

Select Program FAQs

Revised 9/6/2022

What is the Select Program?

The USA Softball of Sacramento Select program is designed to create a more competitive environment for players to participate in while still remaining in a recreational league setting. This program will allow USA Softball Recreational leagues to form a team to represent their league in the Select program.

Each league will be eligible to put together a Select team at the beginning of the year to compete against the Select teams formed by other leagues. This allows the league to retain the better players while keeping them in the recreational league. This in turn, creates a higher base level of play in the recreational league and drives participation back to the rec program.

Leagues are eligible to put forth two teams in a division only if their Select players are also playing Rec.

Is Select also known as “Comp”?

While Select is definitely a more competitive environment for your above-average Rec players, it is not Comp in the “Travel/A ball” sense. Essentially, the Select program is a way for leagues to allow their first All-Star team an opportunity to form early in the year, then opening up another opportunity for a secondary All-Star team come May 1st if desired.

Who is eligible to play on a Select team?

Only players that live or go to school within the league’s boundaries are eligible for Select. **Waivers from other leagues are generally not accepted, unless the home league is not offering a Rec team in the applicable division.**

Do Select players also play on a Rec team?

It is each league’s decision as to whether or not Select players should also play in the regular Rec league, but USA Softball of Sacramento is recommending that they do play Rec in an effort to build a stronger Recreational league. The tournament schedule is built so that there is as little conflict as possible with the regular Rec league season.

If playing Rec also, wouldn’t practicing for two teams elicit burnout?

First – keep in mind the Rec season is relatively short (March-May), and should always come first (practices and games).

It is suggested that Select players practice hard with their Select coaches January-March. Starting in March, Select players will practice with their Rec teams for the season, possibly coming together on non-tournament Sundays to practice with their Select team, and then of course for tournaments. The Rec coaches will know and understand they have Select players on their team. They will look to them as leaders and to help develop newer, less-experienced players. Rec coaches will not un-do progress fostered within the Select team. And it’s encouraged that the Select coaches build relationships with the regular Rec coaches to foster their coaching skills.

What do I do if the regular rec commitment conflicts with the Select commitment?

There should not be a conflict. We have worked to ensure the Select tournament schedule has very little, if any, overlap with the regular season Rec ball. We publish the schedule well in advance so the Board can avoid games on the 1 or 2 potential conflicting Saturdays. A player should never be forced to pick between Rec and Select.

What is the cost to participate in the Select program?

\$3800* per team for 8 tournaments (5 spring tournaments + 3 All Star tournaments). This averages to \$475 per tournament – almost \$200 cheaper than most travel ball tournaments. Uniform and league costs are not included in this fee. Participation in Nationals will require additional funds. Many teams will fundraise to help offset costs.

*Increased over last year due to increase in umpire fees.

How long is the Select season?

Specific Select tournaments (including Nationals) run through late July/early August. However, the intent is that the Select team stay together and play through Fall (picking up players as needed). Fall options would be NorCal Fall Ball or participating in A tournaments if allowed by the individual league. (Since eligibility 'resets' January 1, playing A ball in Fall does not jeopardize B eligibility in Spring the following year.)

Is the goal of the Select program to convert Select teams to A teams the following year?

No. The goal of the Select program is to give advanced recreational players an opportunity to play at a competitive level. The idea is to have these girls continue participation in the Select program year after year increasing the level of play over time. The younger regular recreational players will aspire to be Select players.