



**The objects and purpose of the League are:**

- to educate and encourage girls in outdoor recreation and athletics, regardless of race, creed or national origin;
- to teach sportsmanship; and
- to teach and tutor girls in the physical and mental coordination of the game of softball and the importance of rules and team participation.
- to develop interest in softball in children of both sexes for ages 3-4

North Des Moines Girls Softball League, Inc. is located at 4750 NW Morningstar Drive. Take 12th Street North, when you get past Aurora it turns into Morningstar Drive. Continue North and the road curves to the left, after the curve the ball fields are on the right. Go to the second gate (the first gate is Highland Park Little League).

NDMGS is a 501 3(c) non-profit organization that began in 1969 as a part of Junior Miss Softball and was located near the Firestone tire plant. A short time after that a loan for the 18 acres at our current location was approved and has since been paid off. In addition, the affiliation has changed to the Amateur Softball Association.

We have six ASA regulation softball fields, including one with lights. All of the fields have sprinklers for the infields. We also have two batting cages with Jugs pitching machines.

The Park has 20 volunteer Board Members plus many Volunteer Coaches that dedicate countless hours to provide the players a stellar program and complex.

Each year we host three tournaments. The Memorial Day Match-Up for 12 & Under, the 14 & Under Flower Power Classic two weeks later and finally the 10 & Under Flower Power Classic two weeks after that. The format is nine games in three days for the 12 & 14 age groups and a six game round robin format for the 10 & Under. Over the years it has become Midwest event with teams coming from Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota and Missouri as well as from across Iowa.

We have four age divisions for the girls as well as a new League, just for girls and boys ages 3-4 and 5 year olds born before April 1<sup>st</sup> called Bam Bam.

Registrations have been steady lately and average 260 - 280 players each year. In the early years, the park averaged many more players and a conservative estimate of the number of young ladies that have played at North Des Moines Girls Softball is around 15,000!

## **Time Line**

After registration is over we begin the process of getting the lists together for the upcoming try-outs for the older girls and also getting team rosters put together.

The Junior & Intermediate Division players attend try-outs and will go through several "stations" to give the coaches an opportunity to see the girls and their abilities. These stations include fielding grounders and fly balls as well as batting. We also have the girls show us how well they can run by doing a sprint in the gym.

The Petite and Pixie Division players are placed on teams using a variety of factors. This includes neighborhoods, schools, cousins playing on the same team and so forth.

After the team rosters are set, work on the schedule takes place. Known conflicts like band concerts, dance recitals and other events are marked on the schedule in an attempt to avoid conflicts. One thing everyone needs to keep in mind is if we know about the event we will try to schedule around it. Some conflicts will be unavoidable and choices will need to be made, just like in life.

The concession stand schedule is put together and the teams notified of their date and times of duty. Concession stand duty is the one responsibility that EVERY team has and most parents and relatives enjoy the time they spend together with other player's parents. The concession stand is easily the largest fund raiser that we have so it is vitally important that we maximize this opportunity.

### **Bam Bam League** boys & girls ages 3-4

This League is designed to give the children an opportunity to get the feel for the game of softball. Parents are encouraged to be with their children while at bat and on the field.

### **Pixie Division** girls ages 5-7

This age group is also known as "tee ball". The batter is pitched to by the coach or parent but if she struggles hitting the ball, the tee is brought in to use. It's this age that the real basic fundamentals of the game are taught. Hitting, running, fielding (and knowing where to throw it) are worked on at this level without regard to the score or who won or lost. The concept of the team and working together as a team is taught.

### **Petite Division** girls ages 8-10

This is the next step up from Pixie. This division is still a learning division where the fundamentals are reinforced and additional concepts like bunting and base stealing are also taught. Regular ASA rules are enforced in this age group with some minor modifications to keep the game moving along. Again the foundation of a team is teamwork and sportsmanship.

### **Junior Division** girls ages 11-12

It's at this age group that the girls have picked up most of the fundamentals of the game. There are minimal modifications to the ASA rules and now bunting, base stealing and other coaching strategies come into play. The emphasis is still on trying to promote a learning environment, and allow for friendly competition between teams striving to play the best they can, win or lose. The team wins and the team loses together not the individual.

### **Intermediate Division** girls ages 13-18

Much like the Junior division, these girls that have played the game for a number of years are becoming good ball players and so while this is still a recreational sport where the girls can come out and play some softball, there is a bit of competition, and winning feels better than losing. The fundamentals are still taught to the girls and strategies are worked on. Again teamwork and sportsmanship is emphasized.