA Softball State and National Championships. We are looking forward to another great All-Star season in 2023.

Our All-Star selection process, unlike many other leagues, is open to everyone. Each and every girl has the opportunity to be considered for a team by the people who can assess her skills the most objectively during the course of the entire recreational season; the recreational season coaches.

I would like to offer my personal gratitude and appreciation to your daughter for signing up to represent PGSL on an All Star Team. Whether she makes a team or not, we are very proud of her.

The structure and focus of our All-Star Program is significantly different from our Recreational Program. During our Recreational seasons we promote instruction, inclusion, and having fun. All-Stars is focused on developing advanced softball skills, a competitive spirit, and a winning attitude. Some players (and parents) thrive in a more competitive All-Star environment, and other players (and parents) do not. Please be certain you and your player are ready for the commitment.

The All-Star experience can be stressful and filled with anxiety; daily weekday practice, several team building events and several weekend tournaments between mid-May and mid-July are typical. While this grueling schedule requires dedication and commitment, it fosters tremendous personal growth and satisfaction for players and parents alike.

has complete confidence in these coaches and their ability to manage an All-Star team appropriately.

- Discuss other players on the team. It is simply not appropriate for a coach to discuss a player other than with that player's parents.
- Use social media to make negative or threatening comments to or about opposing players, coaches, parents, umpires, or anyone associated with PGSL or any other softball organization.

Some players may have a difficult time adjusting to these new demands, but they are essential in developing a cohesive team and competitive players. It is vital that all parents support all of the players and coaches and strictly avoid even the suggestion that a game is not winnable or a player/coach is not competent. A player who has no confidence in her coach will simply not learn from that coach and will probably have a negative All-Star experience. The All-Star coach's job is to teach players how to improve their skills and how to win games in a competitive environment. This has been successfully accomplished over the years by setting goals, teambuilding, developing a positive, competitive attitude, and above all, teaching players that good results come from dedication and hard work. These are not just softball lessons, these are life lessons.

If you have not already done so, all parents should read the All-Star Rules, posted on the website, as soon as possible; it will answer many of your questions. The complete rosters for all 2023 PGSL All-Star teams will be posted on the PGSL website on May 1st. Should your daughter not be selected to one of the All-Star teams, please let her know how tough the competition was and that she did a great job. Sour grapes, complaints about the process, and accusations of wrongdoing all undermine your daughter's efforts and experience. If you have questions regarding the selection process, please feel free to contact Kerry Stockel, PGSL Player Agent playeragent@pgsl.org or Nathan Mundy, PGSL President president@pgsl.org

If your daughter is selected to a team, here are a few things to keep in mind.

- Uniforms and team names have already been decided. Uniforms consisting of two jerseys, two pairs of socks and pants typically cost \$200-\$300 per player, optional apparel (sweatshirts and jackets) cost \$35-50, which is the family's responsibility.

As you plan your family's transition from recreational to competitive softball, please keep the following in mind:

Players must:

- Always try their hardest; never give up; have fun!
- Get used to the possibility of sitting the bench more than they did during Rec season, or playing a different position as needed by the team.
- Be willing to play positions they are not used to or may not want to play.
- Think more about the team than themselves, and understand that one player's success is everyone's success.
- Handle personal failure with grace and composure, without adversely affecting the team.

Players must NOT:

- Sulk, pout, or generally be unhappy about their position or playing time.
- Make negative comments about their teammates or coaches.
- Make negative or threatening comments to opposing players, coaches, parents, umpires, or anyone attending a game.
- Use social media to make negative or threatening comments to or about opposing players, coaches, parents, umpires, or anyone associated with PGSL or any other softball organization.

Parents must:

- Encourage ALL players to always try their hardest; never give up; have fun!
- Avoid focusing only on their own daughter and look instead at the entire team.
- Consider the team's success as a success for their daughter regardless of her role.
- Support the coaching staff regardless of their personal feelings.

Parents must NOT:

- Approach a coach before, during, or after a game to discuss issues relating to their daughter, other than to report an injury or other non-playing issue. There is far too much going on for a coach to focus on a discussion of any importance. Call the coach and set up a time before or after a practice to discuss these matters.
- Discuss playing time, positioning, batting order, or game strategy. This is the coach's responsibility and is decided amongst the coaching staff. PGSL

- Tournaments have already been selected by PGSL. Each player's financial responsibility will be for 1/2 of all tournament fees. This equates to approximately \$150-200 per player for the entire season; depending upon each tournament entry fee. **Total costs approximately= \$400-600**

List of 2023 All-Star Tournaments

Date	8U, 10U, 12U, 14U (Gold & Silver Teams)	10U Bronze
May 12th-14th	North Shore	UC Del Sol
May 19th-21st	Sherman Oaks	Sherman Oaks
May 26th-29th (Memorial Weekend)	San Dieguito Tournament	Wait Listed (San Dieguito)
June 2nd-4th	Scripps Ranch	Scripps Ranch
June 9th-11th	Poway Summer Heat	Poway Summer Heat
June 16th-18th	Laguna Niguel	C Districts
June 23rd-25th	B Districts	BYE (at this time)
July 29- July 2nd	Escondido Freedom Tournament	C States (Lancaster, Ca)
July 7th-9th	B States (Lancaster, Ca)	BYE (at this time)
July 14th-16th	BYE (at this time)	C Regionals (San Diego, Ca)
July 24th-30th	12U & 14U Nationals (Sacramento Area)	
July 26th-30th	10U Nationals (Roseville, Ca)	

- Teams will participate in several tournaments between mid-May and mid-July. Some teams may qualify for state and national championship tournaments beyond that and players need to be able to commit to these.
- Parents are required to work during our Poway Summer Heat Classic All-Star Tournament held June 11th-13th. This is how we pay for the All-Star Program. We need your help! Plan on working at least 5 hours per family.
- There will be three to four practices per week, in addition to tournaments on weekends.
- Tournaments generally start on Friday and end on Sunday; however, you should be available to play on Thursday evenings as well.

•Playing time and defensive positions are NOT guaranteed. Some tournaments follow straight USA Softball player substitution rules which do not allow batting the entire roster.

Finally, PGSL would like to remind our parents and players that participation in the All-Star Program is a privilege. Your daughter is being exposed to a higher level of competitive play and is receiving far more instruction and participation than during the recreational season. This is a great opportunity for her and should be appreciated as such. It is expected that our parents and players act in a way that brings respect and dignity to the Poway Girls Softball League. Good Luck and thank you for your support of Poway Girls Softball League.

Nathan Mundy
President of Poway Girls Softball League