

## 2021 CHS Fastpitch Evaluation Criteria

***Softball is a high school sport and therefore is based on competition and the values/life lessons that can be gained through competing. There are many factors that are considered when determining who will be invited to continue with the team. This document is intended to give each player and parent a better understanding of what our Staff is looking for and what our expectations are. Each year is different, returning players will be evaluated by the same criteria as new players. What team(s) you play for outside our season is not a factor. Different coaches see different things and each player will be evaluated by the same criteria by our staff. What position you play outside our season may be noted but also may not be adhered to.***

***It is impossible to make a purely objective evaluation, based entirely on the mastery of Softball skills, or any other criteria. We try to determine how competitive and determined each player is to be their best. Simply, we try to measure their heart. It is impossible to measure that and put a number on it without considering many factors. Many other things have to be considered in order to maintain a successful program. Consequently, subjective evaluations are basically opinions and are open to many arguments both for and against these evaluations. Please keep in mind that the coaches have been hired as professionals to make these types of decisions. Also realize that the coaches want to make the teams and the program the best they can possibly be and will not exclude players they believe will accomplish this in the end.***

***Below are some basic guidelines that are stressed by our program and Staff. Following the basic guidelines are more specific (but not all) items that are evaluated.***

- 1. Ability – Performing the basic skills needed to play softball at the high school level**
- 2. Players that are determined to be the best they can be and have a work ethic to match**
- 3. Players that understand CHS Fastpitch is a competitive sport**
- 4. Players that are great teammates**
- 5. Players that are willing to fill whatever role is given them for the benefit of the team**
- 6. Players that are not satisfied with current status and ability**
- 7. Players that are willing to lead, not follow**
- 8. Players that fit positions needed for current team**

## ➤ **ALL PLAYERS**

- Current Ability
  - Throwing, fielding, hitting, bunting, running, mobility and conditioning
  - Potential ability based on factors that follow
- Work Ethic
  - Are you determined to be the best you can?
  - Do you take advantage of opportunities given to you to improve?
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- Competitiveness
  - Do you understand that High School sports are based on competition?
  - Are you a social player or a competitive player?
- Leadership
  - Are you willing to lead both by example and vocally?
  - Do others follow you?
- Attitude Effort
  - All we ask is your best effort
    - Are you doing all you can to win?
- Commitment
  - Do you show up, be a good teammate and do all you can to improve in season and out?
  - Playing in the offseason is NOT a prerequisite. But understanding that more playing will most likely lead to more improvement. If you do not play outside the season you will be evaluated on the same criteria as those that do.
- Teammate
  - We will not have any patience for players that behave in a way that negatively affects our teammates or program
  - The same behavior is expected of coaches and parents
- Communication with staff and players
  - Respond in a timely manner to staff notices
  - Honesty with teammates and staff
- Ability to change
  - Coachability
  - Recognition that there is always room for improvement
- Versatility
  - Can you play multiple positions?
  - Are you able to contribute in positions / roles that meet current needs of team?
  - Pitching is a unique position that may be evaluated separately
- Softball IQ
  - Do you have a good understanding of rules, strategies and situations?
- Speed and Baserunning ability
- "IT" this is hard to define but a player that has "IT" just carry themselves in a manner that looks like they believe they are going to succeed. They are not afraid of key situations.
- Body Language / Behavior
  - Bad body language or behavior will not be tolerated.

- Confidence – can't play scared
- Grade
  - Underclassmen have more time (years) to improve. Therefore, all things being comparable, upperclassmen need to be better at their role than underclassmen
  - Once our season begins there are NOT different grades, just teammates

***Pitching and catching are positions that tend to require some unique skills in addition to those listed for all players. In addition to the qualities mentioned earlier and our program evaluates on the following.***

### ➤ **PITCHERS**

- Can you locate pitches
  - Up and down is equally as important as throwing inside and out.
  - Keep the ball away from waist level
- Change of speed
  - Must have a change up or pitch of significant different speed
- Locating the pitches you throw is vastly more important of the numbers of pitches you think you can throw
  - It is not a pitch if you can't locate it consistently
- Understand the importance of the count
  - Recognize the importance of being ahead in the count
- Recognize hitters' weaknesses
- Recognize situation and be able to pitch accordingly
- Understanding of Pitching vs Throwing
  - Pitchers goal needs to be to get people out
  - Throwers want to throw hard and try to throw as many pitches as possible
  - Can you get people out?
- Body language – Leadership
  - Pitchers are the center of attention

### ➤ **CATCHERS**

- Leadership
- Understand how/why to call pitches
  - In our program we strive to have our Pitchers and Catchers work together to call the game
  - Have a justifiable reason for what you called
  - Not based on hindsight and results
  - Catchers suggest pitches, pitchers have final say unless the pitch is called by the coach
- Recognize hitters' weaknesses
- Do you make the pitcher work?
- Blocking skills
- Throwing runners out
- Framing pitches