Fallston Fielders Travel Softball FAQ:

Q: What age groups can play travel softball?

A: Fallston would like to field travel teams at the 10U, 12U, 14U, and 16U age groups for the 2026-2027 season, which begins September 1, 2026. We anticipate having teams competing at the "B," "C," and/or "Rec All Stars" levels. Levels will be determined by team after rosters are formed.

Travel softball age groups are determined based on the child's age at the beginning of the calendar year. For the 2025 season age groups will be as follows:

10U: Born on or after September 2, 2015

12U: Born September 2, 2013 – September 1, 2015

14U: Born September 2, 2011 – September 1, 2013

16U: Born September 2, 2009 – September 1, 2011

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

A: The expectation is that travel softball players have prior experience playing softball for a minimum of 1-2 years at minimum of a rec level and have demonstrated above average skills, including throwing, catching, hitting, and understanding of the game. Players that do not have foundational skills & experience may not be ready for travel ball.

Everything we do in travel softball will be rooted in growing the athletes' love of softball through hard work, sportsmanship, and FUN. While enjoyment and team camaraderie are at the core of the Fielders' philosophy, the expectations for travel softball are different from recreational softball. Our goal is to raise the level of play and set athletes up for success playing high school ball – and beyond. Travel softball is also a considerably bigger time and financial commitment than recreational softball.

During the spring/summer season, softball practices, games and tournaments are expected to be prioritized over other out of season sports and extra-curricular activities. If your child has significant conflicts between March and early July, please discuss them ahead of time with coaches to determine if travel softball is still an option for your athlete.

Q: When and where are tryouts for the 2026 season?

A: 2026-27 Fallston Fielders Tryouts will be held outdoors at the Fallston High School softball complex (FHS Varsity Field & Firehouse Field). Exact days and times will be sent via e-mail to players that completed our pre-tryout registration form (linked here).

Q: How will tryouts work?

A: At least two tryouts will be scheduled for each age group. All players must attend at least one tryout to be considered for a team but are STRONGLY encouraged to attend as many tryouts as possible. During tryouts, players will run through a series of drills covering a variety of skills, including hitting, fielding, catching, and agility/baserunning.

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

In addition to tryouts, we will hold pre-tryout open practices, which will consist of drills and stations very similar to tryouts. If your child is unable to make one of our tryout dates, we can arrange for your child tryout evaluation to take place during the pre-tryout open practices. We anticipate players will receive feedback and/or invitations to a team within 5-7 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 and significantly more games than rec softball. We hope to have at least one team per age group for the 2026-27 season. *The number of teams for each age group will depend on the number of athletes and their skill level. The number of teams we can support is also heavily dependent on having enough coaches to support the athletes.*

All Fallston Fielders coaches are volunteers, but we do expect that all travel coaches have prior softball and coaching experience, and we will supplement our coaches' instruction with paid clinicians and partners, especially during fall and winer training.

During the spring/summer peak season, our travel teams will practice at least twice weekly for 1.5 hours for 10U and 2 hours for 12U and older teams based on coaches' discretion, field availability, and daylight. Travel ball also includes off-season training and game opportunities, detailed below.

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

A: Possibly. Our goal is to provide our Fallston Fielders softball players plenty of opportunities to grow their skills through travel softball. However, newer players to travel softball may consider rec as a good opportunity to get extra reps or play positions that they may not play on a travel team. If your athlete is interested in also playing Fallston Rec Softball, we will work with you and will do our best to avoid major

scheduling conflicts. 12U -16U teams will have significantly more scheduling conflicts, making it difficult to play both rec and travel ball.

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: Travel softball will begin with "fall ball" where our teams will participate in a 1-game per week league at Eastern Regional Park in Essex, MD. If fall ball games directly conflict with your athlete's in season sport (e.g. soccer or field hockey), she should attend the in season sport. Depending on coach and age group, teams may also schedule fall practices and 1-2 fall tournaments. All fall tournaments will be within reasonable commuting distance from Fallston.

In the winter, players are expected to participate in weekly indoor training sessions. These sessions will primarily be held at Harford Sports and have historically been held early Saturday morning. However, schedules are subject to change and more details will be made available after rosters are finalized.

Beginning in mid-March and continuing through early July, we expect the travel teams to practice outdoors twice weekly, as stated above. In addition to practices, we will participate in multiple USSSA and/or USA Softball tournaments as deemed appropriate for the age group, and coaches will schedule additional games and scrimmages at their discretion.

We anticipate most tournaments will be commuting distance from Fallston with the hope for one overnight, team-bonding tournament per team.

Note: Travel pitchers and catchers are expected to be training regularly with private instructors in the fall winter to prepare for spring play.

Q: What is the financial commitment for travel softball?

A: Budgets will very by team and age group and will be finalized once teams are formed. Fees will be invoiced in 4-installments on the 15th of September, December, February, and April and must be paid by the end of the calendar month. All players on a team will incur the same fees, regardless of any conflicts with fall ball, tournaments, indoor training, etc. Team fundraising will directly offset the final installment.

The 2026-27 fees include the following:

- Uniforms to include at least 2 jerseys, 2 pants, hoodie, socks, and belt
- Practice gear to include 2 tee shirts, 1 pair of shorts, and 1 pair of pants
- Fall ball fees
- ALL tournament fees
- Umpire fees for scrimmages and games
- Winter indoor training

Note: Players new to the program will also need to purchase team helmets and bat bags (approximate cost ~$125/player). Returning players will re-use their existing helmets and bags unless they are in need of repair/replacement.

Our APPROXIMATE fees are as follows:

- 10U: $900 – 1,100 per player
- 12U -16U: $1,250 to $1,550 per player

Q: Who are the coaches for travel softball?

A: **Our coaches for each age group will be finalized after the conclusion of tryouts and are dependent on placement of players. Coaches at all age groups will work together to teach the same fundamental skills and techniques used by the Fallston High School Softball coaches. All age group coaches will also have access to a shared library of drills, practice plans, and other resources.**

Molly Boyle, commissioner of Fallston Rec Softball, will coordinate the Fallston Fielders travel programs. Molly has been around the games of softball and baseball her entire life as the daughter of a division 1 college coach. Molly played competitive softball herself through high school, recreational softball through college, and has been coaching in Harford County for the past 8 years, including as an instructor at Harford Sports in Forest Hill.

Along with Molly, the **Fallston Rec Softball board of directors** will help identify new and returning coaches for the 2026-27 season.

We always welcome new volunteers to help make our program run smoothly. **If you are interested in coaching or getting more involved, please complete the related fields on our tryout interest form so we can contact you as tryouts approach.** You may also e-mail us at fallstonrecsoftball@gmail.com.

Q: What do I need to know if my daughter is or wants to be a pitcher or catcher?

A: If your daughter is interested in pitching or catching, please let us know prior to tryouts via the linked form 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.

Pitchers and catchers, but especially pitchers, are expected to regularly work with private instructors to develop and refine their skills. Lessons and regular reps are an important part of preparation for the spring/summer season.

Thank you for your interest. If your daughter is selected for a 2026-27 travel team there will be a parent meeting in the fall where additional age group specific details will be provided. In the meantime, you can direct additional questions to fallstonrecsoftball@gmail.com.