



# URA GIRLS SOFTBALL

## Unionville Recreation Association

## **FAQs:** Answers to Some Frequently Asked Questions

### **How long does the season last?**

The intramural season runs from mid-March through mid-June. Opening Day depends on the weather but usually starts the first week in April.

### **When are practices?**

Prior to opening day, there will be at least one practice, with the goal of 2 per week. This is all subject to the availability of the fields and the location of the practices may vary. During the season (season usually starts the first week in April), practices occur approximately once a week.

### **When are games?**

Senior: Tuesday, Friday and Sundays (schedule will not be ready until April) Senior division will start their season after the school season ends.

Junior: Games Monday, Wednesday, Saturday. (10 games – each team plays 2 times)

Junior teams play single elimination playoffs at the end of the season. Schedule is reworked for playoffs.

Rookie: Games Primarily Thursday and Sunday, some Saturdays due to uneven amount of teams (Sunday games at 1:00 and 3:30/12 games – each team plays 3 games-1 hour and 45 mins ea.) No playoffs

### **Where are the games played?**

We try to play as many games as possible at URA's Route 82 Abbey Miller Field and other fields in the complex, however with 13+ softball teams and limited fields, some games will be played at either Pocopson Park, Patton Middle School, Unionville High School or Unionville Elementary School fields. The travel teams play their games at various locations throughout Southern Chester County and play their home games at URA's Route 82 Field.

### **Are children placed based on their grade in school or their age?**

The softball program is set up based on age as per our Babe Ruth Charter rules.

Senior Team: (one or two teams depending on number of registrants)

Ages under 14 years: 1/1/95 - 12/31/96

*\*Senior age requirements are strictly adhered to since team(s) are traveling and playing outside of our own recreational league rules.*

Juniors: Ages 10 to 12: Junior - Birthdates 1/1/97 - 12/31/99

Rookies: Ages 7 to 9: Rookie - Birthdates 1/1/00 - 12/31/02

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## **FAQs:** *General information*

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### **What is Tournament Softball?**

Tournament softball is for the more competitive player. These teams compete against teams from other areas in Chester County. All the travel teams compete in ASA, Babe Ruth and Little League Softball. The decision of which tournaments to enter is decided by the coach and the team. As of 2009, we offer tryouts for a U12 Tournament team only. If any parent or qualified individual is interested in coaching and running a U8, U14 or U16 tournament team, please contact the President of the Softball Program to discuss.

### **Is the Tournament season longer?**

Tournament season typically begins in early/mid June. We enter into two tournaments in Mid/End July and practice up until the day of the tournament. The team gets a break during the month of August and they practice and play pick up games starting in mid September through the middle or end of October. This Tournament team and URA hosts a weekend Tournament in mid October. All of this depends on weather of course!

### **How much does URA softball cost?**

See registration on [urasports.com](http://urasports.com) for general registration fees. There is a charge of \$50 to any family that is not able to participate in their Mandatory Parent Requirement/Volunteer hours. This fee will be collected after the fields have been closed for the season.

### **Who Runs URA and maintains the fields and equipment?**

URA is run ENTIRELY by parent volunteers. We don't hire out for any job unless we are unable to get volunteers to do the work. The Snack Shack is run independently but URA does receive some income from the proceeds. All income received is put back into our programs.

### **What is Mandatory Parent Requirement/Volunteer Hours?**

We have found it necessary to institute a program we call Mandatory Parent Requirement/Volunteer Hours. Due to a major lack of help pre, post and during the season, we now require each family to contribute time to help us maintain our fields and run the softball program.

This type of program is common within most major clubs in our area. Our sports complex consists of many buildings, fields, etc. which require maintenance. Since URA is a parent-run organization, we rely on parents and volunteers to maintain our complex and run our programs. We have found it necessary to create this system which will allow our children to play in a safe environment and in a league that runs smoothly. If each family can offer a small amount of time, the work can be completed.

Please help us create a good environment and pitch-in whenever you can! If you cannot afford any time, we ask that you "buy out" and pay a \$50 buy out fee. This will automatically be charge to you if you have not completed at least 6 hours, pre- post- and/or during the season.



## **FAQs:** *General information*

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### **What equipment does my child need to play softball?**

Glove and cleats are the most important things needed to play in most divisions. Many parents purchase a batting helmet to avoid the risk of lice infestation if there is an outbreak during the season. We have NOT had problems with lice being carried in our helmets and we do have each team to spray helmets with lice repellent after every use.

Junior division players are required to wear sliding pads for the sliding leg and under their shorts for safety. All of this equipment can be purchased online or at retail sports stores.

### **What if my child has never played before?**

We encourage first-timers! Most catch on quickly and find the sport fun! We work with every player and teach to their level of experience or skill. Rookie division coaches might play their very young or inexperienced players in the outfield for safety purposes. There is a T-ball program offered by URA as well. T-Ball is co-ed. The softball program's Rookie division is coach-pitch and is instructional throughout the season. The Junior division is more competitive and considered fast-pitch and is based on Babe Ruth rules with our own league rule adaptations. Girls are expected to learn to steal bases, slide, bunt, etc.

### **How do I sign up to coach?**

You may volunteer to coach when you register your players through our web site. If we have an open coaching position, you will be contacted before the start of the season. Coaches are asked to attend one or two pre- and/or post-season meetings. We also run other off-season programs including Fall Ball and Winter clinics. We ALWAYS encourage coaches or parents with softball or baseball experience to come out and volunteer! Contact the President of the League if you are interested.

### **Notes:**

If you can contribute to our program in any way, we would like to hear from you. We are always in need of professionals whose skills might improve our softball program OR any part of URA. We have open board positions which are listed on our web site at [urasports.com](http://urasports.com).