



2020 Season

Parent Meeting February 6, 2020



Discussion Points:

- Mission
- Off Season Activities
- Season Expectations
- Youth 1st Partnership
- Code of Conduct
- Team Formation
- Tournaments
- Down 'n Dirty
- Tryouts
- Spirit Wear
- Sponsorships
- Minnesota Stars

Eagan Fastpitch Board

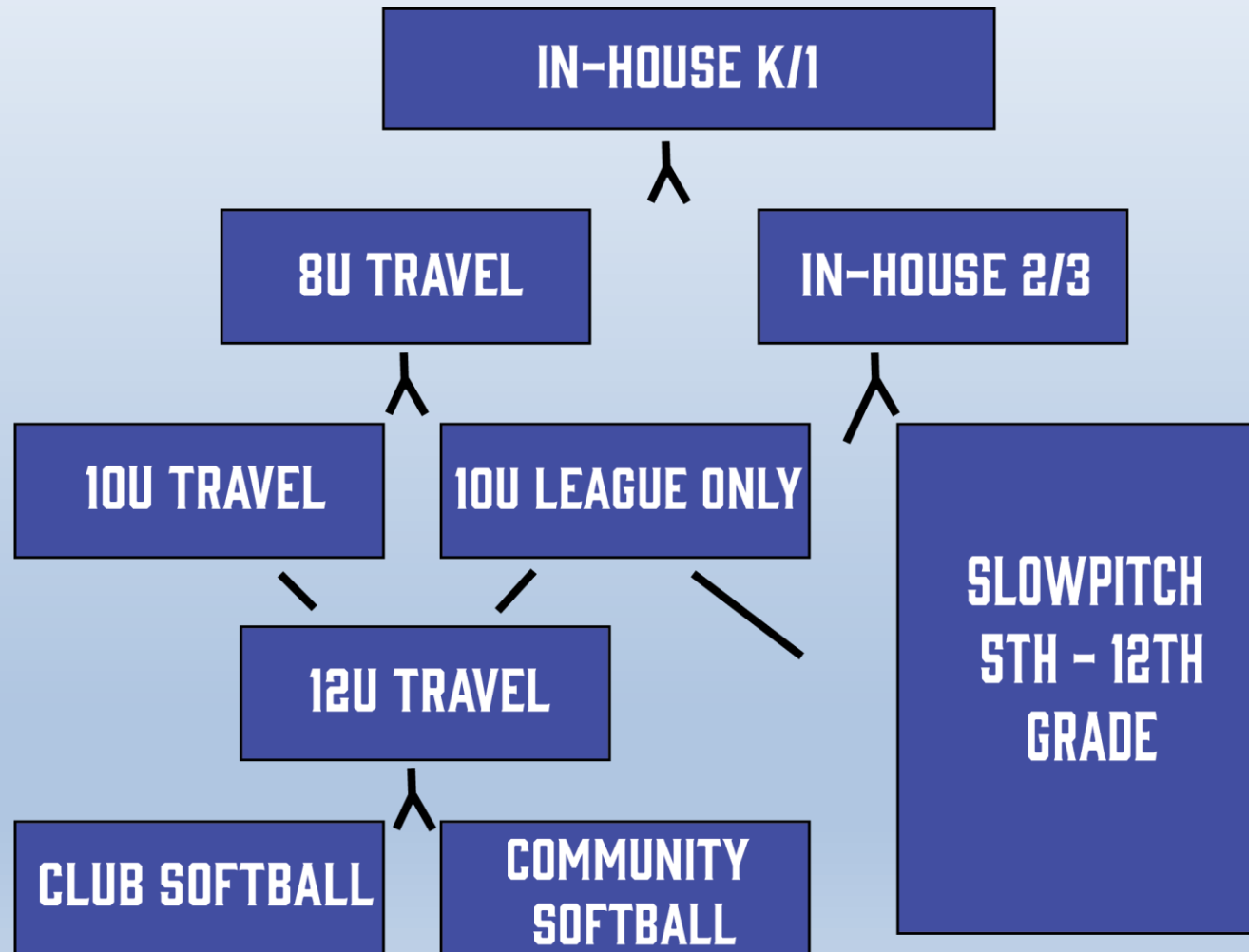
**14 Board Members help run
Traveling Fastpitch and In-House Softball**

We need more volunteers for the Board

Mission of Eagan Fastpitch

Our mission is to have highly competitive teams with a strong emphasis on commitment, sportsmanship, teamwork, knowledge of the game, and FUN! This cannot be achieved without the dedication of our players, parents, coaches and volunteers.

Opportunities within Eagan Fastpitch



Off-Season Activities

- **Player & Coach Development Director**
- **Friday Night Dome**
 - Two sessions – Nov/Dec and Jan/Feb sessions
- **Clinics**
 - Catcher and pitcher clinics
 - Hitting clinic/sessions
 - Winter Training 10U/12U Session
- **Tournaments**
 - Extra activities not coordinated through EFP
- **Considering future off season training/team opportunities**

Youth 1st Partnership

Focus on Sportsmanship

Reduce Conflict

Increase Team/Official Retention

Guest Speaker: Mark Arjes

Eagan Fastpitch

- **Team Definitions**
 - **Travel Teams**
 - Practice up to 2-3 times per week
 - Play 1 Double header per week (school in session), practice other night
 - Play 2 Double header per week (school out)
 - Travel around metro
 - Play in multiple tournaments beyond league qualifier and state tournament
 - **League Only Teams (10U)**
 - Practice up to 1-2 times per week
 - Play 1 Double header per week (school in session), practice other night
 - Play 2 Double header per week (school out)
 - Travel around mero
 - Play in league state qualifier and state tournament (if qualify)

Season Expectations

Practices

- Practices start after Spring Break and continue into July
- Typically will last 1.5-2.0 Hours (30 min for pitchers/catchers)
- 1-3 times per week depending on game schedule
- Games/Practice Dates –
 - 8U/12U – Mon/Wed
 - 10U/14U – Tue/Thu
- Practices are key to development – expect players to attend
 - Exceptions – Illness, School or family conflicts
 - Notify coaches right away
- Practice attendance is a key driver to playing time and position

Season Expectations

Games – All Teams

- League Games are May to June
 - 8U – 1 game night per week (until school out); 1 practice night
 - 10U – 1 double-header night per week; 1 practice night (2 - DH after school out)
 - 12U – 2 double-header nights per week; season starts early May
 - 14U – 2 double-header nights per week; games begin May 16
- Expectation - focused on development opportunities

Tournaments – Non-League Only

- 3 Tournaments – Down & Dirty plus 2 others
- Post-Season –
 - League State Qualifier, State Tournament
 - Nationals (optional, additional costs)
- Expectation – focused on being competitive and best team effort

Season Expectations

Team Meetings

- Will occur after team formation and address various topics
- Coach Philosophy & Expectations
- Schedule
- Tournaments (for travel teams)
- Equipment needs – bat discussion
- Additional funds
 - Gym Time
 - Team Banner
 - Other Team Activities
 - Nationals

Player Development

- **Player and Coach Development coordinator will be involved in the season**
 - **2 practices per team will be designed**
- **Weekly communication with coaches**
- **End of season evaluations**
 - **Coaches will fill these out and they will be shared with families**
- **Catching and Pitching clinics this spring/summer/fall**

Season Expectations

In General

- Code of Conduct – Players, Parents, Coaches
 - All will sign and be retained by EFP
 - Commitment to EFP – players, parents, coaches
- Players -
 - On Field
 - In Uniform
 - Belts On
 - Shirts Tucked In
 - No Jewelry, watches, earrings, chokers
 - Help coach with equipment
 - Parents do not carry athlete's equipment

Season Expectations

In General

- **Coaches –**
 - **On Field Attire**
 - **Eagan Fastpitch Coach shirt**
 - **Closed Toe Shoes**
 - **Appropriate Shorts**
 - **Provide positive, competitive, developmental experience for players**
- **Parents –**
 - **Players Play; Coaches Coach; Parents cheer for entire team**
 - **Refrain from direct instruction to your daughter – at games or practices**
 - **Only positive comments about any player, especially EFP players**
 - **Resolve any issues away from the field directly with coach; 24-hour rule**

Season Expectations

- **EAA Code of Conduct Policy**
 - Clear definition of Harassment & Bullying
 - Clear complaint process with consequences

Season Expectations - Coaches

Coach & Volunteer Registration

- Background Check is Required
 - All EAA Volunteers
 - Head Coach
 - Asst. Coach
 - Team Parent
 - Other Helpers
- Concussion Training
 - All Head and Assistant Coaches
 - Complete once every three years
 - Must provide certificate (save it when done)
- APS Training (MN State Law)
 - Every person involved with the team must take training
 - Plan - it takes 90 minutes and covers a variety of conduct issues to prevent abuse

****Practices, team meetings, etc. cannot begin until ALL head coaches and assistant coaches have cleared background checks and completed all training****

Team Formation

- **10U/12U**
 - Number of teams based on registration – **closes on February 14th!**
 - Player assignment based on tryout scores as selected by the head coach for that team
 - Gold
 - First Team; typically plays A level; **10-11** Players
 - Silver
 - Second Team; typically plays B level; **11-12** Players
 - Bronze
 - Third Team; typically plays C level; **11-12** Players
- Depending on registration numbers and try-out scores, player cuts may happen
 - We work with every player to get them on some team – we have options

8U Travel Fastpitch Specifics

- Great experience for young players who want more advanced softball than in-house
- Blue Flame for pitching
- Focus on development, learning rules, understanding the game, FUN
- Equipment needed: Blue helmet, face mask, cleats, glove
- Optional equipment: Bat, batting gloves
- Teams formed based on numbers, can consider requests, not guaranteed

8U & 10U – Signing Up

- **8U Teams**

- Girls with 2012 - 2013 birth year must sign up for 8U; 2011 has the option based on experience
- Team are formed based on registration numbers

- **2011 Birth Year**

- If player was born in 2011 and played in Fall Fastpitch may register for 10U
- Players will go through the 10U try-outs and be placed on 10U teams
- Depending on scores, registration numbers, and team needs players
 - 2011 aged players may be moved to League Only or to 8U
 - 2011 aged players may take the spot of another 10U player if there is room at League Only

Travel Fastpitch - Tournaments

- Regular Season
 - Down 'n Dirty – June 19-21
 - 2 others at coach discretion
- State Qualifier
 - 10U/12U - June 26-28
- State Tournament** NOTE CHANGE
 - 8U/12U – July 11-12
 - 10U/14U – July 18-19
- Nationals (Qualify during season)
 - NAFA Nationals 12U July 16-19
 - NAFA Nationals 10U/14U-18U July 22-26
 - NAFA Nationals 8U July 25-26

Down 'n Dirty Tournament

Down 'n Dirty Tournament

- **28th year of the Eagan Down 'n Dirty Tournament**
- **June 19th – 21st**
- **Host over 80 teams; A/B Level Tournament**
- **Sites – Lexington-Diffley & Northview Athletic Fields**
- **Partnership with Youth 1st**
- **Expect Eagan Teams to represent EFP well – be good hosts**
- **Looking for Field Sponsors – 2-banners by Dug-outs**
- **For younger players, a great opportunity to watch softball!**

Volunteer Hours – Down ‘n Dirty & Nationals

- Sign up for a DIBS session to work shifts – done online – information sent closer to tournament dates
- Each player for Travel, League Only, & MN Stars teams – 2 shifts (approx. 9 hours in total)
- Sign up begins with MN Stars due to their travel schedule, then opens to all other teams
- Please do not sign up until you receive an email stating it is open for your team! Early sign ups will be removed
- Hosting Tournaments provides funding for a variety of EFP activities including winter dome and gym time, equipment, and keeps registration fees very competitive across all ages

Tryouts

Tryouts

- **February 21 - 10U Players & 12U Pitchers & Catchers**
- **February 28 - 12U Players & 10U Pitchers**
- **Players must wear plain shirts – no names or identifying marks**
- **What To Bring:**
 - **All equipment – bat, glove, mask, batting gloves, water bottle**
- **Arrive about 5:00pm – Try-outs being promptly at 5:30pm**

Tryouts: Parent Expectations

- **No parents allowed to watch – only evaluators and head coach candidates**
 - Parents will be asked to leave the dome and wait outside – no loitering
 - Willing to have a discussion about your daughter's try-out as requested
- **Pitching & Catching**
 - Parent's are not allowed to warm-up their pitchers or catchers
 - We will provide people to warm-up each player
 - Please do not arrive more than 20 minutes ahead of your pitching slot

Tryouts

- **Players are evaluated on specific skills and awarded points based on each attempt**
- **Total points available vary by evaluated skill**
- **Focus is on Mechanics and Results**
 - **Hitting – 23%**
 - **Throwing – 22.5%**
 - **Ground Balls – 22.5%**
 - **Fly Balls – 12%**
 - **Bunting – 10%**
 - **Sliding – 5%**
 - **Speed – 5%**
- **All Tryout Information is on the website under “Tryouts”**

Tryouts

- **Players are ranked based on their performance and relative weights**
- **The top 3 players AFTER pitcher/catcher placement are “locked” and must be on the Gold Team; the remainder of the team is ‘coach selection’ within limits**
- **The top 3 players not selected for the Gold team are ‘locked’ for the Silver Team; the remainder of the team is ‘coach selection’ within limits**
- **If a player is not selected to the Silver Team, they are placed on the Bronze Team (if enough players)**
- **Similar process for pitchers (10U/12U) and catchers (12U)**

Tryouts – Pitchers (10U/12U) & Catchers (12U)

- Specific skill assessed and ranked similar to Player
- Most teams have 2 main pitchers and 1 main catcher
 - Other pitchers and catchers may see playing time depending on performance
- Trying out as a pitcher or catcher does not guarantee you time in those positions during the season - playing time is a coach decision

Tryouts – Pitchers (10U/12U) & Catchers (12U) Continued

- Complete the “Pitcher & Catcher Tryout Selection Form”
- Team Selection Options (on Selection Form)
 - Based on Specialty – will be assigned based on score as pitcher/catcher
 - Based on Player – will be assigned based on main tryout scores
- Select Specialty – if playing a specialty position is considerably more important than which team the player is assigned to
 - Could result in lower team selection depending on try-out results

Tryouts – Pitchers (10U/12U)

- **12 Pitches – Looking to Hit Spots**
 - High-Inside; High-Outside; Low-Inside; Low-Outside
 - 7 Point Scale – Spot =7; Total Miss Strike = 1; Ball = 0
- **5 Pitches – Speed**
 - Must be a strike to count
 - Higher speed = More Points
- **Specialty Pitches**
 - 3 Attempts with each pitch
 - Ball must break correctly
 - Ball must be a strike
 - 1 point for each successful attempt
- **Points are totaled – no weighting**

Tryouts – Catchers (12U)

- Point Scale – 1 - 6
- Techniques – No Weighting
 - Stance
 - Proper Catching
 - Strength (Throw)
 - Technique (Throw)
 - Accuracy (Throw)
 - Pop-Ups
 - Bunt Reaction
 - Blocking

Tryouts - Uniforms

- Included in Registration Fee:
 - Jersey
 - Pants – 1 pair
 - Socks – 1 pair; Belt – As Needed (new player)



Uniform Fittings

- Get fitted for jersey and pants – wear slider shorts & tank-top
 - Only Try-on Dates – No Exceptions
- Uniform Fitting Dates (Dakota Hills MS – Cafeteria)
 - Tuesday, February 18
 - Wednesday, February 19
 - 6:15 – 7:45PM – Both Dates
- What To Bring:
 - \$250 check payable to Eagan Fastpitch (this is required before tryouts!)
 - Volunteer Deposit – check is destroyed after tournament shift have been worked
 - Birth Certificate (if new to program)
 - Recent Photo of Player (copy is fine)
 - Check-book – Order Extra pants or Jersey – must pay at fitting

Minnesota Stars Club Program

- Club Program based in Eagan
- Second year 12U should consider this program when looking at options to play at the next level at 14U

Minnesota Stars

- **14U+ Club Team based in Eagan**
- **Age eligible players (2nd Year 12U) start evaluating club options in early summer**
- **Questions – come find a board member**

Sponsorships

Chad Bailey, Vice-President

Sponsorships

- **Recruiting Corporate Sponsors for Down 'n Dirty & Nationals Tournament**
- **Levels are being worked out – information available soon**
 - **Presenting Sponsor - \$5,000**
 - **Site Sponsor - \$2,000**
 - **App Sponsor - \$1,000**
 - **Field Sponsor - \$350**

Questions?