



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Youth 1st recognizes Youth Fastpitch Teams
from 2021 Dirt Devil Tournament in Anoka

(Owatonna, MN) (June, 2021) – The Minnesota Twins, Twins Community Fund and the Northwoods League Foundation in partnership with Youth 1st, Federated Insurance, Pearson, Cashwise Foods, Bennerotte & Associates, Metronet, The Retrofit Companies, Profinium and Minnesota-USA Softball are recognizing the following list of **youth softball teams** for their outstanding sportsmanship during the **2021 Dirt Devil Tournament**, hosted by **Anoka-Ramsey Fastpitch Softball**.

The Youth 1st Team Award recognizes positive behavior from players, coaches and everyone associated with the team (parents, fans and spectators). “We are placing the emphasis on how you play the game, which is ultimately more important than if you win or lose.” said Mark Arjes, Founder/Director of Youth 1st. “It has become increasingly difficult to find and retain coaches and officials for youth sports because of the abuse that they take during games. We believe it is time to model and encourage values-based actions, creating what we call a Conduct 1st environment where the focus is on the kids, competitive energies are kept in check and officials and opponents are respected.”

“The Minnesota Twins and Twins Community Fund are proud to partner on the Youth 1st Team Awards. Baseball and softball play a key role in the development of young people when the focus is on teaching life skills, developing values, and building character,” said Dave St. Peter, President and CEO of the Minnesota Twins. “We are thrilled that the Youth 1st Team Awards program recognizes players, coaches, and parents who model and encourage good sportsmanship and positive conduct in Twins Territory.”

About Youth 1st, Inc.: (www.youth1st.com) @Youth1stMN on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

The Youth 1st Team Award was created by working with umpires and tournament directors. The umpires provide a team selection vote after each game during the tournament based on the conduct and sportsmanship exhibited by coaches, players and fans. Teams with an exemplary score from the officials are recognized as Youth 1st Teams. The mission of Youth 1st is to connect Conduct, Character and Community to youth activity programs. Youth 1st is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization headquartered in Owatonna, MN. Youth 1st is an official Playball! MN Partner.

About the Minnesota Twins Community Fund

Governed by a public board of directors, the Twins Community Fund was chartered as an independent public charity in 1991 with the mission to enrich local and regional communities by providing resources for the healthy development of children and families through an association with baseball, softball and the Minnesota Twins. The Twins Community Fund and its grant programs are supported in part by Target, U.S. Bank, Treasure Island and Delta Air Lines. For more information, visit twinsbaseball.com/communityfund.

About Anoka-Ramsey Fastpitch Softball: (www.arsports.org/softball)

The ARAA Fastpitch program strives to provide a positive opportunity for every eligible girl in the Anoka/Ramsey area to play fastpitch according to their ability; no matter what skill level they possess. ARAA will deliver a structured, enjoyable, and learned softball experience. ARAA Fastpitch promotes teamwork, sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and respect.





Anoka Ramsey Fastpitch Association
2021 Dirt Devil Tournament
Youth 1st Team Awards Selections

Congratulations to the following teams on being selected for Youth 1st Team Awards from the 2021 Dirt Devil Tournament. The umpires voted after each game on the conduct and sportsmanship displayed by the players, coaches and fans. The following teams received perfect scores!

8U

- Aitkin
- ARAA 8U Maroon
- ARAA 8U White
- Champlin Park Navy
- Champlin Park Silver
- Coon Rapids Cole
- White Bear Lake 8U Black
- White Bear Lake 8U Orange

12U

- Andover Chandler
- ARAA Black
- ARAA Maroon
- ARAA White
- Champlin Park Kral
- Champlin Park White
- CRAA Black
- Elk River Black
- Moundsview White
- Oakdale Blue
- Princeton Orange
- St. Francis White Uphoff
- St. Paul Rookies Blue
- Wayzata White
- White Bear Lake Orange

10U

- Andover 12U Harer
- ARAA Maroon
- ARAA White
- Champlin Park Silver
- CRAA Black
- East Ridge Black
- Eden Prairie Creager
- MSVA Black
- Oakdale Black
- Roseville Raider Black
- Shakopee Raw
- Shakopee Schmitz
- Somerset
- St. Francis McCoy
- White Bear Lake Black
- White Bear Lake Orange

