

Johnston Girls Softball Association (JGSA)



Dragon Select – Fall 2020/Spring 2021 Tryout Process

Overview

There will be two nights of tryouts for each age group, except for 8U which has one tryout night and one make-up night. Tryouts are on the Jensen Quad Fields. Generally, check in will start at 5:30 p.m. and tryouts will start at 5:45 p.m. Players should be dressed, warmed up, and ready to begin at 5:45 p.m. Dates for 2020 include:

- 8U – August 10; make-up date on August 18
- 9U & 10U – August 11 and August 19
- 11U & 12U – August 12 and August 17
- 13U and 14U – August 10 and August 18

Players will be expected to attend at least one night of tryouts and are highly encouraged to try out both nights for her age group. Each tryout session will feature the same assessments and the higher score from either tryout night will be used as the player's final ranking.

Rating/Tryout Process*

Players will be broken into groups, with one test on each field:

- **Outfield general** – 8 fly balls thrown to each player (4 in left center and 4 in right center); when in left center, the player will field the ball and throw to second base; when in right center, the player will field the ball and throw to third base; fly balls will be thrown a little side to side for evaluators to see range
- **Infield general** – 8 ground balls hit to each player (4 to shortstop and 4 to second base); players will field all balls and throw to first base; ground balls will be hit a little side to side for evaluators to see range
- **Hitting** – each girl will hit 5 balls off a tee; each girl will be thrown 6 pitches to swing away on, and four pitches to bunt
- **Measurable tests** – base run timing including home to first, and first to third with a slide; arm speed will be measured by player throwing three throws into net and a radar gun will record speeds and best speed will be used

Outfield and infield fielding tests will score fielding mechanics, range and execution while also rating throwing accuracy. Hitting tests will record stance, load/timing and hard-hit balls. Measurable tests will record time and speed for each discipline.

**Tryout process listed is for 9U through 14U. 8U will field four grounders, catch four pop flies, swing at 8 pitches and run from home to 3rd base (no time recorded on run, but player will be evaluated on running and rounding bases skill).*

Pitching/Catching

Pitchers and catchers will go through the same tryout process as other players. In addition, a separate tryout night for all pitchers and catchers will be performed on **Thursday, August 13** for 9U through 14U. Check-in will be at 5:30 p.m. for pitchers with tryout starting at 5:45 p.m. Catchers check-in will be at 6:30 p.m. with expected tryout start at 7:00 p.m. Pitching assessment will utilize radar gun, and strike zone to determine throwing accuracy. Also, specific scores will be ranked for changeup/off speed pitches. Catchers will be thrown 6 pitches, with a combination of balls and strikes. They will also block 6 pitches that are in the dirt and have three throw downs to second to rate pop time, arm strength, and accuracy.

The JGSA Board believes that to have a strong Select program, there is a need to develop many pitchers and catchers at the younger age groups. The general practice is that trying out as a pitcher or catcher (at any age group) can only help a player during team selection and **cannot** have negative impacts. A couple possible examples of how this might apply include:

Example 1: A player's overall tryout is good enough to place her on the top team at her age group; however, her pitching tryout is scored that she is the third or fourth ranked pitcher. Since the selection committee places the top two pitchers on the top team, there may be concerns that this player would be placed on the second team. This is not what the selection committee will decide. In this example, since the player's overall skill level is determined to qualify her for the top team, the selection committee would contact the player's parents to ask whether the player would like to play for the top team (knowing she would be the third or fourth pitcher and therefore may not have as many opportunities to pitch in games), or if the player would prefer to be one of the top pitchers on the second team. (Note: this example also applies for catchers).

Example 2: A player's overall tryout score places her on the second team. However, her pitching tryout ranks her as the top pitcher at her age group. She would be placed on the top team since the general practice has been to put the top pitcher on the top team. (Note: this example also applies for catchers).

Team Selection

Each age group will be ranked according to scores from above process/tryout. Tryout scores and previous coach evaluations will be used to help form teams for girls on the bubble. As many teams as a possible will be formed at each age group, with a goal to have a team(s) for 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, and 14U. A Dragon Select selection committee will be formed by the JGSA Board, prior to tryouts. The selection committee will include JGSA Board members who are not currently coaching a Dragon Select team. JGSA does everything they can to match up skill levels and place every girl on a team. However, number of team spots available is dependent on the number of girls signed up and the number of coaches available.

All Select teams will be announced on the JGSA website (<https://www.johnstongirlssoftball.org/>). Anyone with questions about team placement or formation will be invited to attend an upcoming JGSA Board meeting to discuss those concerns.