



PLAYER EVALUATION AND SELECTION POLICY

PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

Twin City Angels (TCA) aims to evaluate players' softball skills in a fair and consistent manner resulting in teams at various levels who will all focus on sportsmanship and fundamentals. We strive to provide a level of play and competition that suits as many athlete's/families as possible. The information presented below is provided to help athlete's and families choose level of play. Should you have questions, please reach out to either the TCA President or TCA Player and Coach Development Coordinator.

This policy will outline the standard way in which players are evaluated and teams are selected. Any situation not specifically outlined in this policy will be reviewed and assessed at the board level with the goal being a fair review and outcome.

The following [chart and commentary](#) are a summary of the tiering classifications:

"A"

- Please note the chart. This is the highest level of competition available in Softball. These teams require a high level of commitment from the players, parents, and coaches.

"B"

- Please note the chart. This is a higher level of competition. These team(s) require a higher level of commitment from the players, parent,s and coaches. *Note: teams are expected to participate at B Provincials.*

"C"

- Please note the chart. This is an intermediate/beginner level of competition. The focus of this program will be fundamentals, fun, and sportsmanship.
- In the event of a discrepancy in team numbers, the **TCA Board** will review the situation and determine the most appropriate team placements.

League Play and Tournaments

Note: The level at which each team competes for league play will be determined by the TCA Executive. 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. Any team, at the discretion of coaches and parents, may decide to participate in tournaments that are hosted by other associations/leagues.

Teams will participate in the Saskatoon Minor Softball League in either the A or B Division.

U17 A and U19 A/B may participate in the Saskatoon Amateur Softball Association League.

Eligibility

- As stated in the Twin City Softball Association Bylaws

Evaluation Fees

Evaluation fees for those wishing to be evaluated for an 'A' or "B" team(s) is \$60.00.

This fee shall be paid at the time of registration via credit card or on the first day of evaluations, by cash only.

Player Evaluation Process

All division evaluations for TCA softball are open to all players who meet the eligibility guidelines stated above, with dates, times, and location to be determined by the TCA Board of Directors.

Player evaluations will take place for the following age divisions:

- U11 A and U11 B
- U13 A & U13 B
- U15 A & U15 B
- U17 A & U17 B
- U19 (dependent on registration numbers)

[*age categories can be found on the Softball Saskatchewan Website*](#)

Attendance at the dates and times set out for evaluations are **mandatory**.

Player Evaluation Testing Protocols can be found below in Appendix A.

Player Evaluation Exceptions

The following guidelines listed below will help to provide a consistent policy to respond to situations that may arise, should a player be unable to attend evaluations or missed evaluation registration. All other situations will be reviewed by the TCA executive.

1. Missed Registration

If evaluations have not yet occurred, the player can proceed to register for the scheduled evaluations and be placed in the appropriate evaluation group.

2. Unable to Attend the Scheduled Evaluations

- The coach of the “A or B” team has the option of evaluating the player that has missed scheduled evaluations, but is not required to do so.
- Players not able to try out at all, for legitimate reasons, may request that their individual circumstances be considered by the TCA Executive. The absence from evaluations for legitimate reasons, including medical reasons will not necessarily preclude a player from being placed on an A or B Competitive team. For example, the evaluation marks and level of play from the immediately preceding year may be used to gauge the player’s eligibility to play on an A or B Competitive team. The player’s placement will, however, be at the sole discretion of the TCA Executive in the event of a missed tryout.
- If the new player is evaluated by the coach of the A or B team and meets the requirements for the team, they will be added to the team and the team roster will be increased by one. Players that have gone through the evaluation process and have been placed on the “A” or “B” team will not be displaced.

For other players who missed evaluations and teams have been formed, the player may join a team if:

- There is room on a roster, the player may be placed on a team at the discretion of the executive.
- The player will not be granted an evaluation and will be placed on a team that requires a player.
- The player will be asked to pay the late registration fee, plus all other fees due at that time.

Evaluators

TCA has developed an evaluation process that intends to place players on teams matching their individual skills and competitive level. We recognize that players develop at different times and intervals. The goal is to build teams that consist of players with similar abilities and drive, in a competitive atmosphere, while fostering skills development

- Unbiased third-party evaluators will be used for all evaluations.
- Evaluators will be individuals who have extensive experience as a player and/or as a coach in competitive softball or baseball.
- Evaluators will provide fair and consistent evaluations of players within the group.
- Evaluators recognize the sensitive nature of the player evaluations and will not discuss the player evaluations with any other individuals other than those directly involved in player evaluations.
- Evaluation scores will be confidential; however, players and parents may request, under special circumstances, to see their scores through a special meeting with the Player and Coach Development Coordinator and the Division coordinator. The player's overall ranking will not be shown to a player or parent.

- Evaluators will provide their completed score sheets to the Player and Coach Development Coordinator, who will compile the results.

Team Selection Process

The TCA Selection Committee, made up of members from the TCA Executive, will meet with the selected head coaches from each division to select the team for each age division. The TCA executive shall have final approval of team selection.

Note: In instances where the coach wishes to go outside of these parameters, rationale must be provided and accepted by all Selection Committee members in attendance at the selection meeting.

“A”

- Roster size will be limited to 12 players.
- Players selected for an “A” team will receive notification of an offer from the team head coach, who will also provide a timeline in which to accept the offer.
- The top evaluated pitcher, catcher, and four position players must be offered a spot on the “A” team.
- After the top-ranked players are offered a spot, the coach, in consultation with the Team Selection Committee, will select the remaining six players.
- If one of the auto-selected pitchers or catchers is also one of the top 3 positional players, then the next best position player(s) must be chosen.
- Pitchers and catchers are also evaluated on general fielding and hitting skills, in addition to their pitching or catching skills. Therefore, if the athlete does NOT rank as the top pitcher, or top catcher, they (a) must be chosen if their overall skill ranking falls in the top 4, or (b) Coaches can also choose them with their remaining picks.
- *Pitchers and catchers selected by either, a or b above, will be given 24 - 48 hours to decide if they accept the offer as they may get little/no time playing at pitcher/catcher (depending on Team needs). The player can choose to go down one level to focus on their primary skill development (the Coach extending the offer should clarify with the alternative Coach they would use the athlete in their preferred pitcher or catcher position).*
- The Selection committee must approve the final roster.

“B”

- Roster size will be limited to 12 player
- The number of “B” teams will be a function of the number of registrations and level of skill observed.
- Players selected for the “B” team will receive notification of an offer from the team head coach, who will also provide a timeline in which to accept the offer.
- The top evaluated 1 pitcher, 1 catcher and 4 position players MUST be offered a spot on the “B” team.
- After the top ranked players are offered a spot, the coach, in consultation with the Team Selection Committee, will choose the remaining 6 players.
- If one of the auto-selected pitcher or catcher is also one of the top 4 positional players, then the next best position player(s) must be chosen.
- Pitchers and catchers are also evaluated on general fielding and hitting skills, in addition to their pitching or catching skills. Therefore, if the athlete does NOT rank as the top pitcher, or top catcher, they (a) must be chosen if their overall skill ranking falls in the top 4, or (b) Coaches can also choose them with their remaining picks.
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- The Selection committee must approve the final roster.

“C”

- For this level and where multiple teams exist per level, the Selection Committee in collaboration with the coach(s) (if chosen) for that level will strive to form the teams on the basis of balancing the skill level between the teams.
- “C” teams will be formed starting with the pitchers being divided equally and then followed by catchers. The remaining players will then be divided equally based on evaluation scores.

Note: While this is the standard approach that will be taken, every year has different circumstances that may require a deviation from the above. Any deviations from the above will require approval from the TCA Executive.

Roster Adjustments

If changes need to be made to teams based on an unwillingness of the player or family to commit to the team, the coach should inform the Player and Coach Development Coordinator and/or the President so players can be re-assigned/the situation assessed.

Transfer of players from one team to another shall be done at the discretion of the coaches concerned and with the approval of the TCA Executive.

Roster adjustments shall be referred to the TCA Board of Directors for approval.

Refunds

Evaluation fees will not be refunded.

If you withdraw from TCA:

- After teams are formed, no refund will be provided unless there are exceptional circumstances. In such a case, submit a request to the TCA executive, which will consider requests on a case by case basis. If a refund is approved for a withdrawal after teams are formed, a minimum of \$40 will be withheld by the Board.
- Players requesting a refund or release after jerseys have been ordered and insurance fees have been paid to Softball Sk will have the total deducted from the refund.
- Players requesting a refund or release after April 1st of the current year shall not receive a refund.

Player Release and District Transfer

- A player release shall only be granted to a TCA member if TCA does not offer a team in their respective age division.
- A player release and/or district transfer request must be made to the TCA President. The Board will then review the application for release.
- Should a special circumstance arise, related to a player release request, this request will be reviewed by the Board of Directors.
- Deadline for player release and district transfers shall coincide with Softball Saskatchewan dates found in the Softball Saskatchewan Handbook.

Resolving or Addressing Concerns:

TCA and all of its evaluators, coaches and volunteers spend considerable time and effort into making the evaluation and selection process as professional and unbiased as possible.

Often problems are the result of a misunderstanding or failure to identify expectations. We expect that coaches, players and parents can be reasonable and considerate in approaching problems and work with the understanding that no one intends any ill will.

With respect to the evaluation process the following should be noted:

- Any decision made by or with support from the President of TCA is final.
- Individuals should strive to support the evaluation process to allow for balanced and competitive teams that will enjoy a successful ball season.
- Issues with the evaluation and team selection process should be presented with suggestions for improvement to the TCA President and/or an executive level board member.
- If further clarification is required, a discussion can be scheduled with one of these individuals.
- The objective of the evaluation process is to ensure that all players are correctly placed on the appropriate team. Special circumstances, which fall outside the normal process, can be brought forward to the TCA Executive for their review.

Appendix A

Player Evaluation Testing Protocols

Positional Evaluation

Exit Velocity

Batter hits 5 hard balls off a tee into a bownet. Coach stands behind the bownet and uses a radar gun to get MPH reading on the velocity of each hit.

Arm Velocity (overhand throw)

Two cones are set up in front of a bownet. One set at 10 ft and one set at 15 ft. Athlete can start anywhere between the two cones. Athlete throws 5 balls directly into the bownet. They must throw the ball before the closer of the two cones. Coach stands behind the bownet and uses a radar gun to get MPH reading on the velocity of each throw. Indoor or outdoor balls can be used.

Infield - Glove to Glove

Coach is set up to roll balls directly out from Home. Fielder begins standing over the cone. Fielder can leave the cone as soon as the ball leaves the coach's hand.

Fielder picks up the ground ball and throws it to first. Fielder is scored on glove to glove time and accuracy of throw. Time starts when the ball touches their glove and stops when it gets to 1B. Receiver at 1B cannot stride out to catch the ball.

After the throw, fielder goes to the back of the line. Each fielder gets 4 attempts and scores are recorded for each.

Infield - Ground Ball Observations

Coach hits GBs to athletes from Home. Fielder picks up the ground ball and throws it to first. After the throw, fielder goes to the back of the line. Each fielder gets 5 attempts and scores are recorded for each.

Outfield - Glove to Glove

A cone is set in Center Field and coach is

set up to roll ground balls. Fielder begins standing over a cone (see chart at start of document for distances). Fielder can leave the cone as soon as the ball leaves the coach's hand.

Fielder picks up the ground ball and throws it to Home. Fielder is scored on glove to glove time and accuracy of throw. Time starts when the ball touches their glove and stops when it gets to Home.

After the throw, fielder goes to the back of the line. Each fielder gets 4 attempts and scores are recorded for each.

Outfield - Fly Ball Observation

A cone is set in the OF space and the coach is set up to throw fly balls from 30-40 feet in front of them. Athlete will get 5 fly balls, in no specific order. They catch the ball and throw it back to the coach and reset at the cone each time. They will do all 5 fly balls in a row for their turn.

- Directly to the cone
- ~15 ft left
- ~15 ft right
- ~15 ft behind them (far enough to do a drop step)
- ~10 ft forward

Hitting - Front Toss & Live Evaluation

Note: U11 will do two front toss stations (instead of FT and Live)

Two hitting stations are set up side by side - one live (either off a coach pitcher or machine), and one front toss from a coach set up behind a protective screen. Each batter gets 10 hittable balls from each station. Batter is scored on overall mechanics, contact, and power off each station.

Live hitting speed of pitches:

- U13 - 45-50 mph
- U15 - 50-55 mph
- U17 - 55-60 mph
- U19 - 60-65 mph

Pitcher Evaluation

Accuracy, Speed, Spins

**catcher appropriate for the pace of the pitcher is required for safety purposes. Parents cannot catch for evaluation.*

**pitchers can test with an outdoor ball if the catcher is comfortable with that*

Age Group (Girls)	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19
Ball Size	11 in	11 in	12 in	12 in	12 in
Pitching Distance	33 ft	38 ft	40 ft	43 ft	43 ft
# of pitches throws for evaluation	10 total	10 total	Up to 12 total	Up to 16 total	Up to 16 total

Safety net is set up behind home plate as a protective screen for coach with radar gun. Evaluator asks pitcher what they will be throwing - what types of pitches they want evaluated.

Pitchers throw the designated number of pitches. The first half are evaluated on spin and velocity. The second half are evaluated on spin and accuracy of location, MPH still recorded.

Pitcher chooses which pitches they want to throw.

Ex 1: A U17 or U19 Pitcher throws Rise, Drop, Change, Curve. She throws 2 of each for spin and velocity. She throws 2 of each again, evaluated on spin and location accuracy.

Ex 2: A U15 Pitcher throws Rise, Drop, Change, Fastball. She may choose to do 2 rise, 2 drop, 1 change, 1 fastball. She would throw that pattern for velocity. She would then throw that pattern again for accuracy.

Ex 3: A pitcher of any age throws only two different pitches (often FB and Change). The max they will throw is 12 pitches. They can choose any pattern of those two - 4 FB and 2 CH, then repeat - 3 of each, then repeat, etc. This is to avoid the situation of a pitcher throwing up to 16 fast balls.

Catcher Evaluation

Catchers - Pop Times

Catcher set up behind home plate. Coach pitches a ball to them, the catcher receives the ball and throws to 2B. Catcher is scored on glove to glove time and accuracy of throw. Time starts the second the ball touches their glove and ends when it gets to 2B.

Each catcher gets 4 attempts in a row.

Catchers - Bunt Defense

Catcher set up behind home plate. Three balls are set on the ground in line with the front edge of the batter's box - one on each foul line and one directly towards the pitcher (the one towards the pitcher is 1 ft in front of the front of the batter's box). Catcher begins in receiving stance. They move and field the ball, throwing it to a receiver at 1B.

Catcher is scored on time and accuracy of throw. Time starts the second the catcher moves from their stance and when the ball gets to 1B.

Catchers - Receiving

Catchers receive 6 pitches from the coach pitcher - two up, two down, two change. Catchers are given an observation score based on their receiving ability. Catchers give signals to the coach pitcher to call the pitches. Coach pitcher will ensure 2 of each are thrown.

Catchers - Blocking

Catchers will be evaluated on their ability to properly block and control pitches in the dirt or outside the strike zone. This includes observing body positioning, glove and chest protector use, reaction time, balance, and overall technique when dropping to block. Evaluators will also assess how effectively the catcher moves laterally, stays square to the ball, and recovers after the block to locate and control the ball, demonstrating awareness and readiness to make the next play.