



## **Nova Fusion Team Formation: Program Policy for Spring/Summer Teams**

All players will play in the two-year ASA age division corresponding to their birth year (e.g. 14A, 16A).

The teams will be organized according to birth year, with the following exceptions:

Whenever there is only one Fusion team in an age division, that team can comprise players of both birth years in that ASA age division.

Every spring, there will be a maximum of one 14A Fusion team of 8<sup>th</sup> grade players (hereafter called 14A-MS (Middle School)), some of whom could be a calendar year older than their classmates. This will not be considered a birth-year policy violation. The older players on this team will generally be expected to continue playing on the Fusion 14A-MS team through the summer season, rather than playing on the Fusion 14A-HS (High School) team.

Because local rules prohibit high school softball players from participating in non-high school games during the spring, coaches of Fusion 14A-MS teams should consider limiting the addition of freshman players. The recommendation is a maximum of two freshmen on a 14A-MS team.

In every case, the coach of a specific birth-year team has the first right of refusal for any player of that birth-year trying out for the Fusion Program. If, after both regular and make-up tryouts have been completed, the player in question is not offered a spot on that birth-year team, the coach of that team may release the player for consideration by the coach of the younger team. A coach may not make an offer to a player from the other birth-year until the coach of the player's birth-year team has declined to make an offer to that player, or until that player has refused an offer from the older of the two birth-year teams, AND the coach of the older team has released

the player. For example: a 2002 birth-year player tries out for, but is not offered a spot on the 2002s team. The 2002s coach releases the player, at which point the coach of the 2003s team may offer a position to that player. This will also hold true going in the opposite order of birth year: in the event that a player tries out for the younger team in an age division but is not offered a position, the coach of the older team may opt to have the younger player try out for his/her team once the coach of the younger team has released that player.

Under no circumstances may a summer player “play up” beyond her ASA age division.

**NOTE: if a player is offered a position on the younger of the two birth-year teams but refuses the offer, she is disqualified from consideration for the older team. The converse, however, does not apply: if a player is offered a position on the older of the two teams but refuses, she still has the option of accepting an offer from the younger team, should one be made.**

In the event that the two teams in a single age division are grossly unbalanced in position players (esp. pitchers and catchers), the Program Director reserves the right to re-balance the teams along the lines of those skills. Every effort will be made to accommodate coach preferences in this regard, but priority will be given to the effort to strengthen the age division rather than any particular team.

Once tryouts take place, each team’s head coach will notify the Fusion Registrar regarding whom he/she has made offers to, who has accepted, who has declined, and who will not be offered a spot. No player may be offered a spot on the team without attending a tryout. No offered spots are final until the player has provided a copy of her birth certificate, proof of grade if necessary (14A-MS only), and paid her registration deposit.