



Foothills Fury Fastpitch Association Player Transfer Policy

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the guidelines for players of the Foothills Fury Fastpitch Association (FFFA) wishing to transfer to a team outside their Home Association, to another District or Minor Association, within the structure of Softball Alberta. The policy aims to:

- Ensure fair player movement between associations while adhering to Softball Alberta guidelines.
- Help prevent a decline in player numbers within the Foothills Fury Association by fostering player retention.
- Encourage the growth and development of fastpitch softball in all communities.
- Create fair and equitable criteria for players wishing to participate in programs outside of their home district or minor association.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all players wishing to transfer from the Foothills Fury Fastpitch Association to another District or Minor Association. This includes all U15 and under-aged players and covers the process for obtaining the necessary transfer approval each year.

3. Definitions

- Player Transfer: A request for a player to be moved from one association (the releasing association) to another (the receiving association) for participation in fastpitch softball.
- Home Association: The district or minor association to which a player is first registered with, and typically where the player resides.
- Receiving Association: The district or minor association to which the player is transferring.
- Releasing Association: The player's Home Association (in this case, the Foothills Fury Fastpitch Association) from which they are seeking a transfer.
- Player: An individual registered or intending to register to participate in fastpitch softball.
- Authorized Signature: The designated signatory from the releasing and receiving associations responsible for the transfer process.

4. Conditions for Transfer

- Approval Required: All players wishing to transfer from the Foothills Fury Fastpitch Association to another district or minor association must obtain an approved transfer before registering with the receiving association.



- Transfer Validity: Transfers are granted for a one-year term, expiring on August 31st of the current season. Upon expiration, players must return to their home association unless a new transfer is approved for the following year.

- Eligibility:

- Players must be U15 or below to request a transfer to another association. There will be no releases granted for U9 or U11 players as per CMSA rulebook Section 6.3.1

- http://calgaryminorsoftball.com/files/2024_calgary_minor_softball_rulebook.pdf

- Evaluation Requirement: To be eligible for a transfer, the athlete must:

1. Register with their Home Association.

2. Attend evaluations with their Home Association.

3. Evaluate in the age category above their current level and place in the top 3 of that age category.

- Example:

- U13 players must evaluate in U15 and place in the top 3.

- U15 players must evaluate in U17 and place in the top 3.

5. Transfer Process

Application Process

- Player Transfer Forms are located on the Softball Alberta website: www.softballalberta.ca.

- Incomplete forms will not be accepted or considered.

- The Player, Parent, or Guardian must fill out the Player portion of the transfer form.

- The Player, Parent, or Guardian forwards the completed Player Transfer form to the Receiving Association or its Designate.

- The Receiving Association President or Designate shall initiate communication with the Releasing Association's President or Designate regarding the requested player transfer.

- The Releasing Association must:

- Acknowledge receipt of the Player Transfer form within 7 days if the transfer request is received before the submission deadline date, or

- Provide approval or denial of the transfer if the request is received on or later than the submission date.



- All communications and documentation must be conducted between the Receiving and Releasing Associations. Players, Parents, or Guardians are not permitted to contact the Releasing Association directly.

6. Timelines

- **Transfer Forms Available:** Player transfer forms will be available on the Softball Alberta website in January of each year.
- **Submission Deadline:** All player transfer forms must be submitted to the Softball Alberta office by the following deadlines:
 - For teams registering in the Qualifier Series: April 15th
 - For teams registering in Provincial Championships: June 15th
- **Transfer Processing Timeline:** Once a transfer request is received by the Fury Executive Board Members, the board will acknowledge receipt and provide a decision within 7 days of submission.
- **Appeal Process:** In case of a denied transfer, the appeal must be submitted within 7 days to the releasing association. The Fury Executive Board Members will appoint an Appeals Committee to review the appeal and issue a decision within 14 days.

7. Approval Criteria

The Fury Executive Board Members will evaluate transfer requests based on the following criteria:

- **Player Development Needs:** Transfers will be assessed based on the developmental needs of the player and how the receiving association can support those needs.
- **Team Needs:** Transfers will consider the balance and needs of both the releasing and receiving teams.
- **Commitment:** The player's commitment to their current team and association, including attendance and attitude, will be considered.
- **Available Position:** A transfer will only be approved if the receiving association has an open position for the player.
- **Evaluation Performance:** The athlete must meet the evaluation requirement as outlined in Section 4.
- **Timeliness:** Transfers should be requested and processed in a timely manner to ensure fairness and clarity for all parties involved.



8. Denied Transfer

- If a transfer request is denied by the receiving association or the Fury Executive Board Members, the following procedure applies:
- Rationale for Denial: The releasing association must provide a clear rationale for the denial and information on how the player can resolve the issue within the home association.
- Appeal Process: The player, parent, or guardian can appeal the decision through the Releasing Association's appeal process. The Fury Executive Board Members will appoint an Appeals Committee to review the appeal and issue a decision within 14 days.

9. Appeals Process

- If the transfer request is denied, the Receiving Association President or Designate may file an appeal on behalf of the player within 7 days of receiving the denial.
- The Fury Executive Board Members will appoint an Appeals Committee to review the appeal.
- The Appeals Committee will review the case, and Softball Alberta will be notified if the appeal is not resolved within the Foothills Fury Association.

10. Restrictions on Transfer

- Transfers During Key Tournaments: Players are not permitted to transfer to another association during key tournaments or league play unless there are extenuating circumstances approved by the Fury Executive Board Members.
- Mid-Season Transfers: Transfers are generally not allowed during the competitive season unless there are exceptional circumstances, such as injury or other valid reasons.

11. Conclusion

The Foothills Fury Fastpitch Association is committed to ensuring fair, transparent, and consistent handling of player transfers. This policy is designed to promote the development of players while supporting the overall integrity of the sport in the Foothills region.

All transfers must comply with the guidelines outlined in this policy, and both the transferring and receiving associations are expected to cooperate fully to facilitate the process.