

KV Firecrackers Program

August 2024

This Document was developed to provide general information to parents, athletes and coaches about the KVGSA Firecrackers Team program and procedures.

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About the Firecrackers Program

The Firecrackers Program is a competitive extension of our house league program. The goal is to give girls on our 'A' teams (house league) the opportunity for additional play in up to 3 tournaments outside of our house league programs, without the bigger commitment of the travel associated with our Dynamite 'AA' Program. There may also be an opportunity for some exhibition games throughout the season as well. This program is not a replacement for house league play, but rather in addition to.

Prospects Camp

- All girls interested in joining the Firecracker Program should plan to attend our Prospects Camp, which will take place in the fall. The cost of the Prospects Camp is \$25.
- Players will be assessed for an opportunity to attend 8 (2 per month) off season development sessions at the Fieldhouse, which will run from January – April. The cost to participate in off season development in 2025 will be \$100.
- Firecracker teams will be chosen in the spring, prior to league startup.

Tryouts

- Tryouts are held in the spring by a team of independent evaluators. Each player is then ranked and a final roster is chosen.
- A maximum of 2 tryouts for team selection will be held if needed.
- Teams will normally consist of 12 players, but may carry up to 13, at the coach's discretion

Schedule

- All athletes on a Firecracker team must also be registered for and participate in the house league program in their age group. Firecracker players will be equally distributed across the house league teams, i.e. they will not play as a group in house league.
- Firecracker players will practice with their house league teams throughout the season. Additional team practice time may be available prior to heading to tournaments.
- Firecracker teams can play up to 3 weekends throughout the season, including the A division provincial championships.

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 Firecracker 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 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.

Uniforms

- Uniforms consist of black ball pants, red socks, red belt, and Red jersey.
- Players are responsible for the purchase of the pants, socks and belts on their own. Doiron Sports is an excellent softball gear supplier.
- Red Firecracker 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 Firecracker jersey by October 1st will be subject to a replacement fee of \$50.

Association Fees

- Every participant must first register with the KV Girls Softball Association using our online Registration platform. The association 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, once registered with KV Girls Softball Association, must also register with Softball New Brunswick. This fee covers comprehensive insurance coverage for the athlete, along with Provincial eligibility.

Firecracker Team Fees

- Every participant must also pay a Firecracker Team Fee. This cost varies each year for each team depending on the schedule, and the tournament registration fees. The cost should be no more than \$150.00. Some teams may also choose to fund raise, depending on what their budget looks like. The travel team fee is used to cover costs of:
 - Umpires for home games – up to \$80/game
 - Tournament Fees – anywhere from \$350-\$400/tournament
 - Water and Ice, freezies after practice, etc.

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 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.

Communication:

- Communication for your Firecracker Travel 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 Team Snap.
- If you have a problem, concern, or issue with anything regarding your participation in the Firecrackers Program, you can discuss it with your team manager. The team manager may then recommend that you submit your concern via email to admin@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.

Coach Certification Requirements

- All Firecracker coaches **must** complete “*Safe Sport*” and “*Foundations of Softball*” training as a minimum requirement.
- All coaches 18+ **must** also 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.
- 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 lead the team and Assistant Coaches on and off the field. 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.
- 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 and or assistant coaches to confirm the tournaments the team will compete in, and also ensure the team is registered for the A provincial championship.

Assistant Coach Expectations

- Assistant Coaches will support the Head Coach in all aspects of the game.
- Assistant Coaches will back up the Head Coach if he/she is not available.
- Assistant Coaches will work together with the Head Coach on strategy, line ups, player rotation and practice plans.

Team Manager Expectations

- The team manager will work with the head coach to establish the team’s season calendar, and will collect player fees to cover the cost of tournament registrations.
- The team manager will be responsible to register the team for each tournament as required.
- Prior to registering for Provincials with Softball New Brunswick, the manager will submit the team roster to the Executive Director for approval (execdir@kvsoftball.ca)

Code of Conduct

Player Expectations:

- Players will be role models to the other members of the association.
- 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

The expectations of Firecrackers Team 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 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.