

Geneva Park District

Youth Softball Leagues

The Geneva Park District's Youth Softball is designed as a comprehensive program for girls in grades 2-8. It is much more than a sports league; it is a program that requires a lot of energy from a thoughtful, creative, concerned group of parents and volunteer coaches.

Youth having fun is the key. That key opens doors to friendships, individual physical skills, personal values, and closer families.

The softball leagues involve practice, fair play discussions, games and family involvement. It starts with a team of young players and a volunteer coach. Each individual sets her goals and works toward them with the help of her teammates, coaches and family.

The role of the softball parent is very important. Your child needs your encouragement, your participation, your patience and your understanding. Winning is not everything. It is part of competition, but each child needs your help in keeping it in perspective. Each child grows at a different speed. Let each child set her own goals and then help them to reach their goals.

The experiences youth have with sports set attitudes towards sport and recreation for life. We hope the Geneva Park District softball experience will help each child learn to do her best and have fun!

Geneva Park District Youth Sports Philosophy

The Geneva Park District Youth Sports Philosophy states that every child should have a chance to play equally and fairly no matter what her skill or ability level. Our main goal is to teach your children the skills and fundamentals of softball while keeping the game fun!

Please remember to respect your child's coach and the league umpires. Coaches are individuals who are volunteering their personal time and effort to provide a safe and fun learning experience. Also, please remember that umpires are human and will make mistakes. Please respect their calls and be polite when talking to them, as they will do the same to you.

Geneva Park District

Girls' Softball Coach's Job Description

Reports to:	Athletic Supervisor
General Function:	To provide leadership as a coach and serve as a positive role model for Geneva's softball participants.
Qualifications:	<p>Must be 18 years of age or older (Head coach). Must be at least a junior in High School (Assistant coach). Must participate in the preseason coaches meetings and training including NYSCA, 1st Aid/CPR and skills (one coach per team). Must have an interest in working with young people and helping them to set and accomplish their goals. Must have basic knowledge and be willing to learn more about the sport being coached.</p>
Responsibilities:	<p>Provide an enjoyable experience that enables players to have fun. Provide a safe experience for the players Teach the fundamental sport skills and teamwork.</p>
Specific Tasks:	<p>Attend all training and coaches meetings. Set-up and attend all team practices and games. Communicate important information regarding practices and games to all players and their parents. Assume responsibility for all equipment provided for the team. Replace bases in green box and lock after practices and games. Follow emergency procedures and complete accident reports as necessary. Dress and act appropriately at all times, serving as a positive role model for youth.</p>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Program Supervisor:** Mike Contreras-Athletic Supervisor
262-2212
mcontreras@genevaparks.com
- Weather Hotline:** 232-7868 (Hotline will be updated at 4:30 pm during the weekdays and 8:00 am on the weekends)
- Practices Begin:** Week of May 25th
- Games Begin:** June 17th
- Uniform Distribution:** Coaches will receive their team's uniforms at one of their practices prior to games beginning. Once the uniforms are handed out, please have the girls try them on. If the pants do not fit, please bring them to the Geneva Park District's office between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm Monday-Friday to exchange them for a pair that does fit.
- Picture Day:** Saturday, June 19th @ Western Ave. School
Coaches will be notified of exact times prior to the date.
- Parking at Sunset:** Softball parking is located South of the main ball fiend in the baseball parking lot. This lot is the closest to the ball field. Coaches and parents are not to drive on the access path running from the West End of the lot to the field itself. This includes motorcycles. If the lot is full, there is more parking located by the community center.

Administrative Information

Program Director: Mike Contreras
Athletic Supervisor
262-2212

All Girls' Softball League coaches are volunteer coaches and are generally parents of daughters in the leagues. The Geneva Park District would like everything to go as smoothly as possible with all aspects of the league. Please keep the following suggestions in mind when dealing with the coaches.

1. **Treat the coaches with respect** → They are giving their time freely and willingly to work with your child as well as the rest of the team. Give them the courtesy to let them know when your child will miss a practice or game.
2. **Do not tell the coach how to coach** → First of all, the coach volunteered for the job, so let him/her coach. Secondly, not all people agree on how to coach the specific skills and the progression of those skills. If you disagree with the coach's techniques, please talk to the coach and find out why he/she is doing things in a particular manner. If you still disagree, pleasantly offer some suggestions or get in there and help out.
3. **Be involved in your daughter's experience** → The coach has only limited time when he/she can work with the team. Spend some time watching the practices so you can go home and work on the skills that were taught. Your daughter will benefit from the extra practice. The coach will benefit in that he/she will not have to re-teach the same skills over and over again. The team will benefit from the ability to play together better. Last, but not least, your family will benefit from spending more quality time together.
4. **Let the coach coach** → During the game, the coaches should be the only ones giving instructions to the girls. They are the ones that are teaching them what to do and how to do it together. Instructions yelled from the stands only serve to undermine what the coaches are attempting to do and, in turn, confuse the girls on the field. Support all the players playing by cheering loudly and positively, but think before you decide to make any comments to the girls, coaches, or umpires.

GUIDE TO FIELDS

The season schedule will be provided to each coach and player. Games and practices are scheduled through the Park District at various fields throughout Geneva. These are the fields that might be used this season:

- 1) **Sunset Main Field (Sun)** - Big Field behind Sunset Pool and GCC Community Center
- 2) **Sunset Backstop Field (SB)** - Small Field behind Sunset Pool and GCC Community Center
- 3) **Dryden Park Field (Dry)** - Corner of Cheever and Western Ave.
- 4) **Mill Creek # 1 Field (MC1)** - Corner of Prairie Clover Dr. and Keslinger Rd.
- 5) **Mill Creek # 2 Field (MC2)** - Corner of Prairie Clover Dr. and Keslinger Rd.
- 6) **Wheeler Park Field (Whl)** - Off of Stevens St. down Wheeler Dr. Near Geneva Senior Center
- 7) **Esping Park Field (Esp)** - Take 38 East to Briar Ln. Make Right and follow to end of road
- 8) **Kay Lovett Field (Kay)** - Behind Delnor. Turn on Fisher Dr. Turn on Larrabee Dr. Follow to End.
- 9) **Logan Field (Log)** - Corner of Logan Ave. and Gray St. – H.S. Field # 4

The schedule will identify where each practice and/or game is located.

**GENEVA PARK DISTRICT
PONY-TAIL GIRLS' SOFTBALL (2nd – 3rd Grade)
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. Game time is Forfeit Time. Each team must have 8 girls to start the game. Games will not be rescheduled due to lack of players.
2. All games are 6 innings. The HOME team shall take 10 minutes of infield practice at 25 minutes before game time and the VISITING team will take 10 minutes of infield practice immediately after the home team. The HOME team is listed first on the schedule.
3. Games will be no longer than 1 1/2 hours in length. If time runs out in the middle of the inning, the inning will be completed before the game is called.
4. 4 innings is considered an official game.
5. **No running score will be kept.** Skill development and teamwork will be emphasized during the games.
6. A maximum of 5 runs per team per inning will be allowed. The coach whose team is playing defense is responsible for counting the number of runs for the offensive team.
7. There WILL NOT be an umpire at the field. Coaches are responsible for calling plays on the field.
8. Once an infielder or shortcenter fielder has control of the ball in the infield (dirt area of field) baserunners may not advance; base runners should be sent back, unless the runner has already made a commitment, halfway, to the next base.
9. Coaches will pitch to their own team. 3 strikes will count as an out. No balls will be counted. Coaches are allowed to be on the field to instruct their players.
10. An "Official 11 inch" softball will be supplied for each game. Home team retains the game ball. Home team is also responsible for putting away the bases at the end of the game.
11. There is no infield fly rule. No bunting will be allowed. There is no stealing allowed. No dropped third strike. Girls may slide if they wish. If there is a close play at home plate, girls must slide. Runners can advance one base on an overthrow.
12. A base runner may not leave the base until the pitched ball has crossed home plate.
13. 10 players on the field, 4 outfielders. The shortcenter fielder is considered an outfielder that must play behind 2nd base.
14. Each girl must be in the batting order even though she may not be playing the field.
15. Each girl must play at least three entire innings. (exceptions: game is called due to weather or time)
16. Players may not play any one position for more than 4 innings during each game.
17. Each player must play all positions during the course of the season.
18. The strike zone is from the knees to the armpit across the plate. There is no minimum or maximum arc required on the pitches.
19. If a pitch hits a player, it will count as a ball.
20. Helmets must be worn by all batters (includes on deck) and baserunners.
21. Catchers must wear full equipment (mask, chest protector, shin guards).
22. All players must wear their complete uniform.
23. A player who misses a game or practice without a pre-excused reason will sit the first two innings of the next game and will be placed at the end of the batting order. Players must contact the head coach to notify him/her that they will not be attending the practice/game.
24. Coaches are responsible for their players and spectators. All problems should be referred to the Athletic Supervisor at the Geneva Park District.

Parent Responsibilities

Responsibilities to the Child

1. Find out what your child wants from sport with respect to their sport participation. Most children want the opportunity to choose, first whether to participate at all, and then in which sport and at what level of competition. They want to set their own participation goals.
2. Parents should provide a supportive atmosphere conducive to their children's participation. What parents must be alert to; however, is the subtle difference between creating a positive atmosphere for sport participation and pressuring or nudging their children into sports.
3. Parents are responsible for determining when their children are ready to begin playing sports, for setting limits on their participation, and for ensuring that the conditions for playing are safe.
4. Parents need to protect their children from abusive coaches. They should know what kind of person they are turning their children over to. They should evaluate whether coaches conduct themselves in ways that are beneficial to their children. Parents always have the right to approach the program director about conditions that could be physically or psychologically harmful.
5. Parents have the enormous responsibility to help their children develop realistic expectations of their capabilities in sports. This means that parents must have realistic expectations about their children. Children with unrealistically high expectations are often frustrated in sports, for even when they perform near their capabilities, their aspirations remain unfulfilled.
6. Parents have the responsibility to help their children interpret the experiences associated with competitive sports. Parents particularly can help children understand the significance of winning and losing.

Responsibilities to the team

1. Parents should cooperate with the team's coaches by turning their child over to the coaches and supporting their actions as long as they are providing a physically and psychologically safe environment.
2. Parents are responsible for informing the coaches of their child's physical and mental condition whenever this condition may place the child at risk. Parents should inform the coach of any allergies or special health conditions their child has. Parents should also make sure their child brings any necessary medications to competitions and practices.
3. Parents need to make sure that their children behave when participating in the sport and discipline them when they do not. When a child misbehaves, parents should grant coaches the right to discipline the child within reasonable limits.
4. Parents should provide the equipment their child needs to play the sport safely. They also need to be sure the equipment stays in good repair and is used properly by their child.
5. Parents should behave appropriately as spectators. (Look at the following page)
6. Parents should feel obliged to help conduct the sport program in which their child participates. There are many ways to help out that do not take a lot of time.

Kids Speak Out: Violence In Youth Sports

S.I. FOR KIDS received more than 3,000 reader-survey responses from its May, 2001 story “Kids Speak Out” Violence In Youth Sports.” Here’s what youngsters had to say:

Is it fun to play organized sports? Yes: 96% No: 4%

Do you think there is too much violence in youth sports? No: 57% Yes: 43%

Have you seen out-of-control adults at any of your games? Yes: 74% No 26%

What kind of bad behavior have you seen?

Parents yelling at kids: 37%

Parents yelling at coaches or officials: 27%

Coaches yelling at officials or kids: 25%

Violence by adults: 4%

What usually causes the outbursts?

Questionable calls by an official: 53%

How you or your team is playing: 22%

Something a coach says or does: 7%

Something a parent says or does: 7%

Who loses control most often?

Coach: 56%

Players: 27%

Dad: 12%

Mom: 5%

What emotion do you feel most when adults misbehave at a game?

Embarrassment: 36%

Disappointment: 25%

Anger: 23%

Fear: 16%

Do you think violence and trash-talking in pro sports influences kids?

Yes: 64% No: 36%

What’s the best way to get parents to behave?

Have their kids tell them to relax: 48%

Ban them from games if they can’t control themselves: 36%

Have them sign a code of conduct: 15%

Source: Sports Illustrated For Kids, August, 2001 issue

SOFTBALL SEASON

The Geneva Park District hopes that your child has a very enjoyable season playing softball and that they learn many new skills and fundamentals. Below are important policies and procedures for yourself and your child to be familiar with as you head into the season.

Your child should:

1. **BE ON TIME!** Arrive to practices or games at least 5 minutes before the scheduled start time.
2. Make a commitment to go to every practice and game.
3. Listen to the coach. Players should stay on the bench while they are not playing and pay attention to what is happening on the field.

The following policies are extremely important and must be read and understood by the parents and participants.

A. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT RULE: If any player uses foul/vulgar language, throws/kicks equipment or behaves in any manner that is deemed detrimental to her team, coach or league, that player will:

1st violation -- Sit out the remainder of the current game or the next scheduled game if the violation occurs at practice or after a game. The coach will notify the Supervisor and the Supervisor will notify their parents.

2nd violation -- Sit out the remainder of the game and the next scheduled game. Parents will be notified. Player must be dressed and sitting on the bench during their suspension.

3rd violation -- Be dropped from the team. Parents will be notified

B. ATTENDANCE POLICY: Any player who does not attend a practice/game without a **pre-excused** reason will forfeit equal playing time at the following game. Players must notify their coach prior to practice or game in order to be pre-excused. The reason for the absence does not have to be disclosed.

Please proceed to the Parent Code of Ethics. Please sign it and turn in to your coach before the first game.

Geneva Park District Parents' Code of Ethics

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following this Parents' Code of Ethics Pledge.

I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice or other youth sports event.

I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.

I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.

I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.

I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free of drugs, tobacco and alcohol, and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.

I will remember that the game is for youth -- not for adults.

I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.

I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.

I promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectable fan, assisting with coaching or providing transportation.

I will require that my child's coach be trained in the responsibilities of being a youth sports coach and that the coach upholds the Coaches' Code of Ethics.

***This form must be signed and turned in to your coach on or before the first game. Please keep a copy for yourself and place it somewhere that is always visible.**

Parent Signature

Parent Signature

Date

EMERGENCY INFORMATION & CONSENT

*(Please fill out and give to your coach the first day of practice)
(Coaches are to hold on to these sheets in case of an emergency)*

Athlete's Name _____

Address _____

Primary Email Address _____

Phone _____

Father's Name _____

Address _____

Employer _____

Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Mother's Name _____

Address _____

Employer _____

Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Family Medical Insurance:

Carrier _____ Group _____

Policy# _____ Group# _____

Family Physician's Name _____

Physician's Address _____

Physician's Phone _____

Allergies (list): _____

Serious Medical Conditions (list) _____

I/we hereby grant consent to any and all health care providers designated by the Geneva Park District to provide my child any necessary medical care as a result of any injury/illness. This consent includes transportation to/from health care providers.

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature