

INTRAMURAL

1. What is the Deep Run Intramural Softball Program?

Deep Run Lady Lightning Intramural Softball is a recreational softball league for girls aged 3 to 18. All girls within these age groups are encouraged to participate, regardless of experience or ability. The age groups from 6U to 10U are strictly a Deep Run-organized program. The 12U Division may play some teams from outside the Deep Run organization, but most games will be at the Deep Run fields and against Deep Run teams. Although sponsored by Deep Run, the 14U and 18U divisions play in the Valley Intercommunity Girls Softball (VIGS) League, a non-profit organization dedicated to recreational girls fast pitch softball. VIGS member organizations include recreational softball leagues from Deep Run, Doylestown, Harleysville, Lenape Valley, Nor-Gwyn, Montgomery, North Penn, Souderton, Towamencin, and Richland, among others. For more information on VIGS, please check out their website at www.vigs.net. Registration and team membership for this program is maintained with Deep Run Lady Lightning Softball.

2. When and where can I register for the Intramural Program?

On-line registration takes place in early January at www.drsvsa.org. In-person registration will also be held on several days at the Deep Run clubhouse, starting in January. Please check the above website for specific dates and times.

3. What age divisions are available?

Ages 3 – 4 Rainbows

Ages 5 – 6 Dew Drops

Ages 7 – 8 Rain Drops

Ages 9 – 10 Thunder

Ages 11 – 12 Bolts

Ages 13 – 14 Storm

Ages 15 – 18 Hurricane

4. How are the age groups determined?

All ages are based on the girl's age on January 1st of the year in which play is to take place.

5. Can my daughter play in a younger or older division?

While not usually recommended, a request can be made at registration to play at a different age level than what she would normally play at with the reason for this request communicated at that time. The Deep Run Softball Intramural Commissioner will make the final decision.

6. When, where, and how many practices/games are held?

Practices begin in early April prior to Opening Day. Depending on the need and desire of both the coach and players/parents, practices may be held in addition to regularly scheduled games during the season, which begins in mid to late April and ends in mid-June. Most divisions play a 10-12 game schedule (one generally on a weeknight and one on Saturday). Most intramural games are held at the Deep Run complex; however, older divisions will have occasion to play games at local municipal fields. Games during the week start at 6:00 PM and have time limits which vary by age groups. Saturday games can start anywhere between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM (with time limits as appropriate for each age group). There may be additional games for playoffs or End-of-Season "Tournament Days." Make-up games may include Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons. There will be NO intramural games during Memorial Day weekend. The Storm and Hurricane divisions will play about half their games at other local recreational league fields as part of the VIGS program.

7. How and when are teams formed?

Teams are formed by the Deep Run Softball Intramural Commissioner once registration is complete.

8. Can I request a coach or have my daughter play with a friend?

Yes, but with some conditions. Please note your request on your registration form for all divisions. Although not guaranteed, your request will be granted if at all possible. At the 10U and 12U level we conduct a computer-generated player draft before the beginning of each season. Choices are made based on the player's skill rating from previous year's coaches with some consideration given to "play-with" requests. This is done to improve the balance of the talent on each team and therefore the competitiveness within the division. The desire to balance the teams with as equal player skills as possible will also restrict the amount of requests that may be able to be granted at the 10U and 12U levels.

9. What type of commitment will be needed from my child and me?

Lady Lightning Intramural Softball does require some time commitment from the player and her parent(s). This program gives a girl the opportunities to improve and advance through the intramural program age groups, and, if she chooses, into the VIGS Sunday Select programs. Those girls who develop their skills and desire to play at a higher level can move on to a travel team, high school varsity team, and maybe move on to college programs. Parents will be expected to help as requested by the coach at

practices and at games. Parents are also expected to assist with field maintenance, snack stand duty, and other duties when requested by the coach. Coaches, parents, and players are always expected to follow the Deep Run Lady Lightning Softball Code of Conduct.

10. What will the costs be?

The fee to participate in Deep Run's Intramural Softball program can vary from approximately \$60 to \$115 (exact registration cost will be determined prior to the registration period). In addition, the Deep Run Valley Sports Association Membership Fee is \$100.00 and is collected when a family registers for the first time, or the first sport registration of the calendar year.

11. What equipment will my daughter need?

She will need a glove, cleats (soccer cleats are fine), or sneakers. Shorts are not provided, so she will need either black or dark blue shorts in the warmer months (sweatpants or long sleeved shirts under their team shirt when it's cold is fine). Some girls have their own helmets or bats. These are perfectly acceptable, as long as they meet safety requirements.

12. What equipment is provided by Deep Run?

Deep Run will provide bats, balls, batting helmets, and catcher's equipment (helmet, mask w/throat protector, shin guards, and chest protector). You will receive a Deep Run T shirt, visor, and socks as part of the fee (shorts are not provided). NOTE: VIGS player uniforms must be returned at the conclusion of the season.

13. How are the teams managed?

Deep Run will choose from a pool of volunteer coaches with the best overall experience and skill levels available. Coaches are asked to attend coaches' clinics each year at Deep Run and are encouraged to receive any additional training they can. At the intramural level, it is our goal to field teams with equal player skills, so winning is not the ultimate goal. Your daughter will be trained and encouraged by the coaches to play as best as they can and to exhibit good sportsmanship. At the intramural level, coaches are expected to make player decisions so that each girl gets to play in several different positions. Each girl should receive close to equal playing time as the other players, so that everyone gets game experience and develops a love of the sport. As your daughter reaches the older divisions, winning does become more important and player decisions will occasionally be made with winning in mind. Please rest assured that our goal is the development of ALL of the players on a team. If you have any issues with the way a team is being run, talk to your daughter's coach off the field. Explain your concerns to him/her and, if need be, include the Division Director. If, together, you are unable to resolve a problem, please contact the Softball Intramural Commissioner.

14. How can I help?

Please remember that, since Deep Run is virtually 100% volunteer, we are always appreciative of your help! Step up to the plate and pitch in or, better yet, volunteer at any level.

15. Who can I contact if I have further questions on the Intramural program?

Please contact the Deep Run Intramural Softball Commissioner, Marae Benner at drvsaladylightningcommish@drvsa.org.

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