

## Fastpitch Development Officer - Job Description

### Key Responsibilities

#### Job Description

##### Core Purpose

To initiate and support delivery of fastpitch softball development programmes, especially setting up new clubs across the UK to recruit more young girls aged 9-15 to the sport, in accordance with BaseballSoftballUK's national strategies and plans.

##### Key Job Responsibilities

- Work with other BSUK development staff to target areas for starting new fastpitch softball clubs or introducing fastpitch sections to existing baseball and/or slowpitch clubs.
- Provide support to the strategic direction of female fastpitch softball.
- Be responsible for achieving growth targets in female fastpitch softball.
- Effectively manage a wide range of relationships with relevant external and internal partners to support the achievement of targets and outcomes.
- Support the deployment of a fastpitch coaching workforce and to actively deliver where there is no such workforce currently in place for fastpitch softball.
- Provide bespoke fastpitch development support to existing clubs and leagues, to include coach training and CPD, player development and help in increasing club membership.
- Effectively and accurately manage a budget to ensure effective delivery, and to seek and access opportunities for additional external funding.
- Raise awareness of, and engagement levels in, fastpitch softball in the UK.
- On occasion, support BSUK development staff in other aspects of development work in baseball and slowpitch softball.



# Specific Responsibilities

## New Participation

- Support national and regional delivery plans and work with other BSUK development staff regionally and nationally to start new fastpitch softball clubs or help existing baseball clubs and slowpitch leagues expand to add fastpitch sections.
- Be responsible for the achievement of growth targets related to female fastpitch softball.
- Support the design of and to deliver introductory sessions to introduce young girls aged 9-15 to fastpitch softball in:
  - Schools (including all-girls' schools).
  - Community group settings.
  - New or existing baseball or slowpitch softball clubs or leagues.
- Support the design of and to deliver training programmes for teachers, community group leaders or club coaches to enable them to support and sustain fastpitch sessions.
- Organise and support the setting up of local competition structures for new participants, ideally through the establishment of local school or club-based leagues at different age levels.
- Encourage talented athletes in new fastpitch programmes to attend Academy Softball sessions.

## Workforce

- Be a part of BSUK's coaching workforce, specifically coaching and delivering as BSUK's fastpitch specialist.
- Support the ongoing development of a curriculum and coach development programme for fastpitch softball coaches.
- Work with BSUK Regional Development Managers and our coaching support agency, Sport Structures, to organise and deliver fastpitch coach training courses to create more fastpitch Activators and qualified fastpitch coaches.
- Organise and/or deliver programmes and clinics to up-skill current fastpitch coaches and national team coaches – including identifying clinics or training opportunities overseas.

## Competition and Talent

- Take on a core coaching role in both Academy Softball and High Performance Academy.
- Help to select and monitor Academy and HPA coaches and programme delivery.
- Work with the National Development Manager and coaches from the Academy and HPA to establish a curriculum for player development so that there is a consistent philosophy across the talent programmes and into national team programmes.
- Support the development of regional and national fastpitch competition structures where appropriate, including the Great Britain Fastpitch League.
- Support where appropriate clubs that have been identified as talent clubs / regional centres of excellence.

## Pitching and catching development

- Recruit and support the development of new pitchers and catchers.
- Ensure that pitching and catching are a strong component of the Talent curriculum.
- Organise and deliver player clinics on pitching and catching.
- Organise and deliver coaches clinics on pitching and catching.

## National Teams



- Participate, as a member of the GB Management Committee (GBMC), in the recruitment and selection of national team coaches.
- Support national team coaches in designing training programmes, including strength and conditioning elements, and mentor results and progress.
- Lead for the GBMC in the evaluation of national team coaches and programmes.

### **BSUK/Other Responsibilities**

- Take a lead role, or portfolio of work, in areas related to fastpitch softball when requested by national staff.
- On occasion, support other members of the BSUK team in other areas of development work in baseball and slowpitch softball.
- Incorporate diversity and safeguarding into development work and plans and ensure relevant actions and targets are delivered.
- For staff based in the London office – act as a point of contact in the BSUK ‘front office’, which handles, and directs through the correct channels, enquiries from the public and Federation members. This includes ensuring the office is covered during our normal office hours and answering the main BSUK phone line when necessary.



# Person Specification

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Skills and Experience	Essential	Desirable
Experience of coaching fastpitch softball in a high performance or talent environment	*	
Knowledge and experience of coaching and developing fastpitch pitchers and catchers	*	
Previous playing experience at the US collegiate level or equivalent adult and junior international levels		*
Effectively able to manage a wide range of relationships to ensure that BSUK is positively represented and can access appropriate opportunities.	*	
A strong track record of meeting delivery targets.	*	
Effective budget management ability.	*	
Proven ability to identify and secure additional funding.		*
Ability to educate and develop coaches.	*	
Experience of working within the sports development landscape.	*	
A strong working knowledge and understanding of the club and coach development sector and the ability to undertake focused and effective club and league development support.		*
A working knowledge and understanding of the relationship between BaseballSoftballUK and the two Federations: the British Baseball Federation and the British Softball Federation.		*
Strong relationships and networks in the US collegiate system and the international softball community to aid with overseas player placement.		*
Strong communication skills – both written and oral.	*	
Commitment to equality of opportunity and the ability to demonstrate an understanding of diversity and safeguarding issues and good practice.	*	
A demonstrated ability to work in an organised and effective way and to fully uphold all administrative requirements.	*	
Competent in using a range of standard IT programmes and knowledge of social media.		*

Job descriptions cannot be exhaustive and the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties broadly in line with the above key responsibilities.

