



## Johnston Girls Softball Association (JGSA)



### 2010 Johnston Jaguar Select Competitive Team Information

#### What are Jaguar Select Competitive Teams?

Jaguar Select teams are competitive softball teams that play in weekend tournaments. In 2009, there were eight Jaguar Select teams representing the Johnston Girls Softball Association. Competitive softball is NOT an extension of recreational softball.

#### What is expected of competitive team players and parents?

It is important that you and your daughter make the commitment to be at practices and tournaments. Please remember that you have a choice as to whether you will expose your child to this competitive level of play.

**NOT ALL CHILDREN ARE READY FOR THIS LEVEL OF COMMITMENT.** Making a Jaguar Select team one year has no bearing on future year team selections. Children at these ages develop rapidly and at different rates.

Please explain these guidelines to your daughter before deciding to participate on a Jaguar Select team. Participating in competitive softball requires commitment, is a great way to make new and lasting memories and friendships and develop as a person and a player. Through it all and no matter the level of competition, softball is a game and should be kept in that perspective by players and parents alike.

#### Will all competitive team players be guaranteed equal playing time?

Playing on a Jaguar Select team is earned and a commitment. It can be a rewarding and challenging experience as players are exposed to a higher level of competitive play. There is **NO GUARANTEE** of equal playing time for all girls on a Jaguar Select team. All decisions in this regard will be at the sole discretion of the coaches. We ask parents to be supportive of coaches' decisions. If you have questions or concerns, please hold these discussions with coaches in private and away from the players and other parents.

#### Does playing on a Jaguar Select team require commitment?

YES, definitely, by both the player and her family. The tournament schedule can be demanding. Some teams will play almost every weekend from Memorial Day through the 4th of July with practices during the week. This, of course, follows a recreational league season that started in late March and goes through the first part of June. This results in about a 3-month season of softball, including up to 50 games of softball, as well as, the financial commitment discussed previously. However, those who have participated in the past will tell you the rewards can be great. There is a lot of fun competition, team unity, girls and their families can meet a lot of interesting people along the way and experience some great softball.

#### Who is eligible to play?

Any girl who plays in the 2010 Johnston Girls Softball Association recreation league or Johnston School teams who are at least age 8 on January 1, 2010, but who are under age 15 on January 1, 2010.

#### How do I sign up?

Follow the Competitive Team Registration link on the JGSA website, fill in the requested fields, and complete your payment.

#### How do know which age group?

- 14U - must be 14 years old or younger as of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2010
- 12U - must be 12 years old or younger as of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2010
- 10U - must be 10 years old or younger as of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2010

#### When are tryouts?

Tryouts for 10U and 14U Jaguar Select teams are scheduled for Sunday, October 4th, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Pella Field at Lew Clarkson Park. 12U tryouts will be held on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Tryouts will last approximately 90 minutes. Please refer to the 2010 Jaguar Select Competitive Team Tryout Informational flyer on the JGSA website for the exact times of each age group.



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#### Do I have to attend the Jaguar Select tryouts in order to play on a team?

No, however, it would be to your advantage to attend tryouts so the coaches can accurately determine your softball skills and abilities in order to place the player on the appropriate team. **It is, however, required for any player who wishes to be considered eligible for the Jaguar Gold team in their respective age group to attend tryouts.**

#### Who will select the teams?

A Jaguar Select selection committee will be formed by the JGSA Board prior to tryouts. The committee will include JGSA Board members who are not coaching a Jaguar Select team.

#### How will the teams be selected?

The girls interested in playing will be rated based on their tryout performance or, if not at the tryouts, their previous performance as a player. The selection committee will rank all of the players trying out in each age division. The players receiving the highest rating will make up the majority of the Gold team. The Gold team coaches will then fill in the remaining positions on the roster with their choices. The remaining players who signed up to play will make up one or more additional teams (called Purple, White or Black), depending on how many players remain.

#### How many teams will there be in each age division?

We will field as many teams as there are managers and players interested. Generally, there will be multiple teams in the 10 & Under, 12 & Under, and 14 & Under age divisions.

#### Will any player who wants to play on a Jaguar Select team be cut?

JGSA will make a reasonable effort to form as many teams as it takes to allow everyone to play. One factor that will impact our effort is having enough qualified volunteers to coach. Another factor is the number of girls who sign up to play. The Gold team will consist of 11 to 12 players. Each additional team can have up to 12 players on the roster. **WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE 8 AND 9-YEAR OLDS TO GIVE A JAGUAR SELECT TEAM A TRY.** The 10U age level C divisions work on developing skills in a competitive setting, so it's a great way to find out if this is something you will want to continue as you get older.

#### How much will it cost to play on a Jaguar Select team?

The player's family will pay the costs associated with playing on a Jaguar Select team. Costs include the team registration fees to play in tournaments (typically \$200 to \$300 per team per tournament divided equally among each player), the cost of the team's uniforms (typically \$40 to \$60 per player) and a small ASA insurance cost (around \$10 per player). If teams choose to play away from the Des Moines area, there could be travel, lodging and meal costs incurred as well. Typically, a family can expect to spend around \$175 to \$250 per player just to cover tournament registration fees, uniform, and insurance. Part of this cost may be offset if the team can obtain a sponsor.

#### How many tournaments will my team play in?

The number of tournaments is determined by the coaches and parents. Coaches will try to coordinate the tournament selection process with the players and their parents. Typically, the Gold team will play in 5 to 7 tournaments plus the state and regional tournaments. The Purple, White and Black teams will typically play in 3 to 5 tournaments but they could play in more as agreed to by the coaches and parents.

#### When are tournaments held?

Tournaments in Iowa are held on the weekends. Most begin the middle of May and go through the middle of July. Tournaments typically start on Friday night and go through Sunday afternoon/evening depending on the tournament's format as well as how well your team does in the tournament.



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#### How many games will be played?

This will vary. Most tournaments will guarantee a minimum of 4 to 5 games some tournaments guarantee more. Generally, teams will play 1 to 2 games on Friday night and 2 to 4 games on Saturday and Sunday. Overall, a Jaguar Select team may play 20 to 35 games over the tournament season.

#### Where are the tournaments held?

There are tournaments available all over Iowa, but most teams from Johnston elect to play in Central Iowa with several tournaments to choose from in the metro and surrounding areas. JGSA will also be hosting a tournament in 2010.

#### What about practices?

Practice is very important and all coaches will be encouraged to practice at least 2 times per week beginning in mid to late April. Some may decide to practice 3 times a week until their tournament season starts. Once teams start playing in tournaments, teams will usually practice twice a week.

#### Do the Jaguar Select teams play in any tournaments beyond the state tournament?

YES, we hope so! Jaguar Select softball is getting better and more competitive every year both locally and throughout the state.

#### My daughter may be interested in playing for an older age group than she is eligible for (i.e. 12U instead of 10U). Can she still tryout and play in the younger age group?

New to the 2010 season, the JGSA board will allow players the possibility of “playing up” and still be considered for a team in one of the lower age divisions. **If a player decides to “play up”, she must also try out for the younger age group.** For example: please see scenario 1 below.

**Scenario 1:** Player A is eligible for the 10U division however she would like to play in the 12U division. Player A tries out for the 10U division **and** the 12U division. If she is chosen for a team in the 12U division, which could include the 12U Gold, then she will forfeit **any** eligibility in the 10U division – including the 10U Gold team. If she is **not selected** to a team in the higher age group, she may still be considered for any team at the lower age group – including the Gold team.

Likewise, if a player decides to “play up” a division and try’s out for **only the older division** the player automatically renders herself ineligible for the younger age group. For example: please see scenario 2 below.

**Scenario 2:** Player A is eligible for the 10U division however, she would like to play in the 12U division. Player A **only** tries out for the 12U division. If Player A does not make a 12U team, including the 12U Gold, she will **forfeit** her eligibility to play on **any** 10U team, including the Gold team.

If a player who “plays up” does make a team in the older division and for some unforeseen reason the older division team disbands then the player will be eligible to play in the younger division, except the younger Gold team, regardless if she tried out for both divisions or not.

**If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact a JGSA Board member.**