



USA Softball National Team High Performance Program

Mission and Operations

The USA Softball High Performance Program (HPP) will identify a pool of athletes to train, compete and represent USA Softball through domestic and international competition. The program will focus on providing an equal opportunity for players to show their talent while growing the game of softball in the United States. Serving as a pipeline to the National Team, the program is inclusive to all that wish to participate and develop their skills.

Through the HPP, athletes around the country will have the chance to make a USA Softball National Team at multiple age groups. Working first at the regional level, the best talent in the game will get identified to make regional teams, compete against other regions, and potentially be selected to attend a National Selection Event for selection on a Age Specific National Team. Athletes identified at the National Selection Event will be considered for invitation to a Trials for a USA Softball National Team to compete at a World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) international event.

The HPP includes 10 regions. The program is headed by the USA Softball National Office and a committee that was formed to create the program and adjust, as necessary. The committee will also work to place individuals in roles throughout the regions and areas. Through evaluation, placement, and re-evaluation each year, HPP can identify athletes for advancement consideration, working to discover the future Women's National Team athletes.

The HPP age classifications are based on the age guidelines for the WBSC competition schedule. Age groups are defined by birth year and an athlete must be the age group age throughout the entire year. For example, if an athlete is trying out for the 2022 14u region team, the athlete must not turn 15 until 2023. The age of the athlete on Dec 31, 2022 determines their age group for the calendar year of 2022.

2022 Age groups that will participate in the program:

13u – Regional Pool and National Team(born 2009 or after)

14u – Regional Pool and National Team (depending on available WBSC qualifier) (born 2008 or after)

15u – Regional Pool and National Team (depending on available WBSC World Cup) (born 2007 or after)

16u – Regional Pool and National Team(born 2006 or after)

17u – Regional Pool and National Team (depending on available WBSC qualifier) (born 2005 or after)

18u – Regional Pool and National Team (depending on available WBSC World Cup) (born 2004 or after)

Becoming part of the player pool for the HPP:

1. Participating in Regional identifiers
2. If selected to a Regional Pool
 - a. Attend Regional Invitational Event
3. If an athlete is Identified at a Regional Invitational Event
 - a. Attend the National Selection Event
4. If an athlete does not make the regional pool
 - a. Use drills and advice from identifiers to train at home
 - b. Attend Identifiers the following year

Regional Identifiers

All athletes must participate in these activities to be considered for the athlete pool. Athletes may choose a maximum of two positions at an identifier. Identifiers are the first step in making a National Team. During these events, athletes will have their metrics taken and hitting/position specific skills evaluated. Fifteen athletes will be selected in each age division from each region to move onto the second phase, the Region Invitational Event.

- Max Number of Participants: **200**
- Minimum Number of Participants: **50**

Region Invitational Event

These events are for athletes that have made the Regional Area Athlete Pools. Athletes will participate in games against other regional athlete pools and be evaluated based on their play in competition. These events will include additional evaluation for athletes to be considered to attend a National Selection Event for the age specific National Teams.

National Selection Event

The National Selection Event will be held for the top athletes of each age group based on evaluations from the regional invitational event. The selection of each age specific National Team of an 18 player roster will be announced following this event. Each age specific National Team member will then be eligible for any Junior Women's National Team event based on age for the following calendar year.

Evaluators

The evaluators for the Regional Identifier and the Region Invitational Event will be current and former Women's National Team Athletes, as well as other elite softball individuals. *Each Regional Identifier will have a certain number of evaluators based on the number of participants.

Identifiers

1. Regional Identifier (RI) - **January 8-May 29, 2022**
 - a. \$100 registration fee.
2. Regional Invitational Competition (RIC) - **no earlier than June 6 and concluding on or before September 11, 2022**
 - a. This is the final round at the regional area level and athletes will be selected from competition to advance to the National Selections. Cost to the athlete to attend the RIC will be \$100.00 plus personal expenses (housing, travel, meals) for that specific tryout.
3. National Selection Event (NSE) **November 3-6, 2022**
 - a. Available for those who have been identified at the RIC. This pool of athletes will be invited to participate in the NSE and additional evaluation. Cost to attend the NSE will be \$100.00 plus personal expenses (housing, travel, meals) for that specific tryout.

*Fees associated with the HPP go toward the expenses associated with each event. * Evaluator expenses, facility rental fees, equipment, and umpires when needed.

Region Breakdown

Region 1: Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania

Region 2: North Carolina, Maryland, DC, Delaware, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia

Region 3: Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida

Region 4: Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi

Region 5: Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico

Region 6: Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Chicago, and Michigan

Region 7: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska

Region 8: Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin

Region 9: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming

Region 10: Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada

Updated October 21, 2021

Region Invitational Competition - no earlier than June 6 and concluding on or before September 11, 2022

Region 1 vs Region 2
Region 3 vs Region 4
Region 5 vs Region 7
Region 6 vs Region 8
Region 9 vs Region 10

Coach Involvement

LOCAL AREA COACHES.

- A. Regional Area Coaches. Regional Coaches will be selected by the USA Softball National Office in conjunction with the Regional Director or their designee.

HPP Timeline

January 8-May 29, 2022 Regional Identifiers for regional area athlete pool. Athletes can be identified at any Regional Identifier but once a regional Athlete pool is selected, athletes from that region will not be able to attend other identifiers.

Regional Athlete Pools will be selected **on or before June 6, 2022, Once a regional athlete pool is selected, athletes from that region will not be able to attend other Identifiers.**

Regional Competitions will be held beginning **no earlier than June 6 and concluding on or before September 11, 2022.** Athletes identified for advancement to National Selections in each age group will be notified within one week of conclusion of their Regional Event. At Large invitations to the National Event will be sent out after the last regional competition.

National Selections will be held **November 3-6, 2022**

Need to Know Information

- Before the event, you must register. Registration cuts off one week before the event. On-site registration is available, for an extra fee. (\$20)
- If you pre-register, you must bring your confirmation receipt or be able to pull it up on your phone. This will help us find your registration quickly, through your Member ID number
- During the event, you will wear your Member ID race number on your shirt for easy identification