



2015 PALO ALTO HEAT



PALO ALTO GIRLS SOFTBALL
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May has arrived, which means that it is time to prepare for and organize the Palo Alto Heat summer program. Tryouts can't be held before May 1, and ours are scheduled for May 3 because summer Tournaments are already being organized and some are already filling up ... it seems that this happens earlier every year.

The Heat program is challenging, fun, and rewarding, and we hope that everyone who is potentially interested will consider participating. For more information about the program and our preparations for it, including the tryout schedule, here are answers to the following ...

... FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: WHAT IS THE PALO ALTO HEAT?

The Palo Alto Summer Heat Program is an extension of Palo Alto Girls Softball. The Heat fields teams that participate in highly competitive softball tournaments during the summer. The Heat is a great opportunity for girls in the 14U, 12U, 10U, and 8U divisions who love softball and would like to extend their skills beyond the spring season. While the spring season emphasizes player development and having fun in a recreational league, the Heat focuses on fielding more highly competitive teams, while at the same time maintaining a balance with softball skill development, personal development, and having fun.

Q: HOW MANY HEAT TEAMS WILL THERE BE?

The number of teams in each age division is dependant on a number of factors: (1) the number of interested, qualified players, (2) the availability of sufficient pitchers capable of playing at the tournament level, and (3) the availability of qualified coaches willing to make the commitment to the summer program. Historically, we have fielded one 14U team, one or two 12U teams, and one or two 10U teams. This year, we will be fielding one team in each of the 14U, 12U, 10U, and 8U age divisions. These will be C teams which will be competing in C tournaments. (There is no level determination in the 8U age bracket.

Q: WHAT IS THE ANTICIPATED TRYOUT SCHEDULE?

Tryouts will be held on the following schedule:

- **14U ... Sunday, May 3 at 3:30pm ... Field 1 at Cubberley**
- **12U ... Sunday, May 3 at 2:00pm ... Field 1 at Cubberley**
- **10U ... Sunday, May 3 at 2:00pm ... Field 2 at Cubberley**
- **8U ... Sunday, May 3 at 3:30pm ... Field 2 at Cubberley**
- **Make - up,, all ages, will be scheduled as needed by the respective divisions.**

Experienced coaches will evaluate the players basic fielding, throwing and batting skills. Pitchers and catchers may have an additional evaluation for those two specialized positions. We will also rely on the knowledge of experienced coaches who know the players.

Q: WHAT IS THE ANTICIPATED TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE?

Tournaments are already being organized, and we are taking steps to reserve space for our teams. The number of tournaments played by any age group is determined by the team and tournament availability. We are already either in, or working to get in, some of the following tournaments:

- May 23-25 Jan MacPherson Tournament (San Carlos) ... *we will probably pass on this one.*
- May 30-31, Pony Tail Classic (Morgan Hill)
 Tony Sanchez Invitational (Santa Clara)
- June 6-7, Twister (San Jose)
- June 13-14, Manzanita Mayhem (Prunedale), or Billie Sue (Burlingame)
- June 20-21, Belmont 8U (Belmont) ... 8U
 Bagby Classic (San Jose)
- June 26-28, NORCAL (Twin Creeks)
- July 11-12, Blast By The Bay (Santa Cruz)
- July 17-19, California State Games (San Diego) ... *if a team or teams qualify at Norcal*
- July 25-26, Bill Bowen (Sonoma) ... 8U

This is not an inclusive list, nor do we expect every team to play every tournament. Typically, the Heat teams will play in 5 or 6 tournaments with the possible goal of qualifying for the State games in San Diego. In most tournaments, the teams will play 4 games ... more if they do well. All tournaments will be governed by ASA rules. Most tournaments are played on Saturday and Sunday, however some do have Friday games. Teams may also participate in 'friendly' tournaments organized with local leagues.

Q: WHAT IS THE COMMITMENT REQUIRED OF A HEAT PLAYER?

Summer teams typically two mid-week practices and a weekend practice when there is no tournament. Because girls tryout for the team(s) and not every player makes the team(s), it is expected that Heat will be a very high-priority Summer activity for the player. With that said and for tournament planning purposes, we need to know during the application process of any scheduled commitments that may interfere with your daughter's availability this summer. Please make sure to provide this information when you complete the Heat application.

Q: CAN MY DAUGHTER PLAY ON THE HEAT AS A PART TIME PLAYER?

The answer to this question depends on the number of players, the number of teams, and the approach of the coaching staff. There are some structures that might permit part time players, and they will be considered in forming the teams.

Q: WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

Final costs are still being set ... typically, costs are about \$400 for the summer season (less for 8U). This includes tournament registration fees, field costs, insurance, and some additional expenses such as team equipment, etc. Uniforms are separate cost. Travel expenses, food and lodging (for overnight tournaments), and personal equipment are extra (such as a personalized Heat softball bag, sweatshirts, etc.). All players pay an equal share of the total costs for the summer season. If arrangements are made for "part-time" players, a pro-rata cost may be applied. Failure to attend practices or tournaments (not disclosed during the application process) will NOT result in a refund for time missed, and may result in limited or no playing time

or removal from the team. For low income families, limited scholarship aid is available. We want all interested players to tryout and, if selected, participate even if their families cannot afford the fees.

Q: HOW DOES A PLAYER BECOME ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HEAT PROGRAM?

To be eligible to register and participate in the Heat Summer Program, players must have been a registered player in the 2015 PAGS Spring League. The Heat team(s) will be selected through the tryout evaluation process noted above. All roster selections and decisions are final. Heat coaches together with age group commissioners will make the team selections.

Q: WHAT ABOUT PLAYING TIME AND POSITIONS?

As noted above, the Heat program is for tournament play, and tournament rules apply. Batting orders are based on nine players (or 10 with the Flex), and substitutions. Tournament rules apply, and are enforced. It is a competitive environment, and players need to earn playing time and positions.

Q: HOW DO WE APPLY FOR THE HEAT PROGRAM?

To apply for the Heat program, complete the application form, medical release form, and uniform order form are posted on the PAGS web site — click on the Heat logo (posting of these forms is in progress, and should be completed shortly ... forms will also be available at the tryouts and will be provided to Spring coaches).

www.paloaltogirlssoftball.org.

Be sure to indicate availability, and any conflicts. You can download the Application Form from the web site and either (1) scan it, and then email it to our Registrar, at **registrar@paloaltogirlssoftball.com** or bring it to the tryouts. At the tryouts, please be prepared to provide a check for registration (unless you are applying for a scholarship) — ***note: no checks will be deposited in the Heat account unless and until the player is placed on a Heat team.*** If you have not already done so for the Spring program, you will be asked to sign parent Code of Contact form.

We do encourage girls to participate in the Heat. It is a great program, and all who play emerge as stronger players for next year.

