

Hampton Athletic Association

Softball Group Cutoff Determination



Outlined below is a system that follows the Greater Pittsburgh Girls Softball League (GPGSL) cutoff rules.

GPGSL seasons:

Cutoff is by **BIRTH YEAR**.

Exceptions:

- **Playing Down**
 - Any player can request to play down into a lower age group if the parent feels they need more time to develop or there is a safety concern for that player.
- **Playing Up**
 - Any player can request to play up into a higher age group if the parent feels they are ready and no longer benefit from playing in their current age group.
- **Process**
 - All requests are subject to HAA Board review and approval and must be made as a parental request to the HAA Board in writing.
 - For 10u and above requests to play down, an additional approval from GPGSL must be granted.
- **Considerations**
 - All requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and age group registration counts will be considered upon making the decision. Each enrollment season presents a new layout to the number of teams in each age group and requests won't be approved if it results in unbalanced roster counts or prevents an age group from having any teams at all.

Example (for 2024)

Division	Birth Years	Typical Age
6u	2017-2018	5-7
8u	2015-2016	7-9
10u	2013-2014	9-11
12u	2011-2012	11-13
15u	2008-2010	13-16
18u	2005-2007	16-19

Scenarios not covered herein are subject to HAA board review and approval and must be made as a parental request to the HAA board in writing.

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Tournament Seasons:

Cutoff is by **BIRTH YEAR**.

The HAA will make its best effort to ensure at least 1 tournament team exists for each age level; especially if rosters are only in need of 1 or 2 more additional players.

Exceptions:

- **Not enough players are available to fill out a team at an age group:** The HAA will consider moving age eligible players **up or down** in order to adequately fill out a team roster. The HAA will consider moving players so each age group has at least 1 team. The player(s) moved must express interest in moving and must still be age eligible for the team assigned so they will be able to be rostered in tournaments.
 - The definition of an adequate roster size for a tournament team is 1 more player than the maximum number of kids allowed on a field. In 10u and below that number is 11 players. In 12u and up that number is 10 players.
 - This option to move players **will not** apply to teams that have adequate roster sizes to play a tournament season as defined above. If the team has an adequate roster size, then no age group moved players will be permitted to be added to the roster.
 - No players in the proper age group will be cut so that a player outside of the grade age group can be moved and added to the roster. Coaches must take all players who attended tryouts with their age level first.
 - Any following seasons will be reassessed separately and any moved players will **not** be guaranteed to play outside of their age group for following seasons.
 - This rule applies to all teams for a age group, ex 1st, 2nd, 3rd, A, B, C, Blue, Gold, White, etc.
 - **Only the HAA board will approve moving players.**
- **Substitute players for tournaments:** Players are allowed to play as a sub “up” or “down” if rosters are depleted due to injury or vacations and if the player(s) is age eligible. This assumes the player’s current tournament team does not have scheduled games and is available to play with the other team.

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- **Players cannot miss their current tournament team games to be a fill in substitute on another team.**
- Abuse of this rule will be considered as double rostering a player, and will be grounds for disciplinary action to the coaches of the teams involved and player(s) filling in.

Scenarios not covered herein are subject to HAA board review and approval and must be made as a parental request to the HAA board in writing.

NOTE: If there are any scenarios not covered herein that require the player to be evaluated then the following shall be followed to ensure an unbiased approach:

The evaluation group will consist of at least: The age group commissioner, **at least** 1 coach who has coached at the player “to be evaluated” age group **and** higher, and the VP of the age group. No one from the evaluation group can be a parent or relative of the player being evaluated. No one from the evaluation group can be a current tournament coach of the player’s age group team or of the team the player wishes to join. The evaluations must then be HAA board accepted and approved for the final determination.