



Dear Navajo Girls Fastpitch (NGF) Parents,

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

The All-Stars program is a competitive program separate from our Recreational and Select programs. The Recreational season is about instruction, learning the rules of the game, providing opportunities for every girl to play multiple positions, and making playing softball fun. The All-Stars season is about developing advanced skills, competing against top teams in our area, and instilling a hard-work ethic and 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 does not 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-Stars 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 NGF

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

We feel it is important to set an expectation level for the All-Stars season. 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; be prepared and on time.
- Understand the possibility of sitting on the bench and accepting whatever role the coach sees for her in the overall strategy of the game.
- Be willing to play positions that are unfamiliar to her.
- Think more about the team than herself 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 her 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 that the above be followed to develop a cohesive team and competitive players. It is critical that parents support all players and coaches and never let the player think that her team cannot win or that the coach cannot 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 an All-Stars 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 an All-Stars team, here are a few things to remember:

### **All-Stars Eligibility**

- Players must have played at least 75% of their rec season games.
- Players cannot have played both select AND travel softball after January 1, 2026.
- For players currently playing both rec and travel softball (and not playing select), all travel softball activities must stop by March 31, 2026.
- For players currently playing in two USA Softball rec leagues, a declaration must be submitted no later than March 31, 2026 that declares which rec league you intend on playing for in All-Stars.

### **Important Dates for 2026**

- March 31: All travel ball activities must stop to remain eligible for All-Stars. League declaration due for players in two rec leagues.
- April 30: All-Star manager voting and selection announcements
- May 1: All-Star tryouts and team selection announcements
- May 4: Practices begin

### **All-Stars 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.

### **All-Stars Tournaments**

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

## **All-Stars Financial Commitment**

The player's family will incur the majority of expenses related to the All-Stars 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, incidental team fees determined by the team manager, Big Sister/Little Sister gifts, pictures, team parties, etc. Some tournaments may require travel and hotels, which will be at the expense of each family.

## **Summer Sizzle Volunteer Shifts**

Beginning in 2021, Navajo began hosting its own tournament during the All-Stars season: the Navajo Summer Sizzle. It is required for EACH PLAYER participating in All-Stars, that a parent/guardian/or other adult family member, or older sibling at least 14 years of age, volunteer at least one 2-hour shift at the Summer Sizzle tournament. It's a fun family softball weekend, and the Summer Sizzle needs all hands on deck to make it fun and successful. Parents are volunteering in shifts to help out and to have the ability to watch their daughters play.

## **All-Stars Try Outs - May 1**

While the commitment to All-Stars is significant, we do not 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.

All-Stars evaluations will take place on the afternoon of May 1 at the Lake Murray fields. If your daughter is selected to a team, you will be notified the day after evaluations, and the All-Stars activities will begin immediately.

If your daughter is not selected to a team, please let her know she did a great job and that it took courage to try out. Please encourage her to keep playing softball to develop her skills, advance her knowledge, and build her experience.

*"All-Stars is an amazing experience! However, not all players who try out will make a team. Our oldest daughter did not make a 10U team the first year she tried out, which was quite upsetting for her. However, it motivated her to put in the extra work the following year. She is now excelling in her softball journey." - Crystal Foley, mother of two All-Stars veteran players*

If your daughter 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.

## **All-Stars Application - April 1 to 22, 2026**

If after reviewing all of the above information, you and your daughter(s) are interested in her being considered for a place on an All-Stars team, please fill out the online All-Stars Player Application (Google Form), which includes:

- Player's name
- Player's age division for the All-Stars season
- All-Stars Commitment agreement

The deadline for consideration for the 2026 All-Stars Season is 11:59pm on Sunday, April 22, 2026.

Please email [\*\*ngfallstars@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:ngfallstars@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

The NGF Board of Directors