



# 2021 CAA Softball Parent Meeting

Travel and League teams  
K/1/2, 8U, 10U, and 12U



# Agenda

- ▶ CAA Mission & Values
- ▶ CAA Board / Job Descriptions
- ▶ Program Update and Changes
- ▶ Programs - Overview
- ▶ Evaluation Overview
- ▶ Key Dates
- ▶ Volunteering & Coaches
- ▶ Equipment & Safety
- ▶ Storm Fastpitch Apparel
- ▶ Dugout Club
- ▶ 2021 CAA Golf Tournament



# CAA Softball Mission & Values

## Mission Statement:

To provide girls in the Chanhassen-Victoria area a place to play the great game of softball while developing lifelong physical and interpersonal skills, learning to compete and be a good teammate, and most importantly, having fun.

## Core Values:

Team work - We work together to achieve more

Hard work - We give our all in everything we do

Pride - We are proud to represent our team, association and our communities

Respect - We treat ourselves and others with dignity, kindness and respect

Fun - We have a positive attitude and enjoy being with our team on and off the field



# CAA Softball / Baseball Mission & Values

## CAA Softball / Baseball is committed to:

- ▶ Quality instruction and positive coaching that teaches fundamental skills, tactics and strategies for the game
- ▶ Preparing players for the next level of play
- ▶ Establishing standards of participation for all volunteers, board members, coaches, officials, athletes and spectators
- ▶ Creating a positive environment in which we all work together to achieve our mission
- ▶ Developing character, encouraging personal responsibility, fostering the quality of good citizenship and encouraging the growth of our players



# Softball Operating Committee (SOC)

- ▶ Mark Stay - VP Softball
- ▶ Kelli Strauss - Fastpitch Director
- ▶ **Open** - Player Agent and Tryouts Director
- ▶ Alysa Wilbur - Uniforms and Tournament Director
- ▶ Jamie Bruemmer - Equipment Coordinator \*\*\*
- ▶ **Open** - K/1/2 Coordinator \*\*\*
- ▶ **Open** - Offseason Clinics and Development Coordinator \*\*\*

\*\*\*=Non-Voting Board Member



# Openings - Job Descriptions

- ▶ Player Agent and Tryouts Director
  - ▶ Plans and coordinates player evaluations
  - ▶ Manages evaluation scores
  - ▶ Maintains the integrity of the player evaluation process
- ▶ K/1/2 Coordinator
  - ▶ Coordinate with Chaska and Carver programs
  - ▶ Reserve fields
  - ▶ Coordinate parent volunteers for coaching
  - ▶ Ensure positive learning environment
- ▶ Off-Season Clinics and Development Coordinator
  - ▶ Reserve facility space
  - ▶ Locate and coordinate instructors
  - ▶ Setup and coordinate schedules and registration



# Program Updates / Changes

- ▶ New website! 2021 season player registration will occur here
- ▶ Tryouts (10U and 12U) prior to fall season
  - ▶ This means the softball season essentially runs August to July, starting with evals and ending with State/National tournaments
- ▶ Big West League:
  - ▶ Currently season is going to run as planned - similar rules as fall ball for Covid restrictions
  - ▶ Continued growth at 8U, talk of creating 6U league
- ▶ Equipment Purchases:
  - ▶ We have the opportunity this year to purchase some new equipment! CAA is a non-profit organization with all revenue going towards league fees, umpires, tournament registration, many administrative fees (insurance, etc), and equipment.



# Off Season Happenings

- ▶ Pitching and Catching Lessons
  - High School Varsity Players are instructors
  - Small player : instructor ratio
  - INSANE VALUE \$\$\$
  - Eight week session < 2 private lessons
- ▶ Hitting/Fielding Lessons - hoping to offer in April



# Program Overview: K-2 Coach Pitch

- ▶ Girls entering K/1/2 Fall 2021
- ▶ Nights of Play - Monday & Wednesday
- ▶ Season typically runs beginning of May and ends around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July
- ▶ Idea is to get girls playing, build confidence and have fun with shorter games
- ▶ Use 11” soft-sided ball
- ▶ NO evaluations
- ▶ Casual / CAA uniforms (Indicate size at time of registration, no need to attend uniform fitting session)
- ▶ Neighboring Communities (Chaska, Carver)



# Program Overview - 8U

- ▶ Girls with birth years of 2012 or 2013
- ▶ Idea is to get girls playing, build confidence and have fun with shorter games
- ▶ NO evaluations - same as last year
- ▶ Same uniforms as League/Travel (be sure to attend uniform fitting on March 7<sup>th</sup>)
- ▶ Wednesday night games start on May 5<sup>th</sup>
  - ▶ 65 minutes (last 2 weeks will be double headers)
- ▶ Part of Big West League (same as 10U and 12U teams)
- ▶ State Tournament - July 10-11
- ▶ Additional tournaments will be up to each team to consider and pay for individually - there are great options available. Most 8U tournaments are 1 day only.



## COMMON QUESTION:

My daughter is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, should she play 8U or K-2?

## ANSWER: IT DEPENDS....

- ▶ Experience?
- ▶ Friends?
- ▶ Familiarity with softball or baseball?
- ▶ Athleticism?

# Program Overview - Travel - 10U & 12U

- ▶ 10U: Birth years 2010 and 2011
- ▶ 12U: Birth years 2008 and 2009
- ▶ 10U Season Timing: April - June
  - ▶ Double Headers Tuesdays, Practice Thursdays
- ▶ 12U Season Timing: April - June
  - ▶ Double Headers Mondays and Wednesdays
  - ▶ Practice another weeknight (determined by coach)
- ▶ Weekend tournaments:
  - ▶ Minimum of 3 weekend tournaments (included in registration fee)
  - ▶ Teams may opt for additional tournaments
  - ▶ League Qualifier (June 26 and 27)
  - ▶ State Tournament (July 10 and 11) (must qualify)
  - ▶ Nationals (must qualify)



# Travel Expectations

- ▶ It is expected that participants in the Spring/Summer program dedicate to Softball as their main in-season sport and attend all practices, weeknight games and weekend tournaments
- ▶ Practice and game absences should be communicated to the coach as soon as possible
- ▶ Please play catch with your daughter! It's fun, it's the best thing you can do to improve her confidence and it's fun



# Program Overview - 10U League (Rec)

- ▶ NO player evaluations required
- ▶ Be sure to attend uniform fitting on March 7<sup>th</sup>
- ▶ Same Rules as Travel - Big West League
- ▶ Season Timing: April - June
  - ▶ Double Headers on Tuesdays
  - ▶ Practice another night per week
- ▶ Optional Tournaments
  - ▶ Metro Tournament Options (team must cover the cost)
  - ▶ State Qualifier
  - ▶ State Tournament (if qualifies)



# MAIN Difference between 10U League and 10U Travel.....

## ▶ # OF GAMES:

- ▶ 10U Travel will play at least 20 MORE games over the course of the Summer (at a higher level of competition) than 10U League
- ▶ Lower cost due to no tournaments included in registration fee

# Total Participants

- ▶ It looks like there could be up to 120 girls playing softball for CAA this summer. We would love to see it keep growing! Thank you for spreading the word about our amazing program!



# Player Evaluations Overview

- ▶ **2021 Evaluations:**
  - ▶ August 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>
  - ▶ Pitchers and Catchers should plan on separate evaluation
  - ▶ ALL Travel 10U and 12U players should plan on attending
- ▶ **Why August?**
  - ▶ Cost
  - ▶ Players “in season”
  - ▶ No “perfect time”
  - ▶ Continuity of team from fall season to summer season
- ▶ **Why have player evaluations?**
  - ▶ To place player at the best skill level to have fun and also be competitive



# Player Evaluations Overview cont.

- ▶ Independent evaluators
- ▶ Athletes will be scored on the following:
  - ▶ Hitting
  - ▶ Bunting
  - ▶ Grounders
  - ▶ Fly Balls
  - ▶ \*\*arm strength & accuracy are also reviewed during Grounders and Fly Balls
- ▶ Pitchers
  - ▶ Velocity, accuracy, form, multiple pitches and command
- ▶ Catchers
  - ▶ Set up, catching, blocking, throwing to bases, tossing back to pitcher on a wild pitch



# Team Selection Process

- ▶ Team Selection Process
  - ▶ Top 8 athletes evaluated make the 1<sup>st</sup> team
  - ▶ Top 2 pitchers and catchers make the 1<sup>st</sup> team
  - ▶ IF there is a volunteer coach that has registered amongst the top 8, the head coach is selected.
  - ▶ Final roster spots are filled by 3-4 of the next highest 6 scored athletes. This is done by agreement of the team selection committee (Head Coach, Player Agent & Travel Director)
  - ▶ Team is approved by Player Agent, Travel Director and Softball VP



# Uniform Fitting

- ▶ Sunday May 7th
- ▶ 8U: 1:00 - 2:00
- ▶ 10U: 2:00 - 3:00
- ▶ 12U: 3:00 - 4:00
- ▶ Try to come at the allotted time, but if this doesn't work then come anytime between 1-4 p.m.
- ▶ Chapel Hill Academy Gym (Enter Door #2)
- ▶ Sample merchandise for parents and players
- ▶ Players will be able to use the girl's locker room
- ▶ **ONLY MOMS ALLOWED IN THE LOCKER ROOM**



# Key Dates - K / 1 / 2

## K / 1 / 2 (Monday and Wednesday nights)

Practices Start - early May

April 3 - Fastpitch Friday

May 1 - Youth Night

May 24 - July 7 - League Games (versus Chaska, Carver or other Chan teams)

NO GAMES on May 31 or July 5

End of Year Bash - Tentatively planned for July 9<sup>th</sup> - location TBD



# Key Dates - 8U

## 8U (Monday and Wednesday nights)

Practices Start - mid April

April 3 - Fastpitch Friday

May 1 - Youth Night

May 5 - June 23 - League Games (last 2 weeks will be double headers )

State Tournament - July 10 - 11 (all teams are in; location TBD)

Other Optional Local Tournaments Are Available (typically they are 1 day events)



# Key Dates - 10U and 12U

10U (typically on Tuesday and Thursdays**)	12U (typically on Monday and Wednesday**)
Practices Start - early April	Practices Start - early April
May 4- June 22 League Double Headers (Tuesdays) Practices Thursday nights	May 3- June 23 League Double Headers (Mondays and Wednesdays) Practices Tuesday or Thursday nights
3 tournaments - TBD -Optional for League	3 tournaments - TBD
League Qualifier - June 25-27	League Qualifier - June 25-27
State Tournament - July 10-11	State Tournament - July 10-11
Nationals: Must Qualify	Nationals: Must Qualify

\*\* = NOT SET DAYS OF THE WEEK. PRACTICES AND GAMES COULD BE ADDED ON ANY DAY



# Volunteering

- ▶ WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU
  - ▶ CAA is a parent volunteer organization
  - ▶ Volunteers are CRITICAL to making our kids' programs a success
- ▶ Each family must complete 8 hours of volunteer time
- ▶ \$200 volunteer check required.
  - ▶ No player will be placed on a roster unless there is a check on file
- ▶ Head Coach, 2 Assistant Coaches and Team Manager meet volunteer requirement
- ▶ Other key positions also meet requirement (and some don't) - need official signup
- ▶ Please talk to a Board member if you have questions



# Coaches....WE NEED YOU!!!

- ▶ Coaches Registration:  
New link coming soon



# Equipment

- ▶ Each player must provide their own batting helmet w/ cage, fielder's mask, glove and bat
- ▶ Yes, fielder's masks ARE required up through 12U
- ▶ Catching gear and other coach's equipment provided by CAA
- ▶ Nice to haves:
  - ▶ Batting gloves
  - ▶ Equipment bag (made for softball)
  - ▶ Cleats (must be molded plastic)



# Player Safety

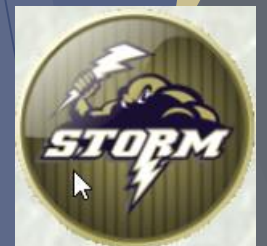
## ▶ Concussion Certification:

- ▶ All on-field officials must complete concussion training and submit a valid certificate
- ▶ Separate registration under the “Coaches” section
- ▶ Concussion training links:
  - ▶ TBD
- ▶ Should take about 30 minutes to complete
- ▶ Certificate valid for 3 years

## ▶ For safety issues, contact Safety Coordinator (Kim Avelsdson Flottmeier)

## ▶ Proud to partner with TCO and OSR as Diamond Sponsors:

- ▶ TCO offers sports performance, sports chiropractic services, physical therapy, and nutrition solutions in 39 locations across the Twin Cities (<https://tcomn.com>)
- ▶ OSR offers free 15 minute injury consults, physical therapy (including throwers programs), concussion rehab, and ACL prevention programs (<https://www.osrpt.com/>)
- ▶ Both organizations supply athletic trainers for all Chanhassen hosted tournaments



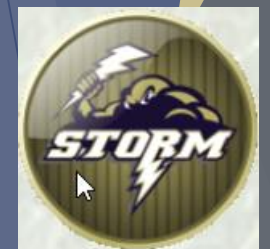
# Fastpitch Apparel

- ▶ BIG Athletics- local Chanhassen business
- ▶ CAA Softball receives 10% of sales as a fundraiser



# Dugout Club

- ▶ The Dugout Club is a booster club created to support diamond sports within the Chanhassen High School boundaries. It's primary objectives include maintenance and improvement of the stadium complex at Chanhassen High School as well as additional community development projects to provide safe, playable fields and practice facilities and equipment for the baseball and softball teams within our member communities.
- ▶ In 2019 - New dugouts for Diethelm and Lake Susan Baseball and continued improvement to Bandimere Batting Cage
- ▶ New Targeted Projects - indoor bathrooms at Lake Ann!!!
- ▶ NEED MORE SOFTBALL PARTICIPATION (covers Volunteer Requirements)
  - ▶ <http://www.dugout-club.org/>



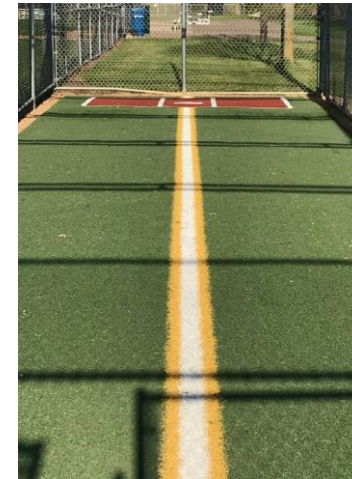
# Dugout Club

- ▶ <https://www.dugout-club.org/> Follow on Twitter @club\_dugout

## New Dugouts (Diethelm & Lake Susan)



## Bandimere Batting Cage



## Lake Susan Lights



# Diamond Sports Golf Tournament

- ▶ May 3, 2021 at Deer Run Golf Club
- ▶ 12pm event start
- ▶ \$150/player includes lunch, driving range time, 18 holes of golf, prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and dinner.
- ▶ Raffle and silent auction
- ▶ Funds raised goes towards scholarships and field improvements
- ▶ Visit <https://app.eventcaddy.com/events/2021-diamond-sports-golf-tournament> to register or become a sponsor
- ▶ Email [hansgenfamily@gmail.com](mailto:hansgenfamily@gmail.com) if you would like to be a sponsor or donate to the silent auction



# 2020 Memories



