

# GB SOFTBALL POLICY ON PLAYER WITHDRAWALS FROM NATIONAL TEAM TOURS

**PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY.** Over the years, GB Softball has had occasional requests by players in Great Britain Fastpitch National Team programmes to withdraw from playing in part or all of a tour for which they have been selected, including official European or WBSC Championships and/or mandatory training and preparation competitions. The following Policy has been written to outline what are regarded as legitimate reasons for withdrawing from a GB National Team Competition Squad and the process that should govern any such request.

**APPLICATION.** This Policy applies to all players selected to GB Fastpitch National Team Competition Squads at all age levels.

**REASONS FOR WITHDRAWAL.** We consider that the following, in general, are the only legitimate reasons for a GB player to withdraw from an ESF, WBSC or preparation competition for which the player has been selected to play for Great Britain and where the player has initially confirmed that they will take up their place:

- 1) Injury, illness or family bereavement that prevents the player from taking part.
- 2) Conflict with important academic requirements (exams, courses etc) that cannot be deferred. But we expect players and their families to explore all avenues to see if the conflict can be resolved, and we are happy to write letters and talk to relevant academic authorities to help with this process.

However, we recognise that there might be other exceptional circumstances in which it would be legitimate for a player to request to withdraw from a GB squad, and such requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**PROCESS.** A player wishing to withdraw from a GB competition event for which they have been selected should write to the Head Coach of the team concerned at the earliest possible date to request permission to withdraw and stating the reasons. In the case of an injury or illness, a letter from a qualified medical practitioner should accompany the request, and in a case where academic requirements are the reason for the withdrawal request, a letter from a relevant academic authority should be included. Where the reason is other than medical or academic, the circumstances should be explained in full and evidence should be provided where this is appropriate. In this latter instance, the exceptional circumstances cited will be discussed by the staff of the team concerned and the GB Management Committee to decide whether the request has merit.

Any personal information provided in connection with a withdrawal request will be processed in accordance with the UK Data Protection Act (1998) and the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) that came into force in 2018 and will be shared with those required to make the decision on the request. This will include the staff of the team(s) concerned and the GB Management Committee.

**DECISIONS.** Where it is decided that a request to withdraw from a GB Competition Squad has merit, whether based on medical, academic or other grounds, the player concerned will not be penalised with regard to selection for future competitions in which a GB Softball Team is taking part. However, where it is

decided that the reasons for the withdrawal request are not legitimate and show insufficient regard for the needs of the GB Softball programme, the player concerned may be removed from consideration for future competitions for a specified time period as decided by the GB Management Committee.

Depending on when a withdrawal request is made relative to the competition or training event concerned, and whether the request is decided to be legitimate or illegitimate, there may be implications regarding retention of any deposits or tour fees already paid, based on existing GB Softball policy.

**RIGHT OF APPEAL.** Should a player be removed from consideration for selection to future GB Competition Squads because of withdrawal from a GB competition event without a reason that the team's staff and the GB Management Committee consider to be legitimate, the player will have the right to appeal this decision based on the GB Softball Selection and Appeal Policy, which can be downloaded here:

[http://www.britishsoftball.org/uploads/documents/Files/GB%20Softball%20Non-Olympic%20Selection%20and%20Appeals%20Policy%202019\(1\).pdf](http://www.britishsoftball.org/uploads/documents/Files/GB%20Softball%20Non-Olympic%20Selection%20and%20Appeals%20Policy%202019(1).pdf).

**The GB Management Committee  
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