

Edina Girls Fastpitch Q&A Summer Season

What are the Summer Age Groupings?

8U	A player who is 8 years of age or younger on 12/31/12, born 2004 or later
10U	A player who is 10 years of age or younger on 12/31/12, born 2002 or 2003
12U	A player who is 10 years of age or younger on 12/31/12, born 2000 or 2001
14U	A player who is 10 years of age or younger on 12/31/12, born 1998 or 1999

What is the summer schedule?

	8U	10U	12U	14U⁽²⁾
Evaluations	N/A	2/10/2013	2/10/2013	2/10/2013
Practices - indoor	2/24/2013	2/24/2013	2/24/2013	2/24/2013
Practices - outdoor	Week of 4/8/2013	4/8/2013	4/8/2013	4/8/2013
League games begin ⁽¹⁾				
May	5/13/2013	5/13/2013	5/13/2013	5/27/2013
Number of games/week ⁽³⁾				
June/July	2/2	2/2	2/4	4/4
Number of Tournaments ⁽⁴⁾	2	4-5	5-6	5-6
State Qualifier Tournament ⁽¹⁾	N/A	6/28-6/30	6/28-6/30	7/12-7/14
State Tournament ⁽¹⁾	6/29-6/30	7/12-7/14	7/12-7/14	7/19/2021

(1) Dates are tentative based on prior year.

(2) Practice schedule is dependent on the number of players playing with EHS teams.

(3) Games are doubleheaders - two games played on one night with 1st game starting at 6:15 pm.

(4) Tournament count includes League State Tournament Qualifier and State Tournament.

Our summer league season begins in mid-May for the 8U, 10U, and 12U teams. The 14U league will begin in late May or early June.

All league games are double-headers starting at 6:15 pm. Players are usually required to be on the field at least 3/4 hour before game time.

Typically 10U teams will play one night each week and all other teams will play two nights, with 2-4 weekend tournaments throughout the season. The state qualifying tournament is typically held at the end of June with the state tourney in early July, depending on the 4th of July Holiday timing.

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What does the summer fee include?

Our registration fees cover league participation charges, tournament entry costs, umpires, insurance and city fees. There is a separate fee for the uniform. For 14U teams, there may be an additional fee assessment for a paid coach.

What if my family has a financial need?

Scholarships are available on a confidential basis by sending an email to the EGFA treasurer. For the email address of the current treasurer, go to www.edinafastpitch.org.

Where are the games?

Home games are generally played at Pamela Park, off 58th Street and Oaklawn. Away games will be played at home fields of other teams within our division, typically Hopkins, Bloomington, Richfield, Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, etc.

Can a player be placed at a higher age level?

EGFA has the philosophy that players should play at the age level as determined by the chart above. However, exceptions will be made if a certain age level is short key positions or players and the younger level has an excess.

How are opponents determined?

Once teams are formed, the coaches will assess the skill level of the team to determine if the team will be classified as A, B or C for league play. The coaches then attend a League meeting where divisions are formed with other A, B, or C teams. The divisions are typically formed based on proximity of communities. Once the divisions are set, the League then schedules the games. Any changes after that schedule are released are the responsibility of the coaches.

How are summer tournaments selected?

The coaches on each team will review the listing of tournaments for each age group as advertised on www.fastsports.com. All 10U and 12U Edina teams will be automatically registered for the Edina Mayfly tournament held the weekend of Mother's Day weekend. Coaches will then select additional tournaments based on location, competitive level of team versus tournament, availability of players,

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etc. There are also several tournaments that the board encourages the coaches to consider attending. All tournament selections will be finalized no later than May 1.

What is the playing time philosophy?

The philosophy of Fastpitch Softball, which is a traveling sport, differs from the Slow Pitch in-house program. Playing time will be distributed based on performance and team needs rather than equal playing time. Over the course of the season, coaches will ensure that each player gets an ample amount of playing time to foster player development although positions played may not necessarily be at the player's or parent's desired position. As the season progresses, players will "settle into" playing positions so that the team is competitive. Once a team is selected, coaches shall treat all of the players on the team as part of the team. Final playing time decisions are at discretion of the head coach based on the following:

- The need to develop depth of talent at every position.
- Unexcused absences at practices, games, tournaments and team meetings.
- Effort of the players in practices and game situations.
- Commitment of the player to improve her skills.
- Skill level of the players on the team.

If a player is dissatisfied with her playing time or position, the player should speak privately to her coach after or before a practice. Players should then attempt to make improvements in the areas suggested by the coach.

During tournaments, players will be placed in positions allowing the team to be the most competitive. Also teams are allowed to "pick-up" additional players from other teams which may impact the playing time of regular team members. Typically additional players will be added when existing members of the team have conflicts and the additional players are needed to fill gaps, especially in key positions.

Also, at the older age levels (typically 14U and above), certain tournaments require the coach to follow rules that limit the number of batters (typically to 9) and substitutions. This is common within the "A" brackets of weekend tournaments and the state tournaments. Please be aware that the coach is following the rules of the tournament and therefore playing time of certain players will be impacted. Coaches will notify parents and players if they are playing under these rules so that everyone can be prepared.

Will clinics be offered during the Summer Season?

Edina Fastpitch sponsors team pitching and catching clinics in March and April. The dates and locations will be communicated by the team coach. Throughout the summer, the EGFA will also

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sponsor additional pitching, catchers, and hitting clinics based on needs of specific teams, age levels and requests of coaches.

What type of equipment do I need?

EGFA supplies catcher's gear and practice equipment for all teams. We also supply bats to 10U teams. Players are responsible for a glove, helmet and appropriate athletic shoes. If a player buys cleated shoes, the cleats should be made of a hard rubber material similar to soccer shoes. Fastpitch players will also need to purchase sliding pads and sliding shorts.

Can I volunteer as a coach? What is expected of a coach?

The majority of EGFA coaches are volunteers, with the vast majority being parents of daughters on their respective teams. EGFA is actively seeking parents to volunteer for the upcoming season as coaches or assistant coaches. We typically have paid, experienced coaches for the older teams (i.e. 14U and above), however we continue to utilize parent volunteers as assistant coaches.

Coaching responsibilities vary according to player age level. At the youngest age levels, coaches are expected to conduct practices, teach basic softball skills, and ensure that all girls participate equally in games in a fun, learning environment. As the players become older, the need to teach more subtle skills and strategy increases and thus softball knowledge and organizational skills become more important to successful coaching. EGFA assists its coaches by offering coaching clinics as needed. These clinics focus on how to teach fundamental softball skills and how to conduct practices and games. All coaches are expected to participate in the clinics to the fullest extent possible.

Evaluation/Team Placement

What is the purpose of the team "evaluations"?

"Tryouts" can be intimidating for players and parents, but in actuality our "tryouts" are an evaluation to decide the appropriate level for each player. We need to be able to evaluate players so we can make up teams that have a chance to succeed. Player evaluations are scheduled on a Sunday in mid February. Pitchers and catchers are evaluated during their off season training. If for an unavoidable reason (e.g. a weekend tournament in another sport or an illness) a player cannot attend the primary evaluation night, the player must notify the association in advance. Placement on teams is based on the results of the evaluation night, input from past coaches, needs of the teams being fielded, player's commitment and attitude.

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Coaches, instructors, assistant coaches or independent evaluators may conduct the evaluations.

What is the process for the Evaluation Night?

Upon signing in at her age appropriate time on Sunday, each girl will be assigned a number. She will then go into the field house to be evaluated. Parents are not allowed inside the field house during the process. Although, drills may be operated by parent volunteers, none of the parent volunteers will be participating at times when their child is being evaluated. All evaluations are recorded based on the numbers assigned at registration.

Each girl will be evaluated in five general skill areas: Infield, Outfield, Throw & Catch, Hitting and Base Running. The girls (based on numbers assigned at the beginning of the process) are ranked based on their evaluations. This ranking is used as a guide and it is not an absolute determination of team placement.

Are teams at the same age level split based on age or ability?

When there are sufficient players at an age level, EGFA will field two or more teams. These teams will be based on ability so that each player has the opportunity to develop at the appropriate competitive level.

Each team will be registered with the league at the appropriate level – i.e. A, B or C – based on the overall assessment of the team. This will help ensure that each team can be competitive. Girls may be rostered on more than one team to help fill in conflicts throughout the season and allow them to see other levels of play.

Off Season Training

What opportunities are available for off season training?

During the off season, the EGFA sponsors several training opportunities for all ability levels:

	Age Level	Timing	Location
Pitching	All Ages	December - February	Calvin Christian School
Catchers	All Ages	April	TBD
Winter Tune Up	All Ages	December - January	EHS Field House

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When and where are the winter pitching clinics?

The winter pitching clinics are held in the gym at Calvin Christian School. These clinics are open to all existing and future EGFA players. Time slots are arranged based on pitching skills. The clinics are Tuesday nights starting at 6 pm. The clinics start the first Tuesday after the Thanksgiving holiday and run through the end of February when teams are formed.

How do I register for the winter pitching clinics?

Register online at the EGFA website www.edinafastpitch.org.

What is the “Winter Tune Up” Skills Clinic?

The “Winter Tune Up” clinic is a five week skills clinic offered to all players. The session is geared to enhance basic fastpitch skills, such as fielding, catching, and hitting. It is open to both beginning and experienced players.

Who should register for the “Winter Tune Up” Skills Clinic?

Any potential or experienced eligible player should register for this clinic.

How do I register for the “Winter Tune Up” Skills Clinic?

Register online at the EGFA website www.edinafastpitch.org.

EGFA Board

Who is currently servicing on the Board?

The board consists of 15 members on a three year rotating term. A current listing of board members, including the executive committee, can be found on the EGFA website (www.edinafastpitch.org).

Who elects the Board?

The EGFA board is elected in October by its members. The members are any parent who had a daughter play on an EGFA team in either the summer or fall seasons.

When does the Board hold its meetings?

The EGFA board meets on the last Monday of each month, starting at 6:30 pm at the Edina City Hall Community Room. An official posting of the times can be found on the EGFA website (www.edinafastpitch.org) All meetings are open to any member.