



Alberta Elite is a specialized softball academy. Our team of coaches are focused on a common goal of preparing players who have a desire to play while in college or possibly the Olympics. That means we are trying to stay away from players who either have no desire to play past U19 club or do not have grades to meet minimum requirements. Our academy is not trying to compete with other organizations in Alberta for players for spring. We are trying to offer a place for players to train and be exposed to Colleges with a high level of focus on what they will be expected to know as well as recruitment.

Our approach is to lay out a schedule for the next year in the near future. It will be filled with a balance of fewer tournaments when club season is on as well as none during final exams. After provincials we feel we will run a busy schedule, with invitations to National tournaments already secured. Our approach is to allow players to represent their community for Provincials if they wish as well as sharing players with associations for Nationals and Canada Cup. With that said we feel comfortable we have a base group of players that are focused on only training for Elite while we continue to help them achieve their high level goals. If we are short of players we are fortunate enough to have California alliances that will fill our rosters.

People need to understand that we support the organizations in this province. Players need to develop and have the ability to play Canadian A ball. I believe we offer something different for that small percentage of players who want that Elite training. We demand intense coaching and practice time which will showcase our players. This is in no way for everybody and we accept that. In the first few weeks of practices it is amazing to watch how these players with similar passion have pushed each other to be better.

At this point in time it makes no sense for us to compete with any regularity in Western Canada. I ask myself the logic of 16U players possibly playing U19 players when they have the ability to not only be recruited but have a chance of competing in other tournaments. We need to expose these players to the speed of the US game and the expectation of US coaching. Imagine going to a US school and not understanding how they coach or what to expect? We will make sure you are physically, mentally and mechanically prepared while having the game knowledge to have a seamless transition to college softball. This process starts in the gym for us, we believe in

building our foundation with solid skill development and conditioning, not by the number of games we play a year. In this process we are also focusing on players who are dedicating 11 months of the year to softball. (Again not for everyone) I can't speak for any of the other Organizations' goals, but we do not have any desire today to play for an Alberta Provincial title. We are training to see how many players we can get a better education for with hopefully minimum to no cost. A few of our current athletes have a strong desire to compete for our country at future Olympic Games.

Alberta Elite will continue to focus on training players year round who want to be Elite. This Academy never would have come to existence if this existed currently and we can't forget this fact. We are willing to work with all associations or discuss opportunities, but in the end we believe whatever is best for the player's future we will strive for. They are the only ones who know their goals and should have the freedom to chase their goals.

Going into spring we expect to be training individuals from a U10 to U19 level at our academy. We do not expect to have enough players in each age group to have a team at each age group. We do believe we will have enough players this first year to have a 16U team with some of the fall 14Us and the existing 16Us that want to compete in US Tournaments. If we have enough players at other age groups we can consider having more teams. This will all be based on the appetite of the parents and players to continue to build off of the great strides we are seeing made and expect to continue to see made this fall.

Players who wish to train with our Academy year round should contact us to start discussing their needs and what elite options we may have to offer as we will not have tryouts for our spring travel teams. Our Fall Showcase Teams will have tryouts again next fall, and will be run independent from our spring schedule.

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