

2026 Select Program Outline

Revised 10/18/2025

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

Overview

The USA Softball of Sacramento Select Program is crafted to elevate the recreational league experience by introducing a higher level of competition—without leaving the recreational setting. This initiative empowers local leagues to assemble Select teams that proudly represent their community, offering players the opportunity to sharpen their skills, compete at a more advanced level, and enjoy the thrill of team-based competition while staying rooted in the spirit of recreational play.

Each league has the opportunity to form one or two Select teams per division to compete against other Select teams within the program. This structure enables leagues to retain top-tier talent while keeping players engaged in the recreational environment. By elevating the overall level of play, the Select program strengthens the foundation of the recreational league and encourages increased participation across all age groups and skill levels.

Essentially, the Select program offers leagues a unique opportunity to bring together their top-performing athletes into a unified team during the Spring recreational season. This Select team serves as the league's premier All-Star squad, showcasing standout talent while maintaining the inclusive spirit of recreational play. Additionally, leagues may choose to form a secondary All-Star team, with eligibility beginning no earlier than the last Saturday in April.

It's important for leagues to remember that the Select program is not a travel ball initiative. It remains firmly rooted in the recreational league structure, offering selected players the special opportunity to play together throughout the Spring season while experiencing a higher level of competition within their local league environment.

2026 Program Updates

Rec Team Participation: Each league will determine Rec team participation requirements for their divisions. If a league fields two Select teams within a division, at least 50% of the total Select players must also be active participants on a Rec team. The second team must be approved by Junior Olympic Commissioner.

Tournament Format: All Select tournaments will follow a standard format—pool play leading into bracket play. To avoid scheduling conflicts with regular Saturday recreational games, tournaments held during the Spring Rec season will be Sunday/Sunday tournaments.

Practice Guidelines: Practice schedules and restrictions will be set at the discretion of each individual league.

Participation in Post-Season Championship Play: Teams that place in the top 2 of their division in the Association Championship will earn a berth to a post-season championship tournament and are expected to attend. Please communicate this to your families and begin fundraising efforts as soon as possible to prepare for the opportunity.

Team Formation Guidelines

Leagues have flexibility when it comes to forming their Select teams—there are no fixed date requirements. Many leagues choose to hold tryouts in November or December, while others opt to wait until January. Regardless of the timeline, teams should be finalized by mid-February to meet roster submission deadlines. For additional details, please refer to the Eligibility section below.

Select Schedule

All teams are expected to participate in the five Select tournaments as well as the Association Championship. These events are covered by your Select program fees. We've carefully scheduled these tournaments to minimize conflicts with Rec ball, including avoiding league mid-season events and Spring Break.

February 14-15 Tournament 1 (3 pool play games Saturday; single elimination on Sunday)

February 21-22 Tournament 2 (3 pool play games Saturday; single elimination on Sunday)

Feb 28 – March 1 **IF NEEDED** -- Rain makeup date for first 2 tournaments.

Sunday, March 8 Tournament 3 – Pool Play (3 pool play games)

Sunday, March 15 Tournament 3 – Bracket Play (single elimination)

Sunday, March 22 **IF NEEDED** – Rain makeup date for March 8 or March 15 games.

Sunday, April 19 Tournament 4 – Pool Play (3 pool play games)

Sunday, April 26 Tournament 4 – Bracket Play (single elimination)

Sunday, May 3 **IF NEEDED** – Rain makeup date for April 19 or April 26 games.

May 23 -24 Tournament 5 (3 pool play games Saturday; single elimination on Sunday)

Note that this is Memorial Day weekend.

All-Star Tournament Schedule

June 20 – 21 Association Championship 10U – 14U (Sac Area)

All other dates are TBD:

Piece of the Rock 10U – 14U (Rocklin)

Stars of Cordova 10U – 14U (Rancho Cordova/Folsom)

Battle of the Roses 12U/14U (Roseville)

Stars and Strikes – 10U (Davis)

NorCal All Stars 10U – 14U

Red, White and Boom – 10U – 14U open classification

Post-Season Championship Play

Teams that elect to participate in additional tournaments beyond those included in the Select program will be responsible for handling their own registration and associated costs. This approach offers greater flexibility, allowing teams to explore All-Star tournaments in other regions and tailor their competitive experience. Please reach out if you need assistance finding additional opportunities.

Teams are permitted to compete exclusively in USA Softball-sanctioned tournaments. Participation in any other events—including NSA, AST, PGF, Legacy, or similar organizations—will result in immediate reclassification to the “A” program.

Cost

The total cost for each Select team is \$2,650—unchanged from the 2024 season. This fee covers participation in the five Select tournaments and the Association Championship. These events follow a fixed schedule and cannot be substituted or rescheduled.

In the event of rainouts that cannot be made up, a refund will be issued at the end of the season. Please note, if a team is unable to participate in any scheduled game, it will be recorded as a forfeit and a refund will not be issued.

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.
- 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 2 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

Tracey Levea
USA Softball of Sacramento Select Program Coordinator
tracey@usasoftballsacramento.org
(916) 261-1566

Karla Burket
USA Softball of Sacramento Program Director
karla@usasoftballsacramento.org