

Northwest Rankin Athletic Association

Select Softball Guidelines

Rampage Softball

1. PURPOSE

To offer a quality, competitive, Select Program available to NWRAA participants.

The NWRAA Board of Directors shall be the final authority regarding Select matters.

The NWRAA Select Board of Directors (NWRAASBD) will be responsible for overseeing the Select program. They shall coordinate all issues related to the Select program with the NWRAA Baseball/Softball Overall Commissioner.

2. ORGANIZATION

NWRAA authorized official Select softball teams for each of the following designated age classifications, given sufficient interest and talent levels exists within each classification.

- 8 & Under
- 9 & Under
- 10 & Under
- 11 & Under
- 12 & Under
- 13 & Under
- 14 & Under
- 15 & Under
- 16 & Under

Authorization of an age group by the NWRAA **does not** require that each age group field a team each year. A Select team shall only be organized if there is a sufficient number of players with a talent level able to field a competitive team and a Team Manager and/or Head Coach that meets the criteria below. The number of select softball teams authorized for each age group shall not exceed 2 and will be reevaluated each year depending on field availability and level of competition.

Team colors shall consist of Navy and Columbia blue, with grey and white. All select softball teams shall be named Rampage Fastpitch. All teams must use the logos provided by the Rampage organization.

Variations from these requirements can be granted only from the NWRAASBD.

NWRAA Recreational rules requiring minimum participation requirements are waived. Although it is recommended that all players get the opportunity to play, playing time is the sole decision of the Head Coach.

All teams are expected to compete in Local, State and National Tournaments, where applicable.

3. NWRAASBD

The NWRAA Select Board of Directors, said Board shall consist of knowledgeable members of the Community who have either participated in the Recreational program of the NWRAA and/or Select Programs within the NWRAA or elsewhere. The NWRAASBD shall be made up of the NWRAA Overall Baseball/Softball Commissioner, NWRAA Rec League Commissioner, NWRAA Softball Commissioner, NWRAA Select Baseball Commissioner and NWRAA Select Softball Commissioner. NWRAA Board of Directors may appoint 2 additional members if so desired. Said members may appoint a Chairman.

The NWRAASBD shall provide guidance to the Select program and present its findings and reports to the NWRAA Baseball Commissioner, and the NWRAA Board of Directors as necessary, for action. The NWRAASBD may assist, as needed, in evaluation of talent for the Select Teams as well as to meet bi-annually with the Team Manager/Head Coach of each Select team. At least one member of the NWRAASBD should attend a team meeting of each Select team coaches and parents in the fall of each year.

4. SELECT TEAM MANAGER/ HEAD COACHES

Any person desiring to be considered for a Team Manager and/or Head Coaching position shall notify a member of the NWRAASBD in writing by the end of the **Mississippi State USSSA Championship Softball Tournament** of the current year. (This Tournament is typically held in June). Should they so desire, the Team Manager may also serve as the Head Coach, however this is not required.

The NWRAA Select Board will announce select coaches as early as the first Monday following the USSSA State Tournament. This will allow all NWRAA teams enough time to set early tryout dates and put together the most competitive team.

Written requests should be mailed to:

**NWRAA Select Softball Commissioner
P.O. Box 5176
Brandon, MS 39047**

Requests can also be emailed. Select Softball Commissioner email address can be found at our web-site.

After reviewing the applicants, the NWRAASBD will vote on a Team Manager/Head Coach for each Select team. The chosen Select Team Manager/Head Coach will serve a calendar year term but may request to be considered for additional terms. Team Manager/Head Coaches will be named by July 10thst for the following year. Team Manager/Head Coach may select their Assistant Coaches.

In the event, that a Team Manager is selected in lieu of a Head Coach, it shall be that Team Manager's prerogative and responsibility to appoint a Head Coach and that Head Coach shall meet all of the guidelines as outlined below. In addition, should a Team Manager choose to hire a Head Coach from outside of the organization, it shall be the appointed Team Manager's responsibility to follow the guidelines of the NWRAA and the Select Baseball Guidelines.

When selecting Team Managers/Head Coaches, the NWRAASBD shall consider each of the following criteria:

- Coaching experience
- Knowledge of the game
- Ability to communicate effectively with players
- Ability to communicate effectively with parents
- Amount and quality of support provided to the NWRAA
- Any previous written complaints
- Any other pertinent information regarding the individual's qualifications to serve in this capacity

In addition to coaching their respective Select team; all Team Managers and Coaches are **required** to assist the NWRAA Recreational Leagues through registration, draft evaluations, camps, clinics, tournaments, field maintenance, concessions, etc. as requested by the NWRAASBD.

All Team Managers and Coaches are reminded that they, whether playing in NWRAA or out of town, represent the NWRAA. They are responsible for the wellbeing of each team member. Coaches should also demonstrate proper demeanor while serving as a NWRAA representative.

Team Managers/Head Coaches are solely responsible for all financial aspects of their select softball team. These duties should include: accurate bookkeeping, paying of bills, fund raising and reporting as required.

The NWRAA Board of Directors, with recommendation from the NWRAASBD, reserves the right to remove any Team Manager/Coach from the team for cause.

All Team Managers, Head and Assistant coaches are required to be members in good standing of NWRAA and pass an annual background checks as administered by the NWRAA.

5. PLAYERS

Any player may try out for any NWRAA Select team. **In order for a player to play up in an age classification they must be granted permission by the NWRAASBD.**

Interested players should be reminded of the commitment required to participate at this level. Selected players participate for the current year, unless removed for reasons discussed in further sections of this document.

Coaches should refrain from selecting players who, regardless of reason, are unable to commit to participation at the scheduled Local, State and National Tournaments, as well as, a majority of the scheduled events.

While a member of a Select team, players shall not participate on any other team without written authorization from the Select team's Head Coach.

The Head Coach or NWRAA Board of Directors reserves the right to remove any player from the team for cause.

6. TEAMS/MANDATORY YEARLY TRY-OUTS

Select teams official try-outs will be coordinated and operated by the respective head coach with input, as needed, by the NWRAASBD. Try-outs must be conducted by August 1st of the current season. Players from the previous year are not guaranteed positions and must try out like any other player.

Coaches will hold try-outs in an attempt to give all participants a fair and equal opportunity to make the team. Criteria for selecting players will be at the discretion of the Head Coach/Manager.

Try-outs must be posted on social media and the NWRAA webpage.

Final Rosters shall be announced no less than three days prior to the last Saturday of the NWRAA Recreation Fall League Registration. This policy allows players not selected for Select teams to be able to participate in Recreation Baseball.

During the softball season, Coaches shall be allowed to add players, for just cause, to the team. The Head Coach may be required to specify in writing to the NWRAASBD the exact reasons why a player needs to be added. Examples of just cause may be injury, relocation, etc. The NWRAASBD must have a majority in agreement to add the player to the Select team.

Each team shall have a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 12 players.

Upon completion of the Select Team Roster, the Head Coach shall provide a written roster of the team to the NWRAA Select Chairman if requested. Any approved roster changes may also be requested to be provided to the Select Chairman.

Each Select Team shall be sanctioned by at least one approved Sanctioning Softball Organization (USSSA, Super Series, ASA, etc.) and shall provide the NWRAASBD proof of this sanctioning if requested. It shall be the responsibility of each Select Team to follow the applicable guidelines of each sanctioning organization. All fees required for sanctioning shall be the responsibility of the Select Team. It is expected that teams associated with NWRAA remain competitive. Therefore, teams are required to maintain a USSSA "B" or higher classification or equivalent. Not maintaining this classification is cause for removing a coach or disbanding a team as needed.

In addition, each Select team shall provide Proof of Insurance to the NWRAASBD, if not provided by NWRAA.

7. RECREATIONAL LEAGUE ALL STAR TEAMS

NWRAA Recreational League All Star Teams shall follow the guidelines as established by the NWRAA and the Sanctioning Organization by which they are participating. However, should after completion of the All-Star season, the All-Star team desires

to participate in further tournaments through the Fall Season they may be allowed to do so provided the following conditions are met:

- Participation shall be limited to those members of the All-Star team who were chosen and participated on the regular sanctioned All Star team, or the nominations from that age group.
- Players/parents will be responsible for cost of insurance and/or other fees associated with continued participation.

Continued participation at this level does not qualify as a Select Team.

8. FEES

An NWRAA membership fee will be assessed to all players/parents on an annual basis by the NWRAA. The membership fee will be based in part upon the registration fee required for the appropriate age group in the NWRAA Recreational Softball Spring registration.

Players/parents will be responsible for cost of all uniforms, insurance (if not provided by NWRAA), league fee's, tournament fees, gate fee's, registration fees, and field usage fee's above and beyond what NWRAA furnishes for practice and games as required, in addition to NWRAA membership fee.

9. FUNDRAISING

- Parents
- Private Sponsorship
- Fundraisers

Teams should seek new private sponsorships for Select Softball Teams and not solicit existing NWRAA recreational sponsors.

10. EQUIPMENT

All equipment, including uniforms, shall be provided by the players/parents of the respective Select Team.

11. RECORD INSPECTION

The teams accounts, books and records shall be open to inspection by team members/parents and NWRAA Board of Directors by written request.

12. AGREEMENT

All participants/parents chosen for a Select team shall submit a signed NWRAA Registration Form, NWRAA Select Agreement Form and full payment of the NWRAA Membership Fee prior to the first game of the year.

Any player being selected to play for the Select Softball team shall make a commitment of one (1) full season to the team and coach.

In addition, there may be additional team specific agreements that outline other conditions that the Select participant may be required to sign.

13. GRIEVANCES

Handling of all questions, concerns and problems will always be handled first on a team level. The Select Board encourages the player to approach the head coach to insure interaction and attempt a resolution. If resolution cannot be agreed upon then the parent and coach should attempt to resolve the issue. The final step would be to file a written grievance with the NWRAASBD. The Select Softball Chairman will try and resolve the issue with all parties' interest in mind. If the Select Baseball Chairman feels the Select Board should address the issue then an NWRAASBD Meeting will be convened and final resolution will be completed and communicated. The NWRAASBD will strive to present its findings within 10 days. NWRAASBD decision will be final.

It is not the intent of the grievance process to manage or address day-to-day handling of teams. **Game decisions such as playing time and position play are not considered grievance issues. These types of issues are coach's decisions and must be handled between the coach, player and or parent.**

14. AMENDMENTS

These guidelines may be amended at any time by majority vote of the NWRAA Board of Directors at any Board meeting.

15. NWRAA

These guidelines are subject to the review and approval of the Northwest Rankin Athletic Association Board of Directors.

SELECT AGREEMENT FORM

Northwest Rankin Athletic Association (NWRAA)

Date: _____

Coach: _____

I, _____, parent/guardian of _____
(Print parent's name) (Print child's name)

hereby:

1. Allow my child to participate in the NWRAA Select Program.
2. Agree to hold the NWRAA and its Directors, Commissioners, Coaches, volunteers and representatives harmless in the event of any injury or claim arising out of any activity.
3. I authorize the NWRAA and its Directors, Commissioners, Coaches, volunteers, and representatives to seek competent emergency medical care in the event that my child is injured and I cannot be contacted within a reasonable amount of time. I agree to hold the NWRAA and its Directors, Commissioners, Coaches, volunteers, and representatives harmless for any medical treatment performed by competent, licensed physicians and nurses.
4. Agree to make every attempt to be present at all scheduled activities.
5. Agree to be available for Local, State and National Tournaments.
6. Understand that all fees associated with the Select Program are the responsibility of the team members and parents.
7. Agree that my child, while a member of Select Program, will not play for any other Select or Recreational baseball or softball team without the written consent of the NWRAA Select Baseball/Softball Commissioner, NWRAA Overall Baseball Softball Commissioner and the respective Head Coach.
8. Agree to immediately notify the respective Select Coach if any injury is sustained, regardless how minor.
9. Understand that my child could be removed from a team for cause.
10. Understand that the team is a select, competitive team. That while each Coach will attempt to play all team members during the course of a season or tournament, I understand that playing time varies by ability and desire. I further agree that I will abide by the Grievance process as outlined in the NWRAA Select Baseball Program Guidelines, of which I have been provided a copy.

I agree with the above-described terms.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Player's Signature _____ Date _____