



**EAST RIDGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION SOFTBALL BOARD
TEAM SELECTION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
September 2009**



Section 1 - Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish enforceable policy and procedure for the selection of ERAA fastpitch softball teams.

Section 2 - Authority:

The authority to establish this policy is provided by Section 3 - General Duties and Responsibilities of the ERAA Softball Board ("ERAASB") Bylaws.

Section 3 – Levels of play defined:

- A. ERAASB offers three levels of play within the Fastpitch Softball Program:
- Recreational Fastpitch Softball League
 - Competitive Fastpitch Softball League
 - Competitive Fall Fastpitch Softball League
- B. Reference the ERAASB Age of Play Policy for details.

Section 4 – Tryout Requirements:

To be eligible for selection, all players registering for ERAASB Competitive League programs must participate in tryout procedures as determined by the appropriate league Director and approved by the ERAASB Board of Directors.

Exceptions: Players who cannot participate in designated tryout procedures due to injury or family obligation may request placement based on tryout scores from the immediately previous year, provided scores for the previous year are available. Scores may not be advanced beyond a one-year period. Players who cannot participate in designated tryout procedures for any reason, and who do not have scores from the immediately previous year, are not eligible for play on ERAA Competitive Fastpitch Teams. Extenuating and unusual circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Players must be properly registered, fees paid, and in good standing with ERAA to be eligible for tryouts and placement on an ERAASB roster. Late registrations and/or fee payments (after the formal registration dates) are subject to roster availability and will be assigned to teams at the discretion of the selection committee.

Section 5 – Tryout Procedure Guidelines:

ERAASB Tryouts shall be conducted to evaluate players overall ability. The skills including fielding, throwing and hitting will serve as the primary basis for the ERAASB Sub Committee in selecting possible players (See Evaluation Form). Other considerations include position needed, ability to make practices, past performance, potential, level of commitment, athleticism, attitude, knowledge of the game, experience and ability/willingness to learn. Exact procedure for evaluations shall be applied to all participants equally and shall be established by the Director responsible for conducting these tryouts within the following guidelines:



EAST RIDGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION SOFTBALL BOARD
TEAM SELECTION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
September 2009



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- A. An effort is made to place every registrant on a team.
 - B. Evaluation procedures shall be established and published prior to the start of tryouts.
 - C. Evaluators shall be independent and from outside the ERAA softball programs, neutral and unbiased in their evaluations, and apply identical criteria to all participants.
 - D. Evaluators shall apply a numeric scoring system, established by the ERAASB, and designed to rank candidates based on total assigned score. Upon completion of the tryout skills evaluation, all independent evaluator's scores shall be used to rank all candidates in descending order based on total assigned tryout score, the highest score being ranked 1st.
 - E. Where Competitive teams are being selected, candidates ranked 1st through 5th highest in descending order of total assigned score shall be considered "Locked" into placement onto the appropriate Competitive "A" team. Players must attend current year tryouts to be eligible for "Locked" status. No player, using a previous year's score or selected by allowable exceptions to this policy, shall be considered "Locked".
 - F. All teams will be provided a pitcher and catcher if available and/or known. After the '1st' team is selected the remaining top ranked players and top remaining pitcher will be placed on the '2nd' team and the coach will pick the remaining "choice" players for the team. If there is a tie which would increase the locks in excess of 5, the locks will be reduced to the level prior to the tie. After the top two teams have been selected, the remaining players will be placed on teams on an equally competitive basis as determined by the ERAASB. The coaches and the ERAASB will agree on the actual number of players on a team. Each team will have a maximum of two pitchers if available unless an age group has an excess of pitchers available or as noted below.
 - G. Competitive coaching candidates selected prior to the try-out process will be invited to observe all or part of the try-out process for the age group they have been selected to coach.
The coaching candidate shall not contribute nor attempt to influence scoring decisions of the independent evaluators. Competitive teams shall be selected according to Section 6 of this POLICY.
 - H. If a player wishes to play in an older classification the following criteria must be met:
 - a. Participant must apply in writing to the Director prior to the published tryout dates.
 - b. Participant must complete a full tryout at both age levels.
 - c. Participant must be either:
 - i. the higher age group's top pitcher or
 - ii. one of the other position player "lock" positions based on tryout scores.
 - I. If players are needed to complete a team at one age level (e.g. not enough position players, not enough pitchers, etc.), exceptions to the Play-up rule defined in Section 5.H of this document may be made by the ERAASB.



EAST RIDGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION SOFTBALL BOARD
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September 2009



-
- J. Any player whose continued participation is deemed detrimental to the welfare of the association may be removed from the team upon a majority vote of the ERAASB.
 - K. Because of the limited number of participants allowed and the evaluation process establishing that number, it is required that every participant and their parents or guardians commit to the practices, games, and tournaments their team will participate in over the course of the season.
 - L. It is required that every parent or guardian help support the ERAA Fastpitch Softball program by committing to help with concessions or any other area needed to support ERAASB during league and tournament play.
 - M. Tryout scores are the property of ERAASB and shall be kept private and in confidence. Coaches who are given access to tryout scores are responsible to maintain this confidence. Violation of this confidence may result in removal from coaching, prohibition from future coaching or both.
 - N. Grading players during tryouts is not a perfect science. Tryout grades are only a reflection of a player's abilities on that day. The ERAASB Sub Committee generally selects players based upon tryout grades, filling positions for the team and personal knowledge of players. If you have any suggestions or wish to help us in this effort, contact a Board member in writing or attend Board meetings.

Section 6 – Selection of Teams:

A. Competitive Softball Program.

Players shall be chosen for the ERAA Competitive Softball Programs within a reasonable time following the conclusion of their tryout process, for their age group. Specific Competitive teams shall be selected as follows:

When only one Competitive team is to be formed, upon completion of the tryout procedure and identification of "Locked" players, the league Director and the coach shall confer to identify the remaining players who will be invited to participate on the Competitive team.

When both a Competitive "A" and "B" teams are to be formed, those players ranked 1st through 24th highest, may be invited to participate in the ERAA Competitive Softball Program. The Competitive "A" coach may, at his/her convenience, conduct additional tryouts to select those players from the invited list, along with those players identified as "Locked" that will compose the Competitive "A" team. The Competitive "B" team shall be composed of the remaining invited players not selected for the "A" team.

If sufficient players are present to form more than two teams, additional teams may be formed at the ERAASB's discretion and by means that are compliant with this policy.



EAST RIDGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION SOFTBALL BOARD
TEAM SELECTION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
September 2009



B. Recreational Fastpitch Softball

Teams competing in the Recreational Fastpitch Softball League shall be formed under the supervision of the appropriate league director. Recreational level Fastpitch Softball players may request same team placement with one other player provided both players request each other. Such player requests must be made in writing on the registration form and will be honored only when possible. Players may request specific coaches.

C. Fall Competitive Fastpitch Softball

The ERAA Fall Competitive Fastpitch Softball Programs are collectively called “Fall Ball”. These programs are separate from ERAASB spring/summer programs and have no impact of the formation of any summer Competitive or Recreational program teams. Fall Ball is an ERAASB program and general ERAASB policies and rules shall apply. Teams are to be formed along the following guidelines.

- a. Players from ERAASB spring/summer teams shall have preference over players from outside of ERAA to be placed on ERAASB Fall Ball teams.
- b. Fall Ball teams may have up to 15 players per team at the discretion of the fast pitch softball director or coordinator.
- c. Teams must register their players through the process established by ERAASB. Teams that register their roster directly with MMFL or other sponsoring programs are prohibited from using ERAASB equipment, uniforms from previous seasons or use of ERAASB team names / logos. Teams that register their roster directly with MMFL or other sponsoring programs are not covered under the ERAA Liability Insurance, and must provide proof of insurance to the Cities of Cottage Grove and Woodbury prior to use of City owned facilities.
- d. Fall Fastpitch softball is offered according to the program established by the Minnesota Metro Fastpitch League (MMFL) or other governing body. MMFL Competitive fastpitch rules generally apply to fall fastpitch softball, including age of players. The softball director has overall responsibility for registration announcements, registration of players, formation of teams, entering teams in the appropriate leagues and the general oversight of the fall Fastpitch softball program.
- e. The fall Fastpitch softball coordinator or director shall form teams taking into account taking the number of players registered for a particular level of play, the MMFL guidelines for competitiveness of teams and past experience. Coaches may submit proposed rosters to the director; however, these rosters are not guaranteed. ERAASB will have final approval and may add or remove players to meet over all program needs.



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Section 7 – Enforcement:

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the ERAASB Board of Directors.

**Adopted by the ERAASB Board of Directors
9/14/2009**

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