



NGSA Spring House League Softball

It's that time of year again! The Northbrook Girls Softball Association's House League Program is holding its annual registration for all girls in 2nd–9th grades interested in playing softball. Girls of every skill level are encouraged to play!

Our House League Program's focus is on learning and having fun. All girls play in every game. The season runs from early April through early June, with approximately 10 regular season games plus playoff games. The time commitment is about three times per week. All teams participate in our playoffs, which lead to a World Series game at each level.



The House League fee is \$200 until December 2nd 2018, and \$240 after December 3rd 2018. Please be aware that registration will close March 3, 2019. We cannot guarantee your daughter's placement on a team after that date.

NGSA House League FAQ

Q. My daughter has never played softball before, can she play in your league?

Our House League program is specifically designed for girls regardless of experience, ability or residency. Having fun and instruction without pressure are the main priorities of the House League. We also offer instructional clinics in March to help girls improve their skills before the season starts.

Q. What are the age rules for your House League?

Our House League program is made up of 3 different divisions based on grades of the girls:

Ponytail: 2nd and 3rd graders

Minors: 4th and 5th graders

Majors: 6th through 9th graders

**This can vary for our Travel players*

Q. When does the season start and end?

House League starts in early April, depending on the weather.

The season ends in early June with our playoffs, House League World Series, and All-Star game.

Q. How often are practices?

House League practices are once a week, on Sunday afternoon. Times and location varies by team.

Q. How often are the games during the season?

Teams usually play 2 House League games per week. 1 game during the week (Monday, Tuesday or Thursday) and 1 game on Saturday at Techny Park.

Q. What time are the games?

House League games during the week start at 5:30 in April, and then 5:45 later in the season.

Saturday games start at either 9:30am, Noon or 2:30.

Q. How long are the games?

In Ponytail: Games will be six innings or one hour and thirty minutes.

In Minors and Majors: Games will be six innings or one hour and forty-five minutes, whichever comes first.

No new inning may start after the official time limit.

Q. Where are the games and practices?

We work with the Northbrook Park District to use the softball fields located around the community. Actual game & practice locations will vary by team and division.

Our House League program also may partner with other local communities (ex. Winnetka) in order to ensure we have enough teams in the divisions to have league play. When this occurs, each Northbrook team may play a game at that communities' field during the season.

NGSA House League FAQ

Q. What if my daughter has a conflict and will miss a game or practice for another activity?

We understand girls and their families have other interests and activities that can conflict with our schedule. There is no penalty for missing games/practices. We do however, ask that you notify your coach in a timely fashion so that he/she can plan accordingly.

Q. My daughter really wants to play with her friend.... what is the Friendship Request Policy?

Friendship requests are encouraged and in all cases everything will be done to respect the wishes of participants. In cases where a division becomes extremely imbalanced as a result of fulfilling all requests, the league director may take action.

Q. Are there rules on participation during the game?

The policy of the House League is that players should have, and coaches should strive for, equal participation by all players. Our coaches are provided playing time rules that they are to follow in order to support this policy.

Q. What are the rules for pitching in the games?

Girls pitch in our House League games. The pitching technique shall be underhand fast-pitch, as taught during our clinics and by our coaches. A player may pitch a maximum of two innings in a game (does not need to be consecutive).

In the Ponytail division, if three balls are thrown by the pitcher to a single batter, the opposing coach or designated adult, will throw pitches until that batter is able to hit the ball into play, or strike out.

Q. What equipment does my daughter need to play in the House League?

Glove: *All girls will need to provide their own glove for use in the field.*

Bat: *Each team is given a couple bats they can use if you do not wish to purchase a bat. However, many girls like to have their own bat.*

(If you are unsure of what kind of bat (size, weight) to purchase for your daughter, be sure to come to our hitting clinic in March where our coaches and Board Members can help.)

Helmet: *All girls who register for our league are given their own NGSA helmet, which includes a protective face mask, to use throughout their years in our leagues. Girls must wear their helmets when they are batting in both practice and games.*

Cleats: *Non-metal cleats are highly recommended but not required.*

Uniforms: *All girls who register for our league are provided a team uniform to wear for games (pants, socks, shirt incl.).*

RECOMMENDED: Protective Fielder's Facemask *for use in the field. Girls are encouraged to have their own, but the league does provide them to share for those that don't have their own.*

**Our rules require that pitchers and infielders wear a protective facemask while in the field. These are provided to each team, but girls have the option of purchasing their own.*

NGSA House League FAQ

Q. I am very interested in coaching my daughter, what do I do?

When you register your daughter, there is a question asking if you are interested in coaching or assistant coaching. Please indicate your interest there. The House League Directors will contact you in January or February to discuss your interest and experience. If you have questions about coaching please contact the House League Directors through our website or at house@northbrooksoftball.com.

Q. You mentioned the focus is fun, what do you do to promote fun in your league?

In addition to the softball, we are continually looking for opportunities to make the league more fun for the girls. Activities have included team cheer competitions, an end of season cookout, theme days, bake sales, Mother's Appreciation Day, and all of the girls in our league are invited to march with us in the Northbrook 4th of July parade.

Stay tuned for more information on what fun things we will be in-store for the coming season.

Q. This all sounds great... I can't wait to register my daughter, but what does it cost?

All girls who wish to play in the league, must register by March 3rd.

Early Bird: Registration Opening to December 2nd

\$200 Registration Fee (Save \$40 from regular price)

\$40 (buy 2 get 1 free) for all 3 Clinics if paid with registration or prior to the clinics

After December 2nd:

\$240 Registration Fee

\$40 (but 2 get 1 free) for all 3 clinics if paid with registration or prior to the clinics

Individual Clinics: (these are optional but we encourage our players to attend)

\$20 at the door and \$40 if you pay for all 3

***The March Clinic Dates are tentatively the Sunday afternoons of March 3, March 10, and March 17**

Q. My daughter loves softball, what can I do if she wants to play more than just the House League?

We have 2 options for your daughter:

***Travel Softball:* We have a travel program for girls who wish to play more softball and in a more competitive fashion. Check out our Travel page on our website for more information.**

***House League PLUS:* This is a newer program that offers girls an opportunity to keep playing softball after the House League season ends. This program is geared to players of all levels looking to advance their skills or prepare for Travel tryouts later in the summer.**

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