



2025 Family Handbook

Program Overview

The Sauk Rapids Fastpitch Softball Association (SRRFSA) is a Softball program for girls 18 and under that want to play competitive softball during the Summer. We try to accommodate all age groups and we will be affiliated with the St. Cloud Softball League and the Big West League on a team by team basis.

Membership Fees

Fees are used for coaches, uniforms, practice space, tournament fees, equipment and scholarships. The SRRFSA board will determine the fee based on these costs.

Once a player accepts their roster spot, there will be no refunds. Refunds due to injury will be voted on by the board and considered on a case by case basis depending on the injury and point in the season.

Scholarships

Scholarship requests must be submitted to the SRRFSA Executive Board (stormsrrfsa@gmail.com) in a timely manner not to exceed 30 days post team assignment. The Executive Board will consider all complete applications received. The amount of the scholarship awarded (if any) may be a partial or full scholarship depending on the number of applicants, and the amount of scholarship funds available. SRRFSA is a non-profit organization with very limited funding available for scholarship athletes. No guarantee of assistance is implied in the application.

Requirements for eligibility:

- Must be in good standing with the Association and not have any outstanding debt to the Association (any outstanding debt must be paid prior to the scholarship consideration).
- Commitment to attend a minimum of 80% of scheduled practices and games.
- Participation by an adult family member in completion of all required volunteer hours.
- Application must be completed by a parent, guardian or head of household, with all requested information provided.
- Proof of current income for all household members may be requested.
- Scholarship application approval may be based on verification of financial need.

Uniforms

Players will receive one jersey for summer season. 8u will receive t-shirts. *Players will be responsible for additional jersey costs including ordering of incorrect sizing.*

Each team will have an equipment bag with shared bats, shared helmets (recommend personal helmet), catcher gear, softballs, etc. for all levels provided by SRRFSA.

Players are responsible for remainder of gear – examples below:

Black ball pants

Green or Gold socks – MUST be consistent for the team

Belt to match socks

Glove

Shoes

Facemask - 12u and below all players REQUIRED 14u & up Infield Required; Outfield Optional

Any equipment the Player believes they want above and beyond what is listed/provided

Practice

SRRFSA typically has two practices per week beginning in the spring through the state tournament. Based on field conditions, practices may initially begin indoors in the early spring with priority to those teams starting league play earlier. Players are expected to attend all practices. The coach must be notified in advance of any absence as soon as the player is aware that they will miss practice. Lack of communication and unexcused absence could result in limited playing time.

Players MUST be ready to practice prior to the start of practice. We encourage players to be 10 minutes early. Players are expected to work hard in practice to reach the goals that they and their coaches set for them, individually and as a team.

Playing Time

In tournaments we will play to win. This means, playing time will not be equal for every player. Players and parents must understand this. Playing time may be different for different positions as well. Practices provide constant opportunities for player improvement. Players are expected to attend practices, work hard towards improvement and display a positive attitude toward the game, their coach and teammates. Their work ethic, and hard work are essential to their growth as players.

League play will offer more opportunities to develop players. During league doubleheaders, player will have the option to play in developing positions and more even playing time will be available.

We encourage players to talk to the coach about the issue they are having, with playing time or any other issues they are having. If there is a continued issue with the playing time, please see the Communication and Grievance Policy in this handbook.

League Play

SRRFSA 10u and up participates in the Big West league. The Big West league offers 3 competitive levels (A, B, C) and typically play two nights per week. This allows our teams to be placed in the level we feel will challenge and give fair competition.

League play begins at different times based on age groups. For more information visit the MN Softball website at MNsoftball.com

2025 Nights of play will be:

- 10-Under Tuesday and/or Thursday. Thursday games do not start until June.
- 12-Under Monday and/or Wednesday.
- 14-Under Tuesday and/or Thursday.
- High School Monday and/or Wednesday

8u will participate in an in house league with Waite Park and Sartell. Night of play will be TBD (estimated Thursday) with a Jamboree planned for the end of July.

Tournaments

Each team will participate in 4-5 tournaments throughout the summer. Tournaments will be chosen by the coaches of each team and board members. Tournament dates will be communicated to families in March.

Teams will play in 3 tournaments hosted by various softball organizations. All teams will play in the MN Softball state tournament qualifier. 75% of teams at qualifier will advance to the state tournament.

Evaluations and Team Formations

SRRFSA will hold evaluations after the MN State tournament. Players must attend the evaluation sessions to be considered for a team assignment. Failure to do so may affect team placement.

Evaluators will be professionals in the area with a high softball IQ, that are neutral parties. Evaluators and Coaches will be considering athletic ability, attitude and teamwork.

Communication will be shared via email and social media when registration is open. We will be using outside evaluators to conduct tryouts. A few reminders for evaluations:

- They are closed to the public. You can accompany your player to the check-in table, but then must leave or wait in the parking lot.
- No team logo or numbered/personalized apparel should be worn. We will randomly assign numbers to be used as identifiers in the evaluation process.
- Your player will be offered a roster spot on a specific team with a window of no more than 48 hours to accept or decline the roster spot.

Registration

An email will be sent out informing you what team your player has been placed on. You will have 48 hours to accept or decline your player's spot within Crossbar. NO EXCEPTIONS. If you accept your player's position outside of the 48 hour timeframe, your player will be placed on a team based upon team needs. Social media posts and emails will be sent out to families leading up to registration before offer emails will be sent out.

Playing Up

A parent may not register their player at an older level. Players may be asked to play at a higher level based on the evaluator's suggestions and/or if the team at the higher level has an open roster spot that could not be filled by a player at that age level. Any 'play up' options will be discussed by the coaches/board and the parents will be contacted.

Weather Updates

Cancellation or delay of games are often made in the moment on the field. Communication will come from the coaches and/or officials in these instances. Weather updates made ahead of game time are posted to the SRRFSA facebook page and within team communication methods on the Crossbar app. Be sure to follow the SRRFSA Facebook page for updates. When in question, please reach out to your coach.

Fall Ball Season

The purpose of fall league is to provide your players with more softball games in a relaxed setting and to prepare your players to possibly play at the next age division for the next summer season. The fall season is typically 5 weeks of play beginning in mid August and ending the last weekend of September with a state tournament. Teams are formed based on level of interest as well as coaching availability. Teams play 2 games with exception of the state tournament. Days of play are typically:

8u & 10u - Saturday

12u & up - Sunday

Code of Conduct

Players will be asked to sign a Player Expectations form. Please see the Resources page on the SRRFSA website for a copy.

A Conduct and Behavior Policy can also be found under the Resources tab on the SRRFSA website.

Communication/Grievance Policy

Please see the Resources tab of the SRRFSA website for the grievance policy.