

# 2017 – 2018 Palatine Stingrays

The Stingray program plans to have 5 teams in its program in the upcoming year. The number and level of teams will be determined by the number and quality of players who try out for the Palatine Stingrays.

## **Tryouts**

Tryouts for the 2017–2018 Palatine Stingrays will be held on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at Gbur Fields. Please see website for specific times.

Players will be evaluated and rated on hitting, fielding, base running and if applicable catching and pitching skills. Shortly after tryouts are completed, the selection committee and the team manager will select the best 11-12 players for each team and make decisions on the availability for additional teams. The final selections for each team will be posted on [www.palatinestingrays.com](http://www.palatinestingrays.com).

The Palatine Stingrays are supported by the Palatine Park District team. In order to comply with park district rules, teams are not permitted to have more than 25% of team members from outside the Palatine/Fremd school district.

## **Expectations**

### **Player Commitment:**

While we understand that some conflicts are unavoidable, we require a commitment from players and their parents to ensure that all players will attend all of our practices and games. Only with everyone's cooperation can we build the kind of depth we need to compete, locally and nationally. Absences should be discussed with the individual team coach.

We play a long schedule and there will be times that conflicts arise. **Upfront communication is better than surprising the coach at the last minute.**

While participating in team activities, it is expected that players give 100% effort to improve themselves as ballplayers. Hustling and a positive attitude is an expected trait of any Palatine Stingray player.

Players are expected to be positive, enthusiastic and committed to individual and team development.

**Positions:** No one is guaranteed to play any specific position on the team. Playing time is earned and not given. That being said, in scrimmages and league games, you may see more frequent player rotations. In tournaments (especially Sunday bracket play), the best lineups will be utilized to give the team the best chance to win. If you ever have questions about playing

time, parents are strongly encouraged to follow the 24 hour rule and wait 24 hours after a game to discuss with the coach.

**Conduct:** For all players, spectators (family and friends), everyone is expected to comply with all the PYB/S and Palatine Park District Code of Conduct. Any disruptive behavior or disrespect for any other person on or off the field (umpires, coaches and other players) **will not be tolerated**. A code of conduct will be available for players and parents at the first practice and will be signed acknowledging you have read and understand what is in the document. Failure to comply with the code of conduct may result in dismissal from the team with no refund of fees.

### **Coaches**

Coaches are expected to provide sound softball instruction in a safe and secure environment. Coaches are expected to teach sound fundamentals, mechanics, and strategy to all members of the Palatine Stingrays.

All Palatine Managers, Coaches, and any additional bench personnel must pass all background checks.

### **Outside Instructors**

We will employ outside instructors as needed and the costs will be included in the player cost. Any work paid for by the team will be more of a group nature. Any 1:1 instruction will be the responsibility of the family. We intend to use all resources and necessary connections to further instruct the girls to bring them to a higher level.

### **Games/Tournaments - OVERVIEW**

Families can expect to play in the following number of tournaments (weather-permitting) between September 2017 and July 2018.

- ❖ 13U/14U – 12-15 tournaments throughout the year
- ❖ 12U – 10-12 tournaments throughout the year
- ❖ 11U – 10-12 tournaments throughout the year
- ❖ 10U – 7-10 tournaments throughout the year

“Out of Town” or overnight trips will vary between teams with 1-3 trips on average. Teams that play on higher levels will have more overnight travel tournaments in order to find the appropriate levels of competition.

Teams will play ASA, NSA, PFG and/or USSSA events along with nearby non-sanctioned tournaments. We will sometimes be able to utilize a continuous batting order. At other times, we will only bat 9 players with remaining players utilized as subs. This decision is based upon tournament rules.

Whenever possible, we will seek tournaments that will allow us to face that will challenge our players.

We will obviously put forth our best defensive line-ups during the elimination portion of our tournaments, but player and team development will remain the core focus throughout the season.

Teams (except elite) will play in the NSFPL (North Shore Fast Pitch League) during the spring season. Typically there is 15-20 league games. League games will use continuous batting order and free substitution.

### **Fall Schedule**

August 15-October 30

Older Teams will typically play 2-3 tournaments in the fall. 10U will play scrimmage games and potentially round robins.

Tournaments that are canceled will be rescheduled, if an appropriate replacement can be found.

Scrimmages and Round Robins will be added to the schedule.

### **Winter Schedule**

January 1 - March 15

Winter workouts will occur 1-2 times per week. Winter workouts can consist of small groups or full team practices. Typically winter workouts focus on skill development and conditioning.

### **Spring/Summer Schedule**

As soon as weather allows teams to be outside the spring schedule will begin. Teams typically practice 2-3 times per week. Game schedules typically begin in April with 2-3 tournaments per month.

The Stingray Showdown is hosted by the Palatine Stingrays and is typically the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of July.

Scrimmages and Round Robins will also be added to the schedule in April-July.

The last season tournament will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of July.

### **Additional Training**

In addition to our team practices, we strongly encourage all of our players to seek lessons in hitting. Players interested in pitching and catching are expected to seek lessons specific to those areas.

We will do everything we can do connect our players with quality instructors, and opportunities for additional training will be offered throughout the season. This may include pitching and hitting lessons as well as defensive clinics. All players are strongly encouraged to participate in these additional training opportunities as well as seek out their own pitching, hitting, and fielding lessons.

### **Basic Costs**

Costs vary by team but on average are \$800-\$1000. Teams playing at the Elite or “A” level will have higher costs, reaching \$2000 before fundraising. Fundraising and sponsorship opportunities are available to offset these costs.

Immediately upon accepting an offer: \$250 due within 24 Hours of Offer

October 1: \$250 Due

December 1: \$250 Due (last payment due for 10U)

January 1: Remaining Balance Due

All fees are non-refundable. These fees include our facility rental, facility equipment, tournaments, uniforms, tournament sanctioning registration, etc.)

### **Additional Costs**

Individual lessons, outside clinics, hotels, meals and additional uniforms and equipment will be the responsibility of the family.

