

ZGF Spring/Summer Tryout Process and Team Selection

Tryouts

1. Registration, uniform fitting and tryouts will be held in the Zimmerman Middle School gyms. See the Tryouts webpage for specific times and details.
2. Every effort is made to place all registrants on a team.
3. The ZGFA seldom considers requests to play with specific players within an age group
 - a. You may request to play with certain players for reasons such as the players are sisters, step-sisters, or for car-pooling purposes.
 - i. This request will be considered but is not guaranteed.
 - ii. If multiple families are involved, both parents must agree
 - iii. If allowed, the tryout scores for both players will be averaged and both players will be placed on a team as described below.
4. All potential players 10U and up must participate in the day one tryout process to be selected for a position on a top tier team.
 - a. Anyone missing tryouts will be placed on the lowest tier team for their age group unless the absence is approved by the ZGFA Travel Director and President.
 - b. Approved absences are unforeseen and/or unavoidable circumstances such as planned family vacations, family emergencies, illness, injury etc.
 - i. Illness or injury shall include proof such as a doctor's note.
 - c. Players with approved absences may be selected as a coach pick (see below).
5. ZGFA board members and prospective coaches that have applied on-line for a coaching position will be allowed to observe/assist with tryouts.
 - a. Prospective coaches may observe for potential coach's picks.
 - b. Coaching of players is strictly prohibited for everyone during tryouts.

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6. Girls will be allowed to play up one age level **ONLY** if their playing ability warrants it **AND** the number of players registered for the older & younger age groups will allow it.
 - a. Age appropriate players will NOT be denied a playing opportunity to allow a younger girl to play up an age level.
 - b. Players that wish to play up must tryout with the upper age group first **AND** then their age appropriate group.
 - i. The score they attain during the upper age group tryouts will be used to determine upper team placement if allowed.
 - ii. If not allowed to play up, the score they attain during their age appropriate tryout will determine team placement.
 - c. A player moving up an age group must be agreed upon by the coach(s), parents, and athlete AND approved by the ZGFA selection committee.
7. **Day ONE - All Players:** 10U players and up, will be required to go through evaluations.
 - a. Evaluations will be held following registration and uniform fitting.
 - b. Day one tryouts will be used to establish a player's basic abilities to hit, bunt, field ground balls, field fly balls and throw.
 - c. Skill assessment will be evaluated by impartial adults/coaches from surrounding communities not associated with Zimmerman players or members of the Zimmerman Girls Fastpitch Association whenever possible.
8. **Day TWO – Pitchers and Catchers ONLY:** At check-in, each pitcher/catcher/parent will be required to complete and sign a form indicating their preferred team placement.
 - a. **The two choices are:**
 - i. If I do not rank in the top two pitchers or catchers (based upon pitching or catching evaluation score), but I otherwise qualify for the upper team, I would prefer to be placed on the upper team, even though I may receive little to no pitching or catching time.
 - ii. If I do not rank in the top two pitchers or catchers (based upon pitching or catching evaluation score), but I otherwise qualify for the upper team, I would prefer to be placed on the lower team and receive more pitching or catching time.
 - b. If your daughter does not tryout as a pitcher and/or catcher, we cannot guarantee playing time at these specialty positions.

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Team Selection

1. Travel teams 10U and up shall be made up of at least 10 players but will be no more than 13 players unless approved by the ZGFA Board.
2. The day one evaluation scores will be used to rank the players, and establish tiered teams by skill level (A, B, or C).
 - a. Depending on the number of participants in each age group and the range of skills, teams may comprise of multiple tiers for each age group.
 - b. Ideally, the goal is to have an upper tier team and one or more developing lower tier teams (A-B, B-C, B-C-C, etc.).
3. The number of pitchers/catchers on the top tier team cannot be disproportionate such that it hinders the adequate formation of the lower tier team(s) in that age group.
 - a. The lower tier team(s) at the 10U age group is first exposure to live pitching for most girls on the team. It is expected that this team will have very little, if any at all, pitching experience. This is where the experience and development starts.
 - b. The ZGFA President and Travel Director reserve the right to make any changes necessary to pitchers/catcher team assignments to ensure distribution of the pitcher/catcher positions for upper and lower tier teams.
4. Tryout scores will be compiled and available for review by the Selection Committee (ZGFA President, Travel Director and prospective upper tier head coaches that have applied on-line).
5. The Selection Committee will meet following tryouts to assemble the teams.
 - a. **NOTE:** The selection committee must ensure sufficient distribution of pitchers and catchers, manage siblings in the same age group, balance team sizes amongst all age groups and ensure teams have assigned coaches. Team selection may take approximately one week to finalize.

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6. The following process will be used to determine the initial placement of players:
 - a. The upper tier team for each age group is mainly based on tryout score rankings:
 - i. The top 2 pitchers/catchers within an age group will initially be assigned to the upper tier team.
 - ii. Players ranking 1-7 for a team of 10, 1-8 for a team of 11, 1-9 for a team of 12, etc. will automatically be placed on the upper tier team.
 - iii. The selected head coach for the upper tier team will then pick the final three roster spots (Coach Picks).
 - iv. **NOTE:** If a top 2 pitcher/catcher come from outside the automatic upper tier team spots, they will count as a coach pick. Additionally, a top 2 pitcher/catcher could be moved to a lower tier team to ensure proper distribution of the pitcher/catcher positions for upper and lower tier teams.
 - b. Coach picks must be approved by the ZGFA President and Travel Director
 - c. Coach picks can NOT be used on a player that is playing up unless their tryout score places them within the top tier team size.
 - i. Example: A girl playing up finishes 10th, 11th, or 12th, at tryouts and the upper tier team will have 12 players. A coach pick can be used for this player. If a girl playing up finishes 14th they can't be a coach pick unless they are a top 2 pitcher/catcher.
 - d. Coach picks should be made using a legitimate and sound softball reason. Below are some examples (NOT all inclusive):
 - i. The players tryout score and ranking
 - ii. The player's age and team placement in previous years.
 - iii. The player has a competitive positive attitude, is willing to listen, follow directions and learn new positions.
 - iv. The player's commitment to traveling softball as demonstrated by attendance at games and practices in previous years.
 - v. A player didn't tryout to their potential but has shined in previous seasons.
 - e. The lower tier team(s) will be assembled using the remaining players in that age group. If multiple lower tier teams will be formed, the selection committee may form two equal lower tier teams or the process described above will be used with the remaining players to select the middle tier team.
7. The ZGFA President and Travel Director reserve the right to make the final decision for player placement on all teams.