

2026 GIRLS FASTPITCH SOFTBALL 8U, 10U, & 12U

<u>Registration:</u>	January 5 – February 4	\$80
<u>Late Registration:</u>	February 5 – February 8	\$90

York Parks and Recreation reserves the right to make any necessary changes or cancellations to these programs in the interest of the safety and well-being of all players, parents, officials, coaches and staff.

York Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to have your child as a participant in our girls' softball program. This information is provided to acquaint our parents with the way in which this year's program will be structured. Some of the guidelines we follow are set by the NFHS softball rules. Other rules were developed with input from our coaches and staff.

When you register your child, there are a number of forms in which you will be required to complete. These include:

1. Registration Form
2. Waiver of Liability Form
3. Parent's Code of Ethics

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Effective February 1, 2010, a copy of each participant's birth certificate must be on file with York Parks and Recreation Department no later than Monday, February 9, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. or your child will not be placed on a team. This includes participants that have played in previous seasons and other programs sponsored by York Parks and Recreation Department.

FEES/REFUNDS

Registration fees will be collected by York Parks and Recreation Department at the time of registration. Methods of payment accepted are cash, check (payable to York Parks and Recreation Department), Visa, MasterCard, and Discover. **Please note that a fee of \$2.00 will be charged to all credit card payments.** Financial assistance is available. See staff for details. Fees may be refunded less 25% administrative costs until the late registration deadline. **There will be no refunds after Sunday, February 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**

Once the registration deadline has been reached, a waiting list will be formed. Anyone on the waiting list will not be eligible for a team unless it has been deemed necessary by York Parks and Recreation Department. The waiting list will be referred to in the order that the names are received and no preference will be given to any names on the list.

AGE GROUPS

Our program is divided into (4) different age divisions: 8 & Under (ages 6-8), 10 & Under (ages 8-10), 12 & Under (ages 10-12), 15 & Under (ages 12-15). A participant's age as of December 31, 2025 determines the age division that the individual is allowed to play. All players must play in their own age group.

League Age 6 year olds have the **option** to play 8U or Coach Pitch. League age 8 year olds have the **option** to play 8U or 10U. League age 10 year olds have the **option** to play 10U or 12U. League age 12 year olds have the **option** to play 12U or 15U. This must be determined at registration. No other exceptions will be made. Once a player has been placed on a team, no changes will be made. A player may only play in **one** league and will not be allowed to play in another age group at any time during the regular season, post season and all stars. 15U registration deadline is March 22nd and Coach Pitch registration deadline is March 29th

All players who participated in the spring last year will return to their same team, provided that they remain in the same age group. All other players will enter a draft and will be selected by a team. Players who were new to an age group in the fall will be placed in the draft. The draft is designed to promote equal competition among our players. Once a player has been placed on a team, no changes will be made. **Requests for a specific team and players placed on the same team will not be accepted. The only guarantee of placement on the same team is sisters and head coach's children, provided that you make staff aware of this at the time of registration.**

If a parent does not want their child to return to the same team as the previous year, the parents must give a written explanation for the request to York Parks and Recreation Department which will be shared with the coach of the previous year's team. This request must be submitted to staff before Sunday, February 8, 2026. The player will enter the appropriate draft and her name will be placed "in the hat" and will be randomly drawn by the coaches during the draft process. The player is eligible to return to the same team as the previous year unless York Parks and Recreation Department and coaches determine that there is a serious issue and returning to the previous year's team should be avoided.

SKILLS REVIEW

All NEW players in 8U, 10U and 12U players must attend a Skills Review. Skills reviews will be held Saturday February 14th, 2026 at the Recreation Complex, 74th St. 8U skills review will be at 10:00am, 10U skills review will be at 12:00pm and 12U skills review will be held at 2:00pm. Players should bring a glove and dress for participation. Coaches will meet immediately after the skills review to conduct the draft. Participants that do not attend the Skills Review will be drafted by a team by placing their names in a "hat" and coaches may only select those players not in attendance by drawing them randomly out of the hat at any time during the draft process. Coaches will contact players concerning their team assignment and practice.

PRACTICES/GAMES

Practices may begin February 16 and are scheduled at the discretion of the coaches.

Games will be played on weekday evenings and as needed on Saturday mornings. Rescheduled games due to rain may cause teams to play 3 games in a week. In the event of inclement weather, we reserve the right to shorten the season by canceling games, adjusting the tournament lay-out or scheduling double-headers. A post-season tournament will begin immediately following the regular season.

Games will be played in York and Clover. Every effort will be made to schedule games on your home field as often as possible. Games will begin mid-March. Game times will be 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on week days and begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturdays. Please note that the second games may not begin promptly as scheduled. Please take this into consideration when registering your child.

****SCHOOL CONFLICTS****

Parents are asked to find out any school events such as concerts, field trips, etc. that will conflict with game schedule and let your coach and/or Recreation staff know no later than **Monday, February 16, 2026**. Every effort will be made to schedule games around conflicting dates provided that staff is notified prior to scheduling preparations. **Once the schedule is made, no changes will be allowed, regardless of the conflict.**

PICTURE DAY – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026 @ YORK RECREATION CENTER

All teams will have pictures taken Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at the York Recreation Center on White Rose Lane. Pictures will be taken outside at the recreation center if the weather is good. In the event of inclement weather, pictures will be taken inside the recreation center. An exact schedule of times will be given out at a later date. All players and coaches must attend for their team picture regardless if you purchase any pictures. Pictures will be taken by Sport Pix, Inc. Make check payable to Sport Pix. Please check with your coach to make sure that your team will be participating in picture day on March 25 and has not arranged for another photographer to take their pictures.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of a cancellation coaches will be notified as soon as a decision is reached, coaches will then contact their players. A decision to cancel games will not be made until as late in the day as possible. Rain out information will also be posted on our Facebook page.

MEDALS

York Parks and Recreation Department will issue medals to all participants at the conclusion of the season. If parents or coaches wish to purchase trophies on your own, we ask that you distribute them away from the playing field and away from others to avoid feelings from getting hurt. If you would like to have a team party, picnic shelters are available at no charge. The Recreation Center is available at no charge during certain weeknights. Please contact the Recreation Center at 803-684-3742 for picnic shelter availability or to reserve the York Recreation Center.

PARENT INFORMATION

Attending all practices is a very important part of any athletic program and is a very important requirement to coaches. Players that do not attend practice are not able to learn or prepare for a game. Coaches have the right not to play a participant because of not attending practice or disciplinary reasons.

If a parent is not satisfied with their child's playing time or other decisions made by the coach, parents are encouraged to first discuss these issues with the coach before or after the game or practice and not during the game or practice. York Parks and Recreation Department is also available to assist parents if there is a concern after talking with the coach.

MINIMUM PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

To ensure that every child gets a fair amount of playing time, each child is required to play at least three (3) consecutive outs on defense for 10U and 12U and six(6) outs on defense for 8U and complete one (1) time at bat. However, this rule does not apply to shortened games due to the time limit, run rule, inclement weather, etc.

Coaches are encouraged to play each child as much as possible. However, there may be situations when a child does not play in a game due to the time limit, run rule, inclement weather, etc. If a parent is not satisfied with their child's playing time or other decisions made by the coach, parents are encouraged to first discuss these issues with the coach after the game or practice and not during the game or practice. York Parks and Recreation Department staff is also available to assist parents if there is a concern after talking to the coach.

PARK RULES

1. **Warning!** Approach ball fields with caution and at your own risk.
2. No warm ups allowed between field #1 and field #2.
3. No pets are allowed in the York Recreation Complex ball field area, except for service animals, emotional support animals are not allowed.
4. Tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes are prohibited on the playing field, including dugouts. Please use the smoking depots located throughout the park.
5. Children under the age of 9 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. No running, jumping, or throwing objects around the Complex tower. Climbing in bushes and breaking limbs are prohibited.
6. Only players, coaches, and managers are allowed inside the dugouts at any field, including county fields.

York Parks and Recreation Department has adopted a "Zero Tolerance Policy". Profanity, fighting, disrespect, abusive language, threats, or alcoholic beverages will not be tolerated. Violators will be subject to suspension from all York Parks and Recreation Department sponsored programs and facilities.

York Parks and Recreation Department programs and facilities are designed to offer leisure activities for families, groups, and individuals of all ages with diversified interests. Sporting events are provided by the department as opportunities of friendly competition while promoting a spirit of good sportsmanship among participants and a pleasant environment for spectators.

Participants, coaches, team representatives, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner before, during, and after an event, or within 500 feet of City of York property and playing areas.

STAFF

York Parks and Recreation Department staff is always accessible and available to assist parents and coaches in anyway possible. If you experience a problem or a concern that needs attention please let staff know immediately. Or, please contact Chris White, Recreation Director, at 803-684-3742.

SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS

York Parks and Recreation Department welcomes input from parents, coaches, and others so that we may provide a positive learning experience for everyone associated with the girls fastpitch softball program. Please share your comments and suggestions by contacting any staff member or Chris White, Recreation Director, at 803-684-3742, or by mail to York Parks and Recreation Department, P.O. Box 500, York, SC 29745. yorkrecreation@yorksc.gov