

**U15B Airdrie Angels Fastpitch – 2026 Season FAQ  
For Parents & Players**

**1. What is the commitment level for the 2026 U15B team?**

The 2026 season requires a strong commitment to the team, especially once the in-season period begins in mid-April. This will be each player's primary team for the season, and participation on a secondary softball team will be prohibited from participating in any games, practices, tournaments or events with any other fastpitch team, until the end of July 2026 or at such time the season be declared over by the Head Coach. Players are expected to attend all practices, games, tournaments, and team events unless excused by the coaching staff. Arriving prepared, on time, and ready to contribute both on and off the field is an important part of this commitment.

**2. How does the schedule look across the season?**

Pre-season runs from January to mid-April and will include one to two practices each week, with one of those being in the gym and an indoor facility session every other week. Chalk talks and small group skill sessions will also be part of the pre-season plan. Once the in-season begins in mid-April, players can expect regular outdoor practices, a 40–45 game schedule made up of tournaments and exhibition games, plus three provincial tiering weekends (six games each) and one provincial championship weekend, subject to qualifying.

**3. What is the difference between Fair Play and Equal Play?**

This team follows a Fair Play philosophy rather than Equal Play. Equal Play means all players receive the same amount of game time regardless of readiness or performance, while Fair Play ensures all players have meaningful opportunities to contribute, with playing time earned through effort, preparation, and performance.

**4. What does 'Long-Term Player Development' mean for this program?**

The program aligns its training-to-competition ratio with Softball Canada's Long-Term Player Development recommendations for U15 athletes. This approach emphasizes quality practice time to build skills, position-specific training, small group repetitions, and mental and tactical preparation. The goal is to support both technical growth and the emotional and personal development of each athlete.

**5. How will the program support multi-sport athletes?**

We value the benefits that come from participating in multiple sports and understand that many athletes will have other commitments during the off-season and pre-season. During this time, we will schedule with flexibility to allow multi-sport athletes to continue with their in-season sport while also progressing in their softball development. Once our competitive season begins in mid-April, however, players are expected to make this team their primary commitment.

**6. What are the financial commitments?**

The 2026 registration fee is set at [\$FEE] per player. Additional team expenses for fields, facilities, travel, umpire fees, and more will be funded through a combination of fundraising and sponsorship. All players and families will be expected to participate in these efforts to help make the program sustainable.

**7. What kinds of team-building activities are planned?**

Beyond softball training and games, the team will participate in activities designed to build trust, communication, and strong relationships. These could include community volunteer work, group social outings, or leadership challenges that strengthen our team culture.

**8. How are players selected for tournaments and games?**

All rostered players will take part in tournaments, with playing time and positioning determined by factors such as practice attendance, effort, readiness for specific roles, and overall contribution to team culture.

**9. What is the expected travel for this team?**

The season will include three provincial tiering weekends at various locations across Alberta, as well as a provincial championship weekend if the team qualifies. There will also be additional travel for exhibition games and tournaments, most of which will be within reasonable driving distance such as Red Deer, Olds, Lloydminster, or Medicine Hat. Through a joint decision by players and parents, the team may also choose to attend one or two tournaments farther away to face stronger competition and play against different programs, broadening our experience beyond regular league opponents.

**10. Who do I contact if my player will miss a practice or game?**

If a player will be absent, parents should notify the head coach as early as possible so adjustments can be made to practice plans and game rosters.