



## **OMSA Player Evaluation / Team Selection Process**

### **General:**

Teams will be formed based on the number of registrants and talent level in the respective groups. The groups are defined as U10, U12, U14, U16 and U19. Within each group, teams will compete at the "B", "C", or "D" level in league play. If numbers permit, there will be one or more teams of each group competing at each level of league play.

The level at which each team competes will be determined by the team coaches with the approval of the OMSA president. The intent is to place the teams in the level of league and provincial play that will offer the players the most positive season experience.

Players on the "B" teams will require a higher level of commitment and will likely practice more often, play tougher competition, attend more out-of-town tournaments and will incur additional costs. Players will be required to determine if they would like to be evaluated for the "B" teams at the time of registration. These players will be evaluated first.

If a player wishes to be evaluated for a level of ball and is successful, they are obligated to play on that team for the duration of that season. Only in special circumstances, as reviewed and approved by the board, will players be allowed to change teams.

Players are eligible to participate subject to the following criteria:

- **Members of OMSA**
- **Must have paid all applicable fees – past and current.**
- **Must have filled out all required forms, including registration and/or any signed waivers and commitment forms.**
- **Must meet age guidelines for the age group. \*\*Over or under aged athletes must make a written request to play out of age group and will be review case by case by the board.**

## **OMSA Player Evaluation / Team Selection Process**

### **Formation of Teams:**

The association believes that rosters beyond or below a certain number are not in the best interest of player development.

- Rosters for teams will be set at 11-13 players unless approved by the Board of Directors.
  - Coaches may request, to the board, additional players to address certain situations. These requests will be reviewed case by case. See also the affiliation policy.
- U10 teams will not be held to these numbers.
  - These team's roster size is generally kept at 8 or 9 players.

The formation of teams will be based upon the number of eligible players, talent and commitment level and will be based on the following guidelines:

- U10 – One or more teams competing at the appropriate level of league play.
- U12 – One “B” team and/or one or more “C” teams.
- U14 – One “B” team and/or one or more “C” teams.
- U16 – One “B” team and/or one or more “C” teams.
- U19 – One or more “C” or “D” teams competing at the appropriate level of league play as deemed appropriate by coach(es).

**\*\*\* Any “A” team (or U19“B”) formation requests must be approved by the Board prior to team selection and will be reviewed on a year by year basis. Please note that “A” (or U19 “B”) teams require a significant increase in coaching certification. An “A” (or U19 “B”) team also requires an increase in commitment both financially and field times. It also could extend into August for the athletes which should be made clear to all before fielding an “A” (or U19 “B”) team.**

### Evaluation process and formation of B team

At the early registration date, if 11 or fewer players have indicated an interest in committing to the “B” team at any age level, they will be considered to have made the team. The coach may add players as necessary in order to reach a roster size of 12.

At the early registration date, if more than 11 players have indicated an interest in committing to the “B” team at any age level, evaluations will be held.

Players must identify their intentions with respect to the following items prior to the beginning of evaluations.

- Is the player being evaluated for a “B” level team?
- Is the player being evaluated for a Pitcher and/or Catcher positions?

**NOTE:** If a player wishes to be evaluated for a level of ball and is successful, they are obligated to remain on that team for the duration of that season. Only in special circumstances, as reviewed and approved by the board, will players be allowed to change teams.

Any player who registers after the early registration deadline and wants to be evaluated for the B team has the following options.

If evaluations have not been held yet, they may be granted an evaluation.

If evaluations have been held, but the team has not yet been named, the coach may grant an evaluation. This is at the coach’s discretion and the player can only make the team as a coach's pick.

After team formation, the Board, with coach input, may grant an evaluation and add the player to the roster with the approval of the Board. Roster size will increase by one and no player on the team will be displaced.

Evaluations will be done using the Association’s Player Evaluation forms. Evaluation scores are to be kept confidential. No coach or member of the evaluation committee is permitted to share this information with individuals outside the evaluation process. This is intended to reduce gossip, contention or hard feelings within the player and parent community.

All players will be evaluated for their overall skills and abilities as ball players. Individuals that choose to be evaluated for Pitcher and/or Catcher positions will receive separate scores with respect to these positions.

Players will be evaluated in two sessions. The best score from those two sessions will be used to determine an evaluation score for that player. If an athlete is unable to attend 2 sessions, her score from the single session will be used.

In a situation where an individual makes a team on their overall softball skills, but their Catcher/Pitcher evaluation scores indicate that the player would not receive much playing time at those positions; the player will be consulted to determine the following:

- Is the player content with playing other positions and remaining on the team at the evaluated level of play (may receive little opportunity to pitch or catch) or,
- Is the player willing to join a lower level of ball where they would get lots of opportunity to play at the Pitcher and/or Catcher position and thus be able to develop those skills in greater extent.

The evaluation of each group of players will be performed by individuals who meet the following guidelines:

- Evaluators must be competent in the game of softball.
- Evaluators are not allowed to have a child or sibling in the group of players being evaluated.
- Individuals taking part in the evaluation cannot coach in the group being evaluated.
- Evaluators must be approved by the OMSA President.
- Evaluators must provide for fair and consistent evaluations of players within the group.

Evaluation drills will be organized by the evaluation committee to allow players to demonstrate their skills in each of the evaluated areas. Evaluators will be provided with the opportunity to observe each of the players and provide a score that best represents their individual abilities.

To provide the best evaluation experience for players and evaluators the following should be considered:

- Groups should be balanced with talent and ability.
- Players should be transferred between groups while in evaluations to allow for consistent scoring.
- If a player's skill level is clearly unsuitable within the group being assessed, the player should be moved to an appropriate group.

Based on evaluations, the following players will be considered to have made the team.

- The top 2 evaluated pitchers
- The top (1) evaluated catcher
- The top 4 other evaluated players
- 4-6 coaches' picks
- Coach's picks will be from players ranked 8-18.
- Players who were evaluated as pitchers or catchers but did not make the team at those positions should be counseled as to how much playing time they will receive at those positions and given the option to play at a lower level in order to develop those skills.

Before announcing the final team roster, the roster must be reviewed by the OMSA Vice President or designate.

**Injured players or those with illness not able to be evaluated must take the following steps. A doctor's note is required stating the injury and an expectation of return to play by April 15. Fees paid and registration form submitted by the appropriate deadline. These requests will be reviewed case by case by the board.**

**If the above request is approved by the board, an open roster spot will be held at the time of team formation. The injured/ill player will then be evaluated by the coach against the final cuts. The coach will have final say on filling the last roster spot.**

#### **Formation of C teams**

**If there is no team competing at the "B" level or if there are enough players to form 2 or more "C" teams, the following process should be followed.**

**Head coaches should be identified and given the first opportunity to split the teams as equally and amicably as possible. Rosters will be approved by the OMSA Vice President or designate prior to being announced.**

**If the coaches can't agree then the coach coordinator, association Vice President, or other executive member will form the teams by splitting the pitchers and catchers equally, and then splitting the rest of the players as equally as possible. The executive member that fills this role should not have a child in the age group in question.**

**Each team may attempt to qualify for provincial play if that is the wishes of the coaches and parents.**

**If it is the wishes of coaches and parents, the teams may combine to form one team for provincial play. In this case all players must be given the opportunity to play for the provincial team before any out of association player pick ups can be considered. Player pick-ups must be registered with Softball Alberta and be approved by the OMSA President.**

**Every player must be registered with OMS no later than May 31 to be eligible to be included on a provincial team.**