



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. For the 2021 season, teams will be formed in the 10U, 12U, 14U and 18U age brackets. As a program we are looking for opportunities to support the 8U level as well.

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 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, and most recently in the South Shore Summer Softball League which will continue to participate in. League play is approximately 10 weeknight games followed by league playoffs over a 6-week period (Mid June to end of July, possibly later in 2021 due to the staggered varsity spring softball season). Travel teams have practiced on average once per week. Canton Travel Softball teams typically play between 1-2 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 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.

*For 2021, due to the uncertainty of planning around Covid, we decided to split the Winter Skills component from the Summer registration. It is our intent to return to a combined model in 2022.

4) Roster/Selection Process

A) Tryouts/Evaluation Session

On an annual basis, in late October of the previous year, an evaluation session is held to assess each girl's skills in hitting, fielding, throwing, running, etc.*

*Per above, the 2021 evaluation will occur once Summer Travel registration concludes at the end of April.

B) Age Levels Description – applicable dates for 2021 season

10U – Girls must be age 10 or less on 12/31/2020

12U – Girls must be age 12 or less on 12/31/2020

14U – Girls must be age 14 or less on 12/31/2020

18U – Girls must be age 18 or less on 12/31/2020

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, depending on the number of participants.

The top 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 team. A third team can be made if there are enough girls to roster a team and there is a coach available. It's important to note that in softball, pitching at all levels and catching at the 12U and older levels is critical and as such, players who wish to pitch and catch may be placed on a second or third team to maximize their individual development at the position and allow all teams to be competitive.

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 summer league play, tournaments, & uniforms. 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. Fees must be paid in full online at the time of registration. Payments are processed online.