RMSL C DIVISION FOR 2027 SEASON

RMSL and its affiliate organizations are creating a C/developmental division for the upcoming 2027 season.

At the U11 and U13 age levels (potentially U15 depending on registration numbers), we're seeing a growing number of athletes who are still developing their skills and confidence but who want (and deserve) to play meaningful softball. While our competitive structure with RMSL league supports A and B tiers well, there is currently a gap for players who would benefit from a development-focused competitive environment that a C division could offer without being overmatched in a B league.

Why This Matters

Research and experience consistently show that girls are more likely to stay in sport when they feel a sense of belonging, experience success at an appropriate level, and are encouraged to develop confidence alongside skill. At the U11 and U13 stage in particular, physical, emotional, and athletic development varies widely, and a one-size-fits-all competitive structure can unintentionally push capable athletes out of the game too early. This C division is intended to address that gap by providing an environment where athletes can develop to their full capacity-as players and as teammates-through meaningful reps, appropriate competition, and positive reinforcement. The goal is not to limit opportunity, but to extend it, ensuring athletes remain engaged, motivated, and excited to continue in softball.

The C division would be built intentionally around development and retention, with an emphasis on 4 CORE principles:

- A focus on the core skills and development through properly tiered play
- Competitive play at an appropriate level
- A positive, supportive game environment that encourages long-term participation
- Equal playing time and opportunities to learn multiple positions

Development-Focused Rules:

To support the goals of this division, some rules may vary slightly from standard league play. These adjustments would be designed to:

- Encourage confidence and learning at all positions
- Support pitcher and catcher development
- Reduce pressure in early stages of skill acquisition
- Emphasize growth and participation over outcomes

League Structure:

The season format would include:

● Weekday league games for teams within close proximity
● Weekend double-header style play to reduce travel while maximizing game reps
● A target of 10 games over the season depending on number of teams, ensuring players receive a meaningful and worthwhile experience
● Season running from beginning of May to end of June
● No playoffs and option to enter C provincials if the team chooses

All rule considerations would be shared and discussed collaboratively with participating associations before finalization and shared with coaches at that time. The structure of games could change from year to year depending on the number of teams