



## **Wilmot Softball Association - Exceptional Player Policy**

*(Consideration for Players Moving Up One Age Level for One Year)*

**The WSA Objective:** To develop the best softball athletes we can, and prepare them to positively impact the Wilmot Softball Association's teams and programs.

**Age Appropriate Policy:** The WSA believes that most players will develop better at their age appropriate level than at an age level above. The club recognizes that however rare, highly talented players may exist and want to provide an opportunity to consider them for the next age group within the player organization.

### **Exceptional Player Approval Process - Step 1:**

The athlete (parent) must initiate the consideration for exceptional player status following the timeline outlined below.

- 1) Player must first register and pay applicable fees for the age appropriate tryout process.
- 2) An email must then be sent to the Registrar of the WSA requesting approval to participate in the tryout process as an exceptional player – one age level higher – [registrar@wilmotsoftballassociation.com](mailto:registrar@wilmotsoftballassociation.com) The email should include the name of the player, birth date, previous season Head Coach contact info, and reason(s) why there should be such consideration.
- 3) This email must be received no later than two weeks prior to the first age appropriate tryout date.

### **Executive Decision - Step 2:**

The WSA Executive (President & two other Executive members of his/her choice) will make the decision whether to allow the player to tryout at the next age group.

The following considerations must still be met prior to the player to be invited to tryout at the next age level.

- 1) Registration numbers may dictate 'no movement' at one or both levels.
- 2) Player movement will not decimate the age appropriate team from a competition perspective.
- 3) A promising age appropriate player cannot be displaced by an underage player. Even where the under aged athlete is a more skilled player, an age appropriate athlete that shows promise as a developing player, cannot be displaced by the underage athlete. \*\*To clarify – if the underage player is ranked high enough on the Higher level team – that player in fact would not be displacing the "bubble" candidates in the 10/11 spot or higher.

**Approval to move on to the next step in this process implies the player is guaranteed a position to play on their age appropriate team. If the request is denied, the process ends here and there will be no appeals. The player will be expected to tryout with their age appropriate team – no refunds will be entertained.**

### Exceptional Player Tryout Permission Approved – Step 3:

Once the player has been granted the permission to tryout for the higher age level, the following process must then be followed:

- 1) Player is expected to attend both tryout sessions (age appropriate and higher level -minimum of 1 each). Both Head Coaches will be notified of the Exceptional Player Tryout Approval.
- 2) Player must be evaluated by the age appropriate Head Coach as being in the top three players at his/her session and the release will not compromise the team as per 2-2.
- 3) Player must be evaluated by the Higher Level Head Coach as being in the top six players at his/her session.
- 4) Both Coaches must submit their evaluations and ranking of this player to the Registrar [registrar@wilmotsoftballassociation.com](mailto:registrar@wilmotsoftballassociation.com) **before any cuts have been made by either team.** If there is a discrepancy to either ranking (as noted in 3-2 and 3-3, the process ends, and the player will be notified – no appeals will be entertained.
- 5) If no discrepancy – player will continue solely with the higher level tryout process. An independent evaluator will then be assigned by the WSA President to monitor the higher level tryout process in relation to cuts made and the ranking of the proposed exceptional player. If in the opinion of the independent evaluator the player is not considered in the top six (6) players in the session, or in his/her opinion the player compromises section 2-3 – the process will end and the player will be notified -no appeals will be entertained.
- 6) If all criteria are met in the Player's favour – player will assume his/her position on the higher level team for that season only.

### Disclaimers:

- 1) Exceptional Player status is granted for one season only, and subsequent applications may be entertained.
- 2) The WSA reserves the right to waive the above process based on a player receiving Exceptional Player Status in the previous year(s).
- 3) The WSA reserves the right to move athletes to a level higher or lower when it will be in the best interest of developing players and/or to maintain a team at a particular age group. This discretion is NOT bound by any of the guidelines in the Exceptional Player Consideration process.
- 4) Coaches and/or Executive member(s) deemed to have a conflict of interest in this consideration will be removed from this process and replaced by another member of the WSA until the player status has been resolved.

The process of evaluating athletes and building teams is not an exact science. The process exists as a means to increase consistency, clarity and the sincere desire to develop athletes to play and enjoy the sport while with the Wilmot Softball Association.