



**COTTAGE GROVE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
SOFTBALL DIVISION
Traveling League Rules**

I. Coaches will be selected from those that interview during the open coaches' interview period.

A coach's selection committee will interview all coaching candidates. The selection committee will be made up of CGAA Softball Board Members and/or additional members appointed by the CGAA Softball Traveling Director.

Head Coaching candidates will submit an application and background check prior to their interview. Criteria for selection include the application, the background check, and the interview. Head Coaches will be selected based on experience, knowledge of the game, past involvement and positive attitude.

- In order to be considered for the top team, the Head Coach's daughter must rank from 1-15 during the tryout process as a pitcher/catcher or player.
- In order to be considered for the second team, the Head Coach's daughter must rank from 1-30 during the tryout process as a pitcher/catcher or player.
- In order to be considered for the third team, the Head Coach's daughter must rank from 1-45 during the tryout process as a pitcher/catcher or player.
- In order to be considered for the fourth team, the Head Coach's daughter must rank from 1-60 during the tryout process as a pitcher/catcher or player.
- A Head Coaching applicant that does not have a daughter at the level in which they are applying, may be considered for any squad.

Head Coaching candidates will be allowed to observe the tryouts for the age level they have applied for. Head Coaches can be selected prior to tryouts or after the tryouts. Potential Head Coaches cannot participate in the evaluations during tryouts for the age level they have applied for.

Head Coaches will select the make-up of their rosters based on the following questions asked during the coach's interview:

- How many players do you want on your roster?
- How many pitchers do you want on your roster?
- How many catchers do you want on your roster?

Team Rosters will be constructed based on the requests of the Head Coaches and the number of available players in the talent pool. Rosters are recommended to be kept at a maximum of 12 players.

II. Traveling teams will abide by all CGAA Softball Division rules and policies.

Principles of traveling softball:

- "A" level teams are the most competitive
 - "A" level teams play the strongest opponents at the league and tournament

level, and frequency. While having the goal of qualifying for and attending a regional or national tournament.

- Equal playing time is not guaranteed, however over the course of the season each player will get a fair and ample amount of playing time.
- The Head Coach is responsible for assuring this happens. At a minimum, each participant will play the equivalent of one complete game during league doubleheaders and will not sit out two full, consecutive tournament games.

Development of players, particularly at the younger age levels and lower classifications is valued over a winning record. Each girl is to learn and play several positions. Balanced (not necessarily equal) playing time, particularly at the younger age levels and lower classifications, is to be dictated as much by commitment and attendance as skill level.

Head Coaches have the authority to limit playing time due to any one of the following reasons:

- Disciplinary action
- Player is sick or injured
- Player has absences from games and/or practices
- Games are shortened due to inclement weather
- Darkness
- Time limit

All coaches shall treat each player and all parents with respect, dignity, and fairness

- 8U – 12U it is highly recommended and expected by the CGAA Softball Board that
 - All players will participate in multiple positions (infield and outfield) throughout the season (unless a player chooses not to play a particular position). This will include time given to players at these positions during practice and league play. Coaches will be required to teach the fundamentals of fastpitch softball and develop all players to their fullest potential and support the entire CGAA program.
- 14U and up
 - Multiple positions not limited to infield and outfield

III. Traveling teams will abide by all rules and policies of the Tri-County League.

IV. Players accepting a roster spot on a team must commit to playing for Cottage Grove until their full season is complete.

V. All traveling teams are strongly encouraged to advance as far as they are able including Nationals; however, the ultimate decision is up to the individual teams' coaches, player and parents discretion.

When teams advance beyond the State Tournament, per Minnesota Softball and Association rules, teams may pick up players.

*In order to pick up any non-rostered player, a coach must have:

- Prior approval of the majority vote from parents of said team
- CGAA Softball Traveling Director approval
- Any non CGAA player will be required to pay the CGAA registration fee
 - *This covers the player under CGAA Softball's insurance policy in case of injury
- Exemptions
 - The non-rostered player must be AT or BELOW the teams competitive ranking.
 - A "B" level team cannot add a player that played their regular season on an "A" level team at the same age classification
 - An "A" level player can be added to a "B" level team IF that "A" player is moving up age classifications

- A 12U “A” player pulled up to play on a 14U “B” team

- VI. Parents must agree to the CGAA Softball Code of Conduct during the registration process.**
- Parents are expected to review the Code of Conduct with their players
 - Failure to abide by the rules will be grounds for disciplinary action outlined in the CGAA Softball Code of Conduct up to the removal of the player from all traveling teams
- VII. Traveling Head Coaches will be responsible for the conduct of their team, assistant coaches, their players and their players parents.**
- VIII. Traveling Head Coaches and their team manager will ensure that all team expenses will be accounted for through the CGAA Softball Division Treasurer.**
- IX. Traveling fees are due on the dates outlined in the pre-tryout registration process.**
- X. All fundraisers must be submitted and approved by the CGAA Softball Traveling Director.**
- Once approved by the CGAA Softball Traveling Director, it must be submitted to the CGAA Softball President for approval
 - If the fundraiser involves a raffle (meat, door prize, or a “chance”), the CGAA Gambling Manager must approve the fundraiser
- XI. Traveling Head Coaches and/or Team Managers will turn in their season close out financial report to the CGAA Softball Treasurer no later than 15 days following the Nationals Softball tournament.**
- **All remaining funds not spent during the season on team expenses will remain with CGAA Softball in the general fund.**
- XII. Team funds cannot be used for:**
- Non-player spirit wear
 - Additional coaches attire outside of the CGAA Softball Coaches allowance
 - Purchasing of gift cards
 - Reimbursement of hotel stays
 - Reimbursement of gas mileage
 - Coaches gifts
 - Non-softball related expense
 - *Any other non-traditional expenses require the approval of the CGAA Softball President or CGAA Softball Traveling Director and/or CGAA Softball Treasurer
- XIII. All CGAA Softball teams will be required to wear the uniform selected by the CGAA Softball Board. Purchases of additional uniform components will be a team expense.**
- XIV. All players playing the infield are required to wear an infielder’s mask.**
- XV. Head Coaches will be responsible for all of the CGAA Softball equipment. The equipment will be turned into the CGAA Equipment Director, all equipment will be signed in & out.**
- XVI. Parents of skilled position players (pitchers and catchers) will be required to opt up or opt down during the registration process.**
- Pitchers and Catchers are specialty positions that require training in both the regular season and off season to continue to grow, develop and refine their skills

- CGAA Softball requires pitchers and catchers to participate in all stages of the tryout process in order to provide a holistic picture of the pitcher/catcher and the player they are
- During the team placement process the pitchers and catchers are ranked based on their pitching and catching tryout results
- During the team placement process the pitchers and catchers are ranked based on their player tryout results
- **IF** a player makes a more competitive team as a player but not as a pitcher or catcher, the decision to opt up or opt down comes into play:
 - i. **Play Up:** if this option is selected the player may be placed on the more competitive team and may receive LITTLE to NO pitching or catching time in game situations, her role will be as a player
 1. *CGAA Softball does encourage her to continue practicing by attending any pitcher or catcher clinics and other training sessions outside of CGAA Softball*
 - ii. **Play Down:** if this option is selected the player will be placed on the next competitive team and receive MORE pitching and catching time in game situations, her role will be as a pitcher or catcher

XVII. All traveling team tryouts will be held in October, preceding the upcoming season. If additional players are needed to fill teams, special tryouts may be scheduled by the CGAA Softball Traveling Director.

- Tryout dates and times will be published on the CGAA Softball website and members will be sent multiple notices via email

XVIII. Tryouts will consist of at least two but no more than three sessions. A separate tryout session will be conducted for specialty position players (pitchers and catchers).

XIX. The CGAA Softball Board may change the length or number of sessions, when recommended by the CGAA Softball Traveling Director and with at least $\frac{3}{4}$ majority board approval. In the absence of the CGAA Softball Traveling Director the CGAA Softball President can make the recommendation.

XX. Traveling Team Formation Process is as follows:

- **8U Traveling Teams**
8U Traveling Teams will be formed based on a series of evaluations that will be completed in the spring of the Traveling Softball season. *Teams will be formed based on evaluations and skill level.*
- **10U – 18U Traveling Teams**
10U – 18U Traveling teams will be formed based on the evaluators scores that were awarded during the Traveling Tryouts. All scores will be recorded and tabulated by the Team Formation/Tryout Committee.

Teams are formed in the following manner:

- Green Team –
 - Top two (2) pitchers automatically locked
 - Top two (2) catchers automatically locked
 - Top three (3) players based on evaluators scores automatically locked
 - Head Coach (or designee) will chose the players to complete their team out of the next five (5) players ranked in order by their evaluator’s scores. No names provided, only penny numbers worn during the tryout process.
 - Head Coach (or designee) will have a team of eleven (11) or twelve (12) players based on their preference as discussed in the Coaches

Interview process.

- The number of pitchers and catchers may fluctuate based on the Head Coaches preferred make-up of the teams
- White Team –
 - Next two (2) pitchers automatically locked
 - Next two (2) catchers automatically locked
 - *unless a pitcher or catcher makes the higher ranked team as a player not as a pitcher or catcher
 - The remaining players that were listed on the previous teams Head Coaches list of players to choose from, but were not selected are automatically locked
 - Head Coach (or designee) will chose the players to complete their team out of the next five (5) players ranked in order by their evaluator’s scores. No names provided, only penny numbers worn during the tryout process.
 - Head Coach (or designee) will have a team of eleven (11) or twelve (12) players based on their preference.
 - The number of pitchers and catchers may fluctuate based on the Head Coaches preferred make-up of the teams
- Black Team -
 - Next two (2) pitchers automatically locked
 - Next two (2) catchers automatically locked
 - *unless a pitcher or catcher makes the higher ranked team as a player not as a pitcher or catcher
 - The remaining players that were listed on the previous teams Head Coaches list of players to choose from, but were not selected are automatically locked
 - Head Coach (or designee) will chose the players to complete their team out of the next five (5) players ranked in order by their evaluator’s scores. No names provided, only penny numbers worn during the tryout process.
 - Head Coach (or designee) will have a team of eleven (11) or twelve (12) players based on their preference.
 - The number of pitchers and catchers may fluctuate based on the Head Coaches preferred make-up of the teams
- Silver Team -
 - Next two (2) pitchers automatically locked
 - Next two (2) catchers automatically locked
 - *unless a pitcher or catcher makes the higher ranked team as a player not as a pitcher or catcher
 - The remaining players that were listed on the previous teams Head Coaches list of players to choose from, but were not selected are automatically locked
 - Head Coach (or designee) will chose the players to complete their team out of the next five (5) players ranked in order by their evaluator’s scores. No names provided, only penny numbers worn during the tryout process.
 - Head Coach (or designee) will have a team of eleven (11) or twelve (12) players based on their preference.
 - The number of pitchers and catchers may fluctuate based on the Head Coaches preferred make-up of the teams
- Any ties in ranking may be broken by using the following criteria:
 - Previous season coaches’ feedback
 - Years of Traveling experience
 - Years of softball experience
 - Age

XXI. Team placements will be made and communicated within two weeks after the final tryout date

- “Green” team selections will be made first
- “White” team selections will be made second

- “Black” team selections will be made third
- If enough players of adequate skill level tryout “Silver” team selections and/or girls not making a team will be made last
- Families must accept a roster spot within 48 hours. No response indicates acceptance of the roster spot.

XXII. If a player makes a traveling team and does not want to play for that team, for whatever reason, she will only be eligible to play in the In-House Program.

XXIII. If a tryout participant fails to make a traveling team, the participant will be considered an “open player” and can play for another community. If a player does not attend CGAA Softball tryouts, she is not considered an “open player”.

XXIV. The CGAA Softball Traveling Director and/or the CGAA Softball President must approve any tryout waivers. This includes the total tryout period or to be excused from completing the tryout period for a medical reason.

- Medical Waivers
 - i. A letter is required from a licensed physician providing the basis for requesting the waiver. *(Note: teams are not required to pick up tryout waiver players)*
 - ii. Approved exceptions (illness/injury) will ONLY be granted if notification is made to the CGAA Softball Traveling Director and/or the CGAA Softball President **3 days prior** to the scheduled tryout date(s).
 1. Tryout waiver players may be eligible to be placed as follows:
 - a. Players remaining at the same age level MAY advance one level of play
 - i. *Previous years tryout results will be reviewed before a final decision is made
 1. IF no previous tryout results are available the player will play at the lowest level for that age group
 - b. Players changing age levels may move down one level of play or play at the lowest level for that age group
 - c. Players changing age levels team placements may be determined by:
 1. Previous tryout scores
 2. Previous coaches’ feedback
- Non-Medical Waivers
 - i. Must be approved **1 week prior** to the scheduled tryout date(s)
 - ii. If the waiver is not approved prior to tryouts and the player chooses to attend only one tryout session, the player is only eligible to be placed on the lowest fielded team: depending on their score, numbers of players and ranking
 - iii. If the waiver is approved prior to tryouts and the player is approved to miss all tryout sessions the player is only eligible to be picked up for a “B” level team

XXV. Any player desiring to play up (8U to 10U / 10U to 12U / 12U to 14U / 14U to 16U / 16U to 18U) will be handled on an individual basis and must be requested in writing through the CGAA Softball Traveling Director.

- Player will only be eligible for 1 team
- If the player selects to play up, she will be placed on the appropriate team at that level based on her tryout results
- The player will be eligible to fall back to the appropriate age level in the order in which they ranked, provided that the player has not been selected for any team at the older level
- Scores for the older team tryouts will be applied to the appropriate age group for team formation

- Current age chart from USA Softball effective Summer of 2023

Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. The player's age and division is indicated on the right.

SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	AGE	DIVISION
2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	7	8U
2014	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	8	8U
2013	2013	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	9	10U
2012	2012	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	10	10U
2011	2011	2011	2011	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	11	12U
2010	2010	2010	2010	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	12	12U
2009	2009	2009	2009	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	13	14U
2008	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	14	14U
2007	2007	2007	2007	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	15	16U
2006	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	16	16U
2005	2005	2005	2005	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	17	18U
2004	2004	2004	2004	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	18	18U

NOTE: This age chart is for USA Softball, and only for the 2024 season (September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024).

XXVI. Prior year coaches may be solicited for feedback and player evaluations, this feedback may be used at the discretion of the Team Formation/Tryout Committee.

XXVII. It is understood that youth from 8U through 18U are at a stage of rapid development and growth (mentally, physically, emotionally, maturity and skill wise).

- We also understand that families move into and out of communities. Tryouts are conducted every year to provide a clean slate and equal opportunity to all. Every player should have adequate time to demonstrate their full abilities, equal opportunity to earn or lose their position on a team, and trust in the process. The CGAA Softball program will make every attempt to support as many traveling teams at each level.
- There is a standardized system to pick traveling teams. Players will be evaluated on a series of drills. CGAA Softball will conduct tryouts using more than one independent evaluator. Player selections will be determined by the rating results, combined with specialty position (pitchers and catchers) considerations.
- To earn a position on a traveling team, a player must be able to demonstrate a minimal proficiency in the game of softball. **Independent evaluators will decide the level of proficiency.** Tryouts will be done on a points system of 0 to 5, with 5 being the highest. The points off of the evaluators score sheets will be combined and totaled. The participants will then be placed on a list from highest to lowest score.

XXVIII. Any player who chooses to quit the Traveling Program will be eligible for a cancellation of future payments due. There will be no refunds of any registration fees already collected. Players unable to play due to extenuating circumstances must petition the CGAA Softball board for a full refund.

XXIX. In some circumstances the Team Formation/Tryout Committee may make decisions as a group that consider all the Traveling Tryout processes and modify the process as necessary in the best interest of the program.

- **If the modification is not agreed upon within the committee, we reserve the right to bring the modification before the CGAA Softball Board of Directors for a vote.**