

Elk River Youth Softball

2026–2027 Program Changes FAQ

A Note to Families

Elk River Youth Softball understands that families may have questions about how the 2026–2027 program changes will impact:

- Tryouts
- Team placement
- Coaching
- Competitiveness
- Player development
- Multi-sport participation
- Winter development
- New or returning players
- Registration and payment

The intent of these changes is **not** to make the program less competitive, remove player opportunity, or require young athletes to make a rigid year-long commitment.

The intent is to create a stronger structure that supports:

- Competitive softball
- Player development
- Coaching consistency
- Multi-sport athletes
- Stronger age-group collaboration
- Long-term program growth

The program will continue to support competitive softball by encouraging teams to compete at the highest appropriate level, limiting C-level placement when possible, and using developmental teams only when registration numbers and/or evaluation data support that need.

Player skill, effort, improvement, coachability, positional needs, and competitive readiness will continue to matter. These changes are designed to combine **objective third-party evaluation data** with **coach collaboration** so teams can be formed in a way that supports development, appropriate competition, roster needs, and the overall strength of each age group.

Section 1: Overall Program Changes

Q: Why is Elk River Youth Softball making these changes?

A: The goal is to create a more consistent, collaborative, and development-focused experience for all players.

Many of these changes are also designed to **empower coaches to be true program leaders** within their age groups. By selecting coaches earlier and involving them more directly in player development, roster formation, and competitive class assignments, the association can better use coach knowledge, leadership, and experience to strengthen the overall program.

These changes are designed to:

- Improve coaching consistency.
- Strengthen player development.
- Give coaches more decision-making ability in roster formation.
- Allow coaches to help determine appropriate competitive class assignments.
- Increase collaboration across teams within the same age group.
- Reduce repeated evaluation cycles.
- Create better continuity between fall, winter, and spring/summer programming.
- Empower coaches as age-group program leaders.
- Preserve the association-first model that serves all players.

The overall intent is to move from a process that has historically been more score-driven and administratively reactive to a more coach-led, development-focused model that still uses objective third-party evaluation data and board oversight.

Q: When do these changes take effect?

A: These changes are intended to begin with the **2026–2027 season**, effective **August 1, 2026**.

Q: What are the biggest changes families should know about?

A: The biggest changes include:

- Coaches will be selected earlier through a formal application and interview process.
- All current coaches will need to re-apply.
- Official tryouts will move to the fall.
- Tryouts will be administered by Optimize or another approved third-party evaluator.
- Coaches will have greater involvement and autonomy in team formation.
- Winter development will be led by assigned age-group coaches.

- Coaches will work together to form rosters that support player development, appropriate competition, roster needs, positional needs, and the overall strength of the age group.
 - Teams will be encouraged to compete at the highest appropriate class level based on roster readiness, coach alignment, and association approval.
 - The program will work to limit the number of C-level teams when possible, with the intent of increasing player development, strengthening competition, and encouraging teams to compete at B level or above when appropriate.
 - Developmental teams will only be used when registration numbers require a third team within an age bracket and/or evaluation results support that structure.
 - The board recommends maintaining team parity as much as possible, while recognizing that coaches will help determine the appropriate competitive level and roster structure for each team.
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Q: What are the important dates?

A: Key dates and reminders include:

- **Coach applications:** Open now.
 - **Coach application deadline:** Monday, July 20.
 - **Coach interviews:** Begin the week of July 20.
 - **Current coaches:** All current coaches must re-apply for the fall season.
 - **Fall ball registration:** Open now.
 - **Program tryouts:** Thursday, August 6.
 - **Tryout details:** More information will be shared with families.
 - **Players not participating in fall ball:** Should still attend fall tryouts for evaluation and placement purposes.
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Section 2: Registration and Payment

Q: How has registration and payment changed?

A: Payment will be requested and collected at the time of team placement.

There is **no payment or registration fee required for fall tryouts**. This is why Elk River Youth Softball is encouraging all players to register now, whether they plan to participate in fall ball or not.

Registering now allows the association to better understand age-group numbers, plan tryouts, support coach selection, forecast team needs, and prepare for appropriate roster formation.

Players who are not participating in fall ball should still register and attend fall tryouts for evaluation and placement purposes.

Q: What are the season costs and fees?

A: Current season cost expectations are:

- **Fall Ball:** \$200.
- **Winter Development Sessions:** Free for all registered players.
- **Winter Teams/Tournaments:** Winter teams may be formed at coach discretion. Any winter tournament entry fees or related costs would need to be fundraised by those teams.
- **Spring/Summer Ball:** The budget is still being determined, but the association expects costs to remain similar to the 2025/2026 seasons.

Additional details will be shared as budgets and team plans are finalized.

Section 3: Player Commitment and Multi-Sport Athletes

Q: Is Elk River Youth Softball asking players to commit to softball for a full year?

A: No.

The intent is **not** to require young athletes or families to make a rigid year-long commitment. Elk River Youth Softball understands that:

- Players are young.
- Interests can change.
- Families have other commitments.
- Many athletes participate in multiple sports.
- Players may need flexibility throughout the year.

The updated structure is intended to create a more organized evaluation, coaching, and development process while still allowing flexibility for families.

By placing coaches at the forefront of player development, evaluation, and team formation, players should have more flexibility to participate in programming when their schedules allow. Coaches will have more opportunities to become familiar with players over time through fall tryouts, winter development, early spring sessions, practices, and other program touchpoints.

This means team placement will not be based only on a single one-day tryout score. Instead, coaches will be able to use a broader understanding of the player, including skill development, effort, positional needs, coachability, and overall fit within the age group.

The goal is to keep young athletes connected to Elk River Youth Softball while still allowing them the freedom to explore other sports, manage family schedules, and participate in softball programming when it works for them.

Q: Are players still allowed to be multi-sport athletes?

A: Yes.

Elk River Youth Softball supports multi-sport athletes.

The updated structure is designed to provide more flexibility by reducing repeated tryout cycles and allowing players to be evaluated through:

- Fall tryouts.
- Winter development sessions.
- Early spring age-group sessions, when appropriate.
- Coach observation.
- Available evaluation data.
- Ongoing coach familiarity with the player.

Because coaches will be more involved in player development and age-group planning, players who miss certain programming due to another sport should still remain connected to the program. Coaches will have a better understanding of players beyond one tryout day, which should help families feel more comfortable balancing softball with other athletic opportunities.

This approach is intended to free young athletes up to explore other sports while still maintaining a connection to their softball coaches, teammates, and age-group program when their schedules allow.

Q: What if my daughter is not playing fall ball?

A: Players do **not** need to participate in fall ball in order to attend fall tryouts.

Players who are not playing fall ball should still attend fall tryouts for evaluation and placement purposes. This allows the program and coaches to better understand the full age group, even if a player is not participating in every season.

If a player is not participating in fall ball due to another sport or family commitment, they can still remain connected to the program through winter development, early spring sessions, and coach observation when their schedule allows.

Q: What if my daughter changes her mind or wants to try another sport?

A: That is okay.

These changes are not intended to prevent players from trying other sports or taking part in other activities. The association recognizes that young athletes grow, change interests, and may participate in different sports throughout the year.

A major benefit of having coaches more involved in evaluation and team formation is that players are not being judged only by one tryout snapshot. Coaches will have more opportunities to understand each player over time, which creates more flexibility for athletes who may move in and out of softball programming due to other sports or family commitments.

The goal is to create a better softball structure for those participating while still supporting reasonable flexibility for families and multi-sport athletes.

Section 4: Tryouts and Evaluations

Q: Why are tryouts moving to the fall?

A: Moving tryouts to the fall allows players to be evaluated near the end of the spring/summer season, when they have been actively practicing, competing, and developing throughout the year.

This change also helps:

- Allow coaches to be selected earlier.
 - Give coaches more time to understand the age group.
 - Reduce repeated tryout stress for players and families.
 - Lower administrative complexity.
 - Help the association plan winter development more effectively.
 - Help coaches build teams earlier and more intentionally.
 - Allow players to be evaluated when they are actively in softball form.
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Q: Will fall tryouts be the only time player growth is considered?

A: No.

Elk River Youth Softball recognizes that players can grow significantly during the offseason. A few months can make a meaningful difference in:

- Confidence.

- Maturity.
- Strength.
- Athletic ability.
- Softball skill.
- Pitching and catching development.
- Overall readiness.

Fall tryouts will provide an important evaluation point, but coaches will continue to observe player development through winter development sessions, early spring age-group sessions, practices, and other softball activities.

Q: What happens if my daughter improves significantly after fall tryouts?

A: Player improvement will continue to matter.

Coaches will observe players through:

- Winter development.
- Early spring age-group sessions.
- Practices.
- Games.
- Coach feedback.
- Other program activities.

The goal is to make thoughtful placement and development decisions using the best available information, not one tryout snapshot alone.

Q: Who will evaluate the players?

A: Tryouts will be administered by **Optimize** or another approved independent third-party evaluator.

The use of a third-party evaluator is intended to provide:

- Objective evaluation data.
- Consistency across each age group.
- A fairer evaluation process.
- Support for team formation decisions.
- Data to help identify whether a developmental team is appropriate when registration numbers and/or evaluation results support that need.

Coaches may observe and participate in the tryout process, but they will not independently control evaluation scoring.

Q: How will tryout scores be used?

A: Tryout scores will be used as an important data point, but they will not be the only factor in team formation.

Evaluation data may be used to help:

- Understand player skill level.
- Identify development needs.
- Support roster construction.
- Evaluate specialized positions.
- Balance pitchers and catchers.
- Determine whether a developmental team is appropriate.
- Help coaches plan winter and spring development.

The purpose of tryouts is not only to rank players. The purpose is to gather useful evaluation information that supports better team formation, stronger development, and more competitive rosters.

Q: What if a player cannot attend fall tryouts?

A: Players who are unable to attend fall tryouts will **not automatically be placed on the lowest team**.

This is a change from the previous process. Players who miss fall tryouts may be evaluated using:

- Available evaluation information.
- Prior participation.
- Coach feedback.
- Winter development observations.
- Early spring age-group sessions.
- Roster needs.
- Positional needs.
- Any available evaluation data.

The goal is to place players thoughtfully and appropriately, not penalize them for an unavoidable absence.

Section 5: Competitiveness and Team Formation

Q: Is Elk River Youth Softball moving away from competitive softball?

A: No.

Elk River Youth Softball is not moving away from competitive softball. The intent of these changes is to strengthen the competitive experience by improving:

- Coaching alignment.
- Development pathways.
- Third-party evaluation data.
- Team formation.
- Winter development.
- Positional development.
- Roster construction.
- Appropriate competitive placement.

The goal is not to become a recreational program. The goal is to build a stronger competitive foundation across each age group.

Q: Are teams still being formed based on skill?

A: Yes.

Player skill will continue to be an important part of team formation.

The change is not that skill no longer matters. The change is that skill will be considered along with other important factors, including:

- Coach collaboration.
- Roster needs.
- Positional needs.
- Pitching and catching balance.
- Player development.
- Appropriate competitive placement.
- Team chemistry.
- Long-term age-group strength.

Coaches will work together to form rosters and determine the appropriate competitive class for each team. The board recommends maintaining parity as much as possible, but coaches will have greater involvement in deciding how rosters should be structured to support development and competition.

Q: Does parity mean the program is lowering competitiveness?

A: No.

Parity does not mean lowering expectations, ignoring skill, or randomly assigning players.

The board recommends team parity as much as possible, but the goal is not to force every roster to look exactly the same. Coaches will work together to form rosters that support:

- Appropriate competitive placement.
- Player development.
- Positional needs.
- Pitching and catching opportunities.
- Team chemistry.
- Roster readiness.
- The overall strength of the age group.

Teams will be encouraged to play up or compete at the highest appropriate level when coaches believe the roster is ready. The purpose of recommending parity is to avoid unnecessarily large gaps between teams while still allowing coaches to determine the right competitive class and team structure.

Q: Will there still be higher-level competitive opportunities?

A: Yes.

Teams will be encouraged to play up or compete at the highest appropriate class level when the roster is ready.

Coaches will work together to determine the appropriate competitive level based on:

- Player skill.
- Roster readiness.
- Pitching and catching depth.
- Positional needs.
- Team development.
- Coach alignment.
- Competitive opportunity.
- Association approval.

The updated model is intended to create competitive teams at B or above levels whenever appropriate while giving coaches more autonomy to determine the most appropriate class and competitive environment for their team.

Q: How will advanced players continue to be challenged?

A: Advanced players will continue to be challenged through:

- Appropriate team placement.
- Competitive scheduling.
- Coaching expectations.

- Winter development.
- Position-specific training.
- Potential opportunities to compete at higher levels when appropriate.
- Coach-led decisions around competitive class placement.

The goal is not to hold advanced players back. The goal is to place players and teams in environments where they can be challenged while also strengthening the full age group.

Q: How will developing players be supported?

A: Developing players will be supported through:

- Appropriate placement.
- Coaching.
- Winter development.
- Team environments that match their current stage of growth.
- Confidence-building opportunities.
- Meaningful playing time.
- Focused development.

If registration numbers require a third team within an age bracket, and/or evaluation results show that a developmental team is appropriate, the association may form one developmental team.

Q: Will stronger players be held back by this team formation model?

A: No.

The intent is not to hold any player back. The intent is to create competitive rosters that support both individual development and the overall strength of the age group.

Coaches will have greater ability to determine appropriate competitive class placement, including opportunities to play up when a roster is ready.

The board recommends parity as much as possible, but coach collaboration, player skill, roster readiness, positional needs, and appropriate competition will all be considered.

Q: Will developing players be placed in situations where they are not ready?

A: The goal is to avoid that.

Team formation will consider:

- Evaluation data.
- Coach input.
- Roster construction.
- Positional needs.
- Player development needs.
- Appropriate competition level.

Players should be challenged, but not placed in situations where the experience becomes discouraging or developmentally inappropriate.

Q: Why not keep strictly ranked A/B/C teams?

A: Strict team ranking can work in some situations, but it can also create challenges.

Strict ranking may:

- Create large gaps between teams.
- Limit development opportunities.
- Separate age groups into disconnected teams.
- Reduce collaboration between coaches.
- Create fewer meaningful opportunities for some players.
- Make pitcher and catcher development harder to support across the full age group.

Historically, Elk River Youth Softball has not consistently had the program foundation needed to produce A-level teams across age groups. We believe these program changes are an important step toward building that foundation.

By improving coaching consistency, increasing coach collaboration, strengthening winter development, using third-party evaluation data, and giving coaches more involvement in roster formation and competitive class placement, the program can better prepare a broader group of players for higher-level, more competitive softball.

The updated approach still considers skill and competitive readiness, but it also gives coaches greater ability to form rosters based on player development, positional needs, team structure, and appropriate competitive class.

The board recommends team parity as much as possible, but coaches will help determine the appropriate level of play for each roster, including opportunities to play up when the team is ready.

The long-term goal is not to remove A-level opportunities. The goal is to create a stronger developmental structure that better prepares more players and teams to compete at higher levels in the future.

Section 6: Developmental Teams

Q: What is a developmental team?

A: A developmental team is a team designed to provide players with an appropriate environment for:

- Skill growth.
- Confidence-building.
- Game experience.
- Focused instruction.
- Continued development.
- Meaningful playing opportunities.

If formed, the developmental team would generally be placed at the **C class level**.

The intent of a developmental team is not to limit opportunity. The intent is to place players in an environment that supports their current stage of development and gives them meaningful opportunities to grow.

Q: When would a developmental team be formed?

A: A developmental team would only be formed when:

- Registration numbers require a third team within an age bracket, and/or
- Evaluation results indicate that a developmental structure is appropriate.

If an age group has only two teams, the goal will be to create competitive rosters that support appropriate competition, player development, positional needs, and the overall strength of the age group rather than form a developmental team.

Q: How will age groups with three or more teams be handled?

A: For age groups with three or more teams:

- Optimize scores will be used to help identify players best suited for the developmental team.
- The developmental team will generally be placed at the C class level.
- The remaining players will be placed collaboratively by the coaching staff.
- The primary teams will generally be classified as B-level teams.
- Coaches may choose to compete at the A level if appropriate.

This approach is designed to create competitive, development-focused teams while supporting appropriate roster formation and the overall strength of the age group.

Q: How will age groups with two teams be handled?

A: For age groups with two teams:

- Optimize scores will be used as a data point for coaches, not the sole determining factor.
- Coaches will collaborate to form competitive rosters.
- Coaches will consider player development, positional needs, pitching and catching opportunities, roster readiness, and appropriate competition.
- The board recommends team parity as much as possible.
- Coaches will determine the appropriate competitive class for each team and may choose to play up when the roster is ready and coaches align.

The goal is to create strong teams that can compete at B or above levels whenever appropriate.

Section 7: Pitchers, Catchers, and Specialized Development

Q: How will pitchers and catchers be handled during team formation?

A: Pitchers and catchers will be considered carefully during team formation.

Coaches will work together to balance specialized positions across rosters in a way that creates the most opportunity for:

- Growth.
- Innings.
- Game experience.
- Practice reps.
- Confidence.
- Long-term development.

This is important because pitcher and catcher development often depends on meaningful reps in both practices and games.

Q: Will there still be specialized development opportunities?

A: Yes.

Reducing outside coaching expenses may allow the association to reinvest resources into specialized development opportunities, including:

- Pitching instruction.
 - Catching instruction.
 - Position-specific development.
 - Coach development opportunities.
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Section 8: New Players, Returning Players, and Spring Registration

Q: What if new players sign up in the spring?

A: New or returning players who register after fall evaluations will continue to be welcomed into the program.

These players may be mixed into:

- Winter development sessions.
- Early spring age-group sessions.
- Other evaluation opportunities when appropriate.

This allows coaches to observe:

- Skill level.
- Development needs.
- Positional fit.
- Appropriate placement.
- Roster needs.

The association and age-group coaches will work together to place players in a way that supports competitive roster construction, player development, positional needs, and the overall strength of the age group.

Q: What if enough new players register in the spring to create another team?

A: If registration numbers require the creation of an additional team that was not originally forecasted, the association may use a spring Optimize clinic or another approved evaluation process to support placement.

In that situation, coaches and the board would work together to determine the best approach while trying to:

- Minimize disruption.
 - Maintain appropriate roster structure.
 - Support player development.
 - Preserve competitive opportunities.
 - Serve the full age group appropriately.
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Q: Will every registered player still have a roster spot?

A: Yes.

Every registered player will continue to have a roster spot, provided registration capacity and team availability allow for safe and appropriate roster sizes.

New and returning players will continue to be welcomed into the program.

Section 9: Coach Selection and Coach Leadership

Q: Why is coach selection happening before team formation?

A: Selecting coaches before team formation allows the association to prioritize:

- Coaching quality.
- Leadership.
- Collaboration.
- Communication.
- Development philosophy.
- Commitment to the program.
- Alignment with association values.

The revised process also removes the direct tie between a coach's selection and their child's evaluation score or team placement. This allows the association to focus on bringing strong coaches into the program, regardless of where their child may ultimately be placed.

Q: Do current coaches need to re-apply?

A: Yes.

All current coaches will need to re-apply for the fall season.

Q: When do coach applications open and close?

A: Coach applications are open now and will close **Monday, July 20**.

Interviews will begin the week of **July 20**.

Q: What will coaches be expected to commit to?

A: Coaches are being asked to commit to:

- Fall season.
- Winter development season.
- Spring/summer season.

This year-long coaching commitment is intended to improve consistency, player development, and communication across the age group.

The association also understands that life circumstances can change, and the board will work through unexpected situations if they arise.

Q: Is this too much of a commitment for coaches?

A: The association recognizes that coaching is a significant commitment.

The reason for requesting a longer commitment is to provide players with:

- More consistent instruction.
- Stronger player-coach relationships.
- Better continuity between seasons.
- More aligned development goals.
- A stronger age-group program structure.

The goal is not to create an unreasonable burden for coaches. The goal is to identify coaches who are willing to help lead the age group and support player development across the broader softball year.

Q: What does it mean for coaches to be “program leaders”?

A: It means coaches are being asked to lead beyond their individual team.

Coaches will be expected to:

- Approach their age group as one connected program.
- Collaborate with other coaches.
- Align on development priorities.
- Support players across the age group.
- Help build a stronger Elk River softball culture.
- Help guide winter development.
- Participate in thoughtful team formation.
- Help determine appropriate competitive class placement.

Coaches are being empowered with more autonomy in team structure, class placement, winter development, and roster formation while still working within association oversight.

Q: What happens if a coach is not a good fit?

A: Coach-player fit matters.

One reason coaches are being selected earlier through an application and interview process is to place greater emphasis on:

- Coaching quality.
- Communication.
- Leadership.
- Development philosophy.
- Collaboration.
- Alignment with program values.

Coaches will also be expected to collaborate as part of an age-group coaching structure rather than operate independently.

If concerns arise, families should communicate through the appropriate association contact so concerns can be addressed constructively and in a timely manner.

Section 10: Winter Development

Q: How will winter development change?

A: Winter development sessions will be led by the coaches assigned to each age group.

Examples include:

- 8U coaches lead 8U winter sessions.

- 10U coaches lead 10U winter sessions.
- 12U coaches lead 12U winter sessions.
- 6U programming continues to be supported by the board.

This replaces the previous Heavy Hitters and Golden Gloves structure that relied more heavily on outside coaches.

Q: Why move winter development to age-group coaches?

A: This creates:

- More consistent instruction across fall, winter, and spring/summer seasons.
- Stronger player-coach relationships.
- Greater accountability for development.
- Better alignment of coaching philosophies and expectations.
- More opportunities for coaches to observe player growth.
- A smoother path for new and returning players to enter the program.

It also gives coaches the ability to welcome new players, evaluate returning players, observe multi-sport athletes, and better prepare players for spring/summer placement and development.

Q: Will winter development be required?

A: Winter development is intended to support player growth, but the program also wants to respect multi-sport athletes and family schedules.

Additional details regarding expectations, schedules, and structure will be shared as winter programming is finalized.

Section 11: Winter Tournament Opportunities

Q: Will there be winter tournaments?

A: Head coaches may choose to organize and participate in winter tournaments or games outside of official association programming.

These opportunities would be:

- Optional.
- Coach-led.
- Separate from official association activities.
- Available for athletes seeking additional softball opportunities.

The board may support fundraising efforts and logistics where feasible.

Q: Will winter tournaments be required?

A: No.

Winter tournament opportunities would be optional.

This allows athletes who want additional softball opportunities to participate while still supporting:

- Multi-sport athletes.
 - Families with other winter commitments.
 - Players who may not want additional winter competition.
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Section 12: Player Motivation and Development

Q: Are these changes removing the incentive for players to work hard?

A: No.

Effort, improvement, commitment, coachability, and development will continue to matter.

Players will still have opportunities to:

- Earn greater roles.
- Improve their skills.
- Compete at appropriate levels.
- Develop as pitchers, catchers, hitters, and fielders.
- Be recognized for growth and effort.
- Take on leadership opportunities.
- Push toward higher levels of competition.

The updated model is designed to create more consistent development opportunities and better coaching alignment so players have more support as they work to improve.

Q: How will these changes benefit players?

A: Players should benefit from:

- More consistent coaching.

- Stronger player-coach relationships.
 - Clearer development goals.
 - More competitive team environments.
 - Improved winter development.
 - Better support for pitchers and catchers.
 - Better position-specific development.
 - More thoughtful roster formation.
 - Greater age-group collaboration.
 - More appropriate competitive placement.
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Q: How will these changes benefit families?

A: Families should benefit from:

- Clearer communication.
 - Reduced repeated tryout cycles.
 - Earlier coach selection.
 - Improved program structure.
 - More consistent development opportunities.
 - Better support for multi-sport athletes.
 - More predictable planning.
 - A stronger overall softball experience.
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Q: How will these changes benefit coaches?

A: Coaches will have more opportunity to:

- Lead.
- Collaborate.
- Influence development across their age group.
- Help with team formation.
- Lead winter development.
- Support class placement.
- Build roster structure.
- Plan competitive opportunities.

Coaches will have greater autonomy while still receiving board support and oversight.

Section 13: Program Model and Long-Term Vision

Q: Is this model based on a successful program or development approach?

A: The proposed model is based on common principles used by strong youth sports programs, including:

- Earlier coach alignment.
- Objective third-party evaluation data.
- Coach collaboration.
- Consistent offseason development.
- Age-group planning.
- Thoughtful team formation.
- Position-specific development.
- Competitive class placement.
- Roster construction that supports both development and competition.

The goal is to take elements that support competitive and development-focused programs and apply them in a way that fits Elk River Youth Softball's association-first structure.

Q: What is the overall goal of these changes?

A: The overall goal is to provide a more consistent, collaborative, and development-focused experience that benefits all athletes while maintaining the values and accessibility of Elk River Youth Softball.

The association wants to:

- Improve coaching quality and consistency.
- Strengthen player development pathways.
- Increase collaboration across teams and age groups.
- Enhance opportunities for pitchers and catchers.
- Reduce repeated evaluation cycles.
- Create a stronger organizational culture.
- Support competitive softball.
- Encourage teams to compete at the highest appropriate level.
- Better position the association for future program growth.