

Johnston Girls Softball Association (JGSA)



Dragon Select – Fall 2026/Spring 2027 Tryout Process

Overview

There will be one night of tryouts for each age group. Tryouts are on the Jensen Quad Fields. Players should be dressed, warmed up, and ready to begin at the designated time. The JGSA Dragon Select Tryout dates for the 2026-2027 season are as follows:

- 8U – Monday, June 15 at 5:30 p.m. (5:00 p.m. check-in and warmups)
- 9U & 10U – Tuesday, June 16 at 5:30 p.m. (5:00 p.m. check-in and warmups)
- 11U & 12U – Wednesday, June 17 at 5:30 p.m. (5:00 p.m. check-in and warmups)
- 13U & 14U – Monday, June 15 at 6:30 p.m. (6:10 p.m. check-in and warmups)
- All pitchers 9U and up – Thursday, June 18 at 5:30 p.m. (5:00 p.m. check-in and warmups)
- All catchers 9U and up – Thursday, June 18 at 7:00 p.m. (6:30 p.m. check-in and warmups)

Rating/Tryout Process*

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

- **Outfield general** – 6 fly balls hit to each player (3 from center field thrown to 2nd base and 3 from center field thrown to 3rd base); fly balls will be hit side to side and could go over the player's head for evaluators to see range
- **Infield general** – 6 ground balls hit to each player at shortstop, 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; will be thrown 6 pitches to swing away on, and have four pitches to bunt
- **Measurable tests** – base running timing - home to 2nd base with a slide; arm speed will be measured with player throwing three throws from shortstop to 1st base and a radar gun will record speeds; middle speed will be used

Outfield and infield fielding tests will score fielding mechanics, range, and execution while also rating throwing accuracy / arm strength. 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, June 18** for 9U through 14U. Check-in will be at 5:00 p.m. for pitchers with tryout starting at 5:30 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 for only 11U and older pitchers. 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 two throw downs to 2nd base and three throw downs to 1st base 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 starts with 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, but the selection committee starts with the top catcher on the top team, the 2nd catcher to the second team, etc.).

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 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. JGSA does everything it 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.