



In advance of the upcoming Jags Fastpitch tryouts, I wanted to share some information for those of you who are new to Jags Fastpitch and travel softball.

### **NUMBER OF TEAMS:**

At this time, we do not know the number of teams we will have for 2019. At the very least, we anticipate fielding one 8U team, one 10U team, two 12U teams, two 14U teams and two 16U teams. Depending on both the turnout and talent we have at next month's tryouts, we may add teams. If so, we will be looking for additional volunteers to coach.

A few of our teams are at capacity, however, this should not discourage your player from trying out as teams may be added and/or current players may drop-out for next year.

### **TEAM DIVISIONS:**

Team divisions are based on a player's age as of January 1, 2019. For example, to play in the 10U division, a player must be 10 years of age or younger on January 1, 2019. Typically, there are no 9U, 11U, 13U or 15U divisions.

### **8U:**

We are going to attempt to field an 8U team this year, although finding a league or tournaments to play in may be a challenge. At the very least, the team will practice throughout the year with the rest of the Jags and play scrimmages against other local 8U teams.



## **TRYOUT DATES:**

Tryout dates are as follows (please note new times):

- 8U – Tuesday, August 7, 2018, at 5:30 PM at Howarth Park
- 10U – Tuesday, August 7, 2018, at 7:00 PM at Howarth Park
- 12U – Wednesday, August 8, 2018, at 7:00 PM at Howarth Park
- 14U – Wednesday, August 8, 2018, at 7:00 PM at Poppleton Park
- 16U – Tuesday, August 7, 2018, at 7:00 PM at Poppleton Park
- Callbacks – Thursday, August 9, 2018, at 7:00 PM at both Howarth Park and Poppleton Park

## **A PLAYER'S COMMITMENT:**

A player's commitment will *typically* include:

- **Fall:**
  - One to two practices per week ending by October 13, 2018; and
  - Doubleheader games played on Sundays between September 9, 2018, and October 14, 2018, at Seymour Lake Township Park in Oxford, Michigan.
- **Winter:**
  - Saturday morning practices (as early as 8:00 AM) between November 3, 2018, and February 23, 2019; and
  - Pitchers and catchers only – a weekly pitching and catching clinic in the evening (day to be determined) running from November, 2018, to February, 2019.



- **Spring:**
  - Play in the Birmingham Girls Softball League (Grades 8 and below) or for your respective high school softball team (Grades 9 and above).
- **Summer:**
  - One or two practices per week;
  - Doubleheader games played on either Mondays and Wednesdays (10U and 16U) or Tuesdays and Thursdays (12U and 14U) between June 24, 2019, and August 8, 2018, in north Oakland County;
  - Approximately three weekend travel tournaments, including the Frankenmuth Softball Tournament.
  - Two weekend travel tournaments (Ann Arbor and Frankenmuth – see schedule below).

#### **TRAVEL SOFTBALL VS. RECREATIONAL SOFTBALL:**

Travel softball, compared to recreational softball (i.e., Birmingham Girls Softball League):

- Is generally considered a higher level of competition;
- Requires individual competitive tryouts;
- Selects players primarily on their playing ability;
- Bases playing time on skill, production, attitude and experience;

Please be aware, in certain situations:

- Playing time may be reduced based on missed practices and/or failure to meet Player Expectations (see below);
- Some players may be asked to sit out games from time to time;
- Some players will exclusively play outfield or infield; and
- All players at the game may not necessarily bat.



### **PLAYER EXPECTATIONS:**

- To give your best effort;
- To continue to improve by applying the instruction and feedback you receive from your coaches;
- To support your teammates both on and off the field;
- To show respect for your coaches, umpires, parents and other players;
- To spend time away from the team practicing softball; and
- Most importantly, have fun!

### **PARENT EXPECTATIONS:**

- To update your daughter's availability in TeamSnap early and often;
- To have your daughter at practice and games on time;
- To continue to play catch with your daughter over the winter;
- To cheer for your daughter during games (but try to keep from yelling instructions to them);
- To demonstrate good sportsmanship towards the other team, coaches and umpires (any concerns with the other team, coaches or umpires should only be brought to your coaches); and
- To help out with any safety concerns you may see as your coaches are not able to watch every player, every minute.

### **COST:**

While each team is different, we anticipate the cost for the 2019 season to be between \$300 and \$600 per player, not including uniform and other swag.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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