



2020 Spring Season FAQ

1. What is included with the Spring 2020 registration/sign-up fee?

6U: The player registration fee for the 6U division includes one game jersey, individual player insurance, use of team equipment, 10 weeks of practice, and 9 weeks of games (one game per week on Saturdays).

8U: The player registration fee for the 8U division includes one game jersey, individual player insurance, use of team equipment, 10 weeks of practice, 9 weeks of games (two games per week for one weeknight and one weekend game), and the end of season city tournament fees.

10U: The player registration fee for the 10U division includes one game jersey, individual player insurance, use of team equipment, 10 weeks of practice, 9 weeks of games (two games per week for one weeknight and one weekend game), and the end of season city tournament fees.

12U: The player registration fee for the 12U division includes one game jersey, individual player insurance, use of team equipment, 10 weeks of practice, 9 weeks of games (two games per week - double headers), and the end of season city tournament fees.

14U: The player registration fee for the 14U division includes one game jersey, individual player insurance, use of team equipment, 10 weeks of practice, 9 weeks of games (two games per week - double headers), and the end of season city tournament fees.

2. What does the “U” in 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, and 14U mean?

The “U” after the number stands for the word “under”. For example, 6U stands for ages 6 and Under; 8U stands for ages 8 and Under - and so on.

3. What ages may play and how do I know which age division to register my daughter in?

Registration is open to all girls ages 4 ½ - 14. The division/age requirements are as follows:

6U division allows girls ages 4 ½ - 6 years old as of December 31st of the previous year of play.

8U division allows girls ages 7 & 8 years old as of December 31st of the previous year of play.

10U division allows girls ages 9 & 10 years old as of December 31st of the previous year of play.

12U division allows girls ages 11 & 12 years old as of December 31st of the previous year of play.

14U division allows girls ages 13 & 14 years old as of December 31st of the previous year of play.

4. My daughter has never played softball before. Can she play in a younger division?

Players may opt to play up or down one age division. For example, it may be necessary, due to safety or coaching considerations, to allow players lacking sufficient softball experience to be placed in a lower age division. The player must be within one year of the lower division in which they are to play and understand that players playing down a division are not eligible for All-Star consideration. Players playing up a division are eligible for All-Star consideration in the division in which they played.

5. What do the registration/sign-up fees go towards?

Each player's spring 2020 registration fee covers each player's total cost to play for the entire season. Some examples of the costs per team are: practice and game field rental fees, umpire fees, insurance costs, uniform costs, team equipment usage & maintenance

6. Are there any registration/sign-up fee discounts available?

Yes. One military discount per family per season and one returning player discount per player per season are available. Military and returning player discounts may be combined each season. Interested in being a head coach? We offer a head coach discount (applied at the completion of the season).

7. Do you offer scholarships to cover player registration fees?

Occasionally, scholarships may be available to help offset the cost of player registration fees. Scholarships are funded by donations and may be available only after the league receives a financial donation.

8. When is the last day to register?

The registration period begins 12/6/19 and ends 1/13/20. We recommend signing-up as soon as possible because teams are filled on a first come first serve basis regardless of returning player status. For each division, a wait list will automatically kick in once a "team" becomes full. Once the waitlist fills, an additional "team" will then be automatically created.

9. What is the non-volunteer fee?

Vail Fast Pitch Girls Softball relies on volunteers for our girls to play each season. Without the help of our dedicated volunteers, we would have to hire coaches for pay in which player registration fees would be much higher. In hopes of keeping player fees down, a \$10 non-volunteer fee will be assessed to each family that does not sign-up to volunteer while registering their player. This fee will be assessed each season per family, not per player.

10. Are there additional fees throughout the season?

No. There are no additional player fees, however, individual and team photos will be optional and available for purchase.

11. What personal equipment do I have to buy for my player?

Each player must have her own age appropriate softball glove, softball cleats* (no metal spikes), and a water bottle. 8U, 10U, 12U, & 14U players must also have their own fielder's face-mask. **We also highly recommend purchasing a softball batting helmet with a face-guard and chin strap for your player for proper individual fit**, however, players are not required to have their own as these will be provided for players to use.

*cleats are optional for the 6U division

12. My daughter may not be able to make it to every practice. Will she still play in games?

For the younger players, Vail Fast Pitch Girls Softball League is designed to encourage girls to grow and learn to play softball rather than an "always have to win" mentality. Of course winning is great, however, we feel that teaching girls to play and grow self confidence in themselves through learning to play softball is our priority. With that comes winning. All girls in the 6U and 8U divisions will have equal playing time and rotation in games regardless of how many practices they've attended nor their skill level.

The 10U, 12U, and 14U divisions are more competitive and demand consistent attendance at practice and games from each player. The more that players attend practice, the more game play they will experience. Field positions and batting order will not be rotated equally in these divisions. For safety and competitiveness, players will be placed in positions based on their skill level. The head coach of each team will have the ultimate say in the lineup and the positions.

13. When and how long is the Spring 2020 Season?

The Spring 2020 Season will be approximately 12 weeks long (10 weeks of practice while playing games for 9 weeks followed by 2 weeks for the tournament time). Practice will begin the beginning of March with games starting mid-March . The 6U season runs approximately 3/1/20 - 5/2/20. The 8U, 10U, 12U, and 14U division(s) season runs approximately 3/1/20 - 5/16/20, including the end of season tournament.*

* One team per division will compete in the tournament.

14. Where and when are practices held?

6U, 8U, & 10U: All practices are located at various schools throughout Vail, AZ. Practice location, days, times, and frequency will be determined by each team's head coach.

12U & 14U: Practices may be held at various schools in Vail, AZ or at Purple Heart Park or at Lakeside Park in Tucson, AZ.

*Most often, 6U teams practice one to two times per week for one hour per practice. 8U, 10U, 12U, & 14U typically practice twice per week for one and a half to two hours per practice. Practices are held on weeknights and often occur between 5:00PM and 7:00PM.

15. Where are games held?

Games will be held throughout Tucson and sometimes Vail. Softball fields that games are most commonly played at are as follows:

Morris K. Udall Park	Chuck Ford Lakeside Park
Jesse Owens Park	Purple Heart Park
Juhan Park	Canyon Del Oro Riverfront Park
a few schools throughout the Vail school district	Sam Lena Park

16. What teams/leagues does Vail Fast Pitch Girls Softball compete against?

Vail Fast Pitch Girls Softball is one of six leagues affiliated with Baja Arizona Softball Association (Baja). Games are played against the following leagues: El Rio Fast Pitch; Las Niñas Fast Pitch, Oro Valley Fast Pitch; Sahuaro Fast Pitch; and Tanque Verde Fast Pitch.

17. What game play rules does Vail Fast Pitch Girls Softball follow?

Vail Fast Pitch Girls Softball adheres to Baja and USA Softball play rules.

18. Do you need any coaches?

Vail Fast Pitch Girls Softball is always looking for parent/family volunteer coaches. Each team needs 1 head coach, 1 manager, 1 assistant coach, 1 team parent, and 1 team scorekeeper. All team staff must pass a background check prior to interacting with the players.

19. What player documentation do I need to provide when registering/signing up?

Each player must provide a copy of her birth certificate to the league to keep on file for insurance and tournament purposes.

Every player must have a signed Spring 2020 Code of Conduct Form on file prior to the start of each season. The form may be found on the league website under the FORMS TAB.

20. Will my player or I be required to participate in fundraising activities or run the snack bar?

No. Vail Fast Pitch Girls Softball does not require player/family participation in fundraising and there is no snack bar participation requirement nor fee.

21. My player played last season and would like to return to the same team with the same coach. Is she guaranteed a spot with her previous team or coach?

6U division: Players in the 6U division may request teammates and coaches with whom they want to play with. Requests are not guaranteed but we will do our best to accommodate.

8U - 14U divisions: Beginning at the 8U level, our philosophy is to establish balanced teams so that softball games will be competitive among teams in each division. All 8U-14U teams will be rostered using a draft method. Players in the 8U-14U division may request to be teamed with a buddy or they may request to play for their previous coach. There is no guarantee that buddy/coach requests will be granted but we will do our best to accommodate requests.

22. Is Vail Fast Pitch a charitable non-profit organization and may I make a tax deductible donation?

Yes. Vail Fast Pitch Girls Softball is recognized by the IRS as a charitable nonprofit organization in which donations made to Vail Fast Pitch are tax deductible. Please email vailfastpitch@gmail.com to inquire.