



2027 Spartan Travel Information

The Travel Committee continues to be excited with our girls' development and we are now looking ahead to planning for the 2027 season. We are hopeful softball will remain in high demand and we are prepared to field teams again at each of the current levels of 10U, 12U, 14U, and 16U.

About Spartan Travel

Spartan Travel is a program for girls and families wanting to make a serious commitment to competitive fast-pitch softball. We work in conjunction with Glenbrook North High School to prepare and develop softball players to play at the high school level.

- **Player Dues:** We estimate that the 2027 player dues will be an all-inclusive fee of \$2,150 per player (*High School Player Fees will be reduced due to the mandatory High School black-out period*). Fees include Fall Ball, Winter team and individual skill development practices including one indoor event/tournament, professional instruction, uniforms, fields, games/tournaments, umpires, and House Fees (if applicable).
- **Registration Fee**** - Players in the 12U, 14U, and 16U age division will have a \$50 registration fee as part of their 2027 player registration. If the player is offered and accepts a roster spot, the registration fee will be applied towards the player dues. If a player is not offered a roster spot during the team formation process, the registration fee will be refunded. If a player rejects a roster spot or withdraws from consideration by the deadline below, the fee will not be refunded.

Player Offered a Roster Spot		Player Not Offered a Roster Spot	Player Withdraws from Consideration after:
Player accepts spot	Player rejects spot		
Registration Fee applied to player dues	Registration Fee <u>not</u> refunded	Registration Fee refunded	10U & 12U: July 5th 14U & 16U: June 27th Registration Fee <u>not</u> refunded

** Players registering for the 10U age division will **NOT** be assessed a registration fee.

- **Coaching:** Spartan Travel is committed to providing quality instruction for our players. It is our intent to continue our tradition of providing coaches who have significant coaching and/or playing experience.
- **Participation in House:** Participation by travel players in House League is evaluated on a yearly basis. Historically, players in our 10U program are required to play in our House League program. Fees for Travel girls playing in our House League are included in the Travel fees. Players/Teams that are not participating in house league, would have additional travel activities during this period



Commitment to Spartan Travel

As a Travel sports program, we expect players to make a commitment to our season and participate in all events. We understand and encourage girls to have other academic or athletic interests. While an occasional conflict can be managed, regular absences will have a negative impact on a player's development, the team bonding together, and may result in team game/practice cancellations. As such, continuous absenteeism from Spartan Travel required activities will result in reduced playing time in the field and hitting lower in the batting order. Players are expected to arrive at all games and practices on time.

- **Fall Ball (Late August, September and October):** Players in our 2027 Spartan Travel program are encouraged to participate in our Fall season. Fall Ball is included in 2027 Travel Fees. This is a great opportunity for new players to get familiar with the pace and style of travel and advancing players used to different pitching distances and ball size. The development achieved in Fall Ball has proven quite valuable to our players and it is strongly recommended especially at the 10U level. Fall Ball typically has practices and games on Friday evenings and over the weekend only (*with no softball activities during the week unless due to a major scheduling issue*).
- **Winter Training (January through Mid-April):** Specifics for 2027 have not been finalized, but historically winter training includes a 1½ hour indoor practice on Sundays, hitting instruction on a weekday evening, and additional skill development for pitchers and catchers. We anticipate each team participating in one winter indoor event/tournament but this will be finalized by team coaches for participation.
- **Early Season (Mid-April through late May):** During the early part of our season while school is still in session, expect the girls to have 4-5 softball activities per week. This includes games, practices, and any applicable House activities (i.e. House can count as 2-3 activities per week). **At this point in the season, we need players to prioritize softball as their number one activity.** Repetitive absenteeism will result in decreased playing time and could affect future team placement.
 - Teams that do not play House will participate in practices, NSFPL league games and at least two additional events/tournaments during the Early Season.
 - Players who play on their High School Softball team have a blackout period where they are not permitted to play in events outside of their HS season.
- **Core Season (late May through mid-July):** During the main part of our season, expect the girls to have 5-6 softball activities per week. Weekend tournaments (starting on Thursdays or Fridays) will be scheduled with anywhere from 4 to 7 games throughout the weekend. Tournaments are scheduled every weekend during this period (except Fourth of July weekend). For the 16U team, due to the High School black out period, we will try to extend



the season into late July. **Player attendance is mandatory during this part of the season.** Repetitive absenteeism will result in decreased playing time and could affect future team placement.

- **Out of Town Tournaments:** Every team will likely have 1 out of town (>1 hour away) tournament. In past seasons, our teams have participated in locations such as Indianapolis, Madison, South Bend and Baraboo. This has proven to be a great experience for our players and enjoyed by our Spartan Travel families.
- **Game Duration:** Games normally last up to 2 hours. Pregame plans are determined by the coaches and usually require the players to arrive and be ready to warm-up 1 hour before game time.
- **Practice Duration:** Practice times are determined by the coaches and are usually 1 ½ to 2 hours in length.
- **Camp conflicts:** Girls enrolled in overnight camp for the first 4 weeks of summer should not consider Travel softball as they will miss a major part of our season and over 70% of our games. The Travel season ends in time for girls to attend the second 4 weeks (of most camps).
- **Vacations:** To avoid teams not having enough players for games/tournaments, discretionary family summer vacations should not be scheduled until after our softball season ends in mid-July. We do everything possible to publish our calendar in late Winter so families can plan accordingly. Also, we usually do not schedule practices or games in the days leading or following July 4.

Player/Parent Conduct

NGSA is committed to providing all our participants with a safe environment to learn and play softball. All parents and players will be expected to behave respectfully on and off the field. Parents and players will be required to review, sign, and adhere to a Code of Conduct, inclusive of guidelines around bullying and social media.



2027 Age Levels / Divisions

For the 2027 season, Spartan Travel will abide by the USSSA age guidelines which is a player's age as of September 1st. For most players, this will align divisions by school grade.

The following table defines the 2027 division for each player based on their age and typically associated school grade:

2027 Division	Birthdate	Typically Associated School Grade (for reference only)
10U	9/1/2015 and later	5th grade and younger
12U	9/1/2013 - 8/31/2015	6th and 7th grade
14U	9/1/2011 - 8/31/2013	8th and 9th grade
16U	9/1/2009 - 8/31/2011	10th and 11th grade

Players playing up levels

It is not common practice for players to play at a level other than their current applicable age level. Players looking to move up should register with their applicable age level and email the Travel Director at travel@northbrooksoftball.com to inform us of your desire to move up. Decisions on whether a player will "move up" will be determined by the Travel Committee and our advisors.

2027 Registration & Tryouts

All new players (regardless of age/level) interested in Spartan Travel are required to try out.

Current 10U Spartan Travel players in their first Spartan Travel season will be required to try out for their 2027 age division (whether that be 10U or 12U). ***No other current returning Spartan Travel player will be required to try out.***

Any 10U pitcher or catcher currently in their first Spartan Travel season should only show up for the "ALL PLAYERS" portion of the tryout.

All players must register regardless of if they need to attend a tryout.

Registration for 2027 Spartan Travel will open on Monday, May 11th. Please visit www.northbrooksoftball.com to register.



Tryouts Logistics

During tryouts, players will be evaluated on Fielding, Hitting, Pitching (if desired), and Catching (if desired). Evaluations are usually conducted by our Spartan Travel coaching staff, coaches from Glenbrook North High School, and other coaches.

Tryouts will be held on the following date and times. If players are unable to attend, please email the Travel Director at travel@northbrooksoftball.com for an alternate date.

- **10U & 12U TRYOUT** – Saturday, July 11 at 9:00am at Techny Fields #26, #27 and #28. Check in will be at the pavilion between Techny Fields #26, #27 and #28. If tryouts are cancelled due to inclement weather, they will be held on Sunday, July 12th at the same time and field locations.

	10U	12U
Pitchers and Catchers	9:00AM - 9:45AM	11:45AM - 12:30PM
ALL Players	9:45AM - 11:15AM	12:30PM - 2:00PM

- **14U & 16U TRYOUT** – Tuesday, June 30 at 6:00pm at Wood Oaks East. If tryouts are cancelled due to inclement weather, they will be held on Wednesday, July 8th at the same time and field locations.

	14U/16U
Pitchers and Catchers	6:00PM - 6:45PM
ALL Players	6:45PM - 8:15PM

*** Based on signups, the timing for each respective age could change and will be communicated in advance.*

- Players should bring their glove, fielding facemask, helmet, bat, batting gloves, and wear softball pants and cleats/spikes. Players should bring water to drink during breaks.
- Tryouts may run a bit longer based on the number of girls participating. Please be flexible with us.
- Pitchers should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to their start time to complete registration and be stretched and warmed up prior to the start time.
- Please contact us at travel@northbrooksoftball.com if a player is unable to make tryouts.



Player Selection

Placement into our 2027 Spartan Travel program is determined by our coaches and external advisors participating in Tryout evaluations. The following criteria are among those considered when selecting players into the program:

- 2026 Travel performance (returning players)
- Tryout performance (new players)
- Player attitude / commitment

We expect to notify families of a player's acceptance into our program within 2 weeks of the July tryout. Notifications will commit to a roster spot for the 2027 Spartan Travel season. Please be aware that not all families may be notified at the same time as we may be on a different timetable for various age levels.

Upon notification, a player will have 48 hours to accept or decline a roster spot and a non-refundable deposit of \$450 will be required (less the \$50 deposit already made at the 12U, 14U, and 16U level). After 48 hours, if the offer is not accepted or the deposit is not made, the offer will expire.

The remainder of the player dues will be paid in two equal installments on October 2 and January 29.

Please remember that 2026 rostered players, even if they are not required to tryout, are not automatically guaranteed a roster spot for the 2027 season.

Teams / Player Assignments

The Spartan Travel committee uses several factors when determining team assignments. Most years, there are multiple teams for several divisions. However, we cannot commit to a specific number of teams or the skill level for each until we evaluate the players.

The number of teams and associated player assignments will be made based on the following:

- Individual Player evaluations
- Quantity and skill level of Overall Players eligible for each Division
- Quantity and skill level of Pitchers eligible for each Division
- Quantity and skill level of Catchers eligible for each Division

For 10U, all accepted players will practice together for the first few practices of the Fall Ball season. Player team assignments will occur after these series of practices. We intend for team assignments to occur by early September.



At times, the “core” of a previous year’s team may be kept together. However, this is not always the case and should not be expected. As is typical with travel/competitive sport programs, friend requests are not considered. There are also no guarantee players will be placed with girls in the same grade. Placement is based on the criteria above and what is best for each player and the overall program. Coaches and their assignments for 2027 have not yet been determined.

All decisions regarding acceptance into our program are made by our coaches and trusted external advisors. No single individual does, or can, make roster decisions on his or her own.

Contact Us

If there are any questions, please reach out to any member of our Spartan Travel committee or email us at travel@northbrooksoftball.com.