



MUDSOCK YOUTH SOFTBALL
2024 Spring Information



Franciscan Health is a proud partner of Mudsock Youth Athletics. Dr. Joseph Richardville, sports medicine specialist with Franciscan Physician Network, is now seeing patients in Carmel. Dr. Richardville provides a full-spectrum of care for the whole athlete, from pre-participation physicals, evaluating injuries and concussion testing to recommending proper sports nutrition, athletic training, physical therapy and surgical services. For more information, visit FranciscanHealth.org/sportsmedicine. To schedule an appointment, call 317-781-1133.

2024 Softball Calendar

March 3rd	Softball Rec League Evaluations HSE High School Attendance is Critical!!! More Information under "Rec/All-Star Evaluations"
March 24th	Draft Day
Late-March	Equipment distribution to coaches at Olio Park Concession Stand. Times will be announced at a later date.
Late-March	Mandatory Softball Coaches Training Session. Times and locations for specific age groups will be posted at a later date. ALL COACHES MUST ATTEND. Equipment will be given to coaches at the meeting.
Late-March	Team Rosters Finalized
Week of April 9th	1 st Rec League Practices (after spring break)
April 20th	Rec Opening Day
Late-April/Early-May	All-Stars Tryouts
Late-June	Rec Season-End Tournament (games played during the week and weekend)
Mid-July	Heatwave Tournament (All-Stars only, no travel)
Mid-August	Fall Ball Season Starts
September	Showcase All-Star Tryouts

2024 MUDSOCK YOUTH SOFTBALL PROGRAM

Registration Fees

Open Spring registration will be held during the month of January 2024. Registration will be accepted online at www.myathletics.com. Spring fees (early bird pricing) will be as follows:

- \$120 – 5U
- \$120 – 6U/7U
- \$150 – 8U – 14U, HS

Age is based on participant's age as of December 31, 2023

There will be a multi-player discount available for families registering three or more children. Early bird pricing will be available during the month of January. Beginning February 1st, registration fees will increase.

Refunds

January 1 – February 15 – Refund after \$38 non-refundable is subtracted.

February 16 – March 15 – 50% refund after \$38 non-refundable is subtracted.

March 16 – March 31 – 25% refund after \$38 non-refundable is subtracted.

After March 31 – No refund.

Participants who sustain an injury prior to the start of the season will only be granted a refund with supporting documentation from a physician. If documentation from a physician is not provided, no refund will be given. Any injury that occurs during the season does not qualify for a refund of any amount.

Division: 5U – TEE BALL

This league is designed for 5 YEAR OLDS who are ready to begin playing softball. Coaches will nurture the participants as they learn the fundamentals of the game. We will start slowly and gradually build over the course of the season. This is a coach pitch league.

Division: 7 & UNDER (6&7 YEAR OLDS)

This division is coach and player pitch. The hitting tee has been put away and the game is scored with outs, innings and runs. The emphasis is on creating a fun and exciting environment and instilling confidence in the players while teaching them the fundamentals of the game.

Division: 8 YEAR OLDS

This division is coach and player pitch. The game is scored with outs, innings and runs. The emphasis is on creating a fun and exciting environment and instilling confidence in the players while teaching them the fundamentals of the game.

Division: 10 & UNDER

This is a competitive league, giving the players the opportunity to play all the positions, including pitcher. Although coaches will do some pitching, the emphasis is on learning to pitch and to hit off a 10U pitcher.

Division: 12 & UNDER

This league will emphasize more advanced skills and development. We will be playing with more wide-open rules than the younger leagues. Participants do all the pitching in this league. Participants will still have the opportunity to play and learn all fielding positions.

Division: 14 & UNDER

This league will emphasize more advanced skills and development. We will be playing with more wide-open rules than the younger leagues. Participants still have the opportunity to play all fielding positions.

All-Stars: 8U-14U

The Mudsock Youth Softball All-Stars teams are created from players participating in the rec league program; All-Stars must be rostered on a rec league team. The All-Stars program is an extension of the recreational season for those girls wishing to get extra coaching, playing and developmental time by practicing and playing in tournaments around Central Indiana. All-Stars is intended to provide participants an opportunity to further develop skills and play at a higher level of competition than is generally offered in the rec league (see the Mudsock Youth Softball All- Star Section for more information).

Fall Ball: 8U – 14U

This league will emphasize continued player development in a fun, fall ball environment. We will be preparing participants that will move up in age category in the spring while providing a program for all athletes to compete and play together. This will also help reduce erosion of our players to other area fall softball programs.

Please note about “playing up”:

Our leagues are organized around 2-year age intervals. Participants are expected to play in the youngest age group for which they are eligible. However, in rare instances parents may decide that their child’s interest is best served by “playing up” in the next older league. Parents may request for their child to “play up”, but this **requires** the parents to complete a waiver form and obtain written permission from the League Vice President / Player Agent.

REC EVALUATIONS

MARCH 3 – HSE HIGH SCHOOL

Players are requested to arrive 10 minutes before their scheduled time. Registration will be required, and participants will go through the evaluation in groups. All participants interested in pitching should report to the pitching evaluation. Please allow 45-60 minutes to complete the entire evaluation process.

****Please Note - There are NO evaluations for the 5U TEE BALL and 6/7U leagues****

10U	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
12U	12 p.m. – 2 p.m.
8U & 14U	2 p.m. - 3 p.m.



Forté Sports Medicine and Orthopedics is honored to partner with Mudsock Youth Athletics as the official orthopedic and sports medicine provider. Forté's highly skilled, fellowship trained orthopedic surgeons and staff provide comprehensive, specialized sports medicine and orthopedic care to patients of all ages. Forté's certified athletic trainers offer on-site injury prevention consultation and injury screenings for Mudsock Youth Athletics leagues. For sudden injuries, Forté Fast Orthopedic Care, located in the Carmel and Noblesville clinics, offers same-day access to a specialist and treatment plan to get you or your family feeling better, faster. Learn more about [Forté Fast Orthopedic Care for Mudsock Youth Athletics and families](#).

Team Drafts / Player Selection

March 24th --- Location: MYA OFFICE

Teams for the 10U, 12U, 14U and High School age groups are formed by coaches "drafting" players. The objective of the draft is to ensure an even distribution of talent among the teams. Players who are not evaluated will be randomly assigned to teams by a "blind" draw. Each team will have approximately 12 players on their roster. The drafts will be held after the completion of player evaluations. Coaches will contact their team members as soon as possible after the draft.

****Note – special requests relating to specific days/times for practices and/or games cannot be granted. ****

Head coaches will need to be available for the draft for their respective age group on the following dates/times. Drafts will take place at the Mudsock Youth Athletics office. **Only head coaches (or a designated asst coach in the event a head coach can't make it) will attend the draft.**

10U: Noon – 2pm

12U: 2 – 3pm

14U: 3 – 4pm

***5U TEEBALL 6/7U and 8U team selections will be made the week of March 24th.**

RECREATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

All Divisions (6/7U THOROUGH 14U) will hold a tournament based on regular season records, with the championship game in each division played in mid-June. First and second place trophies/awards will be presented at the completion of the final game. The players in the 5U league will receive their participation awards at the end of the regular season.

MUDSOCK YOUTH SOFTBALL SHOWCASE ALL-STARS AND ALL-STAR TEAMS

ALL-STAR EVALUATIONS: TBD --- *Olio Fields*

Players are requested to arrive 30 minutes before their scheduled time. Registration will be required, and participants will go through the evaluation in groups. All participants interested in pitching and catching should report to the pitching evaluation. Please allow 90 minutes to complete the entire evaluation process.

All-Stars Overview

The league currently offers two types of experiences for Rec All-Stars softball. Our Showcase All-Star program forms teams in the fall of each year, and provides a program designed to foster players who want a higher level of competitiveness, but cannot commit to a travel schedule, but may desire to play travel in the future. Our All-Stars program provides a more traditional All-Star experience, with team tryouts and formation in April of each season.

All-Stars teams are selected for the 8U – 14U age divisions based upon a tryout process. Participants interested in trying out for an All-Stars team should register at myathletics.com prior to the tryout.

During the rec league season, All-Stars practices/games will generally be scheduled for Sunday afternoons. Once the rec league season concludes in June, the All-Stars tournament season begins. The coach, with oversight from the All-Stars commissioner, will determine the tournament schedule. Additionally, in preparation for the tournament season, All-Stars teams will participate in periodic Sunday Alliance doubleheaders (see FAQ below for more information).

FAQs about All-Stars:

When does the All-Stars season start?

The Showcase All-Star season starts in September of each fall, with tryouts followed by team formation and regularly scheduled practices. Spring All-Stars practices tentatively start in late April of each spring. The start date for practices is ultimately up to the coach; although practices are intended to begin once the All-Stars team is selected. While the rec league season is in progress, All-Stars practices and games will generally take place on Sundays and cannot conflict with rec activities. Rec league participation comes first and will take precedent over All-Stars until after the rec season tournament. If there are no rec league events, a coach is free to schedule a practice or tournament.

How often do teams practice?

Showcase All-Star and All-Stars teams will generally practice once per week, on Sundays, during the rec league season. All-Stars activities cannot conflict with any rec league activities. Showcase All-Star teams may practice more through the fall and winter months, when not conflicting with rec softball season activities.

Who sets the schedule?

The coach will ultimately set the schedule with oversight from the All-Stars commissioner. However, teams will generally be limited to a Sunday-only schedule during the rec league season.

What is “Sunday Alliance” and how is it associated with All-Stars?

“Sunday Alliance” is a collection of recreational and travel softball teams in Central Indiana who play doubleheaders on Sunday afternoons from April to June. Our All-Stars teams are expected to participate in Alliance doubleheaders until the tournament season begins in late June. Sunday Alliance offers our All-Stars teams the opportunity to face stronger competition in a semi-competitive environment to prepare for competitive tournament play. Alliance games will be

scheduled by the All-Stars coaches but typically they'll take the place of a regularly scheduled Sunday practice. Alliance games are at Olio Fields and surrounding communities. **Please note, there are no longer any separate Sunday Alliance teams.**

When is the "Tournament Season" and in how many tournaments will a team play?

The All-Stars tournament season begins in late June, after the Rec League has concluded, and runs through the summer. It is ultimately up to the coach to decide on the number and location of tournaments but typically teams have generally elected to play in about 4 tournaments during the summer. Most tournaments are played over 3-4 days. They typically start with 1-2 games during the week (in the evening) and run through the weekend. A typical tournament will guarantee 4 games per team; consisting of two play-in games followed by a double elimination bracket-style format. How many days/games the team plays depends upon how many games they win.

When are All-Stars tryouts?

Showcase All-Star tryouts take place in September each fall, and All-Stars tryouts take place following the rec opening day activities, usually the third week of April. If a player would like to be considered for an All-Stars team, you must register at myathletics.com prior to tryouts. Information can also be found on the girls' softball website at <https://softball.myathletics.com/>.

How are participants selected?

The tryout process includes 3 criteria upon which the players are evaluated: running, hitting, and fielding. The scores are shared with the coach as criteria for selecting the team. If an athlete is not able to attend the scheduled tryout, a petition may be filed with the All-Star commissioner to consider a participant for selection onto a team.

How are coaches selected?

Anyone who has a clear and up-to-date background check with the Mudsock Youth Athletics office is eligible. Applications are reviewed by a committee from the Softball Board. All applicants will be interviewed and selected by a selection committee.

What is the cost associated with All-Stars?

The total cost is determined by the number of tournaments played. In the past, tournament fees have been approximately \$150 per player (assuming 4 tournaments). Additionally, uniforms cost approximately \$75. Showcase All-Star teams that practice through the winter months will also incur fees for indoor facility rental for practices. These fees are variable from year to year, dependent on number of teams renting, but can be expected as approximately \$100 per player.



Meijer is pleased to support Mudsock Youth Athletics in its mission of bringing sports to local kids. As a family company, Meijer aims to enrich the lives of families in its community. By sponsoring youth sports programs like Mudsock, Meijer gets to support local kids as they learn valuable life skills, build friendships, get active and, most importantly, have fun!

Cats – Travel League

Travel Softball

The travel softball program is designed to provide a higher level of training and competition to those players that have a desire to develop their skills beyond what the recreational level allows. This program requires significant parent/guardian and player time commitment. These teams are different from the All-Stars in that the participants play travel only. Participants that are non-high school players must live within the Hamilton Southeastern School District to be eligible to try out. Participants outside the community can try out at the high school level but will require waiver approval from Mudsock Youth Athletics prior to accepting a position on the team. Participants that are age 18 and under are eligible to try out. **Independent, knowledgeable evaluators will conduct open tryouts and evaluations in the fall.** The travel commissioner oversees this evaluation process. The head coach will select the team based on the evaluation scores provided by the league and his or her personal knowledge of the player's ability. The travel commissioner will work with travel head coaches to assure top scoring participants are named to the team.

Cats Travel Information

The Cats travel teams are competitive travel teams whose focus is playing softball at a high level. Teams will normally play 8 – 12 tournaments. Most tournaments are played within the region; however, there is the potential for overnight trips outside of the Indianapolis area. The league will attempt to form as many teams as possible in each of the age groups (10U, 12U, and 14U) based upon player and coach interest, as well as the ability for the team to be reasonably competitive. There may also be a travel team in the 16U or 18U age groups; however, those age groups will be governed by a separate policy. Games will typically be played from April through July. Tryouts and team selection for the 2022-2023 season will take place in late July of this year. To maintain skills throughout the off-season, a light off-season schedule may occur. These are optional and other "in-season" extracurricular activities shall take precedent during the off-season. During the season (March – July) players are expected to focus on playing softball. Other athletic endeavors that conflict with tournaments and practices create a hardship on the team, players, and coaches. If a participant is planning to play another travel sport during the March-July timeframe, they must notify the league at the time of evaluations.

Funding

Travel teams are self-funded. The league will support the effort through allocation of resources, i.e., fields, equipment, league insurance and direction. The teams will raise the funds necessary through player/parent/guardian contributions, sponsorship, fundraising (please note our bylaws do not allow players to solicit funds door to door!) or any other board approved means. Players will be assessed an amount based on the projected budget, which is established by each team. Fees typically range from \$500 to \$700 for the entire season. This may increase or decrease depending on the games played and team fundraising or sponsorship contributions, and do not include the cost of the uniforms.

Tournaments

Softball hosts several tournaments throughout the spring and summer. This year we will host tournaments in April, May, June, and July.

Cannot Attend Tryouts for either Cats Travel or All Stars

If a player is not physically capable of attending the scheduled tryout and makeup dates due to injury or illness prior to the selection of the team, the player's parent/guardian(s) can petition in writing to the travel commissioner to consider their child for the travel team. Once the head coach is named, they will use all information available, including but not limited to past coaches, past performance, or an individual workout to assess the child's ability to determine if the child would be capable of making the team without a physical tryout.

WAYS THAT YOU CAN AND WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

COACH A TEAM

We need quality, caring individuals to guide and direct a team of participants. Please consider being a head coach or assistant coach. *Every coaching candidate must complete an application each year.

SPONSOR A TEAM

REGISTRATION FEES ALONE ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO FUND OUR BUDGET!

Sponsorship money helps pay for much needed capital improvements, field maintenance, umpire fees, equipment, team/player awards. We have excellent opportunities for your contribution to be recognized throughout the community. Sponsorship opportunities include, but are not limited to: **Team Sponsor, League Sponsor, Trophy Sponsor, Web-site Sponsor and/or Field Sponsor.** Sponsorship fees are tax deductible as a promotional expense or as a charitable contribution (we are a 501c 3 organization). More importantly, our sponsorship is helping the youth of our community. Contact Melissa McNall at melissa.k.mcnall@gmail.com for more details on the outstanding sponsorship opportunities. A sponsorship form is included at the end of this packet for your convenience.

BE A TOURNAMENT VOLUNTEER

Our travel and all-star programs raised thousands of dollars for the entire league last year by hosting several tournaments. It takes a great deal of work to host such large events. Parents are encouraged to volunteer, and the efforts of all volunteers are appreciated. A successful event only happens when everyone pitches in to help! Please contact the league vice president if you are interested in helping.

Connect with us!

Twitter: @MudsockSoftball

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MudsockSoftball>

Email: mudsockyouthsoftball@gmail.com

Online: <https://softball.myathletics.com/>

Corporate Sponsorship

Dear Potential Sponsor:

The Mudsock Youth Softball League is pleased to report that youth softball in our community continues to grow and thrive. In 2024, we project growth in both the number of participants in our rec league and travel program as well as the number of teams traveling to our facility to participate in tournaments.

Our rec, All-Star and travel teams consist of over 500 Fishers families playing well over 1,000 games each year on Olio Fields.

Over the past decade we have had the addition of fencing and lighting at Olio Fields, as well as new bleachers and sidewalks, and infield improvements. All of this has transformed the park into a premier destination in Central Indiana. All these improvements would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors, many of which are local businesses. Many of these improvements are now in need of updates or repair. Our equipment is also in need of updating. We want to ensure we are providing up to date equipment to ensure the safety of our participants. These equipment updates and repairs can only happen with the support of the community.

How can you help?

The league is excited to present opportunities for corporate sponsorship for the upcoming 2024 softball season. The dollars raised through sponsorship help fund our teams with equipment and uniforms and provide scholarships for those in need of financial assistance. We strive to ensure that everyone can share the enjoyment of playing softball in our community.

Our sponsorship program provides different levels of contribution opportunities, allowing each local business or corporate partner to choose the level that works best for them.

Our 2023 sponsorship opportunities are as follows:

Platinum - \$2,500

- Sponsorship on the front of 6 rec teams jerseys
- Signage on the outfield fence
- Website click-through
- Sports Connect announcements (5 per year)
- Twitter announcements (5 per year)
- Opening Day booth

Gold - \$1,500

- Sponsorship on the front of 4 rec teams jerseys
- Signage on the outfield fence
- Website click-through
- Sports Connect announcements (4 per year)
- Twitter announcements (4 per year)
- Opening Day booth

Silver (OPTION 1) - \$1,000

- Sponsorship on the front of 1 rec team jersey
- Signage on the outfield fence
- Website click-through
- Sports Connect announcements (2 per year)
- Twitter announcements (2 per year)
- Opening Day booth

Bronze - \$750

- Sponsorship on the front of 3 rec teams jerseys
- Website click-through
- Twitter announcements (2 per year)
- Opening Day booth

Blue - \$500

- Sponsorship on the front of 2 rec teams jerseys
- Website click-through
- Opening Day booth

Red - \$300

- Sponsorship on the front of 1 rec teams jersey
- Opening Day booth

White - \$100

- Opening Day booth

REC TEAM SPONSORSHIP

- Your logo on the front of a rec team jersey.

FIELD SIGNAGE

- Your logo highlighted on the outfield fence of one of our fields.

WEBSITE CLICK-THROUGH

- Your logo in the sponsors area of our website with click-through ability to your website.

SPORTS CONNECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advertisements that you create sent directly to every family that participates in softball through Mudsock Youth Athletics.

TWITTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We will tweet out your message to our 2,300+ Twitter followers.

OPENING DAY BOOTH

- You will be guaranteed booth space during our opening day ceremonies.

OTHER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

EQUIPMENT SPONSORSHIP

- Equipment like golf carts or gators
- Donate services such as construction services, printing services, etc.
- Softball equipment
 - o softballs, bats, batting helmets, catchers gear, etc.

CONCESSION STAND SPONSORSHIP

- Donate product

ALL-STAR & TRAVEL TEAM SPONSORSHIPS

It is our hope that each corporation or small business can find a sponsorship level with which they are comfortable. We ask that you take the time to fill out the registration form that follows and mail with a check to the address in the center area of the form. For the second year in a row, we had ALL our rec softball teams sponsored last year. We recognize and send a special thank you to all returning sponsors!

Your consideration in our sponsorship program is greatly appreciated, not only by this Board, but also by the youth of our community. Feel free to contact Mudsock Youth Softball Marketing Director, Melissa McNall, with any questions.

Thank you for your support!

Melissa McNall
Mudsock Youth Softball Marketing Director
Melissa.k.mcnall@gmail.com

Mudsock Youth Softball League 2024 Recreational Team Sponsorship Registration Form

Select Sponsorship Level:

_____	\$2,500	Platinum	– 6 Team Sponsorship, banner
_____	\$1,500	Gold	– 4 Team Sponsorship, banner
_____	\$1,000	Silver #1	– 1 Team Sponsorship, banner
_____	\$1,000	Silver #2	– 4 Team Sponsorship
_____	\$750	Bronze	– 3 Team Sponsorship
_____	\$500	Blue	– 2 Team Sponsorship
_____	\$300	Red	– 1 Team Sponsorship
_____	\$100	White	– Opening Day booth
_____	Additional Donation		
_____	Total Enclosed		

Please make checks payable to Mudsock Youth Softball and mail with this form to:

Mudsock Youth Athletics
Attn: Mudsock Youth Softball
12690 Promise Road
Fishers, IN 46038

Note: Please e-mail business logo(s) to: melissa.k.mcnall@gmail.com

Mudsock Youth Softball League's 501(c)3 Tax ID is 83-2289813

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

Contact Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Website: _____

Is there a particular player you wish to sponsor? Yes No

If yes, player's name: _____