



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 be identified as top athletes in consideration 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 and invited to the 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 2025 14u, the athlete must not turn 15 until 2025. The age of the athlete on Dec 31, 2025 determines their age group for the calendar year of 2025.

2025 Age groups that will participate in the program for 2026:

U-13 – Born in 2012 will be considered as a U14 in 2026. It is unknown if there will be a 2026 U15 Team at this time.

U-14 – Born in 2011 will be considered as a U15 for 2026. It is unknown if there will be a 2026 U15 Team at this time.

U-15 – Born in 2010 will be considered as a U16 for the 2026 U18 Team

U-16 – Born in 2009 will be considered as a U17 for the 2026 U18 Team

U-17 – Born in 2008 will be considered as a U18 for the 2026 U18 Team

U-18 – Born in 2007 age out for 2026 U-18 Team but can still participate in the program for consideration as a Top Performer

Becoming part of the player pool for the HPP:

1. Participating in Regional identifiers
 - a. If an athlete is Identified at a Regional Identifier
 - i. Attend the National Selection Event
2. If an athlete does not get identified at Regional Identifier
 - a. Attend Identifiers the following year
 - b. Use drills and advice from identifiers to train at home

Regional Identifiers - open to anyone from any region

All athletes must participate in these activities to be considered for the National Selection Event.. 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. Athletes will be selected in each age division based on their performance from each region to move onto the National Selection Event..

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

National Selection Event

The National Selection Event will be held for the top athletes of each age group based on evaluations from the regional identifiers. The selection of each age specific Top Performer of 18 players will be announced following this event. Each age specific Top Performer 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 National Selection 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 -May 2024 and September - October 2024**
 - a. \$125 registration fee - Includes a t-shirt. REFUNDS WILL BE MADE WITH A \$25 CONVENIENCE FEE UNTIL THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE WHICH IS ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE EVENT. Walk-up registration fee is \$145.00

- b.
2. National Selection Event (NSE) **November 30-December 3, 2023**
- a. Available for those who have been identified at the RI. This pool of athletes will be invited to participate in the NSE and additional evaluation. Cost to attend the NSE will be \$125.00 plus uniform expenses (\$75.00) and 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: Maryland, DC, Delaware, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia

Region 3: Tennessee, North Carolina, 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

HPP Timeline

January -May 2025 - September - October 2025

Regional Identifiers for regional area athlete pool. Athletes can be identified at any Regional Identifier.

The National Selection Event is still being scheduled and will be updated soon.

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