



2026/2027 Season

TRYOUTS /
WELCOME!



FALL
TRAINING

INDIVIDUAL
SEASON



WINTER
TRAINING

COMPETITION
SEASON





AUGUST 2026

TRYOUTS / WELCOME

OPEN HOUSE

OPTIONAL

Monday, August 3rd: 8u & 10u
Tuesday, August 4th: 12u
Wednesday, August 5th: 14u
Thursday, August 6th: 16u & 18u

Check In: 5pm-5:30pm
Tryouts Start at 5:30pm
Tea Athletic Complex (Fields G & F)

OFFER EMAILS

Athletes/families will have 48 hours (upon the delivery date/time on their offer email) to accept their offer. To accept, you must submit the deposit, a copy of the athlete's birth certificate, and the signed commitment letter.

WELCOME PARTY

Tour the Facility, Q&A Opportunities, & FREE Measurable Testing for Interested Athletes!

Saturday, August 1st and Sunday, August 2nd
2pm-8pm (Open House)

TRYOUTS

Offer emails will be sent out after tryouts (the night of or the next day)

Everyone will receive an email, whether your athlete was offered a spot or not

OFFER ACCEPTANCE

Meet your team/coaches & go over the handbook and expectations

Saturday, August 22nd
3:30pm-5pm
@The Playground



SEPTEMBER 2026 -
OCTOBER 2026

FALL TRAINING

TESTING

Team coaches will also host team practices during this time. Typically 1-2 practices / week. Teams aged 9 - 13 will compete in 1 local fall tournament. High school aged teams (14u+) will compete in at least 1 and maybe more.

Get trackable metrics to show growth in your athlete's skills and to identify growth opportunities

Friday, August 28th or Saturday, August 29th

TEAM PRACTICES / TOURNAMENTS

Extra Reps are a great opportunity for our teams to come together as an organization to push each other while getting extra defense reps. These sessions will be offered on Saturday and/or Sunday mornings

FALL EXTRA REPS

Position Specific Practices and Strength & Conditioning will be offered throughout Fall Training. If you choose to add these on, athletes can attend 2 sessions / week (classes of their choice)

PSPs/S&C OPTIONAL / ADDITIONAL

Team coaches & instructors work together to create Athlete Evaluations for each athlete in our program. Evaluations will include athlete's strengths, opportunities for growth, & programs to follow during individual season.

ATHLETE EVALUATIONS



NOVEMBER 2026 -
DECEMBER 2026

INDIVIDUAL SEASON

TUNNEL TIME CONTEST START

This year, we are partnering with Thrive Performance & Wellness to bring more mental training opportunities to our athletes. At these group events, we will be working on: competing with confidence, managing pressure, resets after mistakes, & staying focused under stress.

COACHES TRAINING

In Early December we will host our annual Uniform Try-On / Equipment Demo Day. Because we are sponsored by Easton / Rawlings, they will be at this event to offer discounts on equipment/additional uniform pieces.

TUNNEL TIME CONTEST END

Starting Date: Sunday,
November 1st @ 10am

This is an annual contest that challenges our teams and athletes to put in extra work in the “off-season” by utilizing their PG memberships.

MENTAL TRAINING

Throughout Individual Season, we will work directly with our coaching staff to continue their education and training. This will include workshops and speakers.

UNIFORM TRY-ON /DEMO DAY

Ending Date: Thursday,
December 31st @ 4pm

Winning team and top individuals will be announced. Prizes & awards to follow.



JANUARY 2027 -
APRIL 2027

WINTER TRAINING

INDOOR TEAM PRACTICES

Teams **MAY** compete in 1-2 Indoor / Winter tournaments. This will be decided by the coaching staff and athlete availability will be taken into consideration.

Team practices will begin the first weekend of January. Typically, SD Braves teams practice on Saturdays, but we will work with the coaches to make the schedule.

INDOOR TOURNAMENTS

Position Specific Practices and Strength & Conditioning will be offered throughout Winter Training. If you choose to add these on, athletes can attend 2 sessions / week (classes of their choice).

PSPs / S&C
OPTIONAL / ADDITIONAL

High School Aged Athletes:

With South Dakota HS softball starting on Monday, March 15th, teams 14u+ will be in a dead period until the high school seasons are over. If any athletes on these teams are **NOT** playing HS ball, we will work to find opportunities with our other teams for them.



APRIL 2027 -
AUGUST 2027

COMPETITION SEASON

TOURNAMENTS

As soon as the weather gets nice enough to be outside, coaches will transition into the outside practice season. Those practices will be up to the coaches to set and communicate out to parents. Teams can expect 1-2 practices / week, depending on their league / scrimmage schedules.

Teams will play in a variety of tournaments in the spring and summer months. Coaches and the Org. Director will work together throughout the year to make sure each tournament schedule makes sense for each team. Teams aged 9-13 will play between 6 and 9 tournaments, while HS aged teams will get 5-6. These tournaments will be mostly local with 1 “Nationals” at the end (usually NAFA Nationals in Minnesota).

LEAGUE

Extra Reps are a great opportunity for our teams to come together as an organization to push each other while getting extra defense reps. These sessions will be offered on a weekday morning starting after high school season (early June).

TEAM PRACTICES

All Braves teams will play in a league OR participate in regularly scheduled “scrimmages” in place of a league. This will be decided by the coaching staff and Organization Director.

SUMMER EXTRA REPS



OPTIONAL /
ADDITIONAL

More On: PSPs / S&C

Position Specific Practices & Strength & Conditioning

EXAMPLES OF PSPs/S&C THAT WE HAVE OFFERED

- Hitting
- Small Ball / Slapping
- Baserunning
- Throwing (overhand – mechanics, strength, and arm care)
- Infield (outside when able)
- Outfield (outside when able)
- Mental Game / Leadership
- Pitching (we are introducing an advanced option to this for the 2026/2027 season)
- Catching
- Bullpen (working on developing the pitching/catching dynamic)
- Strength & Conditioning (divided into groups based on age)

ARE PSPs / S&C INCLUDED IN DUES?

The SD Braves dues do NOT include PSPs or S&C. This is the first year we are adding the option for each of our SD Braves athletes to add on PSPs / S&C. If you choose to add these to your program, your athlete may attend 2 / week. The programming is done by instructors at The Playground – Indoor Softball Facility. The cost is \$400 (on top of team dues) for the entire year.

PSP / S&C Seasons

Ages 9-13

Fall: September – October
Winter: January – April

Ages 14+

Fall: September – November
Winter: January – Mid-March



More On: EXTRA REPS

Bringing our Athletes Together to COMPETE!

WHAT ARE EXTRA REPS?

Extra Reps are additional practices that give our athletes more opportunities to compete, develop skills, and learn from each other. While team coaches are invited to come watch/assist, these sessions are primarily run by PG instructors. We will offer these in the Fall and Summer.

WHO IS INVITED?

Multiple teams / age groups are invited to these sessions – this unique experience is beneficial to all of our athletes. This gives the younger Players a chance to not only “watch and learn” from the older ones, but to work alongside them in the drills. On top of the obvious benefit from the physical reps themselves, the older athletes have a chance to work on their leadership skills as they learn how to guide the younger athletes.

WHAT DO WE WORK ON?

These sessions are typically situational defense / situational baserunning focused. Another HUGE advantage to combining several of our teams for these is that we have enough athletes to utilize baserunners for the defense. We take the time (with both the defense & baserunners) to break down each play so they understand WHY they should do WHAT. Simply put, we use Extra Reps to help develop ATHLETES instead of ROBOTS.



OPTIONAL /
ADDITIONAL

ADVANCED PITCHING

Sessions Programmed & Instructed by The
Playground's Director of Pitching: Mackenzie Hupke

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Emphasis on **COMMAND** (of pitches) & **MASTERING** Location
- Extensive Mental Training (Pitching Specific)
- 24 Week In-Person Program
 - 1 In-Person Session / Week (1 hour and 15 min) + Weekly "Homework" Workouts (homework is required & will be checked weekly! Commitment is a huge part of this program)
- Small Groups - 4 pitchers / group (like-minded athletes)
- Use of Rapsodo Technology For Immediate and Objective Data
- Continued Long-Term Programming, Planning, & Support [including throughout the Holiday Breaks & the Game Season(s)]
- Additional \$250 / athlete

TIMELINE

Weeks 1-14: Fall Training Sessions (September - Early December)
WINTER BREAK (programmed material will be provided and the expectation is that it is followed)

Weeks 14 - 24: Winter Training Sessions: (January - Early March)
Evaluations and Testing Throughout
see next page for exact dates

TIMESLOTS OFFERED

Mondays or Tuesdays
5:30pm-6:45pm or 6:30pm-7:45pm
only offered to 16 pitchers in year 1



ADVANCED PITCHING DATES



TIMESLOTS OFFERED

Mondays or Tuesdays
5:30pm-6:45pm or
6:30pm-7:45pm

COMMITMENT

We want to ensure everyone gets the most out of this experience! Because the curriculum builds on each session, we ask that you only sign up if you are fully committed to attending every class and doing the weekly homework assignments.

	MONDAY GROUPS	TUESDAY GROUPS
1	Monday, August 31st	Tuesday, September 8th
2	Monday, September 14th	Tuesday, September 15th
3	Monday, September 21st	Tuesday, September 22nd
4	Monday, September 28th	Tuesday, September 29th
5	Monday, October 5th	Monday, October 6th
6	Monday, October 12th	Tuesday, October 13th
7	Monday, October 19th	Tuesday, October 20th
8	Monday, October 26th	Tuesday, October 27th
9	Monday, November 2nd	Tuesday, November 3rd
10	Monday, November 9th	Tuesday, November 10th
11	Monday, November 16th	Tuesday, November 17th
12	Monday, November 23rd	Tuesday, November 24th
13	Monday, November 30th	Tuesday, December 1st
14	Monday, December 7th	Tuesday, December 8th
15	Monday, January 4th	Tuesday, January 5th
16	Monday, January 11th	Tuesday, January 12th
17	Monday, January 18th	Tuesday, January 19th
18	Monday, January 25th	Tuesday, January 26th
19	Monday, February 1st	Tuesday, February 2nd
20	Monday, February 8th	Tuesday, February 9th
21	Monday, February 15th	Tuesday, February 16th
22	Monday, February 22nd	Tuesday, February 23rd
23	Monday, March 1st	Tuesday, March 2nd
24	Monday, March 8th	Tuesday, March 9th



PAYMENT / BILLING

The SD Players Fastpitch Softball Organization Works HARD to Keep Dues Affordable While Still Providing The Highest Quality Experience.

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- **Tournament / League / Game Fees**
- **Uniform Package**
- **PG Membership (6-months of 1-year)**
 - Membership to The Playground - Indoor Softball Facility
 - Pick between a 6-month membership and a 1-year option (if 6-month option is selected, subtract \$150 from dues)
 - Rent tunnels & use our equipment for no additional cost during membership period
- **Insurance Fees (typically insured by USA Softball)**
- **Coaches**
 - Most Braves team coaching staffs will be made up of parents who will receive training from our instructors/staff. These coaches receive a small credit towards their dues as a thank you for their time and dedication to the program. Some Braves teams will have additional helpers / paid coaches.
- **Team Equipment / Banner / Admin Fees / Etc.**

SD BRAVES DUES BY AGES

See "Fundraising/Sponsorship" for more on financial commitment

Age Group	Dues
7u/8u	\$1,200
9u-16u	\$1,700

add \$400 if you want PSPs/S&C for the year (9u and up)



PAYMENT / BILLING

CONTINUED

HOW TO PAY

We accept cash, checks (made out to “SD Players”) or Zelle.

WHEN ARE PAYMENTS DUE?

The commitment deposit is due upon commitment to the team. After that, families can choose to pay their remaining dues upfront, quarterly, or monthly. Monthly payments are due BY the 4th of each month (starting in September). All final payments should be paid by June 4th, 2027.

OTHER EXPENSES TO CONSIDER

- Family Travel Expenses [gas, hotel (some are “Stay & Play” requirements), food, etc...]
- Tournament Gate Fees (charged at some events)
- Equipment (other than bat bag and helmet)
- Private Lessons (always optional)
- Showcases/Recruiting Events (for college prospects)
- Goodie Bags (a tradition at some “national” tournaments)
- Additional Jerseys (some teams vote to purchase themed jerseys for themed tournaments)
- Team Photos (if you choose to purchase them)
- Any other “extra” things that come up

REMEMBER... BUDGET = ESTIMATE!

Each year, we review & adjust our team/program budgets. Sometimes prices change from the time we plan to the time we make purchases. If any prices change drastically enough to effect dues, we will let the team(s) know right away.



FUNDRAISING/SPONSORSHIPS

The SD Players Fastpitch Softball Organization Is A 501(c)(3) NonProfit Organization.

Fundraising events & business sponsorships are a huge help to offset the costs of competitive softball and are done throughout the year to raise money to pay for what team dues do not cover. Fundraising events will be done on a team-by-team basis - it is up to the team to decide what events / campaigns they want to run.

FUNDRAISE OR BUY OUT

If you choose NOT to participate in fundraising/obtaining business sponsorships, you may “buy out” the fundraising commitment. If that is the route you go, your commitment amount will be added to your dues total.

YOU DECIDE...

Dues + Fundraising Opportunities

OR

Add Fundraising Commitment Total to Dues (no fundraising participation required)

Age Group	Dues	Individual Fundraising Commitment	Total Buyout (NO FUNDRAISING)
7u/8u	\$1,200	\$600	\$1,800
9u-16u	\$1,700	\$600	\$2,300

add \$400 if you want PSPs/S&C for the year (9u and up)



FUNDRAISING/SPONSORSHIPS CONTINUED

SPONSORSHIPS EXPLAINED

Sponsorships & money raised from fundraising events count the same/fill the same bucket. Because The South Dakota Players operates as a 501c3 nonprofit, businesses who provide sponsorships can use the donation as a tax write off. Sponsorships **CANNOT** go directly to an individual to pay for their dues- only to a team or the entire organization. That is why it can count towards your fundraising / sponsorship participation, but not towards individual dues.

FUNDRAISING / SPONSORSHIP DEADLINES

Sponsorship Deadline: Sunday, February 14th @ 8pm
Fundraising Deadline: Friday, April 30th @ 8pm

MONITERING PARTICIPATION

A spreadsheet will be kept to track who is participating in fundraising and who is receiving sponsorships, so that everyone does their fair share. At the end of the fundraising period (March 1st), any amount that you have not raised or gotten covered through sponsorships will be added to remaining dues owed.



COACHES' TRAINING

INVESTING in Our Program Leaders

ITEMS WE COVER WITH OUR COACHES

- **Season Expectations / Timeline** - what to expect and when for the entire program
- **SD Players / SD Braves Standards & Values** - nonnegotiable elements of our program that are consistent across all teams (along with some differences between SD Players & SD Braves)
- **Incorporating Standards** - communicating the values to athletes and families while finding ways to reinforce positive behavior and holding everyone accountable
- **Coaching Roles / Task Delegation** - using your staff's strengths & weaknesses to give the athletes the best experience possible
- **Communication** - communicating effectively with athletes and parents
- **Providing a SAFE Environment** - both physically and mentally safe!
- **Effective Practice Planning** - get the most out of your time and space
- **Input Focus vs Output Focus** - emphasizing MAX effort and learning to love the process
- **Coaching "Self-Awareness"** - How to manage our emotions as coaches
- **In-Game Management** - coaching in the game to continue learning with real-time feedback
- **MORE** - other topics that come up / that we feel are relevant to coaches

OUTSIDE SPEAKERS / TOPICS

- **Mental Health - Thrive Wellness**
 - coaches mental health & to understand what our athletes are learning about so we can apply
- **First Aid Training** - Vital Response Training Studio
- **Pitching** - Mackenzie Hupke (PG's Director of Pitching)
 - learning how to communicate and help our pitchers in-game
- **MORE IDEAS** - TBA