

Titans Fastpitch Association

2026 Summer Program Registration

TFA Philosophy

Titans Fastpitch Association (TFA) is dedicated to growing and developing competitive athletes in our community by providing the appropriate level of training and competition for each player. By delivering a positive fastpitch softball experience at every age level, we strive to make a lasting, positive impact on our athletes and our community.

Program Goals

- Provide effective, high-quality softball training for players and coaches at all levels
- Offer competitive opportunities and develop athletic skills for advancement to higher levels
- Maintain a structured program that is cooperative with and respected by other community programs
- Create a fun and engaging environment for players, families, coaches, and the community
- Maximize the potential of every player
- Develop teams capable of competing at a high level
- Encourage participation throughout a player's entire youth sports career
- Foster teamwork and emphasize that every team member plays an integral role
- Promote skill development and positive self-esteem

TFA is a non-profit organization. 100% of funds collected are reinvested directly into softball programs and player development within our community.

Program Overview

- This is a **traveling league** with weekday league games and **required weekend tournaments**.
 - Players must be available to attend **all scheduled games and tournaments**.
 - **Registration fees are non-refundable once a player is placed on a team** (medical exceptions may apply).
 - Fundraising or buyout is required annually
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Age Division Information & Fees

8U Team (\$125 Registration Fee)

- League play on **Wednesdays**
- First game: **April 30**
 - A BYE will be requested due to religious education classes
- Nine (9) consecutive play dates, ending **June 24**
 - **Doubleheaders** on June 17 and June 24
- **8U State Tournament (REQUIRED): June 27–28**
 - Location: TBD
- Uses a **pitching machine** for consistent pitch speed
- Optional participation in additional tournaments

8U League Rules:

<https://mnsoftball.com/pages/cms/metro-area-8-under-league>

10U Team (\$275 Registration Fee)

- League play on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**
 - Thursday games begin in June
- First game: **April 28**
- **Qualifier Tournament (REQUIRED): June 26–28** – Location TBA
- **State Tournament (REQUIRED): July 10–12** – Location TBA
- One additional tournament included in registration
 - Additional tournaments may be added at a cost of \$30 –\$35 per player

12U Team (\$275 Registration Fee)

- League play on **Mondays and Wednesdays**
 - First game: **April 27**
 - **Qualifier Tournament (REQUIRED): June 26–28** – Location TBA
 - **State Tournament (REQUIRED): July 10–12** – Location TBA
 - One additional tournament included in registration
 - Additional tournaments may be added at a cost of \$30 –\$35 per player
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14U Team (\$275 Registration Fee)

- League play on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**
 - First game: **No earlier than May 19**
 - **Qualifier Tournament (REQUIRED): July 17–19**
 - Location: Becker
 - **State Tournament (REQUIRED): July 24–26** – Location TBA
 - One additional tournament included in registration
 - Additional tournaments may be added at a cost of \$30 –\$35 per player
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High School (16U/18U) Team (\$275 Registration Fee)

- League play on **Mondays and Wednesdays**
 - First game: **TBA**
 - **League Tournament (REQUIRED): July 17–19**
 - Location: Becker
 - **State Tournament (REQUIRED): July 24–26** – Location TBA
 - One additional tournament included in registration
 - Additional tournaments may be added at a cost of \$30 –\$35 per player
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Additional Important Dates

- Monsta 10U (Bloomington): July 23–26
 - Monsta 10U (Elk River): July 30–August 2
 - Monsta 12U: July 30–August 2
 - Monsta 14U: August 6–9
 - Monsta 16U/18U: July 30–August 2
 - **First Day of Tryouts:** Monday, August 3, 2026
 - USA Softball Selects: August 14–16
 - Parade of Champions (Target Field): August 16, 2026
 - Fall Ball Week 1: August 22–23
 - Fall State: September 26–27
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Age Eligibility

Age is determined by the player's age on **September 1, 2025**.

- 8U: 8 or younger
- 10U: 10 or younger
- 12U: 12 or younger
- 14U: 14 or younger
- High School: 16 or older

8U Playing Up Exception

Players may register for 10U **only if**:

- They have played **at least two seasons of 8U**
- They are currently in **3rd grade**
- Parents believe the player is physically and mentally ready

Process:

1. Register at the 10U level and pay the 10U fee
 2. Player will be evaluated by the Board
 3. If not placed at 10U, the difference in registration fees will be refunded
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Coaching & Volunteers

- Parents may volunteer as coaches or team helpers during registration
- Only **three adults** allowed on the bench
- At least one coach must be **ACE certified**
- All bench adults must complete:
 - Background check
 - SafeSport training

Coaches Meetings (Medina Entertainment Center)

- 10U & 12U: April 7, 6:00–8:00 PM
 - 14U: April 7, 8:00 PM
- Head coaches are required to attend**
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Fundraising

- Minimum requirement: **15 Butter Braids / Heggie's Pizzas per child annually**
 - Buyout option: **\$75 per child**
 - Shortfalls charged at **\$5 per item**
 - Prizes awarded to top three sellers
 - 2026 Heggie's Pizza Fundraiser date: TBA
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Uniforms & Equipment

- New jersey top each year
- **NEW for 2026:** 10U and up receive **two jerseys**
- Players keep their assigned number (00–99)
- Last names appear on jerseys—ensure accuracy at registration

Required Equipment:

- Black softball pants
- Black or Columbia Blue socks (team decision)
- Helmet
- Fielder's mask
- Softball glove
- Tennis shoes or softball cleats
 - **No soccer cleats**
 - Metal cleats allowed for 14U+ only

Used helmets may be available. Donations of equipment are welcome.

Attendance Policy

- Prompt communication with coaches regarding absences is required
 - Repeated attendance issues may result in a parent meeting with TFA
 - Coaches will provide team-specific attendance expectations
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Birth Certificates

Once placed on a team via the MN Softball website, parents must upload the player's birth certificate. This is a **one-time requirement**.

PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT:

Please remember that TFA is a community-based program, therefor a DEVELOPMENT Program. We are here to DEVELOP PLAYERS.

1. The primary focus for the season is to make sure all players learn more about playing the sport of fastpitch softball while having fun. Parents are required to encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all participants, coaches, and officials.
2. During games, coaches will be instructing the girls. Parents don't compete with the coaches for their attention. The coaches will place the girls in appropriate positions where it is felt they will have success. Parent's role at any game or practice is strictly limited to cheering and giving encouragement, unless asked directly by the coach to help.
3. Parents are required to recognize importance of volunteer and paid coaches and will communicate with them when necessary and support their decisions. All coaches and trainers should be treated with respect.
4. Umpires are human and will make mistakes. As a Board, **we issue a strong warning** to all coaches and parents that verbal abuse to the umpires will not be tolerated. If an issue is reported to the Board, we act against all those involved.
5. During a game, the girls on the bench are expected to stay in the dugout and cheer on their teammates. Not out with parents.
6. Players are expected to attend practices, games and tournaments. If there is a conflict with attending, please notify your coach in advance so they can plan according to your child's absence.
7. If you have a concern or complaint, the following steps should be taken:
 - a. The PLAYER approach their coach and discuss it first.
 - b. If a parent needs to get involved, talk to the coach the **NEXT** day. **A 24-hour rule is being followed, meaning no contact with a coach until 24 hours after a game.** Most of our coaches are volunteers that put in a lot of time and effort for your children. The intent of this rule is to allow
 - c. emotions to lower and communication to be respectable.
 - d. If issue is still not resolved, then the parent should write an email to the coach and the Board at TitansFastpitchAssoc@gmail.com explaining the issue.

PARENT TWO STRIKE RULE:

TFA will let Coaches handle conflict as it comes up. If there is a larger issue with a parent and TFA must get involved, parents will receive the notice via email from the Board. If the problem persists with a parent, TFA will issue **a one season suspension to the Parent & Player.**

Tryouts

- **Saturday, February 7, 2026**
- Location: Le Center Middle School
- Time: 12:00–4:00 PM
- For all **10U–14U** players

Exact age-group times will be emailed after registration closes.
Parents are **not allowed in the gym** during tryouts.

Pitcher parents may be asked to assist with warm-ups.

*****If your player can not attend the tryout date – please contact TFA as soon as you can.*****

TEAM FORMATION PROCESS

1. Numbers of players per age group/team
2. Pitcher and/or catcher tryouts.
3. Skills based tryout assessment
4. Coaches' evaluations from previous season and winter skills clinic.

The team formation process is one of the most important functions of the TITAN FASTPITCH program. Our goal is to provide a tryout environment that is fair to all players and allows them to demonstrate their abilities to a group of qualified evaluators.

Pitching & Catching Evaluations 10U & Up:

All girls that would like to be CONSIDERED as a pitcher or catcher this summer will have to do the evaluation at their respective tryout time and indicate when CHECKING IN at tryouts.

Things to note:

- If your your child does ***not participate*** in a pitching/catching evaluation at tryouts, your player may not be used as a pitcher/catcher during the season. By not having your player evaluated at these positions, **you are agreeing to them not being utilized in those positions during the season.** Please know this upfront and help your player understand this.

TRYOUT EVALUATIONS

The tryout drills are predetermined and intended to demonstrate specific skills to the evaluators. Evaluator's rate various skills on a predetermined point scale. Points are accumulated and plugged into a ranking program by the TITAN FASTPITCH BOARD. **All tryout results are confidential. NO ONE outside the TITAN FASTPITCH BOARD is allowed to see the results.** Not even the evaluators see the score sheets of other evaluators or the results. Tryout evaluation numbers are entered into a ranking program by TFA BOARD MEMBERS ONLY!!!

The information accumulated helps determine the number of teams, the level of play, and how to best support the program. Players are placed on teams based on their overall score. If we have several players with similar scores, the board will use the running and throwing scores as the tie breakers. Players are notified by email, coordinated so all players are notified at the same time.

- 1 = A level player
- 2 = A-B level
- 3 = B level
- 4 = B-C level
- 5 = C level

Low score is highest rated. All scores are added and averaged per player for an overall rating.

TRYOUT ASSESSMENT

FIELDING (Defensive Tryout)

All fielding drills will take into account throwing mechanics and form (hand on top of ball/palm back at T position, elbow up, follow through), also speed and accuracy of throw.

a. **Fly Balls: DRILL**

- a. 5 Fly balls will be thrown Left/ Right/ Front/ Back/ Straight at them, appropriate in height for the age level being assessed. Players will start in same location for each thrown ball. After catching the ball, players will throw the ball to a designated player receiving the ball.
 - i. **Evaluators looking for:** Proper use of the drop step, glove position at the point of the catch, position of feet at the time of the catch (getting behind the ball to make a good throw), arm strength and accuracy of the throw after the catch, along with verbal announcement of calling for the ball. **One score for all five fly balls and one score for all five throws.**

b. **Ground Balls: DRILL** –

- a. 5 Ground balls will be hit to the player. Balls will be hit left/right/straight at/short hit. After fielding the ball, players will throw to a player on first base.
 - i. **Evaluators looking for:** Fielder's ready position (athletic, knees bent, legs wide and player being on the balls of her feet) Lateral movement left and right, charging in on a bunt, glove to hand transfer, strength and accuracy of

the throw. **One score for all five ground balls and one score for all five throws.**

c. Overall Defensive Evaluation:

- a. All players will be given an OVERALL DEFESIVE Score**
 - i. Mechanics, fluidity, Attitude & EFFORT!!!**

HITTING

- 1) **Live Pitching: DRILL** – Players will receive pitches from a live pitcher front toss style. 3-5 Practice pitches
 - a) Evaluators looking for:** Contact along with proper fundamentals. Players should strive for line drives and hard ground balls, trying to avoid fly balls. Correct mechanics being used include weight transfer, stacked body position (head is centered over the shoulders, shoulders over the hips, and hips over their base/feet), hands inside ball, and extension. **One score per five swings.**

- 2) **Bunting: DRILL** – The player will receive 5 balls to bunt. Attempt to bunt the first 2 balls to the left without going foul, and the next 2 to the right, 1 either way without going foul.
 - a) Evaluators looking for: Proper** balance when squaring up, hand position on the bat, bat position when attempting to bunt. Ability to place bunts to the center, left or right sides of the infield. Ability to keep the ball fair. **One score for all five bunts.**

- 3) **Overall Offensive Evaluation:**
 - a) All players will be given an OVERALL Offensive Score**
 - i) Mechanics, fluidity, Attitude & EFFORT!!!**

THROWING SPEED

Player will make 3 throws that are RECORDED via radar gun. Score will be an average of the 3. (3 WARMUPS)

RUNNING

Timed run at 60ft. twice, with speed averaged. This time will only be factored into the final assessment process if a player's overall does not clearly define their team placement (bubble score).

ATTITUDE AND EFFORT

Evaluators looking for: Listening, no talking during instructions, hustling to stations, hustling after missed balls.

SMILING! CHEERING ON TEAMMATES! CONFIDENCE! THIS WILL BE INCLUDED IN SCORES!!!!

PITCHING

1. Each pitcher will be given time to warm up with a catcher
2. Pitchers will be evaluated on the following items:
 - a. Control of 8 Pitches (Basic Fastpitch)
 - b. Mechanics of 8 Pitches (Basic Fastpitch)
 - c. Speed tested on 3 Pitches (Basic Fastpitch)
 - d. Given the opportunity to throw UP TO 3 optional pitches with a speed evaluation on change up's

CATCHING

Evaluation will be based on the following items:

1. Stance/Footwork/Blocking
2. Catching/Ball Framing
3. Throwing Mechanics & Accuracy
4. Arm Strength