



Dear Navajo Girls Fastpitch Parents,

We hope that you and your daughter have enjoyed your softball experience so far this season. Following the regular season the league will enter its competitive All Star season, which will run from early May into late June (and possibly into July). **All interested Spring NGF players will be eligible and given full consideration during our All Star Selection process.**

The All Star program is a competitive program and completely separate from our recreational and select programs and therefore some clarification is needed. The recreational portion of our season is about instruction, learning the rules of the game, opportunities for every girl to play multiple positions and fun, whereas All Stars is about developing advanced skills, competing against the top teams in our area and instilling a winning attitude. Some players thrive in this environment, while other players (and their parents) do not. While select and All Stars are very similar in their competitive nature, they are separate teams. Your daughter's participation in select doesn't determine her participation in All Stars. Also, your daughter will have the same opportunity for All Stars if she did not play on a select team.

When determining the All Star teams, coaches will be looking for girls who have:

- Demonstrated above average softball skills this season
- Improved their abilities by regular attendance at practices and games
- Consistently projected a positive attitude, commitment, and extra hustle
- Consistently been respectful to adult volunteers, umpires and teammates
- Been proud to represent Navajo Girls Fastpitch.

Please remember NGF All Star teams will comprise the best players from our recreational teams. Your daughter may have been a standout during the regular season; however, now she will be playing with highly skilled players and may not be the best player on the team. During the All Star season, be prepared to see your daughter learn and play a new position, and spend some time on the bench.

That being said, we feel it is important to set an expectation level for the All Star season. In order to make the transition from recreational league play to competitive tournament play, please keep the following commitments in mind.

### **Players MUST:**

- Attend all practices, games, team meetings and gatherings, prepared and on time.
- Understand the possibility of sitting on the bench and accepting whatever role the coach sees for them in the overall strategy of the game.
- Be willing to play positions that are unfamiliar to them.
- Think more about the team than themselves and understand that one player's success is everyone's success.
- Uphold the Navajo name by showing good sportsmanship before, during and after games, win OR lose.

### **Players must NOT:**

- Sulk, pout or generally be unhappy about positions or playing time on the team.
- Make negative comments about their teammates or coaches.
- Make negative comments to opposing players, coaches, parents, umpires or anyone else attending a game.

### **Parents MUST:**

- Avoid the tunnel vision focus on their own daughter and look instead at the whole team.
- Consider the team's success as a success for your daughter and a rewarding experience regardless of her role.
- Support the coaching staff regardless of personal feelings.

### **Parents must NOT:**

- Approach a coach before, during or after a game to discuss issues relating to their daughter, other than to report an injury or other non-playing issue
- Discuss playing time, positioning, batting order, player statistics or game strategy at any time.
- Discuss other players on the team with the coach or other parents.

It is essential the above be followed in order to develop a cohesive team and competitive players. It is critical that parents support all players and their coaches and never let the player think that her team cannot win or that the coach can't coach. A player who has no confidence in her team or her coach cannot learn to win or lose as a team and certainly will not learn from a coach being undermined by a parent. The coach's job is to teach players how to improve their skills and compete to win in a very competitive tournament environment. This is achieved by setting individual and team goals, team building exercises, development of a positive and competitive attitude and above all, teaching players that dedication and hard work will yield desired results.

Selection to a Navajo All Star team will be an honor: however, it will also be a tremendous

commitment. Players and parents should understand the commitment and be willing to meet the obligation to their team and to the league. If your daughter is selected to a team, here are a few things to remember:

### **Practices**

A very intense practice schedule will begin after the teams have been chosen. **Practices will be mandatory and teams may practice 2-3 hours every day, including Sundays.** Should a player miss 3 practices or games, her coach has the option to drop her from the team, with the approval of the Board of Directors.

### **\*\*8U Team(s)**

The 8U division, while still a time and financial commitment, is less than the other divisions. **Expect a maximum of three (3) two hour practices a week for the 8U “Gold” team.**

### **Tournaments**

It is mandatory that your daughter attend all tournament games. Tournaments will run every weekend from the middle of May until the end of June. All teams will attend a district tournament with the possibility of advancing to State (8U, 10U, 12U, 14U) and Regional(8U) or National (10U, 12U, 14U) tournaments which would mean the commitment could run through August.

### **Financial**

The individual player’s family will incur the majority of expenses related to the All Star experience. While sponsorship and fundraising opportunities do exist to offset the expenses, families should be prepared to spend *approximately* **\$400-600** per player, throughout the season. Typical expenses include: uniforms, helmets, tournament entry fees and miscellaneous expenses such as an incidental team fee determined by the team manager, Big Sister/Little Sister gifts, pictures, team parties, etc. Some tournaments may require travel and hotels which will be the expense of each family.

### **SD Summer Sizzle Volunteer Shifts**

Beginning in 2021, Navajo began hosting our own tournament during the All Star season, the SD Summer Sizzle Invitational. It is **required for EACH PLAYER** participating in All Stars, that an adult or older sibling at least 14 years of age to volunteer a 2 hour shift at the tournament. We will have many neighboring teams participating over the course of this tournament and this added help is paramount to its success.

**While the commitment to All Stars is significant, we don’t want to undersell what a**

**wonderful experience it can be for your daughter. The fond memories made during All Stars will endure long after the season is over. Sleepovers and team building parties are just part of the fun. The girls work hard and play hard.**

If your daughter is selected to a team, she will be notified on May 5, 2024. If she decides not to play on the team she is selected for, she will be **ineligible to play All Stars the following year and may owe a \$100 uniform fee. Please note that this year, uniforms will be ordered prior to team announcements and therefore the fee will be applied to anyone that is selected and decides not to play.** Should your daughter not be selected to a team you will be notified. Please let her know she did a great job. Complaints about the process, blaming other players or accusations of wrongdoing all undermine your daughter's efforts.

Finally, Navajo would like to remind our players and parents that participation in the All Star program is a privilege that requires a new level of commitment. This is a great opportunity for your daughter to take her game to another level. It is expected that our parents and players act in a way that brings respect and dignity to Navajo Girls Fastpitch. Remember, the Navajo name is on the front of your daughter's uniform and your family name is on the back.

If after reviewing all of the above information and you and your daughter are interested in her being considered for a place on an All Star team, **please send an email to our All Star Coordinator at [ngfallstars@gmail.com](mailto:ngfallstars@gmail.com) with the following information:**

- **Player's name**
- **Player's age division for the All Star season**
- **Completed All Star Commitment Form**

**The deadline for consideration for the 2024 All Stars Season is 11:59pm on Sunday, April 28th.**

Please contact the All Star/ Interleague Committee if you have any questions. They can be reached at [ngfallstars@gmail.com](mailto:ngfallstars@gmail.com)

Respectfully,  
The NGF Board of Directors