

WGSA Skills Assessment Process

General Evaluation Process

Players are judged upon their ability to field, throw, hit and pitch (optional). Players are run through each drill by age bracket (Juniors, Minors, Majors, Seniors) so that scoring is relative.

- 1) Field a thrown ground ball from the Shortstop position and throw to First Base (due to facility constraints partial diamond layout may be less than 60 feet base paths)
- 2) Field a thrown fly ball/pop-up and throw.
- 3) Hit off a Batting-Tee.
- 4) Pitch (optional for only those players with an interest to pitch)

Scoring and Tabulation

- 1) A player is evaluate and scored on each drill by two individuals/coaches. These same two individuals/coaches should evaluate all players for each drill to assure consistency.
- 2) Each drill may consist of several repetitions, but only one score is given for the entire drill. Each player will perform each drill twice, so there will be two scores, one for each performance of the drill.
- 3) Players are run through each drill twice. After completing the drill the first time, they go to the end of the line until it is their turn to perform the drill a second time. Thereby, each player will have two scores from each evaluator from having done each drill twice.
- 4) The four scores for each drill (two evaluators and two evaluations) will be averaged when reporting the final Skills Evaluation summary for each player.
- 5) Players are scored on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being Excellent. We prefer a whole integer score, but will allow half scores (i.e. 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5). We expect most scores to fall between 2 and 4. A score of 1 or 1.5 would typically indicate that this player may not have previously played softball. Conversely, a score of 4.5 to 5 would probably indicate that this player should be playing Travel ball rather than recreational.

Infield Groundball Drill & Scoring Guide

Set-up

- 1) Infield set-up, but bases may be less than 60 feet due to facility constraints. Distance is not critical because we are primarily evaluating on form.
- 2) Balls
- 3) Four coaches -- one to throw the ball from home, another to catch the ball at 1st Base, two coaches to evaluate.

Drill

- Ground balls thrown from Home Plate and fielded from approximately the Shortstop position and thrown to 1st Base.
- Three (3) chances per drill – 1 straight on, 1 moving to the left, 1 moving to the right.
- Two (2) Scores for each drill – 1 for Fielding, 1 for Throwing.

Fielding Component

Score	Skill Description
5	Excellent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feet Apart, Good Balance• Body Centered in front of Ball• Low Stance, Bent at Waist and Knees• Hands Low and Moving Under Ball• Quick Preparation for Throw• Good Lateral Foot Movement
4	Almost a 5, but: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One Fielding Attribute Sub-Par or• Not All Balls Fielded Cleanly
3	Average <ul style="list-style-type: none">• May be a Good Fielder, but Clearly Distinguishable from a “5” due to Form or Results• Occasional Missed Ball
2	Below Average, Fair <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reasonable Results, but Evident Form Flaws.
1	Significantly Below Average, Poor <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poor Balance or Upright• Hands not Down Under Ball• Many Missed Balls

Throwing Component

Score	Skill Description
5	Excellent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Body Positioned to Align with Target• Hop or Single Step to Release• “L” or Cocking of Arm, Ball Behind Ear• Hand comes Forward ahead of Elbow• Throw across Body• Ball Released with Arm Extension and Wrist Snap, Good Ball Rotation• Strong, Flat Throw• Very Good Accuracy
4	Almost a 5, but: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Less Pace to Throw or• Less Accuracy
3	Average <ul style="list-style-type: none">• May have Good Throws, but Clearly Distinguishable from a “5” due to Form or Results• Longer Preparation / Footwork
2	Below Average, Fair <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evident Form Flaws or• Weak Throw or Accuracy
1	Significantly Below Average, Poor <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very Poor Form• Very Weak Throw• Poor Accuracy

Flyball Drill & Scoring Guide

Set-up

1. Distance between coach throwing ball and fielder approximately the distance from home plate to 2nd Base or shallow Center Field.
2. Balls
3. Three coaches -- one to throw the ball to and catch the throw from the player, two coaches to evaluate.

Drill

- Fly balls thrown to and fielded from shallow outfield position.
- Three (3) chances per drill – 1 straight on, 1 moving to the left, 1 moving to the right.
- Two (2) Scores for each drill – 1 for Fielding, 1 for Throwing.

Fielding Component

Score

Skill Description

5

Excellent

- Feet Apart, Good Balance
- Good Movement to Ball, Body Centered in front of Ball
- Glove up, Catching Ball above Waist/Shoulders (Not Basket Catch)
- Hands Together and Moving Under Ball
- Quick Preparation for Throw
- Good Lateral Foot Movement

4

Almost a 5, but:

- One Fielding Attribute Sub-Par **or**
- Not All Balls Fielded Cleanly

3

Average

- May be a Good Fielder, but Clearly Distinguishable from a “5” due to Form or Results
- Occasional Missed Ball

2

Below Average, Fair

- Reasonable Results, but Evident Form Flaws.

1

Significantly Below Average, Poor

- Poor Balance or Stiff
- Body and Glove not Under Ball
- Many Missed Balls

Throwing Component

Score	Skill Description
5	Excellent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Body Positioned to Align with Target• Shuffle Step to Release• “L” or Cocking of Arm, Ball Behind Ear• Hand comes Forward ahead of Elbow• Throw across Body• Ball Released with Arm Extension and Wrist Snap, Good Ball Rotation• Strong, Flat Throw• Very Good Accuracy
4	Almost a 5, but: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Less Pace to Throw or• Less Accuracy• Throw is Flat, but Bounces
3	Average <ul style="list-style-type: none">• May have Good Throws, but Clearly Distinguishable from a “5” due to Form or Results• Longer Preparation / Footwork
2	Below Average, Fair <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evident Form Flaws or• Weak Throw or Accuracy• Throw Arcs
1	Significantly Below Average, Poor <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very Poor Form• Very Weak Throw• Poor Accuracy

Batting Drill & Scoring Guide

Set-up

1. Two to Five Batting Tees. Depending on space constraints, balls may be hit off Tee to some distance or hit into a wall. Distance is not as critical because we are primarily evaluating on form.
2. Balls.
3. Bats in a variety of sizes and weights.
4. Minimum three coaches -- one manage those hitting (when to swing), two coaches to evaluate. If you have additional coaches you can have one at each Tee to place the balls on the tee.

Drill

- Each player will place a ball on a batting tee. When ready a coach will tell her when to she may swing. Each player is given permitted Two (2) practice/warm-up swings, Three (3) evaluation swings.
- Three (3) swings hitting off the Tee per drill
- Two (2) Scores for each drill – 1 for Form, 1 for Contact & Power

Form Component

Score

Skill Description

5

Excellent

- Feet Shoulder Width Apart and Weight Balanced or Slightly over Back Leg
- Hands Back and Bat in Good Ready Position
- Short Stride, Weight Shift from Back to Front Leg
- Hips Rotate
- Compact Swing with Hands Moving Forward and Quickly to the Ball
- Good Follow-through and Wrist Roll
- Timing Correct for Most Pitches

4

Almost a 5, but:

- Slight Flaws in Some Form Attributes

3

Average

- Good Hitter, but Clearly Distinguishable from a “5” due to Form or Results
- One Major or Several Minor Form Difficulties

2

Below Average, Fair

- Reasonable Swing, but Evident Form Flaws.

1

Significantly Below Average, Poor

- Poor Balance
- Major Swing Flaws

Contact & Power Component

Score	Skill Description
5	Excellent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent Contact• Strong Ball Acceleration• Not Required to be all Line Drives; can be Hard Hit Grounders or Well Hit Flies
4	Almost a 5, but: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slightly less Contact or Power• Consistently Hits Fly Balls (gets under ball)
3	Average <ul style="list-style-type: none">• May have Good Contact or Power, but Clearly Distinguishable from a “5” due to Lack of Consistency
2	Below Average, Fair <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reasonable Results but Noticeably Less Contact or Power
1	Significantly Below Average, Poor <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very Poor Contact• Very Weak Swing

Pitching Drill & Scoring Guide

Set-up

1. Two to Three Pitchers plates and Home plates. Depending on space and coach constraints.
2. Balls
3. Minimum three coaches -- one to catch each pitcher, two coaches to evaluate.

Drill

- Each player will throw pitches off the mound. Each player is given permitted Two (2) practice throws, Three (3) evaluation throws.
- Three (3) throws per drill
- Two (2) Scores for each drill – 1 for Speed & Form, 1 for Accuracy
- To determine Accuracy, catcher should make a target and not have to move glove.

Speed & Form Component

Score	Skill Description
5	Excellent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent Speed All Pitches• Good Form on Line to Plate• Good Follow-through
4	Almost a 5, but: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent Speed on Most Pitches or Slightly less Speed• Slight Flaws in Form (Arm or Body Falls Out of Line during Wind-up)
3	Average <ul style="list-style-type: none">• May have Good Speed, but Clearly Distinguishable from a “5” due to Lack of Consistency or Form.
2	Below Average, Fair <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reasonable Results, but Noticeably Less Speed and Form Flaws.
1	Significantly Below Average, Poor <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very Poor Speed• Major Form Flaws

Accuracy

Score	Skill Description
5	Excellent <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent Pitch, Right Down the Pipe• Good Form or Line to the Plate
4	Almost a 5, but: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slightly less Accurate, Catcher Makes Minor Adjustments
3	Average <ul style="list-style-type: none">• May have Good Accuracy, but Clearly Distinguishable from a “5” due to Lack of Consistency
2	Below Average, Fair <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reasonable Results but Noticeably Less Accuracy or Poor Form.• Catcher Makes Major Adjustments
1	Significantly Below Average, Poor <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very Poor Accuracy• Ball Never Hits Strike Zone