

2021 KIRKWOOD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION SOFTBALL REGISTRATION NEWSLETTER

The Kirkwood Athletic Association is excited to announce the 2021 fast pitch softball season, and our 61st year of service to the youth of eastern Missouri and southwestern Illinois!

Thank You!

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the managers, parents and players who stood with KAA through a very unsettling, and extremely frustrating 2020 season. KAA has been hit hard with three historic flooding events over the past five years, which caused a significant amount of damage, and disrupted an entire season of tournaments and league play in 2019. Then 2020 came along, need we say more? The park was open for all of about 3 weeks because of Covid-19. However, due to the hard work and determination of our staff and volunteers, and with your tremendous patience, flexibility and support, KAA was able to endure these hardships and will remain a mainstay for softball and baseball in the St. Louis area for years to come. We really cannot thank you enough!

KAA Forever

The association is comprised of, and greatly dependent upon, an all-volunteer board of directors to facilitate tournaments/leagues, manage expenses and keep the organization viable and self-sustaining. The men and women that make up the KAA board are parents, team managers and members of the community, many of whom played at KAA during their youth, and who want to see KAA continue on for their children, grandchildren and community. KAA is always looking for new board members with fresh ideas and perspectives, so please consider giving of your time. You can reach out to a board member the next time you're at the park, or contact the office at 314-822-3686 for more information.

Help Wanted

In addition to providing a place for the youth of the area to play the sport they love, KAA is also able to provide part time employment opportunities for much of the year. Concessions and field crew will begin hiring in the near future for the 2021 season, so please check www.kwdaa.com for additional information. We are very flexible with scheduling, so pass the word if you know of someone that could use a part time job.

Plans for 2021 Season

RIGHT NOW, our plans are to begin league play the week of May 3, 2021. We realize that is a month later than usual, however, by delaying a month, we are hoping to maximize chances for people to get vaccinated and for warmer weather to kick in to minimize Covid-19 complications.

Games will be played on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. We will play double headers where possible in order to minimize people at the park. We will also be spacing out game times and alternating field usage for the same reason. Most importantly, we are increasing our league schedule to 12 games, up from 10, this year at no additional cost!

We are hopeful the St. Louis County Department of Health WILL let us play ALL our tournaments this season-as scheduled. This is NOT fully settled yet, however. For additional information on our tournaments please visit : www.tournamentusasoftball.com

IF YOUR TEAM HAS A CREDIT, it can be used for league fees, tournament fees or transferred to another team. If there are any questions please contact our office at office@kwdaa.com.

Manager's Meeting:

We will be holding a *VIRTUAL* managers meeting sometime during the first week of April. Time TBD.

Representatives of the KAA Board of Directors will be on hand to discuss 2021 planning, scheduling, and rule changes.

2021 KAA Spring/Summer League

Registration Fee:

\$500 Non-refundable deposit due April 1, 2021(Secures spot in league)
+ \$600 Balance due April 15, 2021
\$1100 Total league fee.

League Fee includes:

- **12 league games – 6u, 8u, 10u, 12u, 14u, 16u, 18u, Premier**
- **Free entry into one 2021 KAA house tournament in lieu of league rainout makeups**
- The intention of the free KAA house tournament is to offset league games lost during the season due to inclement weather.
- Total games possible with league and the free tournament is 14+.
- The free tournament offering is only redeemable in the same calendar year, and cannot be transferred to the following season but may be transferred to another team in the same organization.
- **ONLY KAA house tournaments may be designated as a free league tournament.** USA/NSA/USSSA/Perfect Game sanctioned events do not apply.
- In the event the free league tournament chosen is cancelled, another KAA house tournament in the same calendar year may be designated by notifying the KAA office.
- **USA Softball Sanctioning Fee:** Contact the KAA office to request USA sanctioning.
- **Four Free April Pre-Season Practice Fields**
 - One time slot per team/per week. Practice fields are subject to availability.

- o All teams **MUST** register for practice fields at www.kwdaa.com
- o League Fee must be PAID IN FULL, and received in the KAA office to reserve preseason practice fields.

Opening Day for Leagues

- 6u-14u - May 5
- 16u/18u - May 26

League Registration

- 6u/8u – Team or individual registrations accepted.
- KAA will provide assistance in forming 6u/8u teams.
- 10u-18u – Team registrations only.
- All players/teams may access the discussion board at www.kwdaa.com /[Discussion](#) to locate players/teams in need of players.
- Age Eligibility Per Division:
- 6u - Player may not turn 7 before January 1, 2021
- 8u - Player may not turn 9 before January 1, 2021
- 10u - Player may not turn 11 before January 1, 2021
- 12u - Player may not turn 13 before January 1, 2021
- 14u - Player may not turn 15 before January 1, 2021
- 16u - Player may not turn 17 before January 1, 2021
- 18u - Player may not turn 19 before January 1, 2021

Pitching Distances:

- 6u - Machine pitch (6u girls may play against 5u boys)
- 8u - Machine pitch
- 10u - Pitching Distance 35'
- 12u - Pitching Distance 40'
- 14u, 16u, & 18u - Pitching Distance 43'

Bracketing:

- “A” and “B” competitive levels for 10u, 12u, 14u, 16u & 18u divisions
- 6u & 8u are instructional divisions

League Timeframes:

- Wednesdays & Thursdays
- **6u** - Single games, May thru early July
- **8u** - Single games, May thru early July (Double-headers after school year if necessary)
- **10u** - Single games, May thru early July (Double-headers after school year if necessary)
- **12u-18u** Double-headers, May thru early July
- **Premier (Invitation Only)** Double-headers, May - July
- **Women's** - Double-headers, May – July. 14 games offered, 10 game guarantee

League Game Forfeits

Forfeits negatively impact players, parents, coaches and umpires, and are **not acceptable**.

- Team managers are expected to field a team to play their scheduled games.
- Only seven players are required to begin and finish league games.
- Teams can utilize fill-in players on days when they will be short provided that the player meets the age requirements, and is added to a KAA roster prior to the game being played.
- Team managers in the same division may agree to swap games if necessary.
- Game swaps must be agreed to by all parties involved, and approved in advance by the Division Supervisor and the KAA Softball Coordinator.

KAA League:

2019-2020 Credits: Teams intending to apply game credits towards the 2021 KAA League should email the KAA office at office@kwdaa.com to receive a coupon code to be used when registering. A coupon code is not necessary for teams wanting to apply their credits towards KAA house tournaments, however the office will need to be notified via email with the selected tournament.

Season Guarantee: Playing 8 games in total (league and free tournament) constitutes a complete season. At season's end, if you have not managed to play at least 8 games in total, KAA will offer a credit towards the 2021KAA Fall League, 2021KAA Fall Tourney or the 2022 KAA League. No cash refunds will be issued. There will be no standings maintained as this is a non-trophy league.

Field Officials: Umpire(s) will be supplied for 8u and older. The 6u & 8u machine-pitch divisions will require each team to provide one volunteer, preferably a coach, to operate the pitching machine. The volunteer must be at least 18 years old.

Rosters: Rosters are to be completed during the registration process, but can be amended during the season to add additional players. This must be done from the profile page of the person that registered the team. **Rosters must be on file in the KAA office in order for your team to be covered.**

KAA Website: Please utilize www.kwdaa.com to get the most up-to-date park information, league schedules and a list of the 2021KAA house tournaments. This website also hosts a discussion board for teams to advertise open positions, and for players to announce their availability to team managers. The KAA office does not maintain a list of coaches looking for players or players looking for teams.

Facebook: KAA is on Facebook. "Like" us for the most up-to-date field conditions.

Free Pre-Season Practice Fields:

- April 3- April 24
- League Fees must be "paid in full" to reserve your practice field & times.
- Practice fields are subject to availability.
- Practice sessions are 2 hours beginning at 6pm on weekdays and 8am on weekends
- One practice session per paid team per week – time slot must be consistent all four weeks

- Practice dates cancelled due to inclement weather cannot be rescheduled
- The limited practice slots fill quickly, and are first come first served. No additional practice times will be scheduled.
- Email the office at office@kwdaa.com to secure a field
- The practice schedule will be posted on the east wall of the concession stand.

2021 Kirkwood Fastpitch House Tournaments

(KAA is awaiting approval from STLCO DOH to host tourneys)

KAA Pre-Season	TBD
KAA “No-Showers”	TBD
KAA Spring Fling	TBD
KAA Firecracker Bash	TBD
KAA Fall Frenzy	October 15-17

- Register for KAA tournaments at <https://gfp.tournamentusasoftball.com/72/>
- A login must be created to register.
- Tournament Payments Options:
 - Mail payment to: KAA 2377 Marshall Rd Kirkwood, MO 63122
 - Drop off a check at the KAA office
 - Credit Card over the phone
 - Office hours M-F 9:30am – 3:30pm
 - Office Phone: 314-822-3686

Park Rules

- No outside food or drinks; Team water is permitted
- No pets allowed in the park
- No smoking inside the fenced area of the park, including vaping/e-cigarettes
- No beer allowed in the dugouts
- No bicycles, skateboards, scooters, etc.
- No hitting balls into the fence (this includes wiffles)
- Teams and their spectators must follow all posted and/or published Covid-19 guidelines AT ALL TIMES

Be a Good Sport

Coaches are responsible for the conduct and sportsmanship of their players, assistant coaches and fans. Inappropriate or aggressive conduct towards an umpire, opposing coach, player or spectator OR failure to follow KAA Covid-19 Guidelines could result in the following:

1. Verbal warning
2. Ejection from the park
3. Forfeiture of game(s)
4. Incident report provided to USA for further disciplinary action

Concessions

KAA has put a significant amount of time and effort into making our concession stand one of the best in the St. Louis area. The focus is on providing fast, friendly service, with a large variety of delicious offerings that hungry fans want. A number of healthy options have been added over the past few years that have been a huge hit, so please check out the menu when you visit the park.

Since the concession stand is the financial life-blood of our facility, we must insist that **WHEN THE STAND IS OPEN absolutely NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR BEVERAGE IS ALLOWED IN THE PARK.**

Parking

- Parking on the grass in Green Tree Park across Marshall Road from KAA is no longer permitted by the City of Kirkwood. Vehicles parked in the grass will be ticketed and/or towed.
- Due to construction, the Family Golf Center located across Tree Court Industrial Blvd from KAA Field 8 will NOT allow parking on their lower gravel lot this season.
- Overflow parking is available in the lot behind the football field just east of KAA, and adjacent to Field 14

The members of the KAA Board thank you for selecting our program, and we extend our best wishes for a successful season.

Board of Directors
Kirkwood Athletic Association