

SOFTBALL POLICY

1. **Background**

This policy is written to provide a guide for the effective operation of Softball at Kalamunda Rangers Inc.

This document is to be used to facilitate all competitions within the spectrum of Softball and encourage participation and player development within the confines of the Kalamunda Rangers ethos.

2. **Team Selection and Player Allocation – Junior competitions (12-and-Under, 14-and-Under, 16-and-Under)**

- 2.1. The overriding principles for player placement will be:
 - a. For players to be registered in their age groups; and to create a fair and even competition for all players.
 - b. To provide the opportunity for players to participate in multiple games each season if they choose.
- 2.2. Where possible requests for player placement into specific teams will be considered; however, these will be determined in accordance with the following guidelines and there is no guarantee of meeting player placement requests as these will not take precedence over the overriding principals.
- 2.3. The Softball Vice President and Registrar, assisted by any or other person/s as nominated by the Softball Vice President, has the responsibility to create/delete teams and place players within those teams for the current playing year.
- 2.4. The composition of the competition groups for each season is dependent solely on the number and age distribution of players registered to play in the current season at the completion of the registration period (nominally August each year).
- 2.5. The total number of new players to Softball, where practical, will be spread evenly across all teams within their respective age divisions with the intent of creating teams with a mix of experienced and non-experienced players.
- 2.6. The following guidelines shall be applied by the Selection Committee using any previous knowledge the Club has of each player, team dynamics and Club ethos. The Selection Committee will use the following guidelines to form teams:
 - a. Organise teams that meet the best outcomes for the club.
 - b. Place players in teams that will meet the best outcomes for the club and its priorities. Club priorities include, but are not be limited to:
 - Participation and enjoyment in Softball;
 - Filling teams with a mix of experienced and non-experienced players;
 - Supporting parents with siblings and family members in the club;
 - Team development and performance;
 - Player development;



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- Any medical / physical requirements relevant to player placements in teams;
 - Any other extraordinary requirement relevant to player placements in teams;
- c. **Age:** Each player shall be registered to play their age group calculated at 31st December in each season. All options to place players in their age group will be used before playing a player up in another age group (ie, the Selection Committee will direct players into their age group first, before considering any request to play them in a higher age group). Consideration shall be given by the Executive Committee to placing players in a lower age group where medical/physical requirements exist and subject to the relevant dispensation requirements from Little League (Softball) WA;
- d. **Younger Players:** A younger player shall not dislodge an established player playing in their correct age group. Where there are several younger players with an option to play up an age group, any substantially older player shall have priority. Where no player is substantially older, then the Selection Committee shall use other criteria with placement of players.
- e. **Late registrations:** A late registration is one that is taken after the last published registration date. Players registering late will be placed into teams that do not have a full subscription of players as determined by the Vice President and Registrar to ensure equal numbers in all teams where possible.
- f. **Over Subscribing Teams:** The Selection Committee will not allow a team to be over subscribed if another side of the same age group does not have a full subscription of players unless there is adequate justification (e.g., Players who can only play intermittently due to other commitments, players on extended holiday during season, religious belief, etc.) Every effort will be made to keep Softball team subscriptions to 11 players in each age group. This will allow for some placement of late registrations for players into already established teams.
- g. Other criteria the Selection Committee shall consider include but not limited to, and in no particular order:
- Players with previous documented history of disciplinary issues;
 - Players with outstanding fees from previous years;
 - Players who have been selected in previous years to play in Representative teams;
 - Availability of volunteer Coaches and/or managers;
 - School attended by the players.
- 2.7. Notwithstanding the obvious social benefits of a team remaining together throughout its journey through the age ranks, the Club offers no guarantee that players from each year will continue in that team during the next season. This is based on:
- a. Skill advancement of players in grade (not age group);
 - b. Need to ensure each and every junior team is competitive within their respective age division;
 - c. The benefits of placing players into teams with various levels of experience to assist in the overall development of the team; and
 - d. The ability for experienced players to take on a leadership/mentoring role with more inexperienced players;

In the event of teams being reformed due to poor player turn out, the Selection Committee will use his/her discretion to form teams that are competitive across affected age groups.

3. Team Selection and Player Allocation – Graded competitions (Junior and Senior)

- 3.1. Adult teams in graded competition will be formed from a pool of all players by the team coaches. Players will be placed into teams as required by the team coaches, in consultation with each other, ideally on a Thursday evening. Team allocations will be determined with consideration to (but not limited to and in no particular order):
- Team requirements;
 - Competition level and player performance;
 - Player development;
 - Age restrictions;
 - Player availability (players should advise their availability 72 hours prior to the game);

- Not oversubscribing teams;
 - Participation in regular training;
 - SEMSA/SWA regulations
- a. Other criteria the Selection Committee shall consider include, but not limited to and in no particular order:
- Players with previous documented history of disciplinary issues;
 - Players with outstanding fees;
 - Availability of volunteer Coaches and/or managers;
- b. There is no restriction on player movement between teams, other than that prescribed by SEMSA/SWA regulations. Ideally notification of 48 hours should be provided.

3.1. The teams selected by the Selection Committee to represent the Club will remain confidential until the team lists are made available to the coaching staff and no discussions shall be entered into.

4. Team Selection and Player Allocation – Representative Competition (All-Stars, LLSC/JLSC,)

Each year the Club shall provide the opportunity for players to represent the Club at a variety of Softball representative competitions. Every player in the Club is encouraged to nominate their interest in participating in these teams and other competitions with regard to the following criteria and Little League WA By-Laws:

4.1. Qualification for Competition

- a. Qualification for each age division offered at Little League State Champs (LLSC) shall be calculated based on the player's age as at 31st December each season. The LLSC divisions offered are Minor Little League (8 to 10 years), Development League (8 to 11 years), Little League Charter (11 to 12 years) and Junior League (13 to 14 years) with numbers permitting.

4.2. State Championships

- a. Players wishing to nominate for the LLSC or JLSC must complete the Charter Nomination form, obtain signed parental consent and agreement to the Terms and Conditions. All Nomination forms, consents and agreements must be completed and received by the Softball Registrar prior to the first tryout session and be playing in the requisite Charter-based competition.
- b. Players must attend all tryout sessions as determined by the Charter where their skills and abilities will be assessed by a Selection Committee as appointed by the Charter Committee. Players may be required to attend a third session, at the discretion of the Selection Committee. It is important for all nominees to attend all tryout sessions to allow the selection panel the opportunity to obtain a fair assessment of players' abilities. The Club shall endeavour to provide at least two weeks' notice to all members of the Club advising the dates for the tryout sessions.
- c. The teams selected by the Selection Committee to represent the Charter will remain confidential until the team lists are made available to the coaching staff and no discussions shall be entered into.

5. Coach Appointments

- 5.1. The Softball Vice President and Registrar, assisted by any or other person/s as nominated by the Baseball Vice President, has the responsibility to appoint coaches for the current playing season.
- 5.2. Coaching appointments should ideally be made by August prior to the summer playing season March prior to the winter playing season.
- 5.3. Appointed coaches agree make themselves familiar with and abide by SWA/SEMSA/CSA/DDSA playing rules and regulations as well as the club's participation guidelines.
- 5.4. Representative Team coaches shall be appointed by the Charter committee according to operational guidelines. All coaches are able to nominate for these positions within these guidelines.

6. Game Requirements

- 6.1. The overriding principal regarding game operations and management shall be in line with the club philosophy of providing each and every player equal opportunity for participation and development.

- 6.2. Playing time shall be distributed evenly between all players with emphasis given to equal game time versus time on the bench for all games in which they participate within the home-and-away season.
- 6.3. It shall be at the coaches' discretion to determine the best lineup and rotation of players with consideration to clause 6.1 and 6.2.
- 6.4. Players in all 12-and-under age groups should be given equal opportunity to play in every fielding position. It is at the Coach's discretion how this is done.

7. Accredited Games

- 7.1. Players will be credited one game count for participation in each of the following:
 - a. Any fixtured games as determined by SWA, SEMSA, CSA, DDSA or local competition.
 - b. Any SWA "State Championship" game or Pre-State Championships Carnival game.
 - c. Any gala day game of a minimum of 60 minutes played for each division. Any game duration of 45 minutes or less will be credited with ½ game

8. Dispute Process

- 8.1. The decision of the Selection Committees is final. However, if the Selection Committee chooses to have their decision reviewed it shall be by the following process:
 - a. Full particulars of the dispute shall be lodged in writing or at a General Club Meeting for the review and advice of the Executive Committee.
 - b. Full particulars of the dispute shall then be discussed by the Executive Committee and a formal decision made. The decision made will be final and binding.