



## 2025 Select Program Outline

Revised 9/24/2024

We reserve the right to change or adapt this program as needed during the year.

### **Overview:**

The USA Softball of Sacramento Select program is designed to enhance the recreational league experience by creating a more competitive environment for players to participate in while remaining in a recreational league setting. This program will allow recreational leagues to form teams to represent their league in the Select program.

Each league is eligible to put together one or two Select teams per division to compete against the other Select teams. This allows the league to retain the better players while keeping them in the recreational league. This in turn, creates a higher base level of play in the recreational league and drives participation back to the rec program.

Essentially, the Select program is a way for leagues to allow their higher performing athletes to come together as a team during the Spring rec season. The Select team is the league's first All-Star team and the league will have the opportunity to form a secondary All-Star team if desired. Secondary All-Star teams can be formed no earlier than the last Saturday in April.

Leagues need to remember, Select is not a travel ball program. It is a recreational league program and chosen players will have the privilege to play together throughout the Spring season and compete at a higher level.

### **Changes for 2025**

This season it will be required for all players in the Select program to also play on a team within their recreational league. With this change comes a new "league" format of play which will make it easier for leagues to participate in Select as there will be no schedule conflicts with the normal recreational league events. Additionally, there will be Select practice restrictions in order to avoid player burnout. These items are detailed below.

### **Team Formation**

There are no specific date guidelines for forming your Select teams. Many have tryouts in the November/December time frame, and others wait until January. Teams should be solidified by mid-February when rosters are due. Also refer to the Eligibility section below.

### **Practices**

Once the Select team is formed, there are no practice limitations until Rec practices start. Once the Rec season starts their practices, Select team contact will be limited to one day per week. USAS Select

events do not count as a contact. Select practices cannot conflict with any league events including practices, games or special events. Contact is defined as any team meeting or activity.

## **Select Schedule**

The Select Spring Series format will be modified in order to make it easier for leagues to participate and avoid Rec game conflicts. It will run more like a league program and have an opening and closing tournament. Rain makeup dates are also built into the schedule.

Please note that this is the same number of games we've played in prior seasons. For example:

2024 – 5 Spring tournaments + Association = 4 games per tournament (3 pool play games and 1 bracket play game; potentially more if team advances) = 24 games (minimum).

2025 – 1 opening tournament + Association = 4 games per tournament (3 pool play games and 1 bracket play game; potentially more if team advances) = 8 games; plus 15 Select league games and one or more playoff games, for a total of 24 games (minimum).

## **Tournament/Game Schedule**

February 22-23	Select season kick off tournament (official name TBD) (3 pool play games Saturday; single elimination on Sunday)
March 1-2	<b><u>IF NEEDED</u></b> -- Rain makeup date for kick off tournament. If both dates are rained out, teams will be refunded at the end of the season.
Sunday, March 9	3 Select league games (round robin format)
Sunday, March 23	3 Select league games (round robin format)
Sunday, March 30	<b><u>IF NEEDED</u></b> – Rain makeup date for March 9 or March 23 games. If either date can't be made up, teams will be refunded at the end of the season.
Sunday, April 6	3 Select league games (round robin format)
Sunday, May 4	3 Select league games (round robin format)
Sunday, May 11	<b><u>IF NEEDED</u></b> – Rain makeup date for April 6 or May 4 games. If either date can't be made up, teams will be refunded at the end of the season. <b>Note that this is Mother's Day.</b>
Saturday, May 24	3 Select league games (round robin format)
Sunday, May 25	Select league playoffs (single elimination bracket)

All round robin games, including those on May 24, will be used for seeding into the single elimination playoff bracket on May 25.

**Note that this is Memorial Day weekend.**

## **All-Star Tournament Schedule**

May 30 – June 1	Piece of the Rock 10U – 14U (Rocklin)
June 7 – 8	Stars of Cordova 10U – 14U (Rancho Cordova/Folsom)
June 20 – 22	Association Championship 10U – 14U (Sac Area)
June 28 – 29	Battle of the Roses 12U/14U (Roseville)
June 28 – 29	Stars and Strikes – 10U (Davis)
July 12 – 13	NorCal All Stars 10U – 14U
July 12 – 13	Red, White and Boom – 10U – 14U open classification

## **B Western Nationals**

10U Western Nationals – July 22 – 27 – Roseville  
12U Western Nationals – July 21 – 27 – Southern California  
14U Western Nationals – dates TBD – Central California

It should be the goal of each team to participate in the USA Softball “B” Western Nationals.

The Association Championship entry fee is included as part of the Select team fees. If a team chooses to participate in any additional tournaments (including Nationals), it will be their responsibility to enter and pay for the tournaments. This will allow teams more flexibility to choose All-Star tournaments from other areas, etc.

***Teams may ONLY play in USA Softball tournaments. Participation in any other type of event (NSA, AST, PGF, Legacy, etc.) will result in immediate re-classification to the “A” program.***

For teams looking for stronger competition during “off time”, please reach out and we can assist you with finding tournaments in the Bay Area/Southern California.

## **Cost**

The cost for each Select team is \$2650. There is no increase over 2024 fees. The cost includes the opening tournament, 15 league games plus playoffs, and the Association Championship. This is a set schedule and cannot be substituted for. If any tournament/games are rained out and cannot be made up, a refund will be issued at the end of the season. If a team cannot participate in any of their games, it is considered a forfeit.

## **Eligibility**

All Select teams and players must follow the USA Softball Sacramento Select policies outlined in this document, the Yellow Book, and the Pacific Coast Region Rules of Eligibility. This includes, but is not limited to:

- The team must be approved by and represent a single recreational league.
- The team must have some form of tryouts or demonstration of skill that is announced to the entire league membership.
- Select players must play in 75% of their rec games in order to remain eligible (monitored by the league).
- Only players that live or go to school within the boundaries of the recreational league are eligible for Select. Waivers from other leagues are generally not accepted unless the home

league doesn't have a Rec team within the same age division. USA Softball reserves the right to grant waivers for special circumstances.

- Grandfather Clause: Players who have played in a league under an approved waiver and have established themselves with that league through at least 1 full Spring season shall be considered eligible for Select in the league they are waived to play in. Leagues will be required to complete a Select waiver for the player, as well as the league/NorCal waiver that is required each year.
- Any league player that participates with any other team outside of their recreational league after March 31 forfeits their eligibility.
- Teams may NOT play in any other sanctioned event outside of USA Softball.

## **Questions**

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