



# Selects



## PROVINCIAL TEAM PROGRAM HANDBOOK

2026





## 1. Summary

On behalf of Softball New Brunswick, we welcome all players and parents to the NB Selects Provincial Team Program. This handbook is intended to provide clear information to all stakeholders of the program (athletes, coaches, officials, parents/guardians and spectators). Guided by Softball Canada's Long-Term Player Development Framework (LTPD), the NB Selects Program will allow athletes the opportunity to develop the qualities needed to reach the Podium Pathway and beyond.

As fastpitch continues to grow in New Brunswick, Softball New Brunswick aims to send provincial representation to Canadian Championships representing all minor age categories as the NB Selects. NB Selects will be proudly recognized by athletes, coaches, officials, and softball fans throughout the province and country. This program will give many NB athletes and coaches the opportunity to sport the NB Selects logo and colours as they represent Softball New Brunswick, the NB Selects program, and Province of New Brunswick. The goal of the NB Selects program is to encompass the following age categories each year, pending interest: U15 Girls/Boys, U17 Girls/Boys, U19 Women's/U20 Mens. The long-term goal of this program is to create a pathway for our athletes, coaches and managers from Learn to Play up to High Performance while protecting our grassroots programs.

## 2. Our Guiding Principles

- a. To promote High Performance opportunities for both athletes and coaches from New Brunswick.
- b. To develop a clear development pathway for athletes and coaches in New Brunswick from Grassroots to High Performance such as Canadian Championships and the National Team.
- c. To adhere to the Softball Canada Athlete Development Matrix, promoting healthy development of athletes.
- d. To implement concise and transparent policies and procedures.

## 3. NB Selects Brand

- a. The NB Selects will use the Softball NB colours of green, white and black to distinguish our players and coaches. The use of the Selects and Softball NB logos is the exclusive property of Softball NB. It may not be used by any individual or organization without prior written consent from Softball NB.
- b. The designated NB Selects social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram), will highlight the program, share results and other relevant information (tryout information, schedules, etc.)
- c. Softball NB will work with the Selects program to develop promotional content, which will feature members in the program (images, videos etc.)

## 4. Provincial Team Model

- a. The NB Selects is designed to bring the top athletes and coaches in the province together to compete at the annual Softball Canada Canadian Championships, as well as designated tournaments within the Atlantic provinces, Quebec, Ontario and/or USA as preparation. All NB Selects training and competition must be sanctioned and approved by Softball NB.
- b. All NB Selects athletes will be required to play on a club team within their region.



- i. If there is no club team in your region, you must request a release with Softball NB to play with another club team in the province
- ii. Athletes are required to participate in their appropriate Provincial Championship with their club team.

## 5. Athlete Eligibility

- a. Athletes must meet all of the following eligibility requirements to be considered for selection to the NB Selects:
  - i. Athletes must be a registered member of Softball NB
  - ii. Athletes must be residents of New Brunswick
  - iii. Athletes must meet the appropriate age classification for the 2026 season:
    - U15 - Athletes born in 2011 and 2012
    - U17 - Athletes born in 2009 and 2010
    - U19 - Athletes born in 2007 and 2008
    - U20 - Athletes born in 2006, 2007, and 2008

## 6. Coaching Staff \*NEW\*

- a. Applications for the NB Selects coaching staff will open in August for the following season (ie. August 2025 for 2026 NB Selects Teams)
- b. The Softball NB High Performance Committee will vet the candidates and interview qualified applicants. The interview process will include two steps.
  - i. Online interview: with the High Performance Committee via Zoom
  - ii. On-field evaluation: at NB Selects Tryouts with appointed Softball NB evaluators
- c. Following the conclusion of tryouts, the High Performance Committee will select the Head Coach and Assistant Coaches (with consultation from the Head Coach) to bring forward to the Board of Directors for approval.
- d. The following will be taken into consideration when selecting the Coaching Staff, in addition to qualifications, when possible:
  - i. Each team should have at least one coach of the same gender as the athletes
  - ii. Each team should have no more than two coaches from the same association
- e. Coach Requirements
  - i. Must meet the Softball Canada Minimum Coaching Standards, or have a plan to meet by June 1 annually.
    - Head Coach: Competition - Introduction Certified
    - Assistant Coaches: Competition - Introduction Trained

## 7. Team Selection

- a. Team selection will consist of two phases:
  - i. Winter Training Team Selection
  - ii. Final Team Selection
- b. Winter Training Team Selection



- i. There will be two (2) Open Tryouts held in two (2) separate Regions of the province in the fall.
    - All athletes who meet the eligibility criteria outlined above are encouraged to register and attend the Open Tryouts.
    - To be considered for the Winter Training Team, athletes must attend a minimum of one (1) Open Tryout but are encouraged to attend both.
    - Open tryout dates will be advertised at a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the tryout date.
    - If an athlete is unable to attend a tryout, they may request an exemption. Requests must be made to Softball NB for review if the athlete can be evaluated using information from other events.
  - ii. After the second Open Tryout, 18-26 athletes will be selected to join the Winter Training Team.
    - Selections will be made in consultation with Softball NB Evaluators and the appointed coaching staff.
  - iii. Athletes who are not selected to the Winter Training Team, will receive written notification of their release from the program. Athletes may request feedback on their evaluation during the Open Tryout process.
  - iv. The Winter Training Team will train from January - March.
- c. Final Team Selection
- i. NB Selects will carry 13-14 athletes per team. Requests to carry fewer or additional athletes may be granted and will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
  - ii. At the conclusion of the Winter Training sessions, athlete selection will be done in collaboration with the NB Selects Coaching staff and Softball NB staff and evaluators.
    - The selection of the top eight (8) athletes will be a joint decision between the NB Selects Coaching Staff and Softball NB based on collected data and evaluation throughout the tryout and Winter Training process.
    - The final five (5) selection will be the decision of the NB Selects Coaching Staff
  - iii. All player personnel decisions will be approved by Softball NB prior to selections being made public.
  - iv. Athletes selected to the Final Team will receive written notification of their selection. Athletes who are not selected to the final team will receive written notification of their release from the program. Athletes may request feedback on their evaluation during the Open Tryout and Winter Training process.
- d. The Coaching Staff and Softball NB reserves the right to add or remove any athlete from the athlete pool at any time.
- e. The Coaching Staff and Softball NB reserves the right to invite select athletes to tryouts that have been identified as top athletes in the province.

## 8. Selection Criteria

- a. Athletes will be selected based on criteria such as the following.
  - i. Assessments



- Technical skills: Hitting, bunting, baserunning, sliding, throwing, fielding, pitching and catching
- Tactical skills: Hitting, baserunning, communication, team strategy and situational awareness
- Other: Fitness, versatility, overall athlete
- ii. Performance measures (if applicable)
  - In Competition: Offensive statistics, defensive statistics, pitching statistics
  - Testing Protocols: Hitting, bunting, baserunning, sliding, throwing, fielding, pitching, catching, fitness
- iii. Discretionary Power/Intangibles
  - Intangible considerations can affect the dynamics and performance of the team. The NB Selects coaching staff will take into account 'Other Considerations' in determining the needs of the NB Selects Team to build the best possible team.

## 9. Team Fees and Budget

- a. Athletes wishing to participate in the NB Selects program will pay the following fees:
  - i. Tryout Fee - \$25.00
  - ii. Winter Training Fee - \$200.00
  - iii. Final Team Fee - To be determined and communicated with the Winter Training Team by March 15, 2026
- b. Each athlete will be responsible to pay a registration fee outfield by Softball NB. This registration may cover the following costs:
  - Team Helmet and Cage
  - Team Visor/Hat
  - Two pairs of team socks
  - Team Backpack
  - Team Equipment
  - Uniform Fee (jersey to be returned at the end of the season)
  - Canadian Championship Fee
  - Umpire fees
  - Facility fees
  - Coach Honorarium for three (3) coaches per team to cover expenses
- c. Softball New Brunswick will provide the use of equipment purchased by Softball NB, including but not limited to: catcher's gear, balls, hitting tees and nets. Teams will be required to return all equipment at the end of their season to Softball NB.
- d. The NB Selects budget will be finalized by Softball NB prior to Final Team Selection each year and will be communicated with parents/guardians.
- e. All team equipment provided and purchased is the property of Softball NB. Personal equipment purchased by the athletes is the property of the athletes. Team equipment may be used for Softball NB activities such as skills camps and coaching clinics, but can NOT be used for any non NB Selects activities i.e. club teams.



- f. Softball NB must approve all fundraising activities. The team manager or an individual designated by the Head Coach will be responsible for keeping record of any money earned through fundraising and must be accounted for; should Softball NB request to see the records.
- g. If a player is released or voluntarily leaves the program at any time, no team fees will be refunded.

## 10. Code of Conduct

- a. All NB Select athletes shall conduct themselves in such a manner as to be an asset to the team and Softball NB, and represent their family, community and province with respect.
- b. All NB Select athletes shall abide by the policies and regulations outlined by Softball NB and team rules as established by the coaching staff.
- c. NB Selects competition is mandatory for all athletes to attend. If NB Selects Training conflicts with Club Team Competition, their first priority will be with their club team. If NB Selects Training conflicts with Club Team Training, athletes will be expected to discuss with both coaches to come to an agreement on how to split their training time.
- d. No athlete or coach shall wear any apparel associating such person with any Softball NB club team at any NB Selects team events or functions. NB Selects/Softball NB gear should be worn when representing NB Selects.
- e. Swearing, fighting and unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Coaches may administer sanctions against such athletes.
- f. Vandalism will not be tolerated. All expenses incurred, as a result of vandalism, is the responsibility of the individual(s) involved.
- g. Substances
  - i. Smoking of cigarettes/vaping/marijuana and consuming alcoholic beverages at any NB Selects function (practice, game, meeting, meals or other team events) on or off the field shall be prohibited.
  - ii. The use of illegal and/or banned narcotics and prescription drugs as determined by the Government of Canada, Sport Canada, the Province of New Brunswick and Softball NB is strictly prohibited.
- h. Softball NB Shall have the right to administer disciplinary measures and sanctions in the event of contravention of any of the above specified policies. Such disciplinary measures shall include but are not limited to: Informal reprimand (verbal), Formal reprimand (written), Release from the program, and/or Suspension from the program
  - i. If the proposed sanction by either Softball NB or the Head Coach is suspension or dismissal from the program, then the athlete (and parents) involved shall be entitled to an appeal hearing as outlined in the appeals section of this document.
  - ii. If a player is dismissed from the NB Selects program for any reason, no team fees will be refunded.
- i. The Head Coach is responsible for the actions of the athletes and shall administer disciplinary measures at their discretion for the following reasons:
  - i. Unjustified absences. Athletes are expected to let the coach know if they are unable to attend any team function. Not informing the coach is considered an unjustified absence.
  - ii. Violation of team rules at any team function or event



- iii. Being untruthful to the coaching staff about absences or other matters
- iv. Showing continuous lack of respect to coaching staff, officials or fellow athletes
- v. Continuous poor effort at training or competitions

### **11. Medical Replacement Policy**

- a. In the case of an injury to a player while trying out for the NB Selects, the decision to keep or release the player will be left up to the discretion of the Head Coach, after consultation with the parents/guardians and family physician.
- b. In the case where a player on the team is injured prior to a Canadian Championship and is questionable whether they could play in the Championship, the decision to keep or release the player will be left up to the discretion of the Head Coach, after consultation with the parents/guardians and family physician.
- c. In the case where a player on the team is injured prior to the Canadian Championship and is unable to play in the Canadian Championship, the Head Coach reserves the right to select an alternate player from the eligible player pool.

### **12. Conflict of Interest Policy**

- a. Please refer to the Softball NB [Conflict of Interest Policy](#)

### **13. Appeals**

- a. Please refer to the Softball NB [Appeal Policy](#)
- b. Due to the time sensitivity of these decisions, the NB Selects program will follow an accelerated process for appeals.
  - i. Participants may not submit an appeal until 24 hours from the date on which they received notice of the decision.
  - ii. Participants will have 48 hours from the date on which they received notice of the decision to submit, in writing, to Softball New Brunswick Inc. the required information as outlined in the Appeal Policy.