



Purpose and Philosophy

Fastball St. Albert (FSA) is committed to developing players in the St. Albert community and providing both recreational and competitive levels of playing opportunities to accommodate the playing needs of all players. FSA strives to run competitive teams at the A level that are able to successfully compete at the provincial level and gives consideration to athletes who cannot find a competitive program in their community. This policy will outline the way in which FSA will accept and release players with a goal to find a balance between community player development and opportunities, and team competitiveness.

1.0 Import Players

1.1 Definition

- 1.1.1** A Player is considered an Import Player if they meet any of the following conditions:
- They reside outside of the City of St. Albert in a community with an active and equivalent level (e.g., U13A) Fastball Program
 - They reside outside of Zone 5
- 1.1.2** A player is NOT considered an Import Player with FSA if they meet any of the following conditions:
- Is a resident of the City of St. Albert
 - They reside in a Zone 5 community without an active and equivalent level (e.g., U13A) Fastball Program (and regardless of what the closest local association with one is)
- 1.1.3** A player who lives equal distance between associations but has previously played for the other association, thus requiring a release from that association will not be considered an import in the application of this policy.

1.2 Criteria

- 1.2.1** Every Import player must be in compliance with Softball Alberta Zone Transfer Policy and any other relevant Softball Alberta policy.
- 1.2.2** Coaches may select a maximum of 40% of their players as import players except where approval by the board has been granted for exceptional circumstances.
- 1.2.3** Import Players are responsible for completing the relevant years Softball Alberta Player Transfer form and obtaining the required signatures from the releasing organization and providing this to the Registrar of FSA

1.3 Application

- 1.3.1** The FSA board may consider increasing the number of allowed import players on a team if the team is unable to reach the necessary numbers to make a viable team at a certain age/skill level.
- 1.3.2** The FSA board may upon specific request exempt pitchers and/or catchers from the 40% cap based on need for an appropriate skill level for a team.
- 1.3.3** The FSA Registrar will maintain a list of all import players on each team and ensure compliance with the 40% maximum and any exceptions made.



- 1.3.4** The FSA Registrar will track player transfer forms and ensure the required process with Softball Alberta is followed.
- 1.3.5** A player waiting on release from their association will be refunded FSA registration fees (not any other training or team fees) should a release not be granted.
- 1.3.6** Any player wishing to appeal their designation as an import player may request a hearing with the FSA board.
- 1.3.7** Special requests will be reviewed on an individual basis by the FSA board.

2.0 Player Release

2.1 Requests and Application

- 2.1.1** A release is not required for players in age categories U17 and up.
- 2.1.2** The board will not provide pre-approval for transfer requests. Transfer requests will not be considered until the first Sunday of April for the year release is being requested (except in the case of 2.2.5 or other exception).
- 2.1.3** A player in U15 and under seeking a release from FSA may submit a Softball Alberta transfer form to the FSA president once the form is available from Softball Alberta however requests will not be reviewed or considered by the board until the first Sunday in April of the year in which release is being requested.
- 2.1.4** The request should be accompanied by any relevant rationale as to why the request should be granted.
- 2.1.5** As per Softball Canada player transfers are only applicable in the year of issue, so players of FSA will need to apply on a yearly basis for continued release.

2.2 Assessment and Approval

- 2.2.1** The Board will determine on a case-by-case basis if the release will be granted. Decisions will be final and appeals can be made directly to Softball Alberta.
- 2.2.2** The following are some of the guidelines that will be used in assessing the request and determining whether a release shall be granted:
 - Whether the player has received an offer for the same age category but higher level team with another association. i.e. Player is offered B with our association but A with another
 - Whether or not there is a viable team for the player to play on
 - Whether the player's release would have an impact on the viability of a team for remaining FSA players
 - Whether the player has been playing for another association and has only recently moved to St. Albert
- 2.2.3** Any transfer forms received will be responded to within 7 calendar days of receipt with the application review beginning the first Sunday in April of the year in which release is being requested (except where 2.2.5 or other exception applies).



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- 2.2.4** A player who requests and is granted a transfer for the year but subsequently decides they wish to play with FSA for that same year may do so only where it is advantageous for FSA. FSA will not displace any players after the fact to accommodate the return. The decision will be made by the Board.
- 2.2.5** A player who is offered a spot on an FSA team but chooses to accept a position on a same level team (e.g., 13A, where level is based on the intent for team at time of formation) with another association may request a release from FSA as soon as the form is available from Softball Alberta by submitting the completed form to president@fastballstalbert.ca. This situation will be an exception from FSA's standard review date and FSA will review and respond to these requests within 7 days of receipt. Should the release be granted, the player will not be eligible to return to FSA in that current season nor the following year's season. This will also apply to a player who does not request a formal release.

2.3 Exceptions

- 2.3.1** Any exceptions to this policy and the process for releasing players as indicated in this policy must have unanimous board approval from all members. Exception requests can be sent to fsaboard@fastballstalbert.ca