

TRAVEL TEAMS

1. **What is Travel Softball?**

The travel teams are formed from the Deep Run Valley Sports Association's best players. These players want to play at a more competitive level than the intramural and select programs can provide. Depending on the interest and talent levels available, teams will be fielded at 10U thru 23U Levels. In 2008 Deep Run will field 4 travel teams (10U, 12U, 14U & 16U).

2. **How and when are teams formed?**

Girls must tryout each year for the team. Current players can be cut to make room for players with better skills. Any interested player is encouraged to come to tryouts. It is the goal of DRVSA to field one team in each age group. A second team at an age level could be considered depending on interest and ability. Tryouts for each team are held in mid-August. On-Line registration for tryouts is available at www.drsvsa.org starting in August.

3. **How long is the season, and how many games/tournaments will there be?**

Weekly indoor practices will start in January, and the season runs from April through July. Although it varies by team, travel teams will each play approximately 5 - 8 tournaments, and a total of 35-60 games. There are also some practices and games in the fall once the teams are formed for the following year.

4. **What type of commitment will be needed from a girl and her parents?**

Travel Softball requires a large time commitment from the player AND her parents(s). There will usually be 1 or 2 practices a week and a tournament on weekends. When a tournament is not scheduled, a game(s) on Saturday and/or Sunday will usually be held locally. This level of play requires dedication to the game and practice at home is also expected. This program gives a girl the opportunity to prepare thru the years to possibly play at the High School level, and beyond. Parents will be expected to help as requested by the coach at practices and games. Parents also are expected to assist with the fields, snacks, and other duties when the travel division is hosting a tournament at the Deep Run complex. Coaches, Parents and Players are always expected to follow the Deep Run Lady Lightning Softball Code of Conduct. Travel players can also play intramural softball; however, usually at one level older than their travel team. Travel players can participate in the VIGS 14U and 18U programs (with limitations), but cannot play on a VIGS Sunday Select team.

5. **How important is it for my child to attend all practices and games?**

Very Important! It is expected that all players will attend all games and practices. It is discouraging for a coach, and the other players not to have all players attend a practice or a game. However, it is understood that children get sick, and that there are reasons they occasionally cannot attend a scheduled activity. Some conflicts with school functions and religious activities are unavoidable, and efforts will be made where possible to set training session times so that all can attend. Other than Middle or High School teams the travel player's primary sports obligation should be to Deep Run Travel Softball. If your child cannot attend a practice or a game, you are asked to call/email the coach and let them know. However, if you anticipate that your daughter will not attend a significant number of practices/games, you may want to reconsider having her tryout for travel softball. It is not fair to the coach, the team or your daughter for her to consistently miss practices or games since she will not develop the skills the other players have developed and her play will suffer. Her playing time may be reduced, and her status on the team may be jeopardized.

6. **How much travel is there?**

Most games/tournaments are within a daily driving range throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Each team will attempt to attend at least one overnight tournament in a more distant location. Depending on conditions teams may travel to an even more distant tournament, in 2006 our 12U travel team played at the NSA World Series in Roanoke, Virginia, and in 2005 our 18U team played in the Pony Nationals in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. In July 2008 the 14U team will be participating in the USSSA World Series in Kissimmee Florida.

7. **What will my costs be?**

This will vary with each team. The team fee is approximately \$500.00 this covers tournament fees, gym time, and other team expenses. The team fee does not include any travel costs or uniforms. Some fund raising activities may be available to help reduce costs.

8. What equipment will my daughter need?

You need to have a glove and softball cleats. Since sliding at this level is an ability that is expected of the players, sliding shorts and sliding pads should be worn. Most players at this level have their own helmets and bats (They must meet safety requirements). Uniforms, optional clothing and some equipment are offered for purchase at additional expense to the player thru Deep Run.

9. What equipment is provided by Deep Run?

Deep Run will provide catchers equipment (Helmet, mask, throat & chest protector, shin guards), bats, and balls.

10. How are the teams managed?

Deep Run Softball will choose from a pool of volunteer coaches with the best overall experience and skill levels available. At the travel level it is our goal to field the best teams possible and win games (but not at all costs). Your daughter will be trained regularly and encouraged by the coaches to play well with good sportsmanship. Winning is a product of training, conditioning, and good play. As your daughter moves into older age groups winning does become more important, and player decisions will be made with winning in mind. A coach will attempt to provide as much playing time for each girl as is possible so that all players get game experience and develop a love of the sport. There will be situations that will arise when the better players are in the game, while others may get less, or no playing time in a game. Additional time for the other players can be given when the outcome of a game is no longer in doubt. Please rest assured that our goal and intention is develop ALL of the players on the team. If you have any issues with the way a team is being run talk to your daughters coach off the field. Explain your concerns to him/her. If together you are unable to resolve a problem, please contact the Travel Softball Commissioner.

10. How can I help?

Please remember Deep Run is for the most part 100% volunteer, we are always looking for help! Step up to the plate and pitch in when requested or even better volunteer before being asked. Feel free to let Mary Ann Hennigan, Travel Softball Commissioner (mahennigan@comcast.net) know of any issues, or suggestions you may have, but be prepared to help us solve, or implement them!

11. Who can I contact if I have further questions on the travel program?

Please contact the Mary Ann Hennigan, Deep Run Travel Softball commissioner at mahennigan@comcast.net