

FORKS TOWNSHIP ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION

SOFTBALL



Frequently asked questions:

Q. What are schedules for spring softball?

A. Spring Softball season runs from April to mid-late June. Practices begin the 1st week of April. Practice schedules are set by individual team coaches and are normally 1-2 times per week for younger levels and 2-3 times per week for older levels.

Games normally start in late April/ early May. When games start, there are normally 1-2 games per week, these are normally on weeknights. Once games have started, individual coaches may have practices during the week depending on game schedules.

Practices and home games are played mostly at Forks Township Community Center with some at Tatamy Park (corner of Bushkill drive and Uhler road).

Q. What ages are eligible to play Forks Softball?

A. Minimum age is 4 years old and maximum is 21 years old. Details for each level in table on page 3.

- T-Ball (Pre-K/K)
- Coach Pitch (K & 1st grade)
- Prospects (2nd & 3rd grades)
- Minors (4th & 5th grades) *Experienced 3rd grade players can play at this level.
- Majors (6th & 7th grades) *Experienced 5th grade players can play at this level.
- Juniors (8th & 9th grades) *Experienced 7th grade players can play at this level.
- Seniors (10th - 20yrs) - Players not to be 21 prior to July 1st. *Any eligible junior can play at this level when needed and experienced players can play at this level full-time.

B. What league does Forks play in?

A. Forks plays in the Eastern Lehigh Valley (ELV) Softball League. The league was established in 1989, includes 6 playing levels (PreK to 20 years old) and 15 different organizations throughout the Lehigh Valley. Map of all teams is on page 4.

[EASTERN LEHIGH VALLEY SOFTBALL LEAGUE - Home \(elvsoftball.org\)](http://elvsoftball.org)

Q. Can I play for Forks Township if I live in another town or city?

A. Eastern Lehigh Valley Softball requires that all athletes play in their designated city/town/township. For Forks township that is mostly zip code 18040. If your city/town/township does not have a team at your daughter's level there can be exceptions. Any questions, please reach out to Softball commissioner forks_softball@yahoo.com.

Q. What equipment does my child need to bring and what is provided by the program?

A. Your child will need to have their own glove, cleats and softball pants. The program provides game jerseys that are required to be turned in at the end of the season.

Most players have their own bat, helmet and fielding mask but these can be provided by the organization if needed.

- All batting helmets must have facemasks (all levels).
- Metal cleats are not permitted at any level.
- Fielding masks are required for any player in the pitching position at all levels. Fielding masks are highly recommended for all infield positions. Each coach will have 2-3 fielding masks for the team.

Forks Township Athletic Association distributes a 20% off coupon to Dicks Sporting Goods prior to the start of the season.

Q. Does Forks Softball require that parents volunteer?

A. There are no mandatory volunteer requirements but as with any recreational sports program, parent involvement helps to create a more memorable/enjoyable experience for the players. Main areas where assistance is normally needed: coaching, field set up for games, special events and concession stands. If you are interested/ available to help, please e-mail forks_softball@yahoo.com.

Q. Am I required to fundraise for Forks Softball?

A. Each year, Forks Softball runs a raffle ticket fundraiser. Each athlete is asked to sell 10-12 tickets at \$10 per ticket (\$100 total). There are various prizes for winners including gift certificates to local restaurants and cash. Proceeds go to funding the program including equipment, field and umpire fees and events for the players.

ELV Softball Age and Division Breakdown

	PreK/K	K & 1st grades	2nd & 3rd grades	4th & 5th grades	6th & 7th grades	8th & 9th grades	10th - 20yrs
Level Name	T Ball	Coach Pitch	Prospects	Minors	Majors	Juniors	Seniors
Practices	1-2/week	1-2/week	2-3/week	2-3/week	2-3/week	2-3/week	2-3/week
Games	10-12	10-12	10-12	10-12	10-12	10-12	10-12
Post Season Tournament	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Playoffs	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Base Length	50'	55'	55'	55'	60'	60'	60'
Softball Type	9" Safe-T ball	11" Safe-T ball	11" optic yellow ball	11" optic yellow ball	12" optic yellow ball	12" Ball	12" Ball
Pitchers Mound	30'	32'	32'	35'	40'	43'	43'
Pitching Type	N/A	Coach Pitch	Kid & Coach Pitch	Kid Pitch	Kid Pitch	Kid Pitch	Kid Pitch

ELV TEAMS

