



Fallston Fielders Softball 10U & 12U FAQ:

Q: What age groups can play travel softball?

A: Fallston expected to field travel teams at the 10U and 12U age groups for 2024. We are open to expanding to older age groups if/when there is enough interest and a parent willing to coach a team.

Please note that travel softball age groups are determined based on the child's age at the beginning of the calendar year. For the 2024 season age groups will be as follows:

10U: 2013 birthdates and younger

12U: 2011 and 2012 birthdates (younger girls MAY elect to play up)

Q: How do I know if my athlete is ready for travel softball?

A: There are no standard criteria that must be met for an athlete to try out for a travel team. However, the expectation is that travel softball players have prior experience playing softball at a minimum of a rec level and have minimum basic competencies of being able to throw & catch and hit the softball without a tee. We also expect girls trying out for travel softball to have a foundational understanding of the game, including an understanding of balls & strikes, outs, and positions on the field. Players that do not have these foundational skills & knowledge are likely not a fit for the travel level of play.

Finally, while everything we do in travel softball will be rooted in having fun and growing the athletes' love of softball and level of play, it is important to note that travel softball is a considerably bigger commitment than recreational softball. The expectation is that during the spring/summer season, practices, games and tournaments be prioritized over other, out of season sports and extra-curricular activities.

Q: When and where are tryouts for the 2024 season?

A: 2024 Fallston Fielders Tryouts will be held indoors at CR Sports Zone located at 1204 Pauls Ln in Joppa. Dates and times are as follows:

10U:

Monday, November 27th 5:00-6:30PM

Thursday, November 30th: 6:00-7:30PM

12U:

Monday, November 27th 6:00-7:30PM

Tuesday, November 28th: 6:00-7:30PM

Friday, December 1st: 6:00-7:30PM

Q: How will tryouts work?

A: All players must attend at least one tryout to be considered for a team. Attending more than one is STRONGLY encouraged. Players will run through a series of drills covering a variety of skills, including hitting, fielding, catching, and agility/baserunning. Drills will be run by parents who are volunteering to coach in our Fielders' program for the upcoming season.

Most importantly, **athletes will be evaluated by independent coaches associated with local high school softball programs**. Evaluators will be looking for current skill level, development potential, attitude & effort, and softball IQ.

We anticipate players will receive feedback and/or invitations to a team within approximately 7-10 days after the last tryout date.

Q: How will the travel/developmental teams be different from in-house rec teams?

A: Travel softball is intended for girls that are seeking a more competitive level of play when compared to recreational softball. At this time, we expect to have at least one 10U team and at least one 12U team. The number of teams for each age group will depend on the number of girls trying out and their skill level and is heavily dependent on having enough coaches to support the athletes.

We expect that our travel teams will practice twice weekly and that practices will be 1.5 hours for 10U and potentially as long as 2 hours for 12U based on coaches' discretion and field availability.

At this time, there are not travel softball leagues in Harford County so our competition schedule will consist of ad hoc games and tournaments. More details below.

Q: Can my daughter play BOTH rec softball AND travel softball?

A: Most likely. There may be minor scheduling conflicts, but we will make every effort to avoid major conflicts between Fallston Rec and Fallston Fielders softball. We encourage travel players to play rec softball if they wish. Rec softball will practice once per week and play one game per week.

Note, there is no requirement to play rec softball if you are invited to a travel team. Athletes that tryout for and are not invited to a travel team are strongly recommended to play rec softball and take advantage of skills & drills to grow their skills for future travel play.

Q: What is the schedule/time commitment for the Fallston Fielders team?

A: Beginning in mid-December, there will be indoor training sessions for a limited number of travel players. These sessions will be on Wednesday evenings at Harford Sports. More details will be made available after rosters are finalized.

Beginning in mid-March and continuing through at least mid-June, we expect the travel teams to practice outdoors twice weekly, as stated above. In addition to practices, we will schedule as many games and scrimmages as possible.

We anticipate that our 10U team will play 3-5 tournaments between April and July (summer tournaments will be optional and based on availability).

We anticipate that our 12U team will play 5-7 tournaments between April and late July (summer tournaments will be based on availability)

We anticipate tournaments will mostly be driving distance, but all details are TBD and our 12U teams may consider 1-2 out of state tournaments.

Finally, we anticipate that our travel teams will play fall ball in the Bengie's Chase league (eastern regional park) to the extent it does not conflict with their fall sports.

Q: What is the financial commitment for travel softball?

A: Budgets will vary by team and age group and will be highly dependent on fundraising and the number of tournaments played. We anticipate the following APPROXIMATE investment for travel softball (prior to any fundraising):

Spring/Summer Registration Fee: \$150

Tournament Costs: \$50-60/tournament

Winter Training (if applicable, space limited): \$200-250

Uniform Costs: \$150

Fall Ball (optional): \$125

Q: Who are the coaches for travel softball?

A: **Molly Boyle**, commissioner of Fallston Rec Softball, will coordinate the Fallston Fielders 10U and 12U programs and will serve as a head coach (team TBD based on player evaluations and placement). Molly has been around the games of softball and baseball her entire life as the daughter of a division 1 college coach and long-time high school athletic director. Molly played competitive softball herself through high

school and has been coaching in Harford County for the past 5 years, including as an instructor at Harford Sports in Forest Hill.

Miranda Lobus, a 2nd grade teacher at Red Pump Elementary, will also be a coach and pitching instructor for our Fielders program. Miranda played softball from age 6 through college, including club softball starting at age 12. Miranda played 4 years of high school varsity softball as a pitcher at Perry Hall High School and was a team captain. She went on to play college softball at HCC and CCBC.

In addition to Molly and Miranda, **Fred Anders, Chris Marsiglia, Jason Schneider** and **John Jenkins** will assist with the program in some capacity. Exact coaching roles and assignments will be determined after rosters are finalized.

If you are interested in volunteering to help as a team manager/organizer or coach, please contact Coach Molly.

Note: we need help with fundraising, coordination and organization for the 2024 season and welcome volunteers!

Q: What if my daughter is a pitcher or catcher?

A: If your daughter is interested in pitching or catching, please let us know prior to tryouts so we can separately evaluate these skills. If your daughter is evaluated as a pitcher or catcher and is selected for a team, it does not guarantee she will pitch or catch regularly in practices and games.

Note: If your daughter is selected for a 2024 travel team there will be a parent meeting in early December where additional details will be provided. In the meantime, you can direct additional questions to fallstonrecsoftball@gmail.com.