



1) Canton Travel Softball – What it is?

Canton Travel Softball is a competitive summer softball program affiliated with Canton Little League Softball. Canton Travel Softball teams are registered and classified through American Softball Association (“ASA”) as “Class C” teams – the primary requirement of which is 100% of the girls reside in the Town of Canton. For the 2020 season teams will be formed in the 10U & 12U age brackets. If there are enough qualified players and coaches this will also be opened up to the 14U & 18U age brackets

2) Travel Softball Mission

Canton Travel Softball is designed to give Canton girls under the age of 18 an opportunity to play fastpitch softball at a level higher than the in-town spring recreational little league program. This is accomplished by competing in local travel league games against surrounding towns and softball tournaments. Dedicated practice time focuses on developing fundamental softball skills, instilling knowledge of advanced rules, understanding softball situations, and playing smart. Canton Travel Softball teams all operate in an environment that fosters teamwork and demonstrates good sportsmanship.

3) Player/Parent Expectations

A) Commitment

Each player is expected to be fully committed to training, developing an understanding of the game, and supporting teammates for the good of the team. With the understanding that over a 7-month period, conflicts will arise, Canton Travel Softball players are expected to be dedicated to their teams and make each practice and game a priority. Commitment is the most important component of earning the right to play. Time away during the June and July months is discouraged, as games will take place during this time.

B) Summer Season

Historically, travel teams have participated in the Hockomock league. Other local summer leagues are being considered for the 2020 season. League play is approximately 10 weeknight games followed by league playoffs over a 6-week period (Middle of June to end of July). Travel teams will practice on average once per week, typically on Sunday. Individual coaches and Canton Travel (CLL) board members will make the final decisions on which league we will play in.

C) Tournaments

Canton Travel Softball teams typically play 2 local travel, weekend tournaments during the summer season. This may vary by age group and team. Coaches will review tournament details and enter tournaments that are believed to provide good competition.

D) Playing Time/Positions/Batting Line-Up

As a competitive team, Canton Travel Softball players are expected to earn the right to play through practice and development. Canton Travel teams strive for a balance between equal playing time and designated positions. This will vary based on the following factors at the coach's discretion:

- Player's commitment to practicing and developing in a particular position
- Age group
- Level of competition
- Summer season – league games and playoff games
- Tournaments – pool play games and single elimination games

F) Winter Training

The winter training sessions are an integral component of the Canton Travel Softball program. These are essential to building the skills necessary to adequately compete in the league and tournaments. Each player is expected to attend winter practice/training sessions as part of their commitment to the team. Canton Travel teams practice indoors throughout January-March. The amount and content of the winter training may vary by each age group and team. Teams will generally practice 2 times per month and have included batting instruction with former collegiate players, open indoor field space, batting cages, etc. In addition to team practices there will be separate pitching sessions with the players that are identified as being able to handle the pitching position and also dedicated catcher training.

4) Roster/Selection Process

A) Tryouts/Evaluation Session

On an annual basis, at the conclusion of the summer softball season of the previous year, an evaluation session is held to assess each girl's skills in hitting, fielding, throwing, running, etc. (The Tryouts / Evaluations for the 2020 season will take place in late October of 2019)

B) Age Levels Description – applicable dates for 2020 season

10U – Girls must be age 10 or less on 12/31/19

12U – Girls must be age 12 or less on 12/31/19

14U – Girls must be age 14 or less on 12/31/19

18U – Girls must be age 18 or less on 12/31/19

C) Selection/Cutting

Teams shall be determined following the tryout sessions. Teams are formed by selecting girls that best complement each other in skill and commitment. Team formation utilizes a combination of inputs which include the evaluation session and prior season's input (if any). The quantity of registered girls for tryouts will be one factor in determining how many competitive teams the Canton Travel program can accommodate and support. Every effort will be made to place girls on appropriate teams. However, roster spots are not guaranteed and may not be offered to girls participating in other softball programs. Every effort will be made to **NOT CUT** players at 12U level and below. At the older age groups, cuts may be necessary and should be expected, depending on the number of participants.

The top team, or "A" team, in each division will be comprised of the top 11-12 players unless the coach feels they would like to carry additional players on the roster. The next group of players will make a second, or "B" team. A third team can be made if there are enough girls to roster a team and there is a coach available.

5) Coaches

Each year, coaches will be selected and approved by the CLL Board of Directors. Factors in the decision process include ability to provide age appropriate training, past experience, past coaches' evaluations, and commitment.

6) Code Of Conduct

Canton Travel Softball players, parents, and coaches are all under a strict zero tolerance policy regarding the Code of Conduct as adopted by Canton Little League. Any coach, player, or spectator ejected from a game will face disciplinary action and each incident is subject to review by the CLL Board of Directors.

7) Cost Structure

Cost per player will include winter training & practices, summer league play, tournaments, & uniforms. The fee to play in 2020 will be \$425.00. Registration fees will be split into two payments (\$200.00 at the time of registration and \$225.00 on 12/1/19) or the total can be paid in full at one time. Payments will be processed online. If a coach decides the best direction for his/her team is to play more tournaments we will have to consider additional fees for that team or fundraising to cover costs.