

FAQ – CYSA Traveling Softball Program - Summer

Note: these FAQs are answered based on what has historically been done to give people some idea of what to expect from our traveling softball program. Changes may be made from year-to-year. For more details on the policies of the CYSA, go to our website - www.eteamz.com/chaska - click on “Handouts” and select the “Policy Manual” ...and be sure to attend our annual Parent Informational Meeting, usually held in January – see website for date and time.

Who is eligible to play for a CYSA team?

The teams formed by the Chaska Youth Softball Association (CYSA) are open to all girls who attend District 112 schools or who live in one of the communities District 112 serves (Chaska, Chanhassen, Victoria, Carver, East Union).

The CYSA sponsors two levels of program:

- **Traveling (competitive)** programs which include players from throughout the communities which are part of the Chaska (District 112) school district. The traveling teams play league games throughout the metro area and in weekend tournaments. The traveling program requires an increased commitment of time and expense than the In-house program (see below).
- **In-house (recreational)** teams whose players are primarily from Chaska but are open to girls from other district communities as well (likewise, most of the other communities would allow a Chaska girl to enroll in their programs). The in-house teams at each play in the 3CV league against teams from the towns in the Chaska school district. Players on a traveling team may not also play on an in-house team. See separate FAQ on the In-House Program.

What teams do traveling teams play against?

Usually, the league we enter our traveling teams in will try and organize their divisions to give each team more games in the southwest portion of the Metro (Shakopee, EP, Minnetonka, Hopkins, Bloomington, etc.), but depending on the teams that enter the league, farther travel may be required – it is not unusual to travel below the river (Burnsville, Lakeville, etc.) or farther north.

Traveling teams also enter tournaments which may be farther away – players should be prepared to travel to any part of the Metro area as well as other cities in MN (Mankato, St. Cloud, etc.). The State tournament may often be outside the Metro area as well.

What nights do traveling teams play league games?

It depends on field availability of each community and the availability of local fields. Traveling team players should expect that they may have games any night of the week.

The exception to this has been the 10U teams, which have generally played league games only on Monday nights (doubleheader), as well as in weekend tournaments. Other age groups play several nights a week (averaging approximately two a week).

Most game nights are doubleheaders - 2 games controlled by a time limit. Coaches often ask players to come early to games, so players can expect to be at the field from before 6:00 until dusk.

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When does the summer traveling season start/end?

Younger age-groups...practices begin as soon as fields are available in the spring. Games start up in early-May and run until the league's state qualifier tournament. The State Tournament is usually held in the first half of July. Teams that qualify for national tournaments and elect to go are often playing through the first week of August.

Older age groups (with numerous players on high school teams) – practice and games begins as soon as the high school season is over. Due to the later start, the season is short but busy – games and tournaments are spaced closer together.

What level do teams play at?

The Board assesses the talent level each year and may vary from this, but our general practices are:

10U	Split into 2 equal teams
12U	Talent assessed each year and determination made to go Gold/Silver or split into equal teams
14U	Gold/Silver
16U	Gold/Silver
18U	Teams are co-sponsored with Eden Prairie, including a high-level club team called the "Arctic Blast" as well as additional silver level teams.

How are teams selected?

When teams are to be divided gold/silver, a tryout is held in February (except for 18U which is held in the fall). If the teams are to be divided equally, an evaluation is usually held outdoors in the spring.

The tryout process, team selection process, and the dividing of pitching/catching talent is generally one of the more controversial decisions a Board needs to make. We have sought input on what other associations use and have selected what we feel is the best method of deciding teams. It is described in detail in our policy manual and covered at our annual parent meeting...the general concept is described below:

- All players designate whether they are trying out as a pitcher, catcher, or position player.
- Tryouts determine 7 players:
 - 1 pitcher
 - 1 catcher
 - 5 position players (not specific to position)
- All players are evaluated on overall skills, including pitchers & catchers
- Remaining 5 players are chosen by committee based on:
 - Try-out Scores
 - Team needs
 - Prior year coach's evaluations
 - Overall needs of all teams
- Team Selection Committee selected by the Board and consists of a Board member, tryout evaluators, and coaches at that age group if their daughter is among the first 7 players chosen

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Can I request to play with someone else?

Not generally for traveling teams. Teams are chosen by tryout and/or evaluation.

Can players play up/down?

Playing down: Players are not allowed to play at a level lower than their age indicates. All ages are determined by the age the player will be on December 31st.

Playing up: Players are usually only allowed to play up if needed to field an older age group team. The CYSA Board reserves the right to ask someone to play up if it feels it is in the best interest of the program. Exception: 16U players are eligible to try out for the co-sponsored 18U club team – the Artic Blast (tryouts held in the fall for the following year).

What costs are involved in playing traveling softball?

The registration fee is indicated on the registration form. When we select uniforms, we try and stick to the same uniform for 2-3 years so they may be reused. If the registration form indicates a lower cost if you have a uniform, this would mean the uniform is being reused that year. The registration fee includes common equipment, league fees, umpire fees, etc.

The basic uniform only (shirt, shorts) is included in the registration fee – additional equipment may be necessary, including the following (see order form for costs – www.eteamz.com/chaska - click on “Handouts”).

- Matching socks – required
- Sliding shorts – recommended
- Sliding pads – recommended
- Visor – recommended
- Additional tournaments – your fee includes an allowance for the approximate cost of 3 tournaments (in addition to the State Qualifier and State Tournament, if you qualify). If the particular tournaments entered are more expensive than average, or your team decides to enter additional tournaments, there may be additional cost.
- National tournaments – if your team qualifies for a regional or national tournament (a couple Chaska teams generally do in a year), there could be significant travel costs. Most teams, however, do fund-raising to help defray the costs if they qualify for a national tournament. Gold teams are more likely to strive to reach regional national tournaments.

What about playing time and commitment levels?

Due to the competitive nature of traveling softball, there is no guarantee of equal playing time or time at the player’s favorite position. The goal is for all players to feel as they are an important part of the team, but it is up to the coach to balance player development with efforts to play at a highly competitive level. The older teams and gold level teams tend to play more competitively than younger teams. Attendance at practices and games will affect playing time.

Conflicts with the State Qualifier or State Tournament are taken very seriously – read the Policy manual for consequences of those conflicts. The dates of the State Tournament are usually available on the website of the state organization – www.msfl.org.

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What rules are used in traveling softball?

Generally speaking, the traveling leagues use ASA rules with some modifications (usually at the younger ages). The rules are set by the league, state and national organizations. A few of the frequently asked rules are identified below.

	10U	12U	14U	16U	18U
Size of softball	11"	12"	12"	12"	12"
Pitching – distance	35'	40'	40'	40'	40'