



# **EGFA 2026 Travel Parent Info Meeting**

**Arneson Acres 25 Feb 2026**



# EGFA: Who are We?

## **Our Mission and Vision:**

EGFA engages girls in fastpitch softball by making the sport **fun, inclusive, and competitively inspiring**—building confident athletes and connected community members.

We support diverse pathways for girls in softball by fostering strong partnerships, collaborative development, and a connected community. We are committed to fostering leadership, opportunity, and excellence at every level of play for our girls.



# EGFA: Who are We?

## Strategy Statement:

To fulfill our mission and realize our vision, EGFA will pursue the following strategic priorities:

- **Centralized Resource Hub:** Create a transparent, accessible platform for training, communication, and development tools.
- **Player-Centered Development:** Establish clear philosophies for pitching and overall growth, with support for transitions between age levels and competitive tiers.
- **Coaching Excellence:** Invest in coach training and mentorship, with a focus on increasing female leadership and club collaboration.
- **Community Engagement:** Expand outreach events, social connectivity, and partnerships with Edina High School, baseball programs, and local clubs.
- **Inclusive Growth:** Maintain subsidized training, rec-level access, and events like “Try Softball” to welcome new players.
- **Operational Strength:** Improve tournament organization, tryout processes, and volunteer systems to ensure sustainability and clarity.



# Philosophy and Expectations

The program's primary focus is player development in nature. Girls will learn the game of softball in a fun, competitive environment. The full roster is batted for all games. Girls will play multiple positions throughout the season. During league games, coaches make their best effort to rotate players through positions and get them as many at bats as possible. Tournament games are typically more competitive, and coaches will play to win to enable playing more games in elimination brackets. The commitment to travel is typically at a high level and attendance is important relative to player development.

The EGFA wants to grow and develop the athletes in the community by providing the right level of training and competition for each athlete. Our goal is to optimize rosters to balance participation numbers with sufficient playing time. To help your player and her teammates be successful it is expected that softball is prioritized during the season. Attendance at practices, games and weekend tournaments is expected of all teams. Coaches will work to provide the Spring/Summer schedule as early as possible to support your planning.



# 10U

**Team Formation:** Tryout-based placement for A/B/C; open opt-in for C-level.

**Games:** 1 doubleheader/week in May (Tuesday); 2 per week in June (Tuesday/Thursday)

**Locations:** Edina and metro-area travel

**Pitching:** Player-pitch. 11" balls

**Practices:** 1–2 practices per week beginning in April (weather dependent)

**Tournaments:** 1–3 invitational tournaments, plus state qualifier and state; Edina Mayfly (A & B level only) includes parent volunteer requirement

**Uniforms:** Players purchase full uniform set (jersey, pants, socks, belt)

## Invitational Tournament Options

- May 8 -10 - **Edina** Mayfly (A & B teams) or **Lakeville** (C teams)
- May 15-17 - **Apple Valley** (A team) or **St. Louis Park** (B & C teams)
- May 29-31 -**Wayzata** (A team)
- June 5-7 -**Westonka** (B & C teams)
- June 12 -14 - **Edina** Spring Sting (C teams)
- June 19-21 - **Shakopee** (A & B teams)
- \*June 26 - 28 - **Edina** 10U/12U State Qualifiers
- \*July 10-12 - **Edina** 10U/12U State Tournament

\*Home field location tentative - pending tier/hosting privileges & confirmed volunteer support



# 12U

**Team Formation:** Tryout-based placement for A/B/C

**Games:** 2 doubleheaders/week, games start April 27 (Mon/Weds)

**Locations:** Edina and metro-area travel

**Pitching:** Player-pitch. 12" balls

**Practices:** 1–3 practices per week beginning in April (weather dependent)

**Tournaments:** 3–4 invitational tournaments, plus state qualifier and state; Edina Mayfly (A & B level only) includes parent volunteer requirement

**Uniforms:** Players purchase full uniform set (jersey, pants, socks, belt)

## Tournament Options

- May 8 -10 - **Edina** Mayfly (10U & 12U A & B teams)
- May 15-17 – **St. Louis Park** Oriole Opener (12C teams)
- June 12 -14 - **Edina** Spring Sting (10U & 12UC teams)
- \*June 26 - 28 – **A-Waite Park, B-Richfield/Westonka, C- Princeton/Buffalo** 10U/12U State Qualifiers
- \*July 10-12 - **Edina** 10U/12U State Tournament
- August TBD 12U/14U/HS Monsta Championships
- TBD 12U All American Games



# 14U

**Team Formation:** Based on interest and coach information

**Games:** League games start May 19, 2 doubleheaders/week (Tues/Thurs)

**Locations:** Edina and metro-area travel

**Pitching:** Player-pitch. 12" balls

**Practices:** 1–3 practices per week beginning in April (weather dependent)

**Tournaments:** 1–3 invitational tournaments, plus state qualifier and state

**Uniforms:** Players purchase full uniform set (jersey, pants, socks, belt)

## Tournament Options

- May 15-17 –**Jordan** Early Summer Bash
- May 29-31 - **Farmington or Mankato** Tourney
- July 17-19 – **Becker/Sartell**- 14U/HS State Qualifier
- July 24-26 - **TBD location** 14U/HS State
- Aug 6-9 Monsta 14U Mankato
- USA All American Games- 12u & 14U- August 3 - 8, rain date 9th, 2026
- Minnesota Softball Selects – August 14-16, 2026

\*Home field location pending tier/hosting privileges & volunteer support



# Player Evaluations (Tryouts)

The EGFA requires an evaluation for players wishing to be considered for any travel team. Evaluations allow the EGFA to build teams based on player abilities, skills, and experience. Travel teams are formed based on evaluation results, previous year coach evaluations and current year coach input.

All players who demonstrate sufficient skill and ability to successfully and safely compete in travel will be placed on a travel team. In some cases, players can opt-out of tryouts and be placed on a C-level team.

We offer Pre-Tryout Clinics to get players ready, and off-season development throughout the year.

This year we are hosting Tryouts at Mission Fastpitch Facilities in Hopkins and Eden Prairie and partnering with Flexx as our third-party evaluator.



# 2026 Travel Program Fees

Cost by age-level for the 2026 Spring/Summer Season:

- 10U
  - By March 1st: \$425
  - March 1-6: \$475.
  - Plus \$100 \*\*Hosting Fee.
- 12U\*
  - By March 1st: \$450
  - March 1-6: \$500
  - Plus \$150 \*\*Hosting Fee.
- 14U\*
  - By March 1st: \$450
  - March 1-6: \$500
  - Plus \$150 \*\*Hosting Fee.

\*Additional fee will be assessed after tryouts for those players assigned to a team with a paid coach (~\$100-\$150)

\*\*Host fees are reimbursable throughout the year for fulfilling volunteering at locally hosted events and tournaments. Head coaches, Assistant coaches and EGFA Board members automatically reimbursed pending completion of mandatory compliance training & background check

\*Additional fee will be assessed after tryouts for those players assigned to a team with a paid coach (~\$100-\$150)

\*\*Host fees are reimbursable throughout the year for fulfilling volunteering at locally hosted events and tournaments. (Try Softball, Mayfly, & State). Head coaches, Assistant coaches and EGFA Board members' host fees can be waived at registration.



# Uniform and Equipment

## What do I need to play?

### Uniform:

- Jersey – Additional Cost -not included in registration fee.
- Pants – Black softball pants
- Belt – Black preferred
- Socks – Green preferred
- Cleats – Cleats preferred over shoes. No metal cleats!

### Equipment:

- Batting helmet – Must have face shield and fitting chin strap
- Fielder's Mask – Metal is more durable than plastic but both are acceptable.
- Glove – Should be appropriate size for the player's hand. Sizing charts are available online. Catcher's mitt if applicable.
- Bat – Some team bats are available from EGFA. All bats must be ASA fastpitch-certified bats.
- Bag/backpack – Highly recommended.



# Uniform and Apparel Ordering

## Uniform and Apparel Offered for 10-14U:

- White and Green Jersey (Required).
- Player name/number hooded sweatshirt (Recommended). Also offered in adult sizes for parents/fans
- Player name/number jacket (Recommended). Also offered in adult sizes for parents/fans





# Uniform and Apparel Ordering

## Process:

- Samples will be on-site to try on at first day of tryout (March 7<sup>th</sup>).
- Uniform numbers will already be determined and pre-loaded into system for easy ordering.
- QR Code will be available to scan on-site to place order. Link to store will also be sent to 10-14U families after tryout.
- Orders must be placed by end of day **March 23<sup>rd</sup>** to receive before first game.
- Ships directly to home.



# EGFA Board of Directors Opportunities

## Current Board of Directors Open Positions:

- Webmaster
  - Point person to organize the website, add timely and relevant content and support digital experience of our website.
- Director of Fundraising and Sponsorships
  - Leverage relationships and expertise to secure donations that support the program, either strategic or tactical. Help secure grants. Think of something new we aren't doing and go for it! Many local establishments offer programs to raise funds. Work with facilities lead to prioritize fundraising goals.
- Recreation Program Director
  - Manage end-to-end Recreational program engagement (identify opportunities, support rec program engagement and experience including year-end tournament for younger age levels).



# 2027 Travel Tryouts

For the upcoming 2027 Summer Season and beyond EGFA will be shifting tryouts from the Spring to the Fall beginning in 2026.

This change allows us to better align with the overall softball calendar, provide greater clarity for families earlier in the year, and give teams more time to prepare and train together heading into the spring/summer season. Holding tryouts in the fall also helps with planning, team development, and long-term player growth.

## Age Groups

- 8U, 10U & 12U

## Dates

- July 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>  
(Tentative)

## Location

- Pamela Park



# Questions?

