

POLICY ON GB TEAM COMPOSITION

Members of the GBMC met in October 2016 to look at questions of philosophy and policy regarding the make-up of GB Teams with regard to GB-based and overseas-based players.

The GBMC has now agreed on the points below, which have also been approved by the BSF Executive.

The GBMC does not want to create any quantitative policies with regard to team selection and composition, but has made the following recommendations for the different GB Fastpitch programmes:

- **GB U-13 (London Cubs) and U-16 Girls' and Boys' Teams.** A majority of players selected for these teams should always be GB-based, and preferably a heavy majority. At these age groups, we feel that experience for GB-based players should come before a concern with results.
- **GB Men and U-19 Men's Teams.** We expect these teams to be a mix of GB-based and overseas-based players (depending on availability), and would be reluctant to see either of these teams be all one or the other at this stage.
- **GB U-19, U-22 and Senior Women's Teams.** We recognise the current shortage of qualified GB-based players in these age groups, and also the imperative for results in a period when we are looking for Olympic funding. We therefore want coaches of these teams to be able to select what they feel are the strongest players to make up their competition squads, based on published selection criteria.
- If any team proposes to select a squad consisting entirely of overseas-based players we request a prior discussion with the GBMC to explore the negative connotations and consequences that selecting such a team would have within the UK.
- In any case where a coach is selecting between two players s/he considers equivalent, one from GB and one from overseas, the GB-based player should be selected.

In addition to the above, we have made the following suggestions:

- For Senior and U-19 Teams (both genders), where we play in World and European Championships, we want players who make themselves available for selection to do so for both levels of competition unless there are compelling reasons why this is not possible. Non-availability for European competitions without a compelling reason may result in de-selection for the next year's World Championships.
- We require overseas-based players to be involved and engaged in helping to develop fastpitch softball in UK. Examples of possible inputs could be:
 - Visiting the UK to play and/or to coach British-based players in the same or younger age groups.

- Mentoring a British-based player via regular social media contact, perhaps by having Senior overseas-based players mentor U-19 players in the UK, or overseas-based U-19 players mentor U-16 players in the UK etc.
- Sending tips or experiences to a team social media group.
- Requesting second-hand equipment from their school or college programme for the GB development programme.

Coaches may have additional ideas for contributions.

- Finally, we want all overseas-based players selected for GB Teams to learn the National Anthem before their first tournament!