



# Dynamite Document

Jan 2025

The Dynamite Document was developed to provide general information to parents, athletes and coaches about the KVGSA Dynamite Travel Team program and procedures.

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## Tryouts

- A maximum of 2 tryouts for Dynamite team selection will be held if needed. **NEW in 2024!** After the first tryout, you will receive a communication that will advise on your next step in the process. This could mean you are not required to attend the second tryout.
- Tryouts are held by a team of independent evaluators. Each player is then ranked and a final roster is chosen.
- Teams may carry up to 13 players, at the coach's discretion.
- Additional practice players or affiliates may be added at the coach's discretion.
- **NEW in 2024! Tryouts are NOT necessary outside of your age category.**
  - Each player will be assessed on their skill level overall, and not just for their age group. Following tryouts, the evaluation team takes considerable time reviewing the needs of each team, along with what is best for each player. Each player is reviewed on a case by case basis. Should the evaluation team feel a player needs to move outside their age category, for whatever reason, players and parents will be contacted.

## Schedule

- All Dynamite teams will have off season training. While KVGSA fully supports multisport athletes who play other primary sports outside of softball season, players are expected to attend their softball training unless they are attending other sport commitments, or have a family obligation. Each team will have 2-3 fall training sessions, and winter training is planned for 2-3 times per month.
- During our prime season, the time commitment expectations are:
  - U9 Dynamite Development team will usually practice weekly with their team. This team will also be enrolled in the U11 house league program, for regular weekly game play, and participate in exhibition game play 2-3 weekends throughout the season. They will also compete at the U9 Provincial Championship.
- All other Dynamite teams can expect to practice 1-2 times per week and play exhibition games throughout the season; including 2-3 tournaments with travel required, and compete in the AA Provincial Championships.
- Schedules will be provided to parents once finalized. Where Dynamite teams do not play in a league, the schedule is developed by the coach/manager team by reaching out to all other associations to host and visit. Specific weekends will be identified as "no play" weekends to allow families to schedule their vacation times around softball.

## Communication:

- Communication for Dynamite teams will come from the team manager unless delegated to another member of the team. Communication will come via email, private Facebook Group page, or another group chat forum.
- If you have a problem, concern, or issue with anything regarding your participation in the Dynamite Program, you can discuss it with your team manager. The team manager may then recommend that you submit your concern via email to [dynamite@kvsoftball.ca](mailto:dynamite@kvsoftball.ca). Any concern received will be reviewed by the KVGSA board and you will be contacted to discuss the issue.
- Coaches or individual KVGSA Board Members are not permitted to accept or address complaints that are not submitted by this method.

## Uniforms

- Uniforms consist of black ball pants, red socks, red belt, Black jersey and the primary game day Dynamite jersey.
- Players are responsible for the purchase of the pants, socks and belts on their own. Doiron Sports is an excellent softball gear supplier.
- **Black jerseys are to be purchased by the player.** These jerseys will be available for purchase in the online Dynamite store. These jerseys are yours to keep and care for while you play Dynamite. Each player is responsible for replacing their black jersey if it is damaged or no longer fits. Black jerseys are practice jerseys and can be used as a 2<sup>nd</sup> game day jersey at the coach's discretion.
- Primary Game Day Dynamite jerseys will be issued at the start of the season by the team manager. Jerseys are assigned according to fit, and not by number.
- Any players who do not return their Game Day Dynamite jersey by October 1st will be subject to a replacement fee of \$60.
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## Playing Time

- KVGSA supports the *Long-Term Player Development* model which states that for athletes under the age of 11 years old, fair play is supported. This means that U9 & U11 coaches will utilize a rotation to ensure approximate, fair playing time.
- Divisions U13 and above follow a more competitive model where playing time is based on performance, participation in practices and positive attitude. Some players at the U13, U15, U17 and U19 levels will receive more playing time than others.

## Affiliation Process

- If teams experience a shortage of players due to injury, illness, vacation, etc. teams have the option to ask players from the team in the next lower division (preferentially a 2<sup>nd</sup> year player), OR from the house (A) division at the same level. i.e. U19 may affiliate U17, U17 can affiliate U15, U15 can affiliate players from U13, and so on..

KVGSA encourages the affiliation process as a way for athletes to make a 'guest appearance' with the next higher age division or category. It provides growth and development for the athlete.

- Affiliate players will never be requested to attend a game unless they will get playing time; i.e. they should not be requested and then sit the bench for the entire game.
- Affiliates primary team practices and games must be given priority, unless they receive coach permission to attend an event with an affiliate team. An affiliate cannot attend more than 5 practices or play more than 5 games during a season (excluding provincial championships or Eastern Canadians). Any deviation from this process will require approval from the Dynamite Director.

## Provincials

- Provincial championships are typically held on a weekend in August, or early September. These are Softball NB sanctioned events and location, schedule, and rules are all provided by Softball NB.
- All players and coaches are expected to participate at Provincials.
- If additional KVGSA players are allowed/needed to assist the team at Provincials, they can be added to the team roster when registering for the event. Pick up players must come from within Region 4 (St. Stephen – Sussex). This is at the discretion of the coaches, the Dynamite Director,

and KVGSA board.

- Expenses for this event (hotel, meals, transportation) are the responsibility of the parents.
- Tournament fees will be paid by the team manager using team funds.

### **Easterns (For U13 & up)**

- To attend Eastern Canadians (Easterns), teams must finish first or second place at the Eastern qualifier tournament.
- Teams participating in the Qualifier must be prepared to attend Easterns should they qualify. Coaches will determine if their team participates in the Qualifiers if they deem it to be in the best interest of the team.
- Easterns are held in late August and are sanctioned by the Eastern Canadian Committee ([www.easterncanadian.ca](http://www.easterncanadian.ca)).
- Qualifying teams will be permitted to pick up players within NB to add to the roster at Easterns. This process is governed by Softball New Brunswick.
- Expenses for this event (hotel, meals, transportation) are the responsibility of the parents.
- Tournament fees will be paid by the team manager using team funds.

### **Association Fees**

- Every player must register with the KV Girls Softball Association using our online registration process. This fee covers:
  - Field Rentals for practices and home games
  - First aid supplies and ice packs
  - Use of league equipment (bats, balls, catcher gear, bow nets, batting tees, bases) NOTE: gloves, helmets and infielder's masks are the responsibility of the player.

### **Softball New Brunswick Insurance Fee**

- Every KVGSA participant, is also required to register with Softball New Brunswick. This fee covers comprehensive insurance coverage for the athlete, along with Provincial and Eastern eligibility.

### **Travel Team Fees**

- Each player also pays a Dynamite Travel Team Fee. This cost varies each year for each team depending on the schedule, number of tournaments and amount of travel required. It is approximately \$175.00. Some teams may also choose to fund raise, depending on what their budget looks like. The Dynamite fee is used to cover costs of:
  - Umpires for home games – up to \$100/game
  - Tournament Fees – anywhere from \$350-\$400/tournament

### **Coach Certification Requirements**

- All Dynamite coaches **must** complete “*Safe Sport*”, and “*Foundations of Softball*” training as a minimum requirement.
- At least one coach on each Dynamite team **must** be “*Competition Intro*” trained to attend Provincials Easterns. We do encourage all our coaches to continue to work on coach certifications while they are a coach in the Dynamite program.
- All Dynamite coaches **must** submit a Criminal Background Check.

### **Head Coach Expectations**

- Once their team is finalized, the Head Coach will review the applications received for the position

of Assistant Coach(es), and a Manager with the board, to finalize their choices as coaches and a manager.

- **NEW** The Head Coach is responsible for all field helpers and anyone that interacts with the team during training or games. The board needs to be advised of anyone who is going to be on the field or in your dugout. This is to protect our players and our coaches/managers.
- The Head Coach will provide leadership and technical instruction to the team. S/he is responsible to ensure a practice plan is in place for each practice. This task can be delegated to Assistant Coaches at the Head Coach's discretion, and collaboration among coaches is strongly encouraged.
- The Head Coach will ensure the gear required for practices and games is at the field. This task can be delegated to Assistant Coaches at the Head Coach's discretion.
- The Head Coach will work with the Team Manager to create the season calendar, including provincials, and allowing for one 'non play' weekend per month during the active season.

### **Assistant Coach Expectations**

- Assistant Coaches will support the Head Coach in all aspects of the game, collaborating with the head coach on strategy, line ups, player rotation, and practice plans
- Assistant Coaches may serve as the head coach as required.

### **Team Manager Expectations**

- The Manager works with the Head Coach to create the season calendar.
- The Manager oversees the team first aid kit and keeps it stocked with supplies
- The Manager will book hotel room blocks for away games.
- The Manager will oversee all team funds.
- The Manager will register and pay for tournaments
- The Manager will oversee the Team's private Facebook page, and/or other team management platform (eg. Team Snap)
- The Manager will be the first point of contact for the team.
- The Manager will collect the Dynamite Protocol forms, Dynamite fees and Birth Certificates at the start of the season.

### **Code of Conduct**

A KV Dynamite player represents KVGSA through their participation on their respective KV Dynamite Travel Teams.

### **Dynamite Player Expectations:**

- Players will attend the season start up meeting, which will be held once all teams have been selected
- Players will be role models to the other members of the association.
  - Practices where older teams lead younger teams will take place, and U15 and U17 players are eligible to volunteer with the Learn to Play program.
- Players will be respectful of their teammates, coaches, officials, and fans at all times. This includes not using foul or abusive language, taunting, arguing, or making foul gestures to an official, coach or player.
- Players will be a team player with a positive attitude, cheering and encouraging your teammates.
- Players will take responsibility for their behavior and actions, both in person and on social media.
- Players will attend every practice and game that they can and will notify the Team Manager if they cannot. It is understood that if practices are missed consistently without explanation, that a

discussion with the board will ensue, and playing time may be restricted as a result.

- Players will address coaches by their first name or “coach”, not mom or dad, where applicable.
- Players will listen and learn from coaches, and hustle always.
- Players will take responsibility to talk to coaches and parents if I have any concerns.
- Players will always put forth 100% effort in every practice and game
- Players understand that there is zero tolerance for disrespectful attitudes and bullying behavior. This includes any display of disrespect on social media.
- Players understand that there is a zero-tolerance policy for illegal substance use during team activity, i.e. drugs and alcohol and vaping
- Players will sign and adhere to the Dynamite Protocol Agreement (see attached Appendix A)

### **The expectations of all Dynamite Parents:**

- At least one parent must attend the season start up meeting, which will be held once all teams have been selected
- Parents and their guests will trust in the leadership of the KV Dynamite coaching team and will refrain from coaching their child or other players during games and practices.
- Parents and their guests will respect the officials and coaches and their authority during games and will never question, discuss or confront them at the game field.
- Parents and their guests will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting or using profane language or gestures.
- Parents will be positive role models for the players and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game or practice, and on social media.
- Parents will emphasize skill development and practice attendance and how they benefit the players and will do their best to get their child to every practice and game. Parents will notify the Team Manager if their child will be absent.
- Parents will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- Parents will sign and adhere to the Dynamite Protocol Agreement (see Appendix A).

### **Disciplinary Process:**

- Upon signing the Dynamite Protocol Agreement (Appendix A), the athlete must abide by the Team Rules for the season. Depending on the severity of the situation, the athlete will be dealt with in one of the following ways if a rule is not adhered to:
  - The athlete will be taken aside by the coaches and manager to address the issue. The behaviour will be recorded on the player’s code of conduct form.
  - The coaches will have a meeting with the athlete and their parents. The behaviour will be recorded on the player’s Dynamite Protocol form.
  - The athlete can be asked to leave the Dynamite program. Fees will not be refunded.