



PWYSA – Policies and Procedures
Updated January 2010

INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document outlines policies and procedures used by PWYSA for recreational level fastpitch softball. PWYSA reserves the right to deviate from the policies and procedures in this document if the PWYSA Board of Directors (Board) determines it is in the best interest of the program to do so. These policies are subject to annual review and may be changed if the Board deems appropriate. The PWYSA supported elite program “MN Vortex” operates under separate policies and guidelines.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

MISSION

Plymouth Wayzata Youth Softball Association (PWYSA) promotes the game of fastpitch softball as a means to teach girls the value of teamwork and sportsmanship, to enhance self-esteem and to develop softball skills - all in a positive environment.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A Board of Directors governs PWYSA. There are open positions that can be filled throughout the year and are done so at any monthly Board meeting. Any interested parties are encouraged to contact the Association. Board positions and descriptions can be found on the website at www.pwysa.com.

REFUNDS

Full, partial or pro-rated refunds will be given under certain conditions. The amount of refund granted will be at the discretion of the PWYSA board. A full refund will be granted to a player who does not make a travel team but not necessarily in cases where they do not make the team of their desire. Once teams are determined, and practices have begun, no refunds will be made. Submit any requests to the PWYSA Treasurer listed on the website.

PARENT MEETINGS AND SURVEYS

Annual informational meetings will be held for all players and parents prior to the start of each season. Usually in March (travel) and April (recreational). As deemed appropriate, the Board will distribute surveys and hold additional meetings intended to gather feedback and to listen to concerns.

SCHOLARSHIP

Each year PWYSA designates funds in hopes that every girl who wants to play softball will be able to play regardless of her family's financial status. Applicants for a partial or full scholarship may contact the registration coordinator listed on the PWYSA website for further information. The Scholarship Committee will review each application.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising may be used to help raise additional funds that benefit either the recreational program or travel program, both or individual teams once the season has started. Please see the specific fundraising guidelines on the website at www.pwysa.com

RECREATIONAL (IN-HOUSE) SOFTBALL

PHILOSOPHY

Our Recreational League stresses learning, fundamentals, equal playing time, trying all positions and fun. Recreational softball opportunities are offered for girls in grades K-12. Teams are formed after registration with an attempt to spread talent as evenly as possible. Consideration is made at certain levels to keep school classmates together and in some circumstances playing requests can be accommodated. Teams will play in the PWYSA Recreational League.

COST

The cost for playing in the Recreational League covers the following expenses:
General administration fees (website, storage shed fees, umpires, post office box, field maintenance, etc.)
Equipment expenses
Team insurance
Team uniform (shirt may be kept by each player at the end of the season)

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising may be used to help raise additional funds that benefit either the recreational program only or both the recreational and travel programs.

SEASON

Levels D1 and D2 will generally practice/play two nights per week, May through late June and Levels D3, D4 and D5 will play May through mid July.

PRACTICES

Some practices are scheduled and additional practices are at the coach's discretion. Field times for additional practices must be arranged through recreational director.

AGE DIVISIONS

Division I: K- 1st grade
Division II: 2nd & 3rd grade
Division III: 4th & 5th grade
Division IV: 6th - 7th grade
Division V: 8th - 12th grade

Level D1 (Grades K-1)

The purpose of the Grades K & 1 Division (grade level as of the current school year at time of registration) is to introduce the athletes to the game of fastpitch softball. Girls learn to hit a pitched ball (coach pitch), how to field, run bases and a little bit of strategy mixed in with the fun. Teams are generally formed by elementary school and the athletes can sign up to be on the same team as a friend. Everyone plays in the field and everyone bats - we try and keep the teams relatively small so no one is sitting on the bench. Games and practices are held on Monday and Wednesday evenings* from early May through late June. In addition to playing PWYSA teams, we play teams from the Hopkins-Minnetonka, and St. Louis Park organizations. There may be an additional skills development clinic during the season. The timing of Picture Day is usually known at the time of walk in registration and is generally scheduled for a Saturday morning. We have tournament (with trophies or medals) at the end of the season with pairings drawn at random. * *Dates and times for games and practices are subject to change*

Level D2 (Grades 2 & 3)

Teams are generally formed by elementary school and girls can sign up to be on the same team as a friend. Division II in-house league will play two week nights. Athletes in this league use a pitching machine. This division continues to emphasize the balance between skill development and fun - everyone plays equally and gets to try all the positions. Scores are kept and we begin to introduce fastpitch game concepts. Games are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings* from early May through late June. In addition to playing PWYSA teams, we play teams from the Hopkins-Minnetonka, and St. Louis Park organizations. There may be an additional skills development clinic during the season. The timing of Picture Day is usually known at the time of walk in registration and is generally scheduled for a Saturday morning. We have tournament (with trophies or medals) at the end of the season with pairings drawn at random.

*Our Division 2 games are scheduled on Tuesday and Thursday MHGS also schedules division 2 on Tuesday and Thursday. St Louis Park schedules Division 2 games on Monday and Thursday. Each PWYSA team will typically end up with 1 Monday night game at St. Louis Park during the season. After athletes have experienced Division II, they may choose to move to our travel program at the 10U level (more competitive) - see the travel page, or can advance to Division III (more recreational). Although players may elect to attempt to move to the travel program anytime after one year of playing Division II, we find it is easiest for player to elect to move at this time rather than wait until later years. * *Dates and times for games and practices are subject to change*

Level D3 (Grades 4 & 5)

At the D3 level, the athletes pitch and we add age/skill appropriate elements of fastpitch softball - stealing, sliding, etc.

We recommend sliding pads (available to order at selected times of the year) for athletes in this Division and older to protect those knobby knees. Although the Division of play in this league is higher, the focus is still recreational - everyone plays equally, tries different positions, etc. Games are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings* from early May through mid July. In addition to playing PWYSA teams, we play teams from the Hopkins-Minnetonka, St. Louis Park and Orono organizations. There may be an additional skills development clinic during the season. The timing of Picture Day is usually known at the time of walk in registration and is generally scheduled for a Saturday morning. We have a year-end tournament (with trophies or medals) at the end of the season scheduled for a weekend in mid July. This tournament has been identified as a highlight of the season by many young girls and we recommend you not miss it and we encourage you to plan for a fun and exciting weekend. Our Division 3 games are scheduled on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. MHGS also schedules their division 3 games to be played on Tuesday's and Thursday's. St. Louis Park schedules their division 3 games on Monday's and Thursday's. Orono typically schedules their division 3 games on Monday and Wednesday. Since we play home games on our schedule, teams can expect 3 of their leagues games to be on either Monday or Wednesday night. * *Dates and times for games and practices are subject to change*

Level D4 (Grades 6 & 7)

At D4, all fastpitch softball rules apply, however a round robin batting order is still used. Player may begin to specialize in position play, but coaches are asked to continue to rotate players through a variety of positions. We recommend sliding pads (available to order at selected times of the year) for athletes in this Division and older to protect the athletes from injury. A skills clinic may be offered during the season. We have a year-end tournament (with trophies or medals) at the end of the season scheduled for a weekend in mid July. This tournament has been identified as a highlight of the season by many young girls and we recommend you not miss it and we encourage you to plan for a fun and exciting weekend.

Games are held on Monday and Wednesday evenings* from early May through mid July. In addition to playing PWYSA teams, we play teams from the Hopkins-Minnetonka, and St. Louis Park organizations. There may be an additional skills development clinic during the season. The timing of Picture Day is usually known at the time of walk in registration and is generally scheduled for a Saturday morning. We have a year-end tournament (with trophies or medals) at the end of the season scheduled for a weekend in mid July. This tournament has been identified as a highlight of the season by many young girls and we recommend you not miss it and we encourage you to plan for a fun and exciting weekend.

Our division 4 games are scheduled on Monday and Wednesday evenings. MHGS also schedules their division 4 games to be played on Monday's and Wednesday's. St. Louis Park schedules their division 4 games on Monday's, Tuesday's and Thursday's. Since we play home and home games on our schedule, PWYSA teams can expect 2 of their leagues games to be on a Tuesday or Thursday night. * *Dates and times for games and practices are subject to change*

Level D5 (Grades 8 - 12)

At this D5, all fastpitch softball rules apply, however a round robin batting order is still used. Player may begin to specialize in position play, but coaches are asked to continue to rotate players through a variety of positions. We recommend sliding pads (available to order at selected times of the year) for athletes in this Division and older to protect the athletes from injury. A skills clinic may be offered during the season. We have a year-end tournament (with trophies or medals) at the end of the season scheduled for a weekend in mid July. This tournament has been identified as a highlight of the season by many young girls and we recommend you not miss it and we encourage you to plan for a fun and exciting weekend.

Games are held on Wednesday and Friday evenings* from early May through mid July. In addition to playing PWYSA teams, we play teams from the Hopkins-Minnetonka Association. There may be an additional skills development clinic during the season. The timing of Picture Day is usually known at the time of walk in registration and is generally scheduled for a Saturday morning. We have a year-end tournament (with trophies or medals) at the end of the season scheduled for a weekend in mid July. This tournament has been identified as a highlight of the season by many young girls and we recommend you not miss it and we encourage you to plan for a fun and exciting weekend. Our D5 games are scheduled on Monday and Wednesday evenings. MHGS schedules their division 5 games to be played on Wednesday and Friday evening's. Since we play home and home games on our schedule, PWYSA teams can expect 3 of their leagues games to be on a Friday night. If you have questions about this information, please visit <http://www.pwysa.com>.

** Dates and times for games and practices are subject to change*

PLAYING TIME AND PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Equal playing time is emphasized, but is not guaranteed for all playing positions. A player's safety must be considered when player rotations are developed. Each coach is responsible for ensuring this happens. The coach has the authority to limit playing time due to unexcused absences from practices or games or for other disciplinary reasons.

Playing time can also be limited due to one or more of the following:

Disciplinary action is being taken.

The player has been suspended.

The player is injured or sick.

The player has unexcused absences.

Games have been shortened due to a time limit or inclement weather.

LEAGUE RULES

Recreational League Rules are reviewed each year prior to the season in a meeting of all participating associations. A Recreational League Rule Book is created and/or updated each year and is provided to the coaches and will be posted on the website.