

2016 Portage Youth Softball Post-Season Survey Responses

Team	What did you like about last season?	What did you dislike about last season?	What would you like us to improve for the upcoming season?
16/18U Team	Double headers	Too many players on certain nights	Smaller teams
10U Black	All girls played	Being the oldest on the team she played to the younger kids ability instead of growing as a player.	No Saturday practice. Last year, that meant no family outings all summer.
14U Pride	The competition was better and it looked like the girls learned the fundamentals and basics of softball.	The attitude of some of the girls and the lack of motivation from some of the girls.	More volunteer coaches to work with the girls on a more one on one basis.
14U Black	The games were close to Portage, the double headers and practices later on Sunday evenings.	A clear lack of pitchers.	More practices
8U Team	Good group of girls participated and friendly family members	Where do I start? Very poorly organized by head coach. Several games canceled, head coach was not knowledgeable on teaching skills and correction, time was not wisely used, communication was very poor, we finally received our pictures in October. I had emailed the coach in August to find out where the pictures were and he said they were handed out at the last game and then he emailed to say he was keeping the rest at his house for parents to pick up. I spoke with three parents to also didn't receive that email or their pictures at the last game. I finally received the pictures in October when another parent had picked up theirs and they got ours for us. Picture day was not communicated with proper timing. We didn't know we had to fill out an order form and pay for them that day. We only had enough cash on hand to order a magnet. When we received it, it didn't even come with the magnetic piece. It was very clear Coach Brom is not an experienced softball coach and we will not be back next year should he be acting as coach again.	Find an experienced coach
10U Black	Getting all players playing all positions to help find position they would to play in future.	sportsmanship of opposing team coach. At this level winning is great but it should be more about team effort and fundamentals of the game	Is sportsmanship brought up to all teams play.
12U Orange	Having the high school coaches run the group practices.	Dunn's team was taken away from group practices to the Frosh field to be coached individually. This was a detriment to those girls as they did not receive the same consistent coaching.	Coaches have to follow league policies in the best interest of the girls. If not, the coaches should be replaced and/or fined by the league.
10U Black	It was fun!	The refferee's	The refferee's
10U Black	Being able to bring your on team	Girls who were placed on teams because their school or area did not have enough players to form a team.	Be allowed to bring your on team in the spring and fall not just the fall. Some schools can't get enough girls to play and end up on terrible teams that unfortunately never practice to help the girls be prepared for games.
8U Team	Our daughter enjoyed playing	All was good	I'll have to think about that

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16/18U Team	Two games per night	N/A	N/A
8U Team	Absolutely nothing. This was very poorly run and the girls not learn anything and were instructed improperly. Very rarely or did not see anyone from the Board to check in on the 8u program. If you see a child doing something incorrectly, the child should be shown the correct way. Corrective instruction can take place in a positive manner without forsaking the fundamentals.	These girls were not taught the fundamentals and what they were taught was usually incorrect for the 8 year olds. I watched over and over improper instruction by the coaches. The other subjects that were helping out did try, but they did not have the knowledge to coach. This isn't T-ball. The girls were allowed to run all over, dancing in the field, running around and sitting with parents and not watching and knowing what was going on in the game. There must be some structure at this age. Other area programs have an 8u traveling team. There would have been no way these girls were prepared for the inner squad games. They did not have enough girls to have two teams. At that point, the Board should have integrated these girls with the older team. They were not taught positions and the responsibility of said position. Why were the 8 year olds not included at the high school diamonds? It would seem that had they been included with the older girls as they used to be, they would learn much more and actually feel like a team and absorb some things from the older girls. You play to the level of competition. The money paid by the 8 year olds should be put into the 8 year olds. They did not even have proper equipment. It seemed the program was more concerned or geared toward the older or traveling teams than the program of all ages. There really should have been no charge to the 8 year olds for what they received in return. This particular coach would call off games or practices because of the possibility of rain. He was pretty	You need to have better coaching and better examples in some instances. There should be some testing of rules and general training of the fundamentals BEFORE anyone is allowed to coach. I realize the program relies on volunteers; however, it is not always the best route to take if they do not know what they are doing. For those folks that are knowledgeable and do donate their time and come to make the team and program better, it would only be respectful for those parents that are coaching or being assistants respect what former coaches and collegiate players are teaching and why they are teaching it. It is my understanding there is access to both former coaches and players that are will to help with the program. In some cases, things are being taught for the basic safety and longevity of the player by these folks and do not get followed by the youth league coaches. The other thing that is bothersome, is a bad sport in either a parent, coach or a player. This should not be tolerated by either and there should be some sort of sanction for this behavior. It is certainly fruitless to counsel a player on the importance of sportsmanship and not throwing a bat, glove, or helmet or if a parent or coach is setting a bad example by their words or for example perhaps launching a bucket of balls because they are upset in the dugout. Athletics, when instructed properly, will teach communication, cooperation, and teamwork. which not only benefits these girls today, but as they enter college, the workplace, and everyday life. It is not only about
12U White	Our team. Great group of girls. Also, schedule & practice were clearly scheduled. Communication from league was great. Liked three-team practice-together proposal...future vision. Umps were great.	Sad about 12u black pulling away, & gossip about it, as I think there was misunderstanding. Mike is cool, not sure what happened. Tough transition from one 10u to three 12u teams? Feel it's important to share this as reasonably sure others will say otherwise, & I am loyal to those who've earned my respect. That said I had great time with other two teams. Great coaches & girls.	Concerned about next 12u group, as daughter will stay back & group is small w/lean pitching, compared to those moving up to 14u. I just want her to be able to play in high school. She's middle of curve skill-wise, but in lean & young part of age group of big class of ball-players.
10U Black	Schedule	Coaches, organization, communication	All the above
8U Team	Coach, schedule and communication	Unorganized from the top or community board, the coach was very organized however	The league organization
8U Team	I like the option my child has to play softball	Not a lot of teams to play against	Better uniforms

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16/18U Team	I thought the girls had fun and bonded. They played well	Wish we could have practiced a few more times and more girls showed up when we did.	I really think the youth coaches need to be shown proper techniques to be teaching for hitting and fielding. They should also be told what to be teaching the girls for basic defensive coverages for bunts etc
10U Orange	Game time schedules that started around 6-6:30 was beneficial as parents who worked away from the area and made it back to watch/drive the child to the games. Open gym times prior to the start of the season.	Saturday Morning practices with both teams. This was not beneficial as Mark and team black coaches were never present. Followed by the absence of the Dolato's-Skylar was left alone on multiple occasions by herself. Thankfully as a parent I was able to stick around on a few occasions to be a retrieving hand. Skylar had to incorporate both teams into drills and scrimmages and last minute rather than working with individuals. Saturday morning practices would be beneficial prior to the start of the season until they start playing against other teams.	Making the coaches more accountable for teaching skills, working with individuals rather than a group. It would be beneficial to have pitching/catching clinic during the season with coaches who can actually work with the youth pitcher/catchers. The volunteer coaches are a great asset but to build on improving the youth program this is a great need among both 10U teams and consistency for the youth program development.
16/18U Team	Glad to have 2nd year of fall ball.	While more girls are getting serious about the sport each year, a dedicated and competitive summer traveling team would help take Portage to another level of competition.	Your efforts to do off season work have been very good for the girls skills and teamwork development. Thank you!
10U Black	The girls were able to try different positions, coaches were positive, daughter had a great time	Practice could've been more organized, maybe a handbook could be given to all coaches with basic drills that build upon what the JV and Varsity do so they are all hearing the same terminology, learning the same techniques etc.	I would love to know how our money is being spent...ie. tournaments, field improvements, umpires, equipment. I signed my daughter up late so this may have been talked about at the parent meeting.
14U Pride	I enjoyed seeing the girls get additional opportunities to play against better competition. The idea of Pride and what it was supposed to be could be a good program.	I did not like the way Pride was initially described as an additional opportunity for Portage girls, but then other non Pride girls from other travel teams and other cities were brought in and played above Portage girls. (Appleton) I did not like that playing as many games as possible became more important than actually practicing and teaching fundamentals. Those things pale in comparison to the thing I disliked most about last season. I did not like how the President of PYS, head coach of Pride, supposed leader of our program, unprofessionally responded to a simple response from a parent (my wife). Not only would I like to have the opportunity to present both emails, but would also like to follow up with comments regarding the emails.	Unfortunately, at this point, my daughter will not be playing Pride next year, and quite possibly not playing softball at all. Regarding what can be improved as far as Portage Youth Softball, I think the High School Varsity Head coach should be the president of the league, as in years past.

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16/18U Team	Varsity Coach contact with players during the summer and their input on the league/club.	Younger teams playing too many games and not concentrating on practice and development of fundamentals.	More practice and less games
8U Team	The schedule before hand so we could plan what days softball would be. I also really like Coach Holtan, he was interactive with the girls and he would explain things to them about the game. He learned all of their names and was very respectful.	Coach Brom, I understand that there are a lot of girls, but we pay a lot of money for these girls to learn softball in a team setting. I expected that by the end of the season that my daughter would have basic understanding on skills and the game. She did not. As softball went on she actually liked it less and less. They stopped warming up before games, they did not work on skills like catching, throwing, fielding and hitting throughout the season. When there were games there was no explanation of why they were doing what they were doing, like why they are throwing to first or second base. I also was not happy about the team pictures. This is my first year being a part of this league and I like other parents I spoke with did not realize that the pictures was being done for us to pay for. My daughters dad had to run home to get his check book to pay for pictures. And then we were not given the pictures until long after the season was done. Like I got them a month ago in September.	I feel that skills need to be addressed throughout the season. I would rather watch the girls learn that than play games. These are the building blocks of a good team and I believe that is why we have these leagues so someday they can be successful softball players in later years. I would love for their to be a better communication from the coach to the parents. There was ONE parent meeting for about 5 minutes. The parents and grandparents that were there this season were so supportive and care so much about these girls they want to know what they can do for help. Also my daughters dad signed up to volunteer as well as another girls aunt and they were NOT included in helping. They were never told they weren't needed they were ignored! You ask for volunteers, use them!! They bring all sorts of knowledge and enthusiasm to the practices too. There wasn't a more the merrier attitude but more of a this is a Coach Brom show. If he returns as the 8U softball coach my daughter will not be back.
8U Team	Interaction with families	Only basic skills were covered without advancement of correction of skills. Many players only played one position instead of getting them involved in different positions. Basic game rules weren't taught or followed. Lack of communication. Many games were cancelled at the last minute	Better communication Have a plan and dont just wing it.
8U Team		My daughter was enrolled for the 8U season because she just missed the age deadline for the 10U but after finding out they would not be having "real games" against other teams, I ended up taking her to another city to play softball. I found out other parents had their daughters bumped up after going to the 1st practice and seeing how it was not going to work with K-4th grade all on one team. So unfortunately I paid all that money and had to go to another city and pay more money.	Breaking up the teams so that K-4th grade are not all together. You cannot have girls that do not know which direction to run to get to 1st base on the same team with girls that have been playing for 4 years and are learning fast pitch.

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14U Black	The team worked together.	Nothing.	Pitching. In order to strengthen pitching, following the lead of Little League, a new pitcher should be required each inning. One pitcher may pitch two innings. This philosophy continues until seventh grade. Just an idea. Thank you for all of your hard work.
14U Pride	Lots of opportunities to play games against really good teams.	Coach favoritism towards those who aren't the best players. Too busy looking in the book causing girls to make errors running bases.	Consistent treatment of girls, especially those who are there all the time. Be honest with the girls about why they play or not play. Also, tell the girl the truth about why she didn't make the team for next year. Need to do team building amongst the girls; lots of strong personalities.
14U Black	Positive reinforcement	Lack of pitchers	More girls trained in pitching techniques to cover absences
8U Team	Organization and coach sportsmanship	N/a	Great job
14U Black	the coaches and how they let us try all the positions	nothing	more coaching education on teamwork and motivation
12U Pride	Experience	Practice time	Have practice during the week or later on sunday
12U Pride	A lot of fun watching the girls play throum bghout the season. Playing in these tournaments against a variety of different skill sets will only help them develop their play further.	July heat!!	My daughter was among the girls that did not make the cut for the 14U Pride next season. We would like to see if there would be an interest for a second team next year. We as parents would be willing to help out in any capacity if needed. Speaking for my daughter only, this is all she wants to do even though she hasn't exactly excelled at the same rate some of the other girls have. We are sending her to the GRB Academy in deforest to get her ready and try to bring her up to speed for next year. If a second team would not work out, so be it. However, in my opinion, sitting a year out from competitive play isn't going to help the girls that are committed to this sport.