



**NORTHRIDGE SOFTBALL
ALL-STAR GUIDELINES
2024 SEASON**

MISSION STATEMENT: The Northridge Softball All-Star Program strives to provide eligible participants with an opportunity to participate in the highly competitive postseason tournament softball environment. It shall be recognized that these All-Star team(s), manager(s), coach(es), player(s) and parent(s) are representing the Northridge Softball. ***Although a higher level of competition and winning should be more evident than in regular season activities, every effort will be made to promote teamwork, sportsmanship, and fair play as the core values for all participants and their families.***

The league reserves the right to amend these guidelines up to 30 days prior to team Selection.

USA Softball remains the governing board over all league activity. Therefore, USA National Codes and Official USA Rule Book shall take precedence regarding any omitted or conflicting guidelines stated herein.

I. GENERAL ALL-STAR RULES

- 1) As in the Northridge regular seasons, all All-Star activities are nonprofit. Members or participants are strictly volunteers and shall not be paid for their services. Further, no member shall profit in any way from products or services sold to the league or through business conducted through or for the All-Star program.
- 2) A Board approved member of Northridge Softball shall be available to be present and supervise all activities as the board deems necessary.
- 3) Players and parents must adhere to all rules regarding behavior. **Any violation of the code of conduct by player or parent may result in removal from the team and forfeiture of fees.**
- 4) All persons, players, parents, fans, and spectators are required to follow Northridge rules, regulations, policies and must cooperate with the league and the directions of the Board Members or Managers of the league. There will be **“Zero Tolerance”** when it comes to any of these described actions.
 - a. There are no alcoholic beverages allowed at any tournament events, including parking areas. Use of or being under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other similar substances is strictly forbidden at all tournament complexes, during games or practices, or at any time when children are present during league activities.
 - i. Exceptions will be made if alcohol is sold at the tournament venue. In this case, any consumption should be done responsibly.
 - b. Smoking, vaping, or use of any tobacco product including chewing tobacco on the playing field or when in direct supervision of the children is strictly forbidden. Smoking or use of chewing tobacco on a tournament complex, in general, may be permitted as designated by the facility.

- c. Engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct, fighting, publicly audible foul or abusive language, violent display of temper, or any other action or conduct which is otherwise considered to be detrimental to the best interest of the league is forbidden.
- d. All persons, players, parents, fans, and spectators are asked to support their team and are welcome to cheer. Jeering, chanting, coaching from the stands or noise trying to distract the pitcher, batter, players, or coaching staff and/or actions targeting any other team members, which is deemed excessive by tournament officials, the umpire or Northridge league membership shall not be permitted.

Failure of any person(s) to adhere to or be in violation of any of the above, or other such action deemed by the Board to be detrimental to the best interests of our league, shall be subject to immediate action. Such action can include any or all of the following:

- Immediate removal from the complex at the instruction of the All-Star Director or external Board member on site.
 - Suspension and/or expulsion by the Board of the offending individual from the All-Star Team.
 - Suspension and/or expulsion by the Board of the player from the All-Star Team.
 - Suspension and/or expulsion by the Board from the league.
- 5) Complaints or problem solving during the All-Star season shall be handled in the following manner.
- a. First – issue brought directly to the applicable manager. If not resolved...
 - b. Second – issue brought to the Division Player Rep and/or All-Star Director if not resolved...
 - c. Third – issue brought to the elected Board for final action.

II. ALL-STAR TEAMS

- 1) Northridge Softball Summer All-Stars are competitive tournament teams. Every effort shall be made to have these teams consist of the best available and eligible players within the appropriate 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and High School divisions.
 - a. Formation and regulation of these All-Star Team(s) shall be governed by the current version of the Southern California USA Junior Olympic Rules & Regulations Book “Yellow Book”. For a copy or information on the Yellow Book, go to www.USASoftballSoCal.com.
 - b. In the event that there is insufficient interest or player representation to form an All-Star team from within the League, players are free to tryout

- to participate with any qualified “Independent B-Rec, C-Rec” or “A-Travel” team they desire.
 - c. Northridge may also support a team defined as the “High School” Rec Division, as outlined in the USA SOFTBALL Category of Eligibility guidelines and Yellow Book.
- 2) Northridge Softball All-Stars typically run from May 1st through early August.
 - a. For Fall/Winter activities, after the dates above, refer to Section XI.
 - b. The League will follow the dates posted in the Yellow Book regarding selection, practice, etc. See dates listed at the end of this document.
 - i. Any such practices or play activity will not conflict with the regular season game or practice schedule. If a practice does conflict, allegiance shall be to the regular season league activity.
 - 1. Managers, Parents or Players willfully violating the above policy shall be subject to league Board action, up to and including removal from their respective All-Star Team.
 - c. In support of all Northridge-hosted tournaments all selected All-Star teams are expected to show up, support and participate.
- 3) Roster Size: While USA Softball allows a 20-player roster, Northridge shall place the following roster restrictions.
 - a. Recommendation of 12 players on any 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, HS All-Star team. Range of roster to be 11-13 players.
 - i. Carrying more or less than 12 players on a roster is possible but is done so at the manager’s discretion and will be discussed with the board prior to roster finalization.
 - b. A player shall remain committed to their All-Star team for the duration of their All-Star Season.
 - i. In the event a Player departs their All-Star team without cause (determined by the All-Star Director and Executive Board) the Parent(s) and Player will be subject to action by the Executive Board (action TBD).
 - c. Upon completion of a player’s All-Star team activity (end of season); they are free to participate on any All-Star, Travel (A), or other team.
 - d. NOTE: Refer to Section VIII, 3 for additional details related to roster size.
- 4) Playing Time Requirement: Managers shall be required to adhere to the following playing time requirements during pool play with the exceptions of District, State or Nationals. During elimination, or the entire tournaments of District, State or Nationals the Manager will use their discretion regarding playing time.
 - a. All players must participate in 1) two defensive innings (6 defensive outs); 2) two plate appearances; or 3) one defensive inning and one plate appearance in EVERY POOL PLAY GAME. In the event that this

- 2) Players **WILL** be allowed to sign-up and play All-Stars in the division they participated in during the Spring season. Thus, allowing those who played up during Spring to play up for All-Stars. See “All-Star Play-Up” (Section V, 7).
 - a. See “Pick-up Players” (Section VIII, 3).
- 3) In order to participate on any Northridge All-Star team, the player must meet the current USA SOFTBALL participation guidelines.
 - a. Per USA SOFTBALL, “A player must play a minimum of 75 percent of the current season's league games.”
 - i. A player must attend a minimum of 75% of practices.
 - ii. A player may appeal the minimum 75% rules in case of documented injury to the appropriate Board of Directors and Western District Commissioner.
 - iii. If the season has not completed at the time of All-Star Selection, a player must meet the 75% requirements up to that point.
 - b. Per USA SOFTBALL, any player who has participated on a Travel or non-USA Softball team after March 31st is NOT eligible for All-Stars. “Participate” is defined as taking part in a tryout, practice, practice game, scheduled game, or tournament.
 - i. Participation with Parks and Recreation & GPLA is allowed.
 - c. Per USA SOFTBALL, there is a limit of 4 Travel players (who participated before March 31st) allowed in each All-Star age division. A division is defined by age (6U, 8U, etc.) not individual teams (Gold, Silver, etc.). See Section
 - d. Per USA SOFTBALL, there is a limit of 5 High School players allowed in each All-Star division. For Summer All-Star eligibility, players need to be enrolled in the previous Fall season and meet the 75% participation requirement.
- 4) Any player receiving financial assistance from the league must pay regular season dues “in full”, prior to participating on any All-Star team.
- 5) Any player who has not paid any past dues for a Northridge team shall be deemed ineligible until paid in full prior to All-Star selection.
- 6) Any player who was previously removed from a Northridge All-Star team by the Board shall be deemed ineligible for any further All-Star play for a period of twelve months from the date of removal.

IV. PLAYER NOMINATION

- 1) Prospective All-Star players will register for All-Star consideration via the league website by the required deadline. Late sign-ups WILL NOT be accepted.
 - a. Registration for All-Star consideration will be opened on the league website on or before April 1st.

- 2) The All-Star Director will review the All-Star Interest list to confirm player eligibility and compile a divisional list of all applicable players.
- 3) Prior to the player selection process, a parent may petition the Elected Board to limit their daughter's All-Star eligibility to a particular level of All-Star Team (i.e. Gold only, Silver instead of Gold, or Bronze instead of Silver).
 - a. This parental petition is designed *only to inform the Board and there is no guarantee of its support.*

V. PLAYER SELECTION

- 1) The League will utilize a "Top 7 Pool" and "Top 7 Players" selection process for all Gold and Silver All-Star Teams.
- 2) The selecting committee will be comprised of the Divisional Managers, the elected All-Star Manager, All-Star Director, and the Divisional Player Representative; **attendance is considered mandatory at this meeting.**
 - a. If a manager is unable to attend this meeting, they must:
 - i. Provide the All-Star Director with their selections for the "Top 7 Pool" or send a coach to represent them.
 - b. In the event that the All-Star Director has a daughter in a particular division, the next high ranking Executive Board Member without such conflict shall replace the All-Star Director for that division.
- 3) The "Top 7 Pool", from which the "Top 7" players will be selected, will be created through open conversation of the committee members.
 - a. Players "playing up" to a higher division will automatically be a part of the Top 7 Pool/selection process in their age-appropriate division.
 - b. Each applicable divisional manager will identify (2) players from his/her own team, placing these selections into the "Top 7 Pool".
 - c. Upon completion of the manager selections, more players may be added to the "Top 7 Pool" through open discussion of the group.
 - d. The final "Top 7 Pool" will be revised through open discussion and reduced to a maximum of 14 players prior to voting.
 - e. Players selected into the "Top 7 Pool" must meet the player and team eligibility guidelines (see Section III).
- 4) From the group of players comprising the "Top 7 Pool", Divisional Managers and All-Star Manager, shall vote on the "Top 7" players using a blind ballot. The 7 top vote getters comprise the "Top 7 Players". The All-Star Director and Player Representative will count the votes and will keep results confidential.
 - a. In the event of a tie, another blind ballot vote will be taken using only the tied players.
 - i. In the event a tie cannot be broken, the acting All-Star Director shall cast the deciding vote.

- b. Prospective managers must have completed the ACE Certification in the current year and any additional trainings required by USA SOFTBALL.
 - c. Any USA SOFTBALL guidelines or limitations placed on managers' eligibility will be adhered to completely.
 - d. Prospective managers must have completed the applicable USA SOFTBALL and/or Northridge Softball background check policy.
- 2) In the event that insufficient manager names are submitted to manage the eligible All-Star team(s), the deadline date will be extended and the All-Star Committee and/or the Board may solicit individual(s) to manage.
 - a. In the event that applicable manager candidates do not exist, the Board will have the ability to elect the most qualified candidate, exclusive of specified eligibility guidelines.
 - 3) Prospective managers in the Summer must commit to participation in no less than four (4) tournaments, including, but not limited to, those for which participation is required (see Section II(d)).
 - 4) Any manager who has not paid any past dues for any Northridge team shall be deemed ineligible until paid in full prior to All-Star selection.

VII. MANAGER SELECTION

- 1) The prospective manager names will be compiled and presented to the Board of Directors at the earliest opportunity.
- 2) Manager Selection guidelines as approved by the Board will be utilized to evaluate prospective All-Star managers.
 - a. Managerial candidates should be interviewed individually. All other candidates should not be present.
 - b. Any family member of a managerial candidate should not be present during interviews for the division where their family member is being considered.
- 3) Prospective managers will have the opportunity to address the Board prior to the selection meeting.
- 4) All-Star managers shall be selected based upon a vote of the Board and eligible managers (who have attended 50% of the current season board meetings) from their division.
- 5) In the event of the formation of both a Gold and Silver All-Star team within a division, a second vote will be held ASAP to determine the Silver team manager.
 - a. In the event that sufficient players exist for a Bronze team, the All-Star Director and the Division Player Representative shall select an individual to manage subject to Board approval.

VIII. FINAL TEAM SELECTION (Coaches and Players)

1) Coach Selection Process

- a. Manager shall select the primary coaching staff which will consist of up to three individuals.
- b. The coaching staff will be approved by the All-Star Director and Registrar.
- c. Additional coaching help may be secured for assistance with practices, but no more than four (4) adults may be in the team area during play.
- d. Selected coaches must be at least 18 years of age.
- e. All must be background checked for the current season and complete any required training.

2) Player Selection Process

- a. Completing the team roster.
 - i. The Manager and Primary Coaches shall complete their roster per the guidelines specified, starting with the “Top 7 Players” as previously identified.
 - 1. All Divisions: Manager selected players should be a minimum of four (4) and a maximum of six (6). Roster not to exceed 13 players, (exceptions see Section VIII, 3 c-d).
 - ii. Any player selected has twenty-four (24) hours to decline to play All-Stars without penalty as to play in future seasons.
 - iii. At any time after All-Star teams are formed, a higher ranked team may pull a player from the lower ranked team to add to their roster subject to the approval of the All-Star Director.
 - iv. Any player who declines to play for the team which they are selected to play shall be eliminated from any All-Star or Select participation for a calendar year. Parents can petition the board for a reduction of suspension.
 - 1. In the event that the declining player is a “Top 7” player, the manager must select a replacement player from any eligible names remaining in the “Top 7 Pool” list.
- b. The Gold Team selection must be completed no earlier than May 1st.
- c. The Silver Team selection must be completed ASAP thereafter.
 - i. The Silver team roster MAY NOT be started prior to completion of the Gold team formation (24hrs). As follows, a Bronze roster may not be started prior to completion of the Silver.

3) League and Team “Pick Up” Players: (Also see USA National Code)

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- a. Once a player’s commitment has ended for their applicable All-Star team, that player is free to be a “pick-up” player onto any other qualified team.
- b. “Pick-up” players must have played on a So Cal USA registered team during the current season.
- c. USA SOFTBALL/Northridge Rules for **Championship Competition Teams** (Gold or another qualifying All-Star team).

- i. Manager, Primary Coaching Staff, All-Star Director, and Divisional Player Representative shall determine if a “Pick-up” player is needed and who that player will be.
- ii. All-Star pick-up players shall meet all USA SOFTBALL player eligibility rules.
- iii. No “Pick-up” players are allowed onto any Championship team prior to District competition.
- iv. “Pick-up” players, after Districts and prior to State Championships, must come from within Northridge Softball.
- v. Once picked-up, the player becomes a permanent roster player on that team for the remainder of Championship play.
 - 1. In the event a “Pick-up” player is replacing an injured or ill player, and such player is able to return to the team, the roster limit will be increased by (1) and the “pick-up” player will remain on the team as a “fully rostered” player.
- vi. After State Championships, “Pick-up” players may come from within the Southern California Association (District 14) within the same or lower age classification.
 - 1. “Pick-up” players for National competition must be approved by the elected Board of Directors.
 - 2. When selecting a pick-up player for National Competition priority shall be given to Northridge players including those who did not meet league All-Star requirements.
- d. Northridge Softball Rules for **Non-Championship Competition Teams** (non-qualifying All-Star teams).
 - i. Manager, Primary Coaching Staff, All-Star Director, and Divisional Player Representative shall determine if a “Pick-up” player is needed and who that player will be.
 - ii. All-Star pick-up players shall meet all USA SOFTBALL player eligibility rules.
 - iii. In the event of absence, illness, or injury (as supported by a doctor’s note) of a regular roster player, a player may be “pulled-up” from any All-Star Team immediately below.
 - 1. Such player pull-ups can NOT be for a limited or extended period of time.
 - a. Once the absent, ill, or injured player is able to return to the team, the pull-up player will be required to return to their original team.

IX. ALL-STAR MANAGER RESPONSIBILITY

- 1) Manager shall hold the appropriate team meeting at the earliest convenience after final selection of team.
 - a. Solicit a team Treasurer and Team Parent.
 - i. The team Treasurer is responsible for all team related funds and will work closely with the league Treasurer during the season.
 - b. Discuss and define financial responsibilities, time commitments, and possible practice schedule.
 - i. Extra expenses related to uniform, equipment, team gear, or other similar items shall be discussed and approved by $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the team families.
 - c. Distribute and require All-Star Parents/Guardians and players to review and sign the "Northridge All-Stars/Select Team Rules & Guidelines" as provided by the league.
 - d. Managers and coaches must sign All-Star Agreement. The manager is required to sign and submit by the first meeting and coaches must submit one week after.
- 2) Manager, Coaches and Team Parents should discuss and define All-Star Tournaments for participation.
 - a. Northridge Gold team **must** compete, and the Silver All-Star Teams **may** compete at the manager's discretion in USA Softball's Western District All-Star Tournament.
 - b. Northridge All-Star Teams are required to participate in the annual Northridge Bring the Heat Tournament. **THIS IS MANDATORY**, unless the tournament does not include a division for that particular team.
 - c. Summer All-Stars shall compete in no less than four (4) tournaments, including, but not limited to, those for which participation is required (see Section II.2.d).
- 3) All-Star Teams are required to compile an All-Star Notebook, which will include:
 - a. A team roster including team manager, coaches, team mom and other appropriate contacts.
 - b. Copies of certified birth certificates for all players.
 - c. Individual player pictures.
 - d. Signed copies of "Northridge All-Stars/Select Team Rules & Guidelines".
 - e. Proof of league insurance (Mandatory) and applicable claim forms.
 - f. Signed medical release or applicable Northridge registration form for each player (if applicable).
 - g. 4b, 4c and 4g may be replaced by the current season's USA SOFTBALL's individual ID Card or Championship roster.
- 4) Each team is responsible for coordinating their finances in accordance with Northridge All-Star Finance Rules.
 - a. See the All-Star finances section of the All-Star Manager's Packet.

- 5) In the event the manager learns that one or more of his/her players cannot make a sufficient commitment to the team in the opinion of that manager, the issue must be presented to the Board at the earliest opportunity for consideration of possible removal of such player(s).

X. NORTHRIDGE LEAGUE RESPONSIBILITY

- 1) The Elected Northridge Board shall have the ultimate authority over the entire All-Star program.
 - a. The Elected All-Star Director shall be the liaison to the Board for any communications and actions regarding All-Stars.
 - i. The USA SOFTBALL District All-Star meeting may be attended by President and/or All-Star Director.
- 2) The league will coordinate the creation and distribution of the league's All-Star Guidelines.
 - a. The elected All-Star Director shall form a committee to review and update the All-Star Guidelines for each upcoming All-Star Season.
 - i. Committee meetings to be held prior to the commencement of the Spring season.
 - ii. Completed guidelines will be presented to the Board for awareness and final publication.
- 3) The league will create a "Manager's Packet" for the elected All-Star Managers.
 - a. Manager's Packet will be designed to inform the elected manager of various All-Star requirements that will assist the manager in completing a successful All-Star season.
- 4) League support of "States" and "Nationals Qualifying" Northridge All-Star Teams.
 - a. In the event that All-Star Team(s) qualify for States and National Competition, the Board will review and define the amount of money given to each team on an annual basis.
 - i. Such funds will come out of the applicable league funds and shall be based on the financial ability of the league to provide such funds.
 - ii. Such funds must be equally provided to each qualifying team.
 1. When possible, each qualifying team shall receive a minimum of \$1,000.00. Consideration for additional funds will not be given in the absence of early fund raising.
 2. In the event that a single team qualifies, this shall not mean that such team receives an excessive amount of funding.
 - b. The league may grant All-Star teams' reimbursements for additional tournament attendance, uniforms, equipment, or the like. Such grants will be handled on a season-by-season basis.

XI. FALL/WINTER SEASON TOURNAMENTS

- 1) Per 2024 USA SOFTBALL of SoCal rules (Section 2.6.5 on page 29 of the Yellow Book) the Fall Select Season will be in effect September 1 – December 31.
- 2) For more information regarding the Select Program see the “2024 Northridge Softball Select Guidelines”.

Anything not covered within these guidelines will be ruled on by the All-Star Director with Executive Board approval.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 1	Spring Select season begins (teams can be formed)
March 31	Registration Deadline. Players participating in league play shall be registered with USA SOFTBALL before April 1 to be eligible for Championship Play.
March 31	Participation in Travel must end for All-Star eligibility
April 7	Spring Select season ends (teams must disband)
April 24	All-Star Manager selection may begin
May 1	All-Star team selection may begin
May 5	All-Star team practices may begin
May 10	All-Star tournament play begins
May 31	Championship Play Entry Deadline
June 14-16	“C” Classification District Championship
June 21-23	“B” Classification District Championship
June 27-30	“C” State Championship
July 4-7	“B” State Championship
July 18	12U “C” Nationals/Regionals/World Games
Late July	“B” National Championship
September 1	Fall Select Season begins (teams can be formed)
December 31	Fall Select Season ends (teams must disband)

LEAGUE CONTACTS & REPRESENTATIVES

All-Star Director	Carlos Santana	allstars@nags.rocks
14/17U Rep	Chris Gordon	17Uplayer@nags.rocks
12U Rep	Natasha Jacobellis	12uplayer@nags.rocks
10U Rep	Kenny FitzRandolph	10uplayer@nags.rocks
8U Rep	Humberto Martinez	8uplayer@nags.rocks
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