



# YOUTH SOFTBALL

REGISTRATION FEB. 23 - APR. 18

GRADES 1-4

MEMBERS  
\$68

COMMUNITY  
\$93

**YOUTH SPORTS COMPLEX**  
3301 Prairie Avenue. Beloit, WI 53511

[statineymca.org/softball](http://statineymca.org/softball)

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION:

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First Name Last Name School

Grade as of Registration Day (circle one) 8u (Grades 1-2) 10u (Grades 3-4)

T-Shirt Size (circle) YS YM YL YXL Adult S Adult M Adult L Adult XL

Pant Size (circle) YS YM YL YXL Adult S Adult M Adult L Adult XL

## PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION:

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First Name Last Name Phone Number Email

Interested in Volunteer Coaching? [ ] Head Coach [ ] Assistant Coach Coach Shirt Size: .....

### PHOTO NOTICE

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# BATTER UP!

GRADE-LEVEL SOFTBALL LEAGUE

## IMPORTANT DATES

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Feb. 23</b>       | Registration opens   |
| <b>Apr. 19</b>       | Registration deadline  |
| <b>Apr. 28 or 30</b> | <b>Mandatory Coaches' Meeting</b><br>6:00pm @ Ironworks Branch     |
| <b>May 15</b>        | All players should have been contacted by their coach by this date |
| <b>May 18</b>        | Practices may begin this week                                      |
| <b>Jun. 9</b>        | League games begin   |
| <b>Jun. 23</b>       | Picture Day  |
| <b>Jul. 2</b>        | No games   |
| <b>Jul. 25-26</b>    | End of season tournament (10u)                                     |
| <b>Jul. 26</b>       | Final game (8u)  |

***All coaches are required to attend a mandatory coaches' meeting, where we will share how our program works, rules and regulations, and practice drills.  
Softball Coaches' Meeting: April 28th or 30th - 6:00pm @ Ironworks Branch***

# COMMITMENT TO CHARACTER



## CORE VALUES

**Caring** - We expect athletes, coaches, officials, and parents to remain committed to their team, teammates, themselves, and the integrity of the sport while at practice, before, during, and after games, and at all times. Sports, at their core, are about commitment.

**Honesty** - We are dedicated to an equal and fair standard. This happens when athletes, coaches, officials, and parents are honest at all times. In the end, cheaters never win and winners never cheat.

**Respect** - We expect all athletes, coaches, officials, and parents to be treated with dignity at all times. The experience is the focus, not the outcome.

**Responsibility** - We hold athletes, coaches, officials, and parents responsible for their actions. It is vital that everyone is following the rules and conducting themselves with, Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility at all times.

## THE FOUR PLAYER VALUES

**Caring** - I will demonstrate caring to my sport and my teammates by practicing and playing to the best of my ability at all times.

**Honesty** - I will live out honesty by playing by the rules; I won't complain to the officials.

**Respect** - I will be respectful to my teammates, the coaches, and the officials by treating them how I would like to be treated.

**Responsibility** - I understand that actions have consequences and I pledge to take accept the consequences for my actions at all times.

## THE FOUR COACH VALUES

**Caring** - I will show my players I care by being prepared for practices and games.

**Honesty** - I demonstrate honesty by upholding the rules, regardless of the outcome.

**Respect** - I will respect each player and strive to help players' development individually and as a team. I will ensure that all players are respected by myself, teammates, and parents. Ensuring everyone has equal opportunity to learn and develop is one of my most important roles as a coach.

**Responsibility** - I understand the responsibility of being a coach and the impact my choices have on players and parents. I am a role model for all players and parents, and I will not only follow the rules-I will uphold them at all times.

## THE FOUR PARENT VALUES

**Caring** - I will show my player that I care and support him/her by encouraging development both on and off the field/court.

**Honesty** - I will be a good role model for my player and their teammates by demonstrating honesty, regardless of the outcome.

**Respect** - I will respect all players, teammates, coaches, and officials at all times and understand that

this level of play is focused on fun, fair play, and development.

**Responsibility** - I understand that my player will demonstrate the same level of responsibility I have. Therefore, I will follow the rules and policies for the sport in which my player is participating, and will accept responsibility for my actions.

# FAQ's



## **What age groups does YMCA softball serve?**

Our softball league is for players in grades 1-4.

## **How do I determine my player's "league age"?**

Register your child based on their current grade. No player is allowed to play up or down a division.

## **When does registration begin and where can I register?**

Registration officially opens on February 23rd. You can register online at [statelineymca.org/softball](http://statelineymca.org/softball) or in-person at the Ironworks Branch or Roscoe Branch of the Stateline Family YMCA.

## **What softball programs are offered for each age group?**

8U (grades 1-2): This league will be a coach pitch league only. Each player will receive five underhand flat pitches from their coach. If one of those pitches are not put into play an out will be recorded. The pitching rubber will be at 30' and the bases at 50'.

10U (grades 3-4): This league consists of live fastpitch. Girls have an opportunity to pitch, but there are no walks in this league. Instead of a walk, the coach will come onto the field to pitch to their player so that the games can move along and everyone gets their needed reps. The pitching rubber will be at 35', and the bases at 60'.

## **What does the player fee cover?**

Each player's fee covers only a portion of the expenses we incur to operate our leagues (team equipment, uniforms, umpires, grounds crew wages, grounds keeping equipment, concession stand supervisors, janitorial services, etc.). We cover the rest of our operating expenses with support from a combination of sources, including our donors, team sponsors, on-field advertisers, concession stand operations, and tournament hosting activities.

## **Is my child on the same team she was last year?**

Not necessarily. Teams will be formed by schools. Depending on registration numbers, some teams may be comprised of one or more schools.

## **Do parents need to volunteer in the concession stand or in any capacity?**

Our concession stand is fully staffed, so you can sit back and relax while watching your child's game! We do however, depend on volunteer coaches for our program. Our program is a very large program and the need for motivated and dedicated volunteers is constantly growing. If you are interested in coaching, please contact Kobe at [khollenbeck@statelineymca.org](mailto:khollenbeck@statelineymca.org) or contact the YMCA at 608-365-2261

## **Does my player need to buy any equipment to play?**

The YMCA supplies all our teams with balls, 4 batting helmets, and catcher's gear. We also supply all our players with a team jersey, pants and socks; coaches receive a team T-shirt.

YMCA players generally supply their own fielding gloves, batting gloves, bats, shoes/cleats, pants, and infielder masks. We strongly encourage players also bring their own batting helmet. Please label personal equipment so that we can return it to the proper owner should your child happen to misplace it during the season!

## **When is uniform pickup?**

The complete uniform will be given to coaches this year to handout at practice.

**All coaches are required to attend a mandatory coaches' meeting, where we will share how our program works, rules and regulations, and practice drills.**

**Softball Coaches' Meeting: April 28th OR April 30th - 6:00pm @ Ironworks Branch**

## **When is picture day?**

Picture Day is June 23rd.

## **Does the YMCA cut any kids?**

No. If you register for YMCA softball, you will be placed on a team. Please note, however, that we do have limits to the number of players who can play in each league; we will close registration for those leagues as they are filled.

## **How many games do the teams play?**

In our softball league, teams play at least 12 games.

Since our leagues have an end of the year tournament, the exact number of games for each team depends on how well the team does in the tournaments. Rain outs can also affect the final number of games a team plays although, we make every attempt to reschedule any rain outs.

## **Does every player get to play?**

Yes! In each league all players will bat with a continuous batting order. No player is allowed to sit out on defense for two consecutive innings.

## **When does the season start, and how long does it last?**

Practices will begin the week of May 18th. Games will run June 9th through July 26th. Once games begin, teams will generally play two games per week, typically on Tuesday and Thursday.

## **How often will my player's team practice?**

We believe one of the most important factors in player development is regular team practices. For that reason, we encourage our volunteer coaches to practice with their teams as often as they can, subject to our guidelines that each team **MUST** practice at least once per week during the season.

Because each of our coaches have unique job situations, and because the practice fields in our area are limited, it is impossible for us to tell you exactly when your player will have practices during the season.

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

All league games are played at the YMCA Youth Sports Complex located at 3301 Prairie Ave. in Beloit.

## **Do games occur on the weekends?**

Season games are not scheduled on weekends. We will have an end of season tournament from July 25th through 26th that will involve weekend games.

## **What times are the games?**

Softball games are usually scheduled to begin at 6:00p.m.

## **What is Your Refund Policy?**

All refund requests will be at the director's discretion.

- Before practice begins: a full credit on your account will be permitted
- Once practice begins: a 50% credit on your account will be permitted. This is due to the fact that uniforms are already ordered, and teams have already been formed by this time. All refund requests are subject to the director's approval.
- Once games begin: no refunds or credits are permitted.

## BAT REQUIREMENTS

- The bat must be a softball bat which meets Little League specifications and standards as noted in this rule. It shall be a smooth, rounded stick and made of wood or a material tested and proved acceptable to Little League standards.
- The bat shall be no more than 33 inches (34 inches for Junior/Senior League) in length, not more than two and one-quarter ( $2\frac{1}{4}$ ) inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenth ( $\frac{15}{16}$ ) inches in diameter ( $\frac{7}{8}$  inch for bats less than 30 inches) at its smallest part.
- Non-wood bats shall be printed with a BPF (bat performance factor) of 1.20.
- Bats may be taped or fitted with a sleeve for a distance not exceeding 16 inches from the small end.
- Colored bats are acceptable.
- An illegal or altered bat must be removed.
- In all divisions, non-wood bat must have a grip of cork, tape, or composition material, and must extend a minimum of 10 inches from the small end. Slippery tape or similar material is prohibited.
- NOTE 1: The traditional batting donut is not permissible.
- NOTE 2: The use of pine tar or any other similar adhesive substance is prohibited at all levels of Little League Baseball and Softball. Use of these substances will result in the bat being declared illegal and removed from play.
- NOTE 3: Non-wood bats may develop dents from time to time. Bats that have cracks or sharp edges, or that cannot pass through the approved Little League bat ring for the appropriate division must be removed from play. The  $2\frac{1}{4}$ -inch bat ring must be used for bats labeled  $2\frac{1}{4}$ . The  $2\frac{5}{8}$ -inch bat ring must be used for bats labeled for  $2\frac{5}{8}$ .
- NOTE 4: An illegal bat must be removed. Any bat that has been altered shall be removed from play.