

Hello softball families,

Oh, how we've missed you! First and foremost, it goes without saying that we all hope you, your family and friends are safe and well. Believe it or not it is that time of year again when we look to spring, start selecting coaches and having girls tryout for drafted teams as well as sign up girls for recreational teams.

We have a couple of important changes for spring. The first is how we are going to handle registration and the second is a slight reorganization in the divisions that the girls play in.

PLAYER REGISTRATION

Registration has started a little later this year than normal as the board tries to navigate these trying times. For registration, the board has decided to take a different approach than other sports leagues due to the uncertainty of what will be allowed in terms of youth athletics in the spring. We will open registration as normal but for this season we will NOT be requiring payment upfront. Instead we will ask for payment when we have affirmation from the county that we will be able to play in the spring. This prevents families from having to go through another refund process if the unthinkable happens and we are still shut down through spring. We want you and your girls to be excited about playing softball again and we felt that this was a great first step. Registration fees will remain the same for 2021 and those of you who have a credit from the 2020 season, your credit will carry forward to 2021.

COACH REGISTRATION

Registration for volunteer coaches for ALL divisions is open as well. A separate email will be sent out this week with more information. Please contact SRVGAL Commissioner Chris King, svgalchris@gmail.com, with any questions about coaching opportunities.

DRAFTED DIVISION CHANGES

The second change that is coming is a re-organization of the drafted divisions. The board has been working on this for the past year with the intention of implementation in the spring of 2021, so we decided to go forward. In order to fall in line with other softball leagues in the surrounding area and country we are moving away from the grade based divisions in Red and Blue and replacing with aged based divisions instead. The White division along with the 7/8 Open and High School divisions will remain a grade base division as we will explain later. The old 3rd/4th Red & Blue – 5th/6th Red & Blue – 7th/8th Red divisions will now become the 10U Red & Blue - 12U Red & Blue - 15U Red divisions.

This change will bring together girls based upon their age instead of their grade like most other sports programs. Among other things it will allow the drafted teams the

ability to have interleague play with our neighboring leagues, something we're all very excited about as it brings more diversity of play for the girls. The change will also allow those girls who wish to continue on to travel ball in the summer to do so with continuity. The white division in contrast is more about learning the game, requesting who you play with which in most cases would be your daughter's classmates, and less commitment than the drafted divisions so we decided to leave that division as is.

RED & BLUE DIVISION GUIDE:

Here is a quick guide to how your daughter will fall into the new Red/Blue Divisions:

- **10U RED & BLUE Divisions:**
 - Girls born on or after 01/01/2010
 - If your daughter is 10 years old or younger at any time in 2021

- **12U RED & BLUE Divisions:**
 - Girls born between 01/01/2008 and 12/31/2009
 - if your daughter is 12 years old or younger at any time in 2021 but not 10 years old at any time in 2021.
 - If your daughter is 10 or younger in 2021 but you feel she can compete at the 12U level you can request she be allowed to tryout at this level.

- **15U RED & BLUE Divisions:**
 - Girls born between 01/01/2006 and 12/31/2007
 - if your daughter is 15 years old or younger at any time in 2021 but not 12 years old at any time in 2021.
 - If your daughter is 12 or younger in 2021 but you feel she can compete at the 15U level you can request she be allowed to tryout at this level.

For more information please see the SRVGAL.org website.

We hope you are as excited as we are to get the girls back out there.

Sincerely,

The SRVGAL Board