



Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County *INSIDER* on 2020 Fastpitch Softball

Here is the PRELIMINARY (subject to change) information on the Boys & Girls Clubs Fastpitch for the 2020 spring season.

Note: By virtue of enrolling in the program, the parent and youth agree to abide by all policies, decisions, directives, procedures and rules of the Whatcom County Boys & Girls Clubs.

1. The following leagues are offered:

- 10U girls fastpitch
- 12U girls fastpitch
- For t-ball or pitching machine info, see *Insider on Baseball*

Girls' age divisions are based on December 31st, 2019. If you turn 13 on or before these respective dates you are ineligible for this league.

- 2. Program cost** for fastpitch is \$150 for the season, plus a current Boys & Girls Club membership which is \$40 annually. Fastpitch fee covers uniform, league dues, practice rentals, 10-12 games, umpires and site supervision. Membership fee covers insurance, and also gives member access to daily afterschool programs at any B&GC branch for those interested.
- 3. This program is strictly governed by the published RULES.** All Rules are enforced. Whenever a question is posed, our first response is, "What do the rules say?" The quality of your experience is dependent in large part on your coach's understanding, listening, supporting, and communicating rules and procedures. Parents are responsible for assisting the coach in these endeavors. It is the responsibility of the parent and player to abide by Club rules and to assist and cooperate with the coach at all times.
- 4. REGISTRATION** runs from February 10th–February 23rd online through Parent Portal (<https://parentportal.whatcomclubs.org/>). There will be a wait list sign up period from Feb 24th-March 1st. Wait list registrations will be opened and placed as space is available.
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- 5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:** Individual players registering for spring season softball must be able to show proof of Whatcom County residency if requested.
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- 6. REFUND POLICY:** Membership fees are non-refundable and are not prorated for any reason. Athletic Fees Refunds will be given as a credit that can be used by any child in the household for one year from the date of credit of credit and only if the participant is injured and has an excuse from a doctor stating that they are unable to participate. If the injury occurs prior to the start of practices a 50% credit will be granted. If an injury occurs after the first practice no credit will be granted.
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- 7. TEAMS:** Teams will be put together by requests then by school if there is not a request on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE basis. Roster cap is 12 or 13 depending on the division. Requests are NOT guaranteed regardless of registration order.

8. **LEAGUE:** Boys & Girls Clubs fastpitch teams play in a with teams from around Whatcom County and may travel to Blaine, Meridian, Nooksack, Lynden and/or Mount Baker for games as well as playing at their home fields. Please note that unlike other sports, B&GC does not administrate/organize this league.
9. **SPONSORS:** We are looking for sponsors for our fastpitch teams. If you know of a business that might be interested in sponsoring your daughter's team, please contact Athletic Director Hanifah McGovern for more information at hmcgovern@whatcomclubs.org or (360) 527-9777 ext 222.
10. **UNIFORMS:** Players will receive a T-Shirt and a major league or college softball replica visor. The Athletic Director will assign color and sponsor names unless previously reserved (and unduplicated) by the coach.
11. **RAINOUTS:**
 - **HOME FIELDS** (NW fields, Phillips 66): Cancellations of games because of bad weather will be decided at 4pm the day of games on weekdays. Coaches will be notified if games have been cancelled and will notify families. All rainout info will also be posted on the baseball/fastpitch pages of our website.
 - **AWAY FIELDS** (all other locations): Rain out decision will be made by the hosting organization, who will contact coaches in the event of a cancellation. Wait to hear from your coach. If you don't hear from your coach you need to show up at the field.
 - **PRACTICES** will be cancelled by coaches and not the B&GC, except in the case when the City closes fields due to bad conditions.
12. **NO TOBACCO, DRUGS or ALCOHOL** at any B&GC site or event. Please do NOT bring your PET to the fields.
13. **Kindness, courtesy and SPORTSMANSHIP are required.** We will not hesitate to act if the standards of the Club are compromised. Good sportsmanship is not extinct. Good sportsmanship begins and ends with parents. Good citizenship, good role modeling, ethics and values are requirements for everyone! It must be noted in the strongest terms that problems in this program most frequently occur from the few parents whose conduct is unacceptable. The Club will act decisively and with a no tolerance policy to eliminate those problems and individuals. Thank you for your cooperation as positive role models.
14. Finally, the three most important words; communicate, communicate, COMMUNICATE! It is your responsibility to know the name and phone number of your coach. It is your responsibility to know your practice schedule, game schedule and any other team function. It is your responsibility to conduct yourself respectfully and appropriately. It is your responsibility to immediately communicate any problem or concern to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County (360-527-9777 ext 2 or athletics@whatcomclubs.org). Thank you. Have a great season.



Fastpitch Frequently Asked Questions

Q. My child is 9-10 year old. Do they play 2nd/3rd grade pitching machine or in the 10U fastpitch league?

A. Whichever you feel is a better fit for their skill and development level. If they haven't played before we recommend pitching machine. If they have played pitching machine or have equivalent skills and are ready to advance, 10U fastpitch is a good step.

Q. If my child played last year, will she have the same coach?

A. Maybe. Teams will be put together by request and school. Be sure to register early and submit a Coach/Player Request Form (available on the website) if you want your child to be on a specific team. If your previous coach has moved up a division and your child has not, or vice versa, you will have a different coach.

Q. My child is 11-12 year old but hasn't played before. Is it too late to start?

A. Absolutely not! We encourage players of all experience levels to play. Girls are encouraged to try 12U softball even if they haven't played before.

Q. Can my child play up/down division?

A. Players are permitted to play up one division if they and their families feel it is appropriate for their skill and development level. Players are not allowed to play down unless a formal appeal is filed and approved by the Athletic Department. Contact department.

Q. Do you need coaches or umpires?

A. Yes! Volunteer coach positions may be available and we are always seeking umpires, who are paid independent contractors. Umpires must be 18+. Contact athletics@whatomclubs.org if you are interested in getting involved.

Q. Is pitching style slowpitch underhand or fastpitch 'windmill'?

A. As a fastpitch league, pitchers will learn the traditional windmill style windup. If player pitcher throws 4 balls, coach will pitch until batter gets 3 strikes or has a hit.

Q. Will rained out games be made up?

A. Teams are scheduled for 12 games and guaranteed 10. This means up to 2 scheduled games may be rained out and not rescheduled. Should field space allow at the end of the season, we *may* make up rained out games even if the required 10 have been played.

Q. Do you have girl's summer teams or competitive teams?

A. Due to smaller numbers of fastpitch players, we do not have a summer team for fastpitch or a competitive league.

Q. What equipment do I need to buy my child?

A. A uniform shirt and MLB or college replica visor will be provided. You should provide a softball glove, non-metal cleats, and softball or similar athletic pants (your team may want to coordinate color, ask your coach). Other equipment you may consider getting would be a batting helmet or bat. Every team will be provided with a few of these to share, and you should purchase only if you prefer your player to have their own. PLEASE NOTE: If purchasing a bat, it must have the "Official Softball Bat"/"Official Fastpitch Bat" stamp. If you have difficulty providing the personal equipment like a baseball glove, contact the Athletics staff as we sometimes have equipment we can provide a player.

Q. My child is signed up, when will I hear from the coach?

A. Coaches meetings are March 10th at 6pm for Ferndale and March 11th at 6pm for Bellingham. Practices begin the week of March 23rd. You should hear from the coach between March 11-18th.

Q. When do practices start and where are they?

A. Practices will begin the week of March 23rd. Bellingham locations include Downer Fields, Geri Fields and occasional high school fields. Ferndale practices will be at Pioneer Park.

Q. When are team pictures?

A. March 31st for Ferndale and April 1st for Bellingham. Your coach will sign up for a time.

Q. When do the games begin?

A. Games tentatively begin the week of April 13th. Teams will typically play 2 games per week, one on a weekday evening (Tuesday-Friday), and one on Saturday. Generally each week will have one game at your team's home field and one away. Teams will have a 12 game season unless games are rained out. The regular season ends May 22th with make ups following Memorial Day weekend.

Q. When will game schedules be out?

A. A league scheduler makes this schedule rather than B&GC staff. We will send to coaches and publish on our website as soon as it is made available to us.

Other questions? Contact Info:

Athletic Director: Hanifah McGovern (360) 527-9777 x222 hmcgovern@whatcomclubs.org
Coach & Communication Liaison: Augie Potter (360) 527-9777 x219 apotter@whatcomclubs.org
Program Manager: Dorothy Rake (360) 527-9777 x220 drake@whatcomclubs.org