



Purpose and Philosophy

We believe that our greatest contribution is in teaching young people the values of competition: to make a commitment, to work hard, to strive for excellence, to sacrifice to make the team better, and to be the best you can be as a person, student, and athlete. We recognize the importance of academic excellence as it relates to competitive sports and to a successful future. We believe that our job is to develop the total person, and not just the athlete. Our players learn to respect the game of fastpitch softball and all who are involved in it. Our idea of a perfect game is one in which only the players and the game are noticed; the coaches and umpires seem to disappear. Softball is fun because of the relationships that are formed on the field, the team unity, and the ability to accomplish a common goal together as a team. While a member of River City, our players will learn about commitment, success, trust, respect, pride, tradition, attitude, motivation, responsibility, discipline, community involvement, mental toughness and integrity.

River City Softball (RCS) prides itself on providing high-level softball development, training, and competition for youth softball student athletes. Our coaching staff is passionate about developing softball players to achieve optimal success throughout their academic and softball careers. We are committed to creating a challenging environment that develops our players and teams to compete at all levels and prepares our athletes for achieving their goals. For some players, it provides a social development opportunity to learn to be positive members of a team at a less competitive level, while others are interested in participating in a competitive division with the objective of pursuing collegiate aspirations of athletics in a post-secondary setting.

Player Development Tools

RCS offers multiple avenues for development opportunities for all of our players.

1. Coach Certification

Depending on the level of the team, coaches at RCS will have the following minimum certifications as set out by Softball Alberta.

Category	Level	Certification	Requirement
U9		CS, MED	Recommended
U11	A	CS, MED	Certified
	B	CS, MED	Recommended
U13	A/B/C	CS, MED	Certified
U15	A	CS, CI*, MED	Trained
	B/C	CS, MED	Certified
U17	A	CI, MED	Trained
	B	CS, CI*, MED	Trained
	C	CS, MED	Trained
U19	A	CI, MED	Trained
	B	CS, CI*, MED	Trained
	C	CS, MED	Certified

Legend: CS – Community Softball (Level 1), CI – Competition – Introduction (level 2 equivalent), MED – Making Ethical Decisions – Online Evaluation

* If coaching a team in a category that leads to post provincial play, the coach must be competition introduction certified including MED.



2. River City Super Skills Program

The Super Skills program is designed to offer athletes from all skill levels access to train in the winter/off-season in a safe and affordable manner. RCS ensures there is a dedicated RCS coach on a weekly basis that is able to convey the various skills to any and all participants. This allows participants to have access to multiple different, highly trained coaches, and to develop a sound understanding of the game and develop relationships with like-minded athletes. The Super Skills program is open to any and all participants that may not have access to indoor training through their home association.

3. Year-round Training

Edmonton is a climate where outdoor training is only feasible for approximately 6 months out of the year. In order for players to excel and continue to develop, access to indoor training is critical. RCS ensures that teams across all age divisions and levels have access to indoor training throughout the off-season. Frequency and availability dependent on team budgets, goals and objectives.

4. Enhanced Camps

The Enhanced Camps program is designed to invite International, Professional, US and Canadian coaches of the highest pedigree to work with our RCS Club. RCS Softball has competed at the highest level in International Tournaments and has established strong contacts and relationships in the Softball community across the country and throughout the world. These Enhanced Camps not only expose our young athletes to a Coach outside of the RCS community, but allows our RCS Coaches the opportunity to learn and convey those skills with our own association, through our Super Skills Program, and with the broader Softball Community. Examples of such camps have been with the:

- 5for5 Softball – 5 Members of Canada’s 2020 Olympic Softball Team
- Kaleigh Rafter – Head Coach of Canada’s Women’s National Team
- Jenn Salling – UCF Softball Assistant Coach and 2 X Olympian
- Multiple camps hosted by NCAA coaches from across the United States

Website link to Player Development Policy

<https://cloud.rampinteractive.com/rivercitysoftballclub/files/Policies/RCS%20Player%20Development%20Policy.pdf>