

## **TRAVEL TEAMS**

### **1. What is Travel Softball?**

The travel player wants to play at a more competitive level than the intramural and select programs can provide at Deep Run Valley Sports Association (DRVSA) or other organizations. Depending on the interest and talent levels available, teams will be fielded at the 10u through 18u levels.

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

Girls must try out 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 try-outs. 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. Try-outs for each team are held in mid August. On-line registration for try-outs is available at [www.drsvsa.org](http://www.drsvsa.org) starting in late July or early August.

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

Weekly or twice 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 parent(s). There will usually be 2 practices a week and a tournament or games on weekends. This level of play requires dedication to the game and practice at home, or with specialized position instructors, is also expected. This program gives a girl the opportunity to prepare to possibly play at the Middle School/High School level and beyond. Parents will be expected to help as requested by the coach at practices and games. Parents are also expected to assist with field maintenance and other duties when their travel team is hosting a tournament at the DRVSA Phipps complex. Coaches, parents and players are always expected to follow the DRVSA Lady Lightning Softball Code of Conduct. After obtaining the approval from their coach and both softball commissioners, Travel players can also play intramural softball at DRVSA; 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 due to a scheduled activity. Some additional conflicts such as family activities, school functions and religious activities are unavoidable. Other than commitments to a Middle or High School team, the travel players' primary sports obligation should be to DRVSA 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 try out 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. The amount of play-time is determined by the coaches and is not guaranteed.

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

Most games/tournaments are within a daily driving distance from DRVSA 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, VA and in 2008, the 14u team participated in the USSSA World Series in Kissimmee, FL.

#### **7. How much will it cost?**

This will vary with each team. The team fee is approximately \$500 and this covers tournament fees, gym time and other team expenses. The team fee does not include any DRVSA Club and Sport fees, travel costs or uniforms. Some fundraising activities may be conducted to offset team fees, team expenses and travel costs.

#### **8. What equipment will my daughter need?**

You need to have a glove and softball cleats. Since sliding at this level is expected, sliding shorts and sliding pads must 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 through DRVSA.

#### **9. How are teams managed?**

DRVSA Travel 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 conditioning, training and good play.

#### **10. How can I help?**

Please remember DRVSA is for the most part, 100% volunteer; therefore, we are always looking for help. Feel free to contact Scott Campbell, Travel Softball Commissioner, with any questions or comments ([sjcampbell@verizon.net](mailto:sjcampbell@verizon.net)).