



2026 U18 WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION PROCESS 2026 WBSC U18 Women's Pan American Championships

SECTION 1 – PURPOSE

The 2026 U18 Women's National Team Program will compete in the 2026 WBSC U18 Women's Pan American Championships. The purpose of this document is to set out the process that will be used by Softball Canada to select athletes to the 2026 U18 Women's National Team who will attend the 2026 WBSC U18 Women's Pan American Championships.

This selection process has the following objective:

- Select the best possible Team for the 2026 U18 Women's National Team. While some objective criteria will be used to select the Team, it is also recognized that there is a significant subjective element. Subjective elements include such factors as previous and current performance, experience, positional requirements, leadership, and team cohesion.

SECTION 2 – ELIGIBILITY

An athlete is eligible for selection to the Team so long as they are: (1) in good standing with Softball Canada, and (2) a Canadian Citizen holding a Canadian passport, or a person eligible for Canadian Citizenship who is actively pursuing Citizenship.

To be eligible to be selected to the Team, the athlete must meet any age requirements and citizenship requirements stipulated by the organizers of the event at which the Team will be competing.

SECTION 3 – AUTHORITY FOR SELECTION

The Head Coach has final authority for all selection decisions, including selecting athletes to the Team, removing athletes from the Team, and selecting replacement athletes to the Team where applicable. In making selection decisions, the Head Coach will consult with the Manager –

Women's National Teams (WNT), and with the coaching staff, defined for the purposes of this document to include assistant coaches, scouts and evaluators as designated by Softball Canada.

SECTION 4 – ATHLETE SELECTION PROCESS

Open Identification Camps

Identification camps will be held in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Ontario, from June – August 2026.

Team Selection

Following the Identification camps, the final Team and alternates for the 2026 U18 Women's National Team attending the Pan American Championships will be named, with the goal being to put together the best possible Team for the event. The final roster, comprising 16 athletes plus alternates, will be determined by no later than September 15th, 2026.

Factors that will be considered in this selection include physical and technical aspects of the game, as well as team dynamics. These factors, which will be assigned weight by the Head Coach, as he or she deems appropriate for the decision-making process, include:

- Open ID camps held Summer of 2026 (ON, BC, SK)
- Performance at Canadian Championships and other scouted events (Canada Cup, Provincials, etc).
- Previous and current performance
- Experience
- Positional requirements (primary and backup)
- Present and projected development and/or improvement
- Leadership/Contribution to team chemistry
- Availability for competition and training

It is understood that in making selections to create the best possible Team, it is possible that the best individual athletes may not be selected. The Head Coach has the discretion to advance athletes with previous international experience to later stages of the selection process.

Physical Performance: Athletes may be evaluated on factors relevant to their position, including strength, power, speed, cardiovascular fitness, endurance, and injury resilience.

Softball Performance: Athletes will also be evaluated on softball-specific skills, including fielding, hitting, pitching (where applicable), game awareness, and baserunning.

The timelines that will be followed in selecting the athletes to the 2026 U18 Women's National Team will be as follows. Note that specific events, dates and times may be subject to change.

- Identification camps in June – August 2026 in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Ontario.
- The Head Coach will select a team of athletes to represent Canada at the Pan American Championships no later than September 15th, 2026.
- Alternates may be added to the Team to replace an athlete removed from the team pursuant to section 5. The addition of alternates to the team is at the sole discretion of the Head Coach and will be in keeping with the philosophy of fielding the best possible Team.

UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES/CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT

If unforeseen circumstances arise which do not allow for this selection process or the above timelines to be implemented as outlined in this document, Softball Canada reserves the right to identify an alternate process or alternate timelines. Should this occur, all athletes in the selection process will be notified of these changes in a timely manner.

SECTION 5 - REMOVAL FROM A CAMP OR FROM THE TEAM

An athlete may be removed from a camp or from a Team where the athlete:

- a) Is unable to meet performance expectations;
- b) Unable or unwilling to meet required training expectations;
- c) Is unable to perform due to injury, illness or for other medical reasons as determined by Softball Canada's medical staff;
- d) Is unable to commit to the required Team activities (note that an athlete may obtain an exemption from the Head Coach and Softball Canada)
- e) Violates team rules and/or Softball Canada's policies and procedures; or
- f) Exhibits conduct that is detrimental to the image of the National Team program or Softball Canada.

SECTION 6 – SUBSTITUTION OF ALTERNATES

Where necessary and appropriate, an athlete removed from a Team may be replaced by an alternate selected by the Head Coach.

SECTION 7 – APPEALS

Softball Canada selections for the 2026 U18 Women's National Team may be appealed in accordance with the procedures set out in the Softball Canada Appeals policy. Any dispute relating to the Softball Canada Internal nominations procedure for the 2026 U18 Women's National Team must be brought according to said policy, or may be brought directly to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) with the consent of all parties and at the discretion of the SDRCC.

APPENDIX B – TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

June 29-30, 2026	Identification Camp	Saskatoon, SK
August 13-14, 2026	Identification Camp	Brampton, ON
August 20-21, 2026	Identification Camp	Langley, BC
November 18 – November 29, 2026	WBSC U18 Women's Pan American Championships	San Salvador, El Salvador