

Player Release / Import Policy

Program Overview

Leduc Minor Softball Association (LMSA) is a Softball Alberta–sanctioned organization operating in Zone 5, proudly serving the City of Leduc. LMSA is committed to fostering the growth of softball in our community by offering a high-quality program for female athletes. This includes robust off-season training and development opportunities, as well as competitive experiences through league play and tournaments—both locally and beyond.

Our primary goal is to support the development of athletes within Leduc by providing both **recreational** and **competitive** levels of play whenever possible. As part of this commitment, all athletes interested in pursuing the **competitive stream** must attend the **LMSA ID Camps and tryouts**. This ensures LMSA can properly assess player skill levels and determine whether competitive teams can be formed in each division.

Player Import and Release Procedures

LMSA strictly follows the **Softball Alberta Player Transfer Policy and Procedures**.

- **All players in the U15 age category and younger** who wish to register with another association must **submit a Player Transfer Request** each season using the official **Softball Alberta Player Transfer Form**.
- Transfer requests will only be considered in alignment with LMSA's internal guidelines and Softball Alberta's eligibility criteria.

Import Players

Import Players must adhere to Softball Alberta's Transfer Policy and comply with all other relevant Softball Alberta policies and regulations.

LMSA reserves the right to establish annual limits on the number of transfer players allowed on LMSA rosters from the same jurisdiction. These limitations may apply to individual teams, specific age categories, or the organization as a whole.

Deadlines & Procedures:

- Import Players are responsible for completing the current Softball Alberta Player Transfer Form, securing all required signatures from the releasing organization, and submitting the completed form to the LMSA President and Registrar by the designated deadline.
- All forms must be received on time to facilitate evaluation of the player's eligibility and placement within LMSA, especially if they are not immediately guaranteed a spot on an LMSA roster.

Participation While Waiting for Transfer Approval:

- Players may attend LMSA A/B (747s) or Intro to Competitive U11 training sessions while their transfer is being processed.

- However, if a player is unable to obtain an approved release from their current organization, any top-up fees paid for LMSA's A/B (747s) or Intro to Competitive U11 Advanced programs will not be refunded.

Player Releases:

Leduc Minor Softball Association (LMSA) will not consider outbound player transfer requests prior to **March 15** of the current season. This date is subject to adjustment based on team formation at the applicable age and skill level.

LMSA reserves the right to **wait until registration has closed** for the current year before evaluating transfer requests. This allows LMSA to confirm team numbers, conduct player evaluations, and determine the appropriate division and caliber for each team.

Please note: **Player transfers are not required for athletes in the U17 age category or older. Players U15 age group who wish to play up an age level must follow the player transfer policy.**

Transfer Consideration Criteria

LMSA follows **Softball Alberta's transfer guidelines**, and all transfer requests are evaluated at the **sole discretion of LMSA**, based on the following criteria:

1. Insufficient Players for an A/B Caliber Team

- A transfer may be considered if LMSA does not have enough players to form an A or B level team in the player's age category.

2. Player Was Not Selected for LMSA's A/B Team

- If LMSA has enough players to form an A or B team, but an individual player is not selected and then successfully secures a spot on an A/B team with another association, a transfer may be considered.
- If the player **does not make the other team**, they must return to LMSA and to be placed on a team within their age division in LMSA.

Players meeting one of the above conditions must **successfully complete a tryout** and be offered a position on an A/B level team in another association before submitting a transfer request to LMSA. The **Softball Alberta transfer process** must be followed as outlined on their official website.

Transfer requests for players in the **U11** age category will not be considered, except in extenuating circumstances, which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Additional Notes

- Since teams do not declare their A or B designation when they are formed, being offered a spot on an A-level team is not considered a valid reason for requesting a transfer.
- To be considered for a transfer, players must have attended an LMSA ID camp and hosted tryout at the age group and level they are requesting to move to.

- To ensure the growth and viability of LMSA, the **number of transfers approved each season** is limited and determined by LMSA, based on team roster needs and overall program capacity.
- All player transfers must be **requested annually**, until the player reaches the **U17 age category**.
- Any player requesting to transfer from LMSA to another association must submit an email to the President and Vice President outlining their concerns with LMSA and the reason for their release request. This must be done **prior to submitting a formal transfer request**.
- A player who is offered a spot on an LMSA team but chooses to join a team of the same competitive level (e.g., U13A/B—based on the intended level of play at team formation) with another association may request a release from LMSA. This type of situation is **considered an exception to LMSA's standard release policy**. If the release is approved, the player will not be eligible to return to LMSA for the remainder of the current season or the following season. Note: a new release must still be requested each year in accordance with Softball Alberta policy, regardless of past approvals. This requirement also applies to any player who does not formally request a release.
- The **LMSA President** holds final authority over all transfer decisions.

Effective from Date of Approval: August 7, 2025 (Electronic Vote)