



GSL SOFTBALL 2024 SEASON





PRE-SEASON ONLINE MEETING INFORMATION

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COACHING STAFF 2024 SEASON

Varsity: Taylor Jones

tjones@gsl.k12.mn.us

Varsity Assistant: Morgan Henke

MHenke@gsl.k12.mn.us

Varsity Assistant/Pitching Coach: Lexi Korte

JV: Courtney Lemke

CLemke@gsl.k12.mn.us

JV Assistant: Gina Nix

JV Assistant/Assistant Pitching Coach: Brianna Wraspir

C-Team: Amanda Kottke

akottke@gsl.k12.mn.us

7th/8th Grade: Brittany Schmidt

BSchmidt@gsl.k12.mn.us

REMIND APPS

Junior High:

Text: @h2aeeg2

To: 81010

C-Team

Text: @gg74hc

To: 81010

JV/Vars

Text: @varssof

To: 81010

THIS IS THE GENERAL SOFTBALL
REMIND FOR ANYONE GRADES 7-
12 PLAYER/PARENT OR
GUARDIANS



Sign up for important updates from Mr.
T. Jones.

Get information for Lakeside Elementary School right on your phone—not on handouts.

Pick a way to receive messages for GSL Softball 9-12:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/gslsof

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @gslsof to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @gslsof to (913) 871-3306.

* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/gslsof on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Social Media:

Instagram: [gsl.softball](https://www.instagram.com/gsl.softball)

Twitter: [@SoftballGSL](https://twitter.com/SoftballGSL)

Facebook Page: [GSL Softball](https://www.facebook.com/GSLSoftball)

PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

We have three objectives we expect our players to meet.

1. *ATTITUDE*

- a. ***Have a Winning Attitude:*** The one thing we can control every day of our life is our attitude. When things go wrong or adversity strikes, the one thing we can always control is our response or our attitude. We expect our players to have a great attitude. This life lesson may be the most important one that we hope our players learn.

2. *EFFORT*


- a. ***Play Hard.*** The value of hard work can never be underestimated. We hope that the lessons of hard work that your daughter gains from softball will help her in any area of her life, both in the present and in the future--**EARNED-NEVER GIVEN**. We want to play so hard that the other team does not want to play with us.
- b. ***Play Smart.*** Playing smart has dual meanings. We want our players to be smart players on the field. We want to be a team that does all of the “little things” necessary to be successful. We also want our players to be “smart” off the field and in the classroom. We expect our players to be good students, good role models, and make “smart” choices.
- c. ***Be Tough.*** We want our players and our team to be tough both physically and mentally. We will talk about what it means to be tough all season long. Having poise and showing mental toughness when adversity strikes is what separates average teams from great teams.

3. *TEAM*


- a. ***Play Together.*** Teamwork and togetherness are extremely important in our program. These are life-long lessons that we hope to teach your student-athlete. We desire to create a “family atmosphere,” where your daughter can feel like she belongs with a special group of teammates that care about her as a person. This family atmosphere will remain far past the conclusion of their senior season because she will always be an important part of this tradition-rich program.

*Finally, we want all of our players to **HAVE FUN**.* High school sports should be memorable experiences that foster life-long relationships and memories. We want to create an environment in which your daughter will have a positive experience that will be enjoyable for her.

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

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- I will make the commitment to attend all practices, games, and team functions and adhere to the “Players Code of Conduct.”
 - I will work hard, put my team before myself and support my teammates in practice and in competition.
 - I will encourage good sportsmanship in victory and defeat by demonstrating positive support for ALL players, coaches, and officials. I understand that my actions are a reflection of my family, team, school, and community.
 - I will treat players, coaches, fans and officials, on and off the field, with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or performance. I will let the coaches coach, the umpires decide calls, and the players play. The penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct is under the jurisdiction of the umpires and coaches. A player who breaks the rules and is ordered from the playing area must comply.
 - I will not use any trash talk or profanity. No exceptions.
 - I will demand a sports environment that is free from alcohol, drugs, and tobacco and will refrain from their use at all times.
 - I will accept constructive criticism and not take it personally. I will address any concerns I have to the proper people at the appropriate time.
 - I will respect and adhere to the rules governing eligibility and competition.
 - I will believe in myself and play with confidence. I will not let the fear of failure hold me back or dwell on my mistakes.
 - I will have fun!

ELIGIBILITY & ATTENDANCE



*In order for any of our student-athletes to practice, all Fees and Paperwork must be completed online at the GSL website.

***Eligibility of grades for MID-TRI:** If a student is at F for a grade* at Midtri, he/she will be ineligible for one (1) event. It will be the student's responsibility to give the activities director a signed statement from the teacher validating that the grade has been improved to a D- or higher before he/she is eligible to compete. The student will practice but will not participate in any events if the grade has not been improved.

***Eligibility of grades for END OF TRIMESTER:** If a student received an F in one or more classes at the end of the tri*, the student will be ineligible to compete in any events for a period of two (2) weeks or two (2) events whichever is longer. These two (2) weeks will be carried over to the next season if it is not completed during the season in progress, i.e. spring grades carry over to fall sports.

***All decisions concerning academic eligibility are subject to final administrative approval.**

*** *To practice or participate in an event* (game, meet, concert, etc.) a student in activities must be in school the entire day or have a pre-approved (at least one day, i.e. medical appointment, funeral, etc.) excuse or be at a school-sponsored activity. This prevents a student who is ill from returning too early so that they can play in a game or meet and jeopardize his/her health and that of the team. Any other student not in school during the day (except for school-sponsored activities) may not attend extracurricular activities, this includes practice and games.**

*Students may attend state tournaments provided they use the state tournament form from the high school office and have that form filled



TRANSPORTATION

1. Riding the bus is a privilege.
2. If you lose your privileges, you will need to find your own ride.
3. After games, it is recommended that all players ride the bus home with the team. Parents may sign their child out following the game's completion. Players must ride home with a parent. The coach must see you leave with your player. If a player is going to be picked up by someone other than a parent/guardian, it must be pre-approved by Dean Schwartz (dschwartz@gsl.k12.mn.us) at least a day in advance.



PANTHER SOFTBALL EXPECTATIONS

1. We will always run on and off the field.
2. We will always be dressed when we get off the bus with jerseys tucked in. Cleats will be put on quickly in the dugout.
3. We will always leave the field and dugout looking better than when we arrived.
4. We will play with a next-play attitude.
5. Parents and fans are expected to lead by example. Coaches will have all conversations with the umpires.
6. You must be academically eligible in order to play.

EQUIPMENT



PRACTICES/GAMES


1. Be prepared when you walk on the field or into the gym.
2. Be prepared to go outside for practice. Always have layers available.
3. Wear GSL gear to practice- we want to look like a team and represent our school.
4. All gear (shoes included) should be school colors: Black, Gray, Purple, or White
5. Players' undershirts should be black.
6. If you wear an Evo shield protector or other equipment, it should be school colors.
7. Sweatshirts and outer layers should be GSL Panthers (Softball gear if possible).
8. Masks must be worn by corner infielders and pitchers.
9. Varsity and JV 9-12 need to have black and white belts, black white, and the stirrup socks on the BSN store.



APPAREL NEEDS FOR EACH LEVEL

- ❑ Junior High
 - ❑ Black Belt
 - ❑ Black Socks
- ❑ C-Team
 - ❑ Black Belt
 - ❑ Black Socks
- ❑ JV/Vars
 - ❑ Black Socks, White Socks, Multi-color stirrup socks
 - ❑ Black Belt, White Belt
 - ❑ Black Under Shirt, Purple Under Shirt

PLAYING TIME CRITERIA



It is a **privilege** to be a Panther softball player! There are many benefits to being a member of a team, and **every player is important**. To be an effective player, all players should have a strong desire to play. However, this does not mean players are **entitled** to playing time. There will be situations in which the coach decides to give players little or no playing time, while others will play a majority of the game. This is the nature of high school athletics, especially at the high school level--The coach's decision will be final.

Players will receive playing time--based on the following criteria:

- Commitment
- Talent
- Effectiveness and effort in practice
- Effectiveness and effort in games
- Knowledge of the system
- Physical and mental preparation
- Physical and mental conditioning
- Attitude
- Following team rules

Every Panther player has a role on the team, and the team depends upon each player to fulfill their role.



TEAM PHILOSOPHIES & PLAYING TIME

Below is a description of each team and our philosophy for playing time within each team.

7th and 8th Grade: The focus of this team is skill development and teamwork. Participation is very important at this level. Kids are still developing and growing into their bodies at this level.

Playing time will be given to all players in grades 7 and 8. Coaches will do their best to provide quality playing time for all players. Playing time may be based on skill level, personnel, game situations, and other factors like attitude, conduct, and attendance.

Playing time decisions are solely at the coach's discretion and are not debatable.




C Squad or C-Team:

This team will consist primarily of players in grade 9 and any other players that the level is appropriate for. The focus of this team is softball skill development and teamwork.

We do look to provide each individual with playing time throughout the season, but playing time may not be equal. Players are not guaranteed to play in every game, playing time is based on skill level, personnel, game situations, and other factors like attitude, conduct, and attendance.


Playing time decisions are solely at the coach's discretion and are not debatable.



Junior Varsity Team (JV): This team will typically consist of players in grades 10 and 11. This team will continue to build upon the skills, teamwork, and expectations of our program that were introduced in 9th-grade and/or junior high softball. Our focus is to put the most competitive team we can on the field to try and win the softball game while still working on player development.

Playing time on JV is not equal and not guaranteed, all playing time decisions will be at the coach's discretion and are not debatable.

In addition to commitments to skills and teamwork, other factors such as skill level, personnel, game situations, attitude, conduct, and attendance are taken into account when determining playing time. JV softball is about development and preparation for Varsity softball.



Varsity: The Varsity softball team will be made up of the very best players in the entire program, regardless of grade level. The goal of varsity competition is to put together the best representative softball team that GSL can provide. Those individuals who display strong softball skills and a solid commitment to the team will be players that have a strong chance of earning playing time at the varsity level.

Varsity playing time is not equal and not guaranteed. Decisions about playing time will be made based on what is best for the varsity team at the given moment during the season. These decisions will not be debatable, and these decisions are at the coach's discretion. In addition to commitments to skills and teamwork, other factors such as attitude, conduct, and attendance are taken into account when determining playing time.

End-of-Season Roster: The end-of-the-season roster will be different from the regular-season roster. We currently have more girls out than we can legally keep on the bench for postseason play. We will have the best suitable players on the playoff roster at season end, regardless of age. Grades will be considered when constructing the postseason roster.



COMMUNICATION PROCESS

1. The player connects with the coach to discuss the issue. The meeting will be set up with the head coach, player, and an assistant coach.
 - a. Players must learn to advocate for themselves which is a great skill for them to develop.
2. If, after the player/coach meeting, the issue is not resolved, a meeting will be set up with the head coach, parents, player, and assistant coach. The meeting will take place at school and at a time that works for the coaching staff. It will not take place during practice time.
3. If the issue is still not resolved after a meeting with the coaching staff, all individuals will meet with the athletic director at a time convenient for all.
 - THERE WILL NEVER BE A DISCUSSION FOLLOWING A GAME.
 - 24-HOUR RULE - PLEASE WAIT A DAY TO CONSIDER CONTACTING A COACH
 - THERE WILL NOT BE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT PLAYERS' ROLES COMPARED TO ANOTHER PLAYER'S ROLE OR PLAYING TIME.



GAME SCHEDULES

You will find all updated game schedules on the Activities Website where you can see game times, bus times, and locations of games by going to: <https://www.gsl.k12.mn.us/Page/310>. A full practice and game schedule will be given to all players at the beginning of the season and updated as needed. Coaches will do their best to communicate cancellations, postponements, practice changes, etc. ASAP. Please note that in the event of inclement weather, decisions to cancel or postpone will not happen until the afternoon. We will let you know the information as soon as possible.



To sign up for Softball follow these steps:

- ❑ Go to the GSL website. www.gsl.k12.mn.us**
- ❑ Click on Athletics/Activities tab.**
- ❑ Click on 7-12 Online Activities Registration.**
- ❑ Click on the Icon Athletic Team Registration.**
- ❑ If you are a brand-new user, you will have to create an account.**