

# **Encino–Sherman Oaks Girls Softball All-Star Information Packet**

## **Overview**

ESO's spring season came to a close this past Saturday, April 27th, and now that the spring season has ended, the All-Star season begins.

Starting in early May, ESO's All-Star teams will begin practicing in preparation for tournament season. The All-Star teams will begin playing tournaments on Friday, May 10th and will continue through early July.

All-Star season is a tremendous opportunity for your daughter to experience a higher level of softball competition than the typical recreational season. Plus, she will get to experience being a part of the larger, thriving, softball community in the San Fernando Valley and Southern California.

## **Commitment**

Beginning in May and running through the last days of B-league or C-league states in early July, families that make the All-Star commitment are expected to make a full commitment to All-Star softball. Participation in other activities (other sports, family vacations, etc.) that will directly conflict with an All-Star player's availability will be considered by the league when selecting All-Star teams.

## **Eligibility**

For your daughter to be eligible for All-Stars, you must register for the All-Star interest list on our website by April 30<sup>th</sup>. There is no cost to sign up for the interest list. If you wish to remove your daughter from consideration for All-Stars, please email us at [info@esogirlssoftball.com](mailto:info@esogirlssoftball.com) with your request to remove your daughter from the interest list.

All-Star managers will be selected by the board the week of April 24<sup>th</sup> and will be announced to the league via email and a post on our website. You will have until April 30<sup>th</sup> to remove your daughter from the interest list if desired.

If you remove your daughter from our All-Star program after teams are selected, your daughter will be ineligible for our All-Star program both this summer **and** next summer.

The following are the age eligibility rules for All-Star players:

- 6U: Players born on or after September 1, 2016
- 8U: Players born on or after September 1, 2014
- 10U: Players born on or after September 1, 2012
- 12U: Players born on or after September 1, 2010

A player must meet the age eligibility rules listed above to play on an All-Star team, regardless of which division she played during spring season.

### **Team Selection**

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, managers in each division will begin selecting the All-Star teams for that division. An All-Star team is typically made up of 11-12 players. Therefore, if there are 22 or more players that have registered on the interest list, it is possible that multiple teams will be selected for a division.

### **Gold, Silver and Bronze Teams**

The first team selected in a division is referred to as the Gold team. The second team is the Silver team. The third team is the Bronze team.

Once the Gold team has been selected, the managers will determine if enough pitching and catching (and coaching) exists to form a Silver team. The process is repeated once the Silver team is selected, to determine if a Bronze team can be formed.

### **All-Star Tournaments**

Softball leagues throughout Southern California host All-Star tournaments each weekend beginning in May and running through mid-to-late July (ESO will be hosting its All-Star tournament, Summer Slammer, on May 17-19).

To compete in a tournament, a team must usually be an official league All-Star team (Gold, Silver, or Bronze) and pay the tournament entry fee. Tournament entry fees typically range between \$500-\$650.

All-Star teams compete against similar teams from other leagues. So ESO's 10U Gold team will play against other 10U Gold teams. The 10U Silver team would play other 10U Silver teams, etc.

Most All-Star tournaments offer a 3-game guarantee (some have a 4-game guarantee). This usually means that an All-Star team will play two games on Saturday. Then, based on their record from Saturday, they are seeded into an elimination bracket on Sunday. If they keep winning on Sunday, they keep playing. A team could play up to 4 games on Sunday, if they keep winning. Some tournaments will have Friday afternoon/evening games (generally limited to local teams that do not have to travel very far).

The champions and runners-up in each division usually receive trophies or rings following the championship game. Most tournaments also provide "spirit awards" to each team to hand out after games. Following a tournament game, both teams will typically line up around the pitcher's circle and each team's manager will give a spirit award to a player on the opposing team that distinguished herself in some way during the game. In 6U, every player typically gets a participation medal or trophy (in addition to the trophies awarded to the 1st and 2nd place teams).

### **Championship Tournaments**

USA Softball holds District, State and National Championship tournaments for recreational leagues in the 8U and up age divisions (there are no championships for 6U).

ESO is currently classified by USA Softball as a “B” recreational league, which is the highest classification for a recreational league. That means that all of our Gold teams will compete in the “B” District tournament. The one exception this year is for our 12U division. Our 12U team has been designated as a “C” level team, at least for the beginning of the All-Star season. Our 12U team, along with silver teams in other divisions, will compete in the “C” District tournament.

The top five or six teams at each District tournament advance to the State tournament.

### **Schedule**

All-Star practices begin on May 5th. At the All-Star manager’s discretion, practices may be scheduled for every day during the week and on weekends when tournaments are not being played. All-Star players are expected to make every reasonable attempt to participate in all team practices and events during the All-Star season.

For the 2024 All-Star season, the following is the tentative tournament schedule:

- May 10-12: Moorpark Tune-Up Tournament
- May 17-19: ESO Summer Slammer Tournament
- May 24-27 (Memorial Day Weekend): PYL All-Star Summer Classic Tournament
- May 31-June 2: Camarillo Jessica Mendoza Tournament
- June 7-9: Ventura Breeze All-Star Tournament & West Valley Jessica Roberts Memorial Tournament
- June 14-16: Simi Valley Amanda Father’s Day Classic (“B” Teams) & C-Districts (“C” Teams)
- June 21-23: B-Districts
- June 28-30: “C” States (if qualified)\*
- July 4-7: “B” States (if qualified)\*

### **Cost and Fundraising**

We are currently figuring out the exact costs for the All-Star program, but we estimate it will be \$550-\$650 for 8U and up, and \$400-\$500 for 6U. All-Star fees cover registration fees for all tournaments, two uniforms (one uniform for 6U), practice shirts, and insurance. No part of the All-Star registration is kept by the league. If teams participate in Districts and advance to States, the fee will be the teams responsibility to pay.

\$50 of every registration is considered a volunteer deposit for our Summer Slammer tournament to pay for snack bar and field maintenance staffing. Each All-Star team will be assigned a field for maintenance during our tournament, but we have more fields to maintain than we have teams. A parent who volunteers in the snack bar or volunteers for field maintenance of the extra fields will have their \$50 deposit returned to them after our tournament.

There are additional items that many All-Star players may want to purchase, especially first time All-Star players. These include equipment bags and helmets. These expenses are not included in the registration fee, but they are entirely optional and not required for any family to purchase.

While ESO will not host a fundraiser for All-Stars, every All-Star team is allowed to do any fundraising they choose to for their team. This can include finding sponsors for the team or selling goods. From a fundraising standpoint each team will operate as its own entity and will decide among themselves which fundraisers to do and what expenses to apply fund to.

### **Playing Time**

It is entirely up to the All-Star manager which players play which positions, which players will be substitute players, which players bat in a certain order, etc. Each All-Star player must understand that she may not play in the position she has been playing during the regular recreational season and that she might not play at all in a game. All players **AND PARENTS** are expected to support the team regardless of the amount of playing time a player may receive.

### **Uniforms**

All-Star teams (except 6U) purchase two uniforms, one for Saturday and one for Sunday. 6U teams only purchase one uniform.

### **All-Star Program Participation Disclosures**

As you evaluate your daughter's participation in the 2024 All-Star program, it is crucial to understand the following points regarding the selection process for the All-Star teams. Your agreement to these terms is mandatory for your daughter's consideration for any All-Star team:

- **No Guaranteed Placement:** There is no guarantee that any player will be drafted onto a specific All-Star team, regardless of their performance in past seasons, previous participation in the All-Star program, or the teams they were affiliated with. The selection process is designed to assess current season performance and fit for the team based on objective criteria and manager assessments.
- **No Promises Before Selection:** No person, manager, coach, or league official can guarantee or promise a player a spot on an All-Star team before the official All-Star selection meeting. Any such promises are invalid and should not be considered as influencing the official selection process.
- **Openness to Team Placement:** By signing up on the interest list, parents and players acknowledge that there is no option to sign up with the expectation of being placed on a specific team. In scenarios where multiple teams per division may be formed, players will be added to a team based on the selection process outlined by the league. Parents and players agree to accept placement on any team that the player is selected for, recognizing the honor and opportunity to participate in the All-Star program.
- **Commitment to Team:** By agreeing to these terms, you commit to supporting your daughter's participation in the All-Star team she is selected for, including attendance at practices, games, and any related team activities. The focus is on promoting teamwork, sportsmanship, and the competitive spirit of the game.