





BLAZE PROGRAM STAFF

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Sharon Perkins - Blaze Tryouts Manager

We are always looking to add additional Blaze committee members. Please contact Joy at blaze@alamedagsa.com if interested



BLAZE MISSION

The objective of the **Blaze program, governed by USA Softball**, is to develop competitive players and teams, 8U through 12U, by building both their softball skills and also provide the opportunity for girls to grow individually and together in **confidence, resilience, and leadership**.

Being a good teammate and having good sportsmanship are also important values of the program. Through these experiences of playing softball in a competitive environment, players are ready to take on the next level of what they aspire to do.



SEASONS + TOURNEY SCHEDULE

SEASONS**

- **Spring** - mid to late January to May - *tryouts in November/December*
- **Summer** - end of May and ends in late July/early August - *tryouts last weekend in April*
- **Fall** - end of late August/early September, goes until end of October/early November - *tryouts in July/August*

Occasional practices beginning soon after tryouts to get team started, as well as scrimmages and tournament prep planning.

**Season timing is an approximation and takes into consideration practice commencing and tournament schedules. There could be tournaments scheduled slightly earlier or later than quoted. We try to firm up a schedule prior to the tryout date so families can plan accordingly.

EXPECTED TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

8U RED / 10U + 12U BLACK

- 4-5 tournaments per season
- additional scrimmages/friendlies

10U + 12U GOLD/RED

- 5-6 tournaments per season
- additional scrimmages/friendlies



BLAZE TEAMS FORMAT

Blaze A: run Spring, Summer, and Fall; year round open tournament play; open to any/all who would like to tryout

Blaze B: teams either tryout/form for Spring Interleague season, form for Summer tournaments with players from the recreational AGSA spring season; and/or then form for Fall season for tournaments (open to all in Fall)

Blaze TBD: tryout/form after **Blaze B** teams form for Summer with players from the recreational AGSA spring season; form/tryout for Fall season (form *after* **Blaze B** teams, pending interest from the **Blaze B** team tryouts) (open to all in Fall)

***Roster Spots** on any team are not guaranteed season to season; all athletes should be prepared to earn their spot on a roster season to season. In extenuating circumstances the Program VP has discretion to change process e.g., no Fall season tryout (for one/all teams).

2025 BLAZE TEAMS

8U - TBD

10U/Interleague - Corrin Espinoza/Robert Torres

10U - Sharon Perkins

12U - Joy Goldin

12U/Interleague - Stella Cashin

12U - Katy Lambert



TRYOUT DATES

➤ **12U + 10U SPRING TEAM TRYOUTS**

held **November 17th, 2025**, prior to the start of the Spring season. Makeup tryout will be held on **Tuesday, November 19th**.



10U - ESPINOZA/TORRES



12U - GOLDIN



12U - CASHIN

➤ **12U, 10U + 8U SUMMER TEAM TRYOUTS**

will be held **April 26th, 2025**, according to USA rules.



ALL TEAMS

➤ **12U, 10U + 8U FALL TEAM TRYOUTS**

will be held during the last week of **July or early August 2025**. Any changes to number of teams or coaching, from our summer teams will be communicated in July



TRYOUT PROCEDURES

- All athletes should arrive 15 minutes early before tryout start time to check in, receive tryout number, and get gear settled in to the dugout.
- Blaze program and coaching staff will run drills to evaluate the girls in infield and outfield defense, hitting, as well as evaluate ***experienced*** pitchers and catchers. Effort, focus, and enthusiasm is also taken into consideration.
- This is a tryout and making a team is not guaranteed, and all team positions are open to be filled.



PRACTICES + TOURNEY WEEKENDS

➤ PRACTICES:

Blaze teams practice at least 2x per week for at least 2.5 hours and sometimes practices will be 3x per week if an 'off' weekend or an extra hitting practice for the week. Additional training time at VIA The Zone indoor facility on occasion as required by coaches.

➤ TOURNAMENTS:

****Plan for your entire weekend to be taken, and that you *may* get some time back!****

Friday - *sometimes* tournaments will schedule a game on Friday afternoon/evening (but this is more of the exception)

Saturday - typically 3-4 games of pool play – schedule is usually not released until 2-3 days before tournament weekend begins - if lucky or tournament is full early, we might get several days (or more) notice!

Sunday - could be single or double elimination bracket games - meaning you play until you lose or make it to the Championship game that day -- teams could play one game or, could be up to 3-5 games depending on tournament size/brackets. Start time depends on ranking from Saturday and ending time is based on wins on Sunday (i.e., teams don't want to end early!)

NOTE:

Games can start as early as 8AM on either day; and coaches will ask players to arrive at least 75 minutes early. The schedule will likely involve at least one break that is 2 hours long - every tournament schedule is different and breaks are varied.



BLAZE TEAM EXPECTATIONS

The Blaze program is a competitive travel program. Players and parents agree and commit to the following if they make the team:

1. Blaze will be **highest priority** when it comes to extracurricular activities, and athletes are required to be available for most to all tournament weekends (unless pre arranged with the coach prior to accepting the roster spot; **slightly adjusted approach for the 8U division** as families are sometimes already obligated to summer travel - and occasionally we field a larger 8U team to make sure all tournaments have enough available players).
2. Players must be **on time to practices and tournaments** meaning arriving 10/15 minutes before scheduled practice and coach determined warm-up arrival time for tournaments but is generally at least 75 minutes before first game.
3. Players are expected to wear Blaze practice shirts, black softball pants, and cleats to all practices.
4. Players are expected to **bring their best** to each and every practice and tournament. Play time could be impacted by attitude and behaviors on field/dugout at practices or tournaments. **Playing time is earned and not guaranteed.**
5. Athletes and parents are expected to abide by the **Blaze code of conduct** at all times, or risk the ability for their daughter to continue to participate in the Blaze program.



BLAZE MEMBERSHIP FEES

➤ **PER SEASON PLAYER FEES** will range based on team/division/season* - \$500 - \$800 per player

Families receive an estimated invoice at beginning of each season with a minimum fee due on receipt. The remainder of the balance is due during the later half of the season. Once variable costs are accounted for, invoices will be completed, adjusted with additional fees, or reimbursed

Variable Costs

- Tournament and team registration fees - \$2500 - \$4000 per team per season
- Field fees - depends on season - appx \$350 (no lights) - \$750 (lit fields) per team
- Player registration/insurance fees - appx \$350 per team (depends on number of players)
- Coach gear + travel costs allowance - \$100 - 300/season
- Coach certifications/Registration - \$156/coach (but not necessarily every season)
- Player administration fee - \$75/player/season (see FAQ slide for more information on this)
- Indoor facility use at The Zone - varies per team/coach
- Team expendables + other costs - varies (equipment, line up cards, scorebooks, umpires, etc.)
- Coach/player development - varies from team to team and season to season as we work to develop college and college graduate female athletes as coaches, and/or organize team or program player clinics or specialized coaching (pitching, catching, etc.)

*Shared team/player fees may be offset by teams seeking **sponsorships**. But it is up to the team to promote, manage, and submit any team fundraising to offset the above noted team costs. See sponsorship slide for more information

➤ **SEPARATE UNIFORM COSTS**

Depending on player and/or whether **new uniform required additional cost of \$200-350** for uniform/gear which include game jerseys, practice jerseys, pants, socks, belt, and visor. Not all players/teams will require/need all uniform/gear pieces.



SPONSORSHIPS

If desired, sponsorships are fundraised by each team and often from a local or non-local business, a parent's business matching program, a team squares pool, or direct donation from a family member. Team fundraising is not a Blaze requirement.

Things to keep in mind about sponsorships:

- Raising money is not mandatory for a team, nor is it the responsibility of the Blaze program to help facilitate team sponsorships.
- Any sponsorships raised in a season over \$200 per player (e.g., \$200 x 14 players = \$2,800) for the team will roll into the Blaze program scholarship and player development fund. Sponsorships can be raised in excess during one season, though, and be split into multiple seasons budgets for a team - in affect not exceeding that maximum threshold (e.g., \$2,800 above).

Benefits we offer to our Blaze sponsors:

- Logo placement on our AGSA + Blaze website
- Social media post
- Blaze T-shirt
- If a 'Grand Slam' sponsor, a plaque for display



FAQs

- **Q** - Can I have transparency on what the shared team and player fees are?
A - Yes. Every coach has access to their team's budget, and can relay the budget and plan to their team. Most fees are variable costs, except for the per player administrative fee which goes towards numerous things like: cost of business items (league softwares, team equipment, expendables, etc.), offsetting coach development costs for the program, and anything else the program needs to develop and run the organization.

- **Q** - Where does sponsorship money go?
A - Any funds raised are assigned to the team or program it was raised for. The sponsorships are typically used to offset the shared team/player fees unless otherwise designated by the sponsor.

- **Q** - What if my daughter cannot make every tournament?
A - You will want to check in with the coach that has offered your daughter a roster spot to identify if your availability is an ok fit for the team, before you accept.

- **Q** - What if we cannot afford the Blaze fees?
A - We work to help support families who may find the player fees difficult to pay. If you are offered a spot on a team, you will want to let the coach know you will need financial support so we can assess scholarship availability (on a first come first serve basis) and prepare for that with the team budget and planning. Unfortunately, we are unable to offset uniform costs.

- **Q** - What if my team does not raise any sponsorships?
A - That's ok, your team would just pay the full cost of player fees.



THE TOURNAMENT EXPERIENCE



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