



MSO Villagers

What is Villagers Travel Softball all about?





The Agenda

- Clarify the goal/purpose of Villagers Softball Program
- Communicate commitment requirements for travel softball
- Highlight the differences between Spring/Summer and Fall Villagers seasons
- Establish key differences between rec and travel softball



The Villagers Program's Goals:

- To develop highly competitive players in a town travel environment by balancing fun with a drive for winning while teaching good sportsmanship and life skills
- To make lasting memories.

So What's the Difference?

Recreational Softball

- Community softball
- Every player assigned a team, regardless of ability
- Focus is on fun, learning the sport, and teamwork
- Every player plays, regardless of skill set
- All players play various positions
- Balance of player skill sets on each team
- Compete against other players in South Orange and Maplewood



Town Travel (Villagers)

- Competitive softball
- Players selected through a competitive tryout process. Unlike Rec softball, not everyone will make a team.
- Focus on competition, learning the sport, and sportsmanship
- Higher level of commitment required of coaches, parents, and players
- Players playing time according to development and team needs
- Compete against other town and club teams in designated leagues and coach-selected tournaments

The Two Villagers' Seasons

Spring/Summer (Feb-Late July)

- Conjoined season (**These ARE NOT SEPARATE seasons.**)
- Players are required to play both Villagers and Rec
- Multiple tournaments throughout the spring and summer seasons
- High commitment level (February to end of July)
- Each team competes in the Parkway League (June-end of July)
- Players must be available through end of July and attend 80% of the games
- *****Players MUST be available for the FULL Spring and Summer 2024 season.**



Spring Season Special Notes

- Practices start mid-February.
- Teams will practice approximately 1-2 times per week plus 2+ weekend-long tournaments while Rec Softball is in season.

Summer Season Special Notes

- Teams will play in a competitive town travel league with up to 2 league games and 2 practices per week plus 2-3 weekend-long tournaments.
- The Spring/Summer seasons wrap up at the end of July.

The Two Villagers' Seasons

Fall (Late Aug-Oct)

- Developmental (allows players to experience the next level, if moving up; provides reps for players to experiment with new or underdeveloped skills)
- Shortened and concentrated season
- Each team plays in a designated league (Either Parkway or Long Hill)
- Typically field more teams since it's developmental, but the goal remains to field competitive teams
- Two or more tournaments to provide more reps for players before the winter months

Fall Season Special Notes

- Teams will play in a competitive town travel league with up to 2 league games and 2 practices per week plus 1-2 weekend-long tournaments.
- Season runs beginning of September thru to early November.

What Is the Commitment?

Players

- Be available the duration of the season
- A greater time commitment is expected of those who earn a spot on a Villagers team.
- Display good sportsmanship and a positive attitude
- Prioritize softball practices and games
- Attend practices (1-2 x week)
- Attend games (2-3 x week)
- Attend tournaments
- Focus
- Put in the work
- Be a good teammate





What Is the Commitment?

Families

- Check TeamSnap regularly and update availability
- Good sportsmanship
- Support your coaches
- Communicate effectively and respectfully
- Travel to games and tournaments





What Is the Commitment?



Coaches

- Communicate with families about practices and games via TeamSnap
- Design engaging practices that incorporate skill-based and situationally-based aspects of the game
- Develop lineups for games
- Seek competitive opportunities for players (tournaments & scrimmages)
- Maintain communication with other coaches about player development
- Create a supportive environment conducive to learning softball and competing in softball games

*Coaches are volunteers willing to give their time to the development of the players.



Recap

- Villagers is a competitive town travel program that requires a high level of commitment.
- Players must try out and be selected to play on a team.
- Practices and games focus on how to compete with more skilled players.
- Athletes, parents, and coaches must fully commit to the team for the duration of the designated season.