

ELITE TEAMS INFORMATION

August 2024

New Richmond Powered by Elite Team

The New Richmond Elite program was established with the purpose of allowing New Richmond area athletes to play together at a high level of competition. Elite teams can compete at the 10u, 12u, 14u, 16u and 18u levels, depending on the numbers of players, coach selection and overall skill. The number of Elite teams each season will be determined at the discretion of the board.

Teams will be formed in the late summer/early fall, train together in the winter, and then compete together in the Summer. The foundation of this elite program lies in its training and early team formation. Developing athletes takes time and effort; it doesn't happen overnight. Consistent collaboration throughout the year helps build skilled individual players who can then unite to form a cohesive and powerful team. This elite program aims to strengthen our association teams by retaining top-tier athletes, ultimately ensuring a robust high school program.

Teams established Fall 2024: Compete Summer 2025

Teams established End of Summer 2025: Compete Fall Ball 2025 & Summer 2026

Objective of the Elite Team

To offer girls the chance to play softball at a consistently high level, providing them with the necessary challenges, experiences, knowledge, and exposure to reach their objectives. The aim is to instruct players on high-level play through physical, mental, and emotional training in a challenging, competitive, dedicated, and educational environment.

Coaches

Opportunities for 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U TBD prior to evaluations. Coaches are to fill out our coach application, submit a request, and final selection is determined by the board. Decisions will be made in time for the coach to attend the Elite tryouts.

League

Elite teams may continue playing an "A" tri-county schedule or choose to find teams to compete with during the week. All tournaments will be based on coaches' discretion, with the older age levels (12u-18u) entering tournaments with the highest competition level. An option to play in extra tournaments is open to all elite teams, determined by the coaching staff, at costs above and beyond the standard association fee.

Tryouts (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)

Evaluations are open to all those eligible to play 10U/12U/14U/16U/18U softball. The age level is slightly different than MN softball. Please see chart below to decide which tryout or tryouts to attend. Some birthdays will dictate differently than the usual MN softball age chart we recently were moved into. In order to be able to participate in USSSA tournaments, some players will need to "age up" for a full season. Attend the tryout of the age you wish to play. - Discuss this further

*Evaluations will be held on _____ (proposal is to do this the same time as our Summer 2025 tryouts)

Pre-registration will be required through the New Richmond Softball association at no cost to tryout.

If your child does not make an elite team, your travel team tryouts would revert to the MN Softball age rules. (i.e. Player born in November of 2013 tried out for 14u elite and did not make the team, she would return on Sunday the 11th to try out for 12u, and if she wanted to “play up” she would HAVE TO try out at 12u AND 14u regular season teams. If you do not try out at your assigned age level for regular season tryouts, you will be placed on a team at your assigned age level.

Team Selection

Up to twelve (12) athletes will be placed on the roster of each Powered By team. The board will ensure that at least two Elite level pitchers/ and two elite level catchers are placed on each team. In addition, the board will allow coach selections to complete a team roster.

- Players with the top Six (6) scores will be locked on the Elite team for a team of 10-11, the top seven (7) scores will lock on a team of 12. The coach will then be allowed four (4) player selections to complete a ten (10) person roster, five (5) player selections for an eleven (11) or twelve (12) person roster. *Clarify: the top 6 scores must be within 70 points of a 100 point scale to be considered locked in.

Teams will be selected after assessments are completed. Players will be notified within a few days after tryouts and will have 48 hours to accept placement on a team. After which time, the offer will be null and void and we will move to the next player on the list. All players that participated in the elite team assessments will receive an email to confirm final decisions.

All rosters must be approved by the varsity head coach, and board president.

If a player is not placed on an elite team, they must then re-tryout for regular season softball. Regular season being Fall Ball through Tri County, and again when the summer 2025 tryouts are announced. As always if you would like to be considered to “Play up” an age level you must put in a request to the board prior to your tryout.

Playing time and Positions

Elite level playing time will be earned and may not be equal. Playing time and positioning will be solely at the discretion of the coaching staff. DP/flex and/or a 9-player lineup may be used at any time rules allow. Each tournament has different rules, and some tournaments state you have to bat your roster and others don't. Make sure you read the tournament rules before registering if you do not want to follow the roster rules.

Additionally, players will be positioned based on team needs. At times, players may not be placed in their preferred position.

Commitment

By accepting a roster spot on an elite team, you will be expected to make this your priority regarding sports participation. You will be expected to attend all scheduled practices and games during the regular season (May – August). You will be expected to attend all winter games and practices that do not conflict with a winter sport that you may be playing. As is always the case, participation with family, school, and religious commitments take priority and can be worked out with your coach.

Player commitment during the off-season depends on their availability and any conflicts with other sports. We encourage our girls to engage in multiple sports and do not advocate for specialization. Our focus is on developing well-rounded athletes. Off-season practices will be as flexible as possible, offering various opportunities for players to practice outside of their regular sports schedules.

Tentative Schedule – will vary depending on age group and coach's preference

Schedules may follow MN Softball League play for the age level. Tournaments will be decided by the head coach or coaching staff and discussed with the team before making final decisions. You should expect to play in more tournaments/game with higher levels of competition at the 12u, 14u, 16u, and 18u age levels.

Tournament Dates

The tournament schedule will mostly be finalized over the off season. Players should expect to commit to a competitive schedule which may consist of several tournaments, we will aim to average 1 a month starting in March going through August if we qualify for Nationals. Some summer months there may be 2 tournaments.

Players should plan to attend a National Tournament near the end of July or early August.

Participation Fee

Estimated cost: \$1500-\$1700 before any fundraising or donations. Lower costs for 10U, higher for 12U/14U/16U/18U teams as the tournaments have a higher price tag to them.

Fundraising

Players will have additional fundraising opportunities above and beyond the Banner Fundraiser. The team can decide to fundraise or to contact local organizations for donations to their team. This will be a coach by coach and team by team decision.

Payment Schedule (2025)

Upon accepting a spot on an elite team, by ~~September 15th~~, an additional non-refundable payment of \$400 will be required.

The remaining balance must be paid through contract with ISA. Payment plans can be established. As always if there is a need for financial assistance, please contact a board member to discuss options.