



2026

Special Operating Rules

Vision

Softball for everyone. Led with purpose. Powered by community.

Mission

To grow softball across British Columbia by supporting players, coaches, umpires, clubs and volunteers through inclusive pathways that develop people, strengthen communities, and inspire excellence.

The Special Operating Rules of Softball BC describe how Softball BC operates as an amateur sports association and governs softball in BC. It also identifies exceptions to Softball Canada Rules that apply to softball in BC.

Rules that have been altered since last season are in RED.

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Appendices (Online)

- A. Minor Provincial Championship Draws
- B. Knockout Championship Draw
- C. Women's Modified Round Robin
- D. Women's Championship Draw
- E. Minor Pickup Chart -
- F. Men's & Women's Pick-Up Chart
- G. 2026 Age and Distance Chart

Online Resources at www.softball.bc.ca

- [Membership Fees](#)
- [Constitution and Bylaws](#)
- [Board of Directors](#)
- [District Coordinators and UICs](#)
- [Districts and BC Games Zones](#)
- [Official Dimensions for Faspitch Softball Diamonds](#)



Standard Operating Rules

Article 1 - Definitions

- 1.1. **ASSOCIATION & LEAGUE** – Associations register teams with Softball BC, and Leagues are three or more teams of the same category/classification that play scheduled games. Some entities are one and not the other, and some are both. A league that includes Softball BC Registered teams is considered affiliated with Softball BC and subject to these SOR. Any Association that registers one team with Softball BC must register all teams with Softball BC for any team in that Association to be eligible for Provincial Championships.
- 1.2. **CATEGORY** – i.e. U13, U17, U20, Men and Women, etc.
- 1.3. **CLASSIFICATION** – i.e. A, B, C, D, R, etc.
- 1.4. **HANDBOOK** – Softball BC Constitution and Operating Rules Handbook.
- 1.5. **ROSTER FORM** – The approved Team Roster from Softball BC's Registration system.
- 1.6. **RULE CHANGE** – All Softball BC Rule Changes resulting from a Softball Canada rule change being used for a one-year trial, subject to permanent approval of the Softball BC Board of Directors.
- 1.7. **SOFTBALL BC** – The BC Amateur Softball Association (BCASA)
- 1.8. **SOFTBALL CANADA** – The Canadian Amateur Softball Association (CASA)



Standard Operating Rules

Article 2 - Residence Rule

2.1. **RESIDENCY:** To participate in a Provincial Championship, a player, coach or manager on May 1 of the current year must be a BC resident and:

2.1.1. CANADIAN CITIZEN, or

2.1.2. CANADIAN LANDED IMMIGRANT or

2.1.3. RESIDENT OF CANADA for one calendar year

2.1.4. EXCEPTIONS:

2.1.4.1. MINOR PLAYERS - Minor players, coaches or managers who are:

i. In BC on a work or study visa, or

ii. attending school out of province, whose parents are BC residents on May 1.

2.1.4.2. NON-BC COMPETITION - Canadian citizens participating in American college softball competition or in a professional sport competition (other than softball or baseball) are exempt from the May 1st residency requirement if they return to Canada immediately after the event.

2.1.4.3. MEN'S AND WOMEN'S A FASTPITCH ONLY - Up to two (2) players who are Canadian citizens living outside of BC and/or Canada who return to BC and/or Canada after the official residence date and register for softball participation by the Provincial roster deadline date. NOTE: Only one of these two players can be a pitcher.



Standard Operating Rules

Article 3 - Amateur

3.1. AMATEUR: An amateur softball player is one who engages in softball solely for the pleasure and physical, mental or social benefits they derive, as defined by Softball Canada. Notwithstanding, a player may, without jeopardy to their amateur status receive recompense for bona fide expenses actually incurred because of their SOFTBALL participation for travel, meals, accommodation and/or income lost due to absence from employment (substantiated by genuine receipts – to be produced on demand when requested by duly responsible and authorized Softball Canada or Softball BC officers having deemed necessary by the officials concerned.)

NOTE: Show teams (i.e. King and His Court) are not considered as a professional team.

3.2. REINSTATEMENT TO AMATEUR STATUS

3.2.1. **ELIGIBILITY** - A professional softball/baseball player, regardless of age, may apply for reinstatement as an amateur in the following year from the last game of the league schedule in which they participated.

3.2.2. **APPLY TO SOFTBALL BC** - A player must apply to the Softball BC office in writing for approval.

3.2.3. **EFFECTIVE DATE** - The amateur reinstatement request must be made by May 15th of the current year.

3.2.4. **INELIGIBLE** - A player who is reinstated as an amateur and then returns to a known, established professional softball/ baseball team/league in the current playing year will not be eligible for amateur status in the following two years from the date of application.



Standard Operating Rules

Article 4 - Disciplinary Action

4.1. DISCIPLINARY ACTION shall be to further the interests of softball.

4.1.1. **AUTHORITY** - Disciplinary action may be taken against any member by:

- a. an affiliated Association/League
 - i) This will only affect a member's eligibility to participate in games against other teams belonging to the Association/League.
 - ii) Suspensions issued by the Association/League shall not exceed one year. A detailed written or electronic report of any suspension exceeding 30 days must be submitted to the Softball BC office.
- b. any member of the Board of Directors.

4.1.2. **GROUND**S - Conduct of a member that might reasonably lead to disciplinary action includes (the list is not exhaustive):

- 4.1.2.1. Verbally and/or physically abusing an umpire or other member;
- 4.1.2.2. Knowingly playing with or against a suspended coach, player or team;
- 4.1.2.3. Knowingly playing an ineligible player;
- 4.1.2.4. Misconduct in hotels, restaurants, and/or drinking establishments while attending exhibition, league, playoff, tournament, Provincial Championship and extra-Provincial Championship events;
- 4.1.2.5. Not returning uniforms or equipment to teams, associations, or leagues within a reasonable time after being requested to do so;
- 4.1.2.6. Competing under an assumed name;
- 4.1.2.7. Committing fraud involving the game of softball; or
- 4.1.2.8. Violating the Constitution, By-Laws and/or Operating Rules of an affiliated Association, League or Softball BC.

4.1.3. **NOTIFICATION** - of disciplinary action shall be delivered to the member and copied to the member's team and Association/ League in writing or electronic form.

4.1.4. **PRO TEM** (interim) suspensions of less than 31 days may be issued, in writing by electronic mail, priority courier, or in person in exceptional circumstances (i.e. flagrant abuse (verbal or physical) of an umpire, player, fan or official; criminal or civil misbehaviour; gross misconduct relating to, and/or defiance of, established Special Operating Rules):

- a. Upon agreement between the appropriate District Umpire-in-Chief and District Coordinator;
- b. In the case of Provincial Championship, by the Board of Directors Representative, or their designate in charge of the Championship.

4.1.5. **EXPIRY** - Disciplinary actions, including Pro tem suspensions, shall be deemed to have expired 31 days after they have been issued at 2400H. Further disciplinary action could be imposed in accordance with Article 4.1.

- 4.1.6. INVESTIGATION barring exceptional circumstances, a full investigation, in adherence with the principles of “Natural Justice”, shall be undertaken before any disciplinary action is taken. Where a Pro tem suspension is issued, such an investigation shall be commenced as soon as possible and ratified, revoked or revised where the investigation results deem it appropriate.
- 4.1.7. SUBJECT TO APPEAL - Disciplinary action may be appealed as provided in Article 5.
- 4.1.8. NOT IN GOOD STANDING - When a member is suspended according to Article 4.1, they shall be considered a member not in good standing with Softball BC and lose all rights granted to a member in good standing. If they are found to have had contact with any member of their team or executive, they may be subject to further disciplinary action.
- 4.1.9. POSTING - When a member is suspended, their name is posted on the Softball BC website until the conclusion of the suspension. The information will include the reason for suspension and the length of the suspension. The notice of suspension, if not for bad debt, will also be forwarded to Softball Canada with a request that it be forwarded to the ASA and its affiliates, as well as all Provincial/Territorial associations.



Standard Operating Rules

Article 5 - Appeals

5.1. SUBJECT TO APPEAL

- 5.1.1. DISCIPLINARY action issued pursuant to Article 4.
- 5.1.2. NON-DISCIPLINARY ACTION - The appellant feels an unjust decision was set down by their ruling executive, District Coordinator, or a member of the Board of Directors of Softball BC.
- 5.1.3. PLAY-RELATED Rulings related to play will be appealed in accordance with Softball Canada Rules.

5.2. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS

- 5.2.1. Both DISCIPLINARY and NON-DISCIPLINARY appeals to the Softball BC Appeal Committee must be:
 - a. initiated by verbal notice that must reach the Softball BC office within 72 hours of the date of the decision; and
 - b. followed by a written or electronic notice of appeal, postmarked or delivered to the Softball BC office within 14 days of notification of the applicable action. A \$250.00 cash deposit or an alternative acceptable to the Softball BC office must accompany the notice (Note: The appeal period starts on the date the decision being appealed is formally delivered).
- 5.2.2. NON-DISCIPLINARY
 - 5.2.2.1. Before a non-disciplinary appeal will be considered by the Softball BC Appeal Committee, an appeal must first be submitted in writing or electronic form to the appropriate level as outlined below and dealt with at that level, and where necessary, each subsequent level.
 - a. ASSOCIATION LEVEL - where the Association or League has rendered the decision to the District Coordinator or District UIC.
 - b. DISTRICT LEVEL - where the District Coordinator or District UIC has rendered the decision to the Softball BC Staff Member or the Provincial UIC.
 - c. SOFTBALL BC LEVEL - where a Softball BC Board Representative or Staff or Provincial UIC has rendered the decision, to appeal to a Softball BC Appeal Committee.
 - d. CONFLICT - The President of Softball BC may direct it to the next appropriate level or directly to an Appeal Committee where there is a level conflict.

5.2.3. CONTENT OF APPEAL NOTICE:

- a. Name, address, phone number of appellant and, if applicable, electronic address;
- b. Names of parent Association and/or League and team to which appellant is affiliated;
- c. Grounds for appeal;
- d. A detailed outline of the circumstances in question, which shall contain detailed supporting documentation and witness statements, if available, and may contain character references.

5.3. APPEAL OF PRO TEM

A suspension shall be reviewed by the President of Softball BC to determine if the correct protocol has been followed in the issuance of the pro tem suspension. The President, or the vice president if the President issued the pro tem suspension, shall direct or conduct an investigation and shall issue a timely and reasonable ruling on the appeal.

5.4. APPEAL COMMITTEE

Any member of Softball BC in good standing may be appointed to an Appeal Committee. The Chair of the Committee shall be a Director appointed by the President, and the other members of the Committee shall be appointed by or on behalf of the President through the Chair of the Committee and shall reflect the make-up of the membership. It is recommended, but not compulsory, that each appointed Committee have five members, but must have at least three members.

5.4.1. CONFLICT OF INTEREST - No person shall participate in adjudicating an appeal where they were:

- a. PARTICIPANT - A significant participant in the decision being appealed; or
- b. WITNESS - A potential witness in the matter under consideration.

5.4.2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST RESOLUTION - Should a conflict become evident, the President of Softball BC may designate a replacement to ensure that a fair and impartial appellate decision will be made.

5.5. APPEALS INVESTIGATION

An appeal investigation procedure shall be determined by the President, guided by this section.

5.5.1. PRELIMINARY RULING - When an appeal has been received by Softball BC, the President or the Chair of the Appeal Committee shall, within 5 days, advise the appellant that:

- a. Further elaboration is necessary before consideration can be given to the Notice of Appeal, where the material provided is insufficient or lacking;

- b. The basis of the appeal is vexatious or without foundation, and will not be considered by Softball BC; or
- c. The Notice of Appeal is approved for investigation and deliberation by the President.

5.5.2. **PROCESS** - The appeal process may involve:

- a. An inquiry through a collaboration of witness statements, reports and other evidence, which may or may not include an interview of the appellant by one or more Appeal Committee members;
- b. an oral hearing pursuant to Article 5.6, where witnesses and/ or the appellant shall appear in person or by video conference call before the Appeal Committee, or:
- c. both an inquiry and an oral hearing.

5.6. HEARING

Hearing procedure shall be determined by the Appeal Committee Chair, or in the case of a Pro tem Suspension appeal, by the President.

5.6.1. **OPEN OR CLOSED** - The procedure may involve an open session where all parties may be present during the hearing, or may involve a closed session where each witness, appellant or respondent may come before the committee independently.

5.6.2. **NOTIFICATION** - The Appeal Committee shall ensure that the appellant, respondent and witnesses are notified in writing or electronic form of the date, time and place of the hearing. Normally, two clear days prior to the hearing will constitute sufficient notice.

5.6.3. **SUPPORT** - In addition to witnesses summoned by the Appeal Committee, the appellant and the respondent shall be entitled to include one supporting person per party who may speak at the hearing.

5.6.4. **INTERESTED PERSONS** - Any other interested person wishing to attend may do so, bearing in mind that the hearing process may include a closed session pursuant to Article 5.6.1. Any person attending may, at the Chair's discretion, address the Appeal Committee.

5.6.5. **FAILURE TO APPEAR** - Failure of an appellant, respondent or witness to appear for a hearing when it is confirmed they have been properly notified shall not prevent the Appeal Committee from proceeding to adjudicate the issue.

5.7. ONUS ON APPELLANT

The onus shall rest with the appellant to convince the Appeal Committee that a wrong or unjust decision was set down by their ruling executive, District Coordinator or members of the Board of Directors. After completion of an

investigation and deliberation, an appeal shall only be considered successful, in whole or in part, where a majority of the Appeal Committee finds for the appellant.

5.8. DECISION

5.8.1. Following completion of the investigation and/or oral hearing process, the Appeal Committee shall deliberate on the issue and render a decision. The Appeal Committee may:

- i. Vacate the decision, or
- ii. Uphold the decision, or
- iii. Vary the decision.

5.8.2. A WRITTEN DECISION shall be rendered by the Appeal Committee, or in the case of a pro tem suspension appeal, by the President, and shall be mailed or sent electronically to the appellant and aggrieved parties postmarked within 5 days of the conclusion of the hearing, or delivered electronically, if applicable.

5.8.3. SUCCESSFUL APPEAL - Where an appeal is successful in whole or in part, the \$250 deposit shall be returned to the appellant.

5.8.4. FINAL - Decisions of the Appeal Committee, or the President in the case of a pro tem suspension appeal, shall be conclusive and not subject to further appeal.

5.8.5. APPLICATION TO THE COURTS - Any member who fails to exhaust the appeal procedures provided herein prior to resorting to external legal remedies shall be subject to further disciplinary action at the discretion of the majority of the Appeal Committee.

5.8.6. JURISDICTION - Softball Canada may be requested to enforce any disciplinary action taken by Softball BC throughout Softball Canada's jurisdiction.

5.9. FORFEIT RIGHT TO APPEAL

Any member who does not follow these procedures and contacts multiple members of the Board of Directors directly shall forfeit their right to an appeal.



Standard Operating Rules

Article 6 - Travel Permits

- 6.1 Travel permits for BC teams or officials attending competitions outside the Province of British Columbia are available upon request from the Softball BC Office.
- 6.2 **INSURANCE:** A travel permit does not provide members, including officials, with insurance coverage when attending competitions outside of the Province of BC. Members should consult with the Softball BC Office on insurance coverage.



Standard Operating Rules

Article 7 - Minor Fastpitch Rules U9, U11C, U11R, U13C (Boys and Girls)

Softball Canada has a plan to systematically develop players once they enter the sport up until they reach their full potential. This process is called Long-Term Player Development (LTPD). The LTPD guidelines are an important step in aligning player development and program development across the country and our province, at all levels and for all ages. Softball BC's minor softball rules follow the guidelines of the LTPD model and the Athlete Development Matrix set out by Softball Canada.

- These rules are guidelines for U9 programs.
- U11C, U11R and U13C rules will be enforced at all Softball BC Celebrations, Showcases and Regional Events.
- Softball BC rules shall apply in all cases not covered below.

RULE	U9	U11C	U11R	U13C
Rule 1 – The Playing Field				
Base Path Distance				
45' (Softball Canada Standard)	✓	✓	✓	
55' (Softball Canada Standard)				✓
Pitching Distance				
30' (Softball Canada Standard)	✓			
35' (Softball Canada Standard)		✓	✓	
38' (Softball Canada Standard)				✓
Note: If coach pitcher, the defensive pitcher should stand at the minimum pitching distance listed above and no closer.				
Rule 2 – Equipment				
Ball				
11" indoor ball	✓			
11" ball (COR .47)		✓	✓	✓
Helmet				
All batters and base runners must wear helmets with straps done up from dugout to dugout unless compression helmets are used.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Defensive Face Mask				
Mandatory for all defensive pitchers.	✓	✓	✓	✓

RULE	U9	U11C	U11R	U13C
Rule 3 – Coaches, Players and Substitutes				
Coaches				
Offensive and defensive coaches are permitted on the playing field.	✓			
Players - Number of Players				
A maximum of 8-9 players on a team.	✓			
Recommended 6-7 players on the field ¹ .	✓			
Must start the game with 9 players but may go down to 8 players due to injury.		✓	✓	✓
When playing with less than the maximum number of players, there are no automatic outs. A player who leaves the game for any reason may not re-enter that game. Note: Leaving the game means that if the player is not available to bat in the batting order that was submitted at the start of the game, they will not be eligible to rejoin the game.		✓	✓	✓
If a player arrives late, they may be added to the bottom of the lineup.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Substitutes				
Unlimited defensive substitutions.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Replacement Runne				
A coach may use a courtesy runner for the catcher or pitcher of record to prepare for the next inning when there are two out.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Playing Time				
No player is to sit more than one (1) consecutive inning ²	✓	✓		✓

Rule 4 – The Game				
Regulation Game				
A new inning will not start after 1 hour 15 minutes after the scheduled start time.	✓			
A new inning will not start after 1 hour 30 minutes after the scheduled start time.		✓	✓	✓
Run Ahead Rule				
If any team is ahead by 10 runs after 4 innings or 7 runs after 5 complete innings, the game will be called.		✓	✓	✓
Run Limit Per Inning				
Maximum of 3 runs per half inning for all innings of the game.	✓			
Maximum of 4 runs per half inning for all innings of the game.		✓	✓	
Maximum of 5 runs per half inning and open after 5 innings.				✓

RULE	U9	U11C	U11R	U13C
Rule 5 – Pitching Regulations				
Pitching				
Coach pitcher – 5 pitches. If they haven't hit after 5 pitches, they hit off a tee.	✓			
First half of the season: Player pitching to opposing team until the batter receives a 4th ball, which would normally result in a walk. This is where the game changes. After the 4th ball, the batter will have a count against them. It will either be 4 balls (0 strikes 4-0), 4-1 or 4-2. The hitter's coach or designate from offensive team, will now come in and pitch to their own batter and carry out the count. Now a 5th ball will be a walk and 3rd strike is still an out.		✓		
When a coach comes into pitch, the maximum hit a batter can earn is a double.		✓		
Last half of season: Player pitch – normal count. After 3 strikes, batter out. After 4 balls, batter walks.		✓		
Player pitch – normal count. After 3 strikes, batter out. After 4 balls, batter walks.			✓	✓
Pitching Limitations				
A pitcher is allowed to pitch a maximum of two innings. One pitch equals one inning.		✓		
A pitcher is allowed to pitch a maximum of three innings. One pitch equals one inning.			✓	
A pitcher is allowed to pitch a maximum of four innings. One pitch equals one inning.				✓
Pitching limitation rule is suspended in extra innings or international rule.		✓	✓	✓
Hit Batters				
If the same pitcher hits two batters in an inning, the coach should consider removing the pitcher for the remainder of that inning.		✓		
Walks				
Walks are allowed.		✓	✓	✓
Intentional Walks				
There are no intentional walks.	✓	✓	✓	✓

RULE	U9	U11C	U11R	U13C
Rule 6 – Batting				
Number of Batters				
All players bat. All eligible players will appear on the batting order (whether they are in the field defensively or not).	✓	✓	✓	✓

Late Players				
Players who arrive after the start of the game will be placed last in the batting order and bat their turn.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bunting				
Bunting is permitted.		✓	✓	✓
Slapping is not permitted.	✓	✓	✓	

RULE	U9	U11C	U11R	U13C
Rule 7 – Batter-Runner & Runner				
Third Strike Rule				
Third strike rule is not in effect.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Infield Fly Rule				
Infield fly rule is not in effect.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stealing				
Base runner cannot steal bases; runner can only run when the batter makes contact (no stealing). Base runners can practice taking jumps off the bases but cannot steal a base.	✓			
Base runners may steal on any legally pitched ball when it has left the pitcher's hand.		✓	✓	✓
A player can only advance one base on a steal attempt.		✓		
A player can advance two bases on a steal attempt.			✓	✓
A player cannot advance to home on a steal, passed ball, or wild pitch. The player must be batted in or forced home by a walk.		✓		
A player can not advance to home on a steal, passed ball, or wild pitch. The player must be batted in or forced home by a walk or is part of a continuation of a play (i.e. overthrow wild throw).			✓	
Lead Offs				
Runners may leave the base when the ball has left the pitcher's hand. Runner will be called out for leaving early.		✓	✓	✓
Sliding				
Sliding is allowed.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Base Runner Advancement				
Following a fair hit ball, runners may only advance a maximum of two bases.	✓			
Following a fair hit ball, the advancing of runners is considered 'over' when the ball is returned to a player in the infield (inside the base paths or on a base). Runners may continue to the base they are heading to but the fielders may attempt to throw/tag the runner out.		✓		

Wild Throw ³				
Runners do not advance on a wild throw.	✓			
Runners may advance one base on a wild throw and do so at the risk of being thrown/tagged out. Runner cannot advance an additional base if two consecutive wild throws are made in the same play.		✓		
Runner may advance one base on a wild throw and do so at the risk of being thrown/tagged out. Runner may try to advance one base per wild throw if consecutive wild throws are made in the same play to a maximum of two ⁴ .			✓	✓
Players may not advance to any base on a catcher wild throw to the pitcher after a pitch.		✓	✓	

RULE	U9	U11C	U11 R	U13C
Rule 8 – Dead Ball-Ball in Play				
First base will not be awarded for being hit by a pitch from a coach-pitcher.	✓			
First base is awarded for being hit by a pitch from a player-pitcher.		✓	✓	✓
Rule 9 – Protests				
There are no protests or appeals.	✓			
There are no protests but appeals are allowed.		✓	✓	✓
Rule 10 – Scoring				
Scores & Standings				
Score and standing will not be kept as emphasis is on player and team skill development.	✓			
Score and standings can be kept.		✓	✓	✓

BEST PRACTICES:

1. Number of players on the field could depend on several factors. Teams may choose not to have a player in the catching position or in the outfield. Instead, extra players can be on the side lines participating in one or two skill stations while their team is on defense. Teams may also choose to have extra players on the side lines practicing pitching with a parent or coach while their team is on defense. Coaches with larger teams are encouraged to find creative ways to engage their players in additional skill practice instead of placing additional players in the outfield at this level.
2. Coaches should try to ensure that every player sits out one inning before any player sits out two innings.

CLARIFICATIONS:

3. Wild throw (defined in Softball Canada rule book 5.1.52) a throw in which the ball thrown from one fielder to another cannot be caught or controlled and remains in play. In contrast with 'overthrow' which is defined as when a ball is thrown from one fielder to another, and the ball goes beyond the boundary lines of the playing field or becomes a blocked ball (defined in Softball Canada rule book 5.1.36 and Effect in 5.11b).
4. For example: A player cannot get a homerun on a bunt. If a batter bunts a ball and an overthrow **wild throw** occurs at first, the batter may try to advance to second at their own risk. If there is then an overthrow **wild throw** at second base, the batter-runner may try to advance to third base at their own risk. If there is a subsequent overthrow **wild throw** at third base, the batter-runner will hold at third base.

RESOURCES:

U7 Softball

- More information about softball can be found at softball.ca/programs/timbitssoftball

Long-Term Player Development (LTPD)

- More information about the LTPD can be found at softball.bc.ca/content/long-term-player-development and softball.ca/ltpd

Athlete Development Matrix (ADM)

- More information about the ADM can be found at softball.bc.ca/content/long-term-player-development and softball.ca/ltpd/adm



Standard Operating Rules

Article 8 - Minor Girls Fastpitch

8.1. MINOR GIRLS – DEFINITIONS

8.1.1. ALL-STAR TEAM – Team(s) formed of outstanding players chosen from two or more teams playing in an association/ league, to compete in a Provincial Championship, are not allowed.

EXCEPTIONS: Article 8.3.2.1 and Article 8.3.6.6.

8.1.2. BATS – Devices including attachments to otherwise official bats, as commercially manufactured and marketed specifically for use by amputee or physically challenged players, and which do not impose an impractical or unreasonable hazard to any participant engaged in the game, will be allowed.

8.1.3. BATTING POSITION - A player may touch the lines of the batter's box, but no part of the feet may be outside of the lines prior to the pitch.

8.1.4. CHARGED CONFERENCE (Defensive and Offensive) – The defensive conference rule regarding' to pitchers and the offensive conference rule are both waived for the U13 and below categories.

8.1.5. **DESIGNATED PLAYER – The designated player rule is in effect for A & B categories in U15 and above**

8.1.6. DOUBLE BASE

a. The Batter-running is subject to the following:

- A batted ball hitting the fair portion is declared fair, and a batted ball hitting the foul portion only is declared foul.
- A defensive player must use only the fair portion of the base at all times, except on any live ball play made from first base foul territory. The batter-runner and the defensive player may use either portion of the double base. When the defensive player uses the foul portion of the double base, the batter-runner can run in fair territory, and if hit by a throw from the foul side of first base it would not be interference. If intentional interference is ruled, the batter-runner would be out. The one-meter line is duplicated on either side of the foul line on throws from foul territory.

8.1.7. DROPPED THIRD STRIKE – In U13 or under categories, the batter is out on the third strike regardless of whether the ball is caught. The ball remains live.

8.1.8. ELECTRONIC DEVICES, including mobile phones, tablets, earpieces, smart watches and cameras, may not be used on the field of play except in the following circumstances:

a. By or under the supervision of a coach for purposes of stats,

scorekeeping, and music.

- b. By a coach for purposes of tracking time.
- c. In no circumstances may electronic devices be used for purposes of communication amongst participants or between participants and spectators or others outside the game.

8.1.9. **FOOTWEAR** - Players may choose to wear metal cleats beginning in the U15A, U15B, U17A, U17B, U19A, U19B, and U20C age categories and classifications. Metal cleats are not permitted in any other category or classification.

8.1.10. **HELMETS**

In accordance with Softball Canada Regulation 2.1.9, A helmet that is cracked, broken, dented or altered will be declared an illegal helmet and removed from the game.

- a) For an on-deck batter, batter, batter-runner and a runner, a helmet must have two ear flaps (one on each side) and must be of the type that has safety features equal to or greater than those provided by the full plastic cap with padding on the inside. A liner covering only the ears does not meet the specifications of a legal helmet.
- b) For a catcher or a defensive player, a helmet may be the skull type without earflaps.
- c) For U17 categories and below, all on-deck batters, batters and base runners must have an attached face mask.
- d) Youth age players who coach in the first and third base coach's box.
NOTE: A youth age coach registered only as a coach is not required to wear a helmet when coaching in the coach's box.
- e) Youth age representatives that participate as a batboy or batgirl while on the field or in the dugout.

8.1.11. **PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

- a) **MASKS.** All catchers must wear a mask, throat protector, and helmet. Catchers (or other members of the defensive team) must wear a mask, throat protector and helmet while receiving warm-up pitches from the pitching plate, or in the warm-up area. If the person catching the pitch will not wear the mask, they must be replaced by a person who will do so. An extended wire protection attached to the mask may be worn instead of the throat protector. The ice hockey goalie style facemask is approved for use by catchers. If there is no throat protector built onto the mask, the throat attachment must be added to the mask before using.

1. If the person catching for the pitcher will not wear the mask, after a warning, they will be removed from the game.
2. If the person catching for the pitcher is anyone other than a team member and will not wear the mask after a warning, it shall mean the removal of the coach or manager of the offending team.

b) **FACE MASKS.** Any defensive or offensive player may wear an approved plastic face mask/guard. Face masks/guards that are cracked or deformed, or if padding has deteriorated or is missing, are prohibited from use and must be removed from the game. Catchers may not wear the plastic face mask/guard in place of the regular mask with a throat protector.

Pitchers in the U17 and below categories are required to wear a protective face mask.

c) **BODY PROTECTORS.** All youth/minor catchers must wear a body protector.

d) **SHIN GUARDS.** Youth/minor catchers must wear shin guards that will offer protection to the kneecap.

e) **PROTECTIVE LEG/ ARM GUARDS.** These may be worn by a batter and a batter-runner.

8.1.12. **HOME PLATE** – The distance from the plate to the backstop shall be between 17 feet, and 25 feet.

8.1.13. **INFIELD FLY** – The Infield Fly rule does not apply to U9, U11 and U13. Does apply to U15 and up.

8.1.14. **LEAGUE** – Three teams of the same classification ('A', 'B', 'C').

8.1.15. **CLASSIFICATIONS** - Minor Teams are classified as Rep (further classified as A or B) or Community (classified as C).

8.1.16. **REPLACEMENT PLAYER** – A player picked up to replace a player not able to attend/participate with her team at the U13C Girls Regional Championships.

8.1.17. **RETURNING PLAYER:**

8.1.17.1. Players registered on a team in the previous year; or

8.1.17.2. Pick-ups used by the team in Provincial, Western Canadian Championships and Canadian Championships in the prior year.

8.1.18. **MALE PLAYER** – Male players may play in the female programs, but must

adhere to the following limitations.

- i. LTP to U13C categories, excluding U11R: The number of male players must not exceed 50% of the roster; however, this can be reviewed by the Minor Coordinator and Umpires & Championship Director on a case-by-case basis.
- ii. U11R category: Up to 2 male players are permitted on the roster.
- iii. U13B & U13A: Male players are not permitted in female programs.
- iv. U15C category: Up to 2 male players are permitted on the roster.
- v. U15B above: Male players are not permitted in female programs.

8.1.19. **START TIME** – Time will start after the first warm-up pitch, and a new inning is deemed to start on the umpire’s “out” call of the third out on the home team.

- a. U19A, U17A, U19B, U17B: none
- b. U20C, U17C, U15A, U15B: no new inning after 90 minutes. No time limit will be in effect for all medal games.
- c. All other classifications/categories: no new inning after 90 minutes. No time limit will be in effect for the Gold Pool, Gold Medal Game only.

8.1.20. **PICK-UP PLAYER** - The temporary addition of a player rostered on another team. Any coach picking up a player from another team must first obtain permission in writing (including electronic communications) from the player’s coach.

8.1.21. **MAXIMUM 20 GAMES** - A team may not pick up the same player for more than 20 combined games as a pick-up player where that SBBC team registers at a higher classification and/ or category. Playing in more than 20 combined games will result in the player being ineligible to participate in an SBBC District Playdown tournament, an SBBC Provincial Championship and a Canadian Championship. A waiver may be applied for by the player contacting the Umpires & Championships Director in writing to request permission. The waiver will be determined at the Umpires & Championships Director’s sole discretion in consultation with the Minor District Coordinator(s). The number of games calculation will be from March 1st to June 15th of the playing season. It will include all tournament, exhibition and regular season games, both in and out of province.

8.1.22. PARTICIPATION

This definition applies to games played using the batting order modification described in Section 8.7.9.1, along with 8.8.25 (U13C Regional Championships) and 8.9.3.b U11C Celebration of Softball and 8.10.3 U11Rep Showcase.

Players on the entry roster shall participate in a minimum of 2 defensive innings (12 outs) by the end of the 4th inning of the games. If the player is

ill or injured, they must be removed from the batting lineup to be compliant with this definition.

In a run-ahead game, a team will not be penalized if not able to play all players.

This is protestable in all Softball BC Championships/Events as defined above. Violation of this will result in the Head Coach, in the case of U13C or U11Rep or the NCCP-qualified coach, being ejected at the time of protest along with a one-game suspension.

8.1.23. FIELD OF PLAY

The field of play includes all of the area on the playing field side of the backstop fence bounded by the backstop fence, side fences, and extended to the outfield fence of the Playing Field, including the Dugouts.

At Softball BC District Playdowns, Regionals (including Celebrations and Showcases) and Provincials:

- a. Playing Field: The playing field is defined as the fair territory within which the ball may be played and fielded. Only those individuals listed on the Approved Softball BC roster and approved pickups may access the playing field.
- b. Dugout: The dugout is dead-ball territory for those individuals listed on the Approved Softball BC roster and approved pickups ~~only~~.

Regular Season Play:

- a. Playing Field: The playing field is defined as the fair territory within which the ball may be played and fielded. Only individuals listed on the team's roster and pickups may access the playing field.
- b. Dugout: The dugout is dead-ball territory for those individuals listed on the team's roster and pickups.

- 8.1.24. TIEBREAKER - Starting with the top of the eighth inning OR the first new inning after time has expired: for each half-inning thereafter until the game ends, the offensive team starts its turn at bat, the player scheduled to bat last in that respective half-inning placed on second base as a runner.

8.2. MINOR STRUCTURE

8.2.1. U11 Community teams will be classified as C. U11 Category Teams classified as Rep will not be further subdivided into A or B Classifications.

8.2.2. For all other Minor Categories, teams will be classified as follows:

- a. A Classification: Rep Classification open to all teams, with the intent that this classification includes the most competitive teams in the Category.
- b. B Classification: Rep Classification for teams not competing in the A

Classification, subject to a Classification Review by the Minor Coordinator U11 Community teams will be classified as C.

- c. C Classification: Community Classification open to teams of novice or recreational players.
 - i. Tryouts are not allowed for teams in the C Classification.
 - ii. The 'C' Provincial Championships, U13C Regional Championships and U11 Celebrations of Softball will emphasize participation and fun.
- d. The District Minor Coordinator has the obligation and responsibility to ensure that teams are properly classified within his or her District. For any team in question, the District Minor Coordinator shall provide the Umpires & Championships Director with the results of a thorough investigation and a recommendation to reclassify or not. The Umpires & Championships Director, in consultation with the Minor District Coordinator, shall decide and inform the team and the District Minor Coordinator. Reclassification can be done up to but not including the date of the team's participation in a Provincial Championship.

8.3. REGISTRATION

- 8.3.1. **RECOGNIZED MINOR ASSOCIATION** is an association that had minor teams registered with Softball B.C. in the prior year. An organization wanting to become a new Recognized Minor Association must apply to the Softball BC Board of Directors, setting out why their organization becoming a new Recognized Minor Association is to the betterment of softball in their District and the Province.

Where an organization applies to become a new Recognized Minor Association, the existing Recognized Minor Associations within their District will be given the opportunity to make submissions to the Board on the application, and the Board shall consider such submissions in making its decision.

- 8.3.2. **REGISTERED MINOR PLAYER** is a player listed on a team roster approved by their District Minor Coordinator. The player remains affiliated with that team until competition for their age category and classification has concluded at the highest level of play, including Regionals, Provincials, Western Canadians, or Canadian Championships, even if their own team has finished competing earlier.

- 8.3.2.1.A minor player may not appear on more than one Approved Roster.

EFFECT: They are ineligible for either team, and ineligible to participate on any team in District, Provincial or extra-Provincial events.

EXCEPTION:

- a. Players may register with two different teams to form a team

in a higher classification (example: players from 'C' teams combine to form a 'B' team but only if there is not a team registered in that classification in the District. This team must be composed of players from at least three teams in a lower classification.

b. See article 8.3.6.6.

A Softball BC registration fee of \$200 per team will apply in both scenarios.

8.3.2.2. Any coach who allows participation of an ineligible player in District, Provincial or extra-Provincial events may be disciplined in accordance with Softball BC Discipline Policy.

8.3.2.3. Release

8.3.2.3.1. Prior to the Team Roster Being Approved by the District Minor Coordinator - A release for a player who has been duly registered by an association and has paid their registration fees shall only be considered if:

- a. The player submits a written release request to the District Minor Coordinator, which must include a rationale for the release.
- b. The player's team will not be jeopardized or put in a position of collapse due to the player's release, as confirmed by the player's head coach.
- c. And the District Minor Coordinator agrees that a release is in the player's and their association's best interests.

Once approved, the District Minor Coordinator shall instruct the Association's registrar to strike the player's name from the team's Softball BC Team Registration form. The Coordinator shall also inform the Softball BC Member Services & Communication Manager of the player's release.

8.3.2.3.2. After the Team Roster Has Been Approved by the District Minor Coordinator - A release for a player who has been duly registered by an association, has paid their registration fees, and whose Team Roster has been approved by the District Minor Coordinator, shall only be considered if:

- a. The player submits a written release request to the District Minor Coordinator no less than seven (7) days before the start of any District playdown. The request must include a rationale for the release.

- b. The player's team will not be jeopardized or put in a position of collapse due to the player's release, as confirmed by the player's head coach.
- c. The player's head coach agrees to the request to remove them from the team's roster, and the player's association registrar agrees to strike the player's name from the team's Softball BC Team Registration form.
- d. The coach and association's registrar from any other team agree to accept the player's registration on their team without affecting the registration of any other player already listed on the approved roster of that team.
- e. And the District Minor Coordinator and Umpires & Championships Director agree that a release is in the player's and the association's best interests.

Once approved, the District Minor Coordinator shall instruct the Association's registrar to strike the player's name from the team's Softball BC Team Registration form. The Coordinator shall also inform the Softball BC Member Services & Communication Manager of the player's release.

8.3.2.4. Any Minor player considered ineligible pursuant to these rules may be disciplined.

8.3.3. REGISTERED MINOR TEAM is registered on the date when the Roster Form is uploaded by the coach or a representative of a Recognized Association has been approved by the District Minor Coordinator, or the Final Registration Deadline, whichever is first.

8.3.4. MINOR REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

8.3.4.1. 'A' team rosters must be uploaded and marked confirmed by the registrar by May 1st of the current year. Additions/deletions under extraordinary circumstances will be determined by the designated Minor Coordinator up to and including June 1st of the current year. After June 1st, only the Umpires & Championships Director may authorize additions/ deletions to an approved roster.

8.3.4.2. All "B" classification team rosters and Executive rosters are to be uploaded and marked confirmed May 15th of the current year. All "C" classification team rosters are to be uploaded and marked confirmed by May 31st of the current year. Additions/ deletions under extraordinary circumstances will be determined by the designated Minor Coordinator up to and including June 5th of the current year. After June 5th, only the Umpires & Championships Director may authorize additions/deletions to an approved roster.

8.3.4.3. Team registrations received after the deadlines will be assessed a late registration fee of \$100 per team.

8.3.4.4. The Executive Director can, on an annual basis, extend the above deadlines for an association or district due to exceptional circumstances. When possible, the application for an extension must be made by the association or, in the case of the district, by the Minor Coordinator, 7 days before the deadline in question. Deadlines cannot be extended beyond 7 days before the first provincial event, including the U11 Celebration of Softball, U11 Showcase, 13C Regionals, or Provincials. The approval of an extension will be communicated to the member associations, including the Minor Coordinator, with the district where the extension has been granted.

8.3.5. TEAM

8.3.5.1. Maximum Players:

- i. For teams U17 and under, a maximum of 15 players.
- ii. For U19 A & B and U20C teams, a maximum of 17 players.

Exceptions may be granted for the regular season only under extraordinary circumstances with the approval of the District Minor Coordinator and the Umpires & Championships Director.

8.3.5.2. Coaches:

Five (5) total team staff members, including coaches, assistant coaches, managers and treasurers, plus one Approved Minor Junior Coach paired with the rostered Mentor Coach. Junior Coaches are approved before Rosters are submitted, through an online application (see Article 18).

8.3.6.3. Minimum nine players in U13 or above.

8.3.6.4. Adult coaches or non-playing coaches may register on and participate with multiple Minor teams in a given year.

8.3.6.5. When Roster Forms are submitted, they must be classified ('A', 'B', or 'C'). Teams may not change category or classification unless reclassified by the Umpires & Championships Director, in consultation with the District Minor Coordinator.

8.3.6.6. Any District with 60 or fewer players registered in a category may form a combined 'C' team for District and Provincial Championships but this team may not pick-up players. The team must submit an appropriate roster for approval prior to attending the District Playdown or Provincial Championship. A Softball BC

registration fee of \$200 will apply.

The team must submit an appropriate roster for approval prior to attending the Provincial Championship.

- 8.3.6.7. Where an affiliated league of the appropriate category and classification exists in the geographical area where a minor team is registered, and that team elects to participate in a league of a higher category and classification, after four or more league games in that higher category or classification that team will not be eligible to participate in a District or Provincial Championship in the initial lower classification. Where two teams or less exist, the District Minor Coordinator may grant an exception. In any association where there are not enough teams to form an 'A', 'B' or 'C' classification league, that association may form a combined classification league, without prejudice to participation in Provincial Championships. This rule does not apply to minor teams registered in Men's or Women's programs.
- 8.3.6.8. Where an affiliated league is available with three or more teams in a particular category and classification, and a team elects to participate in a Men's or Women's league, whether or not they participate in a Minor league within the appropriate category or not, the team is not eligible to register in 'C'.
- 8.3.6.9. A team that plays in two affiliated leagues or has two home parks will establish their District of registration by considering:
 - a. Where most home games are played.
 - b. Where most of the players reside.
 - c. Whether there is a historical precedent to associate the team with a particular District.
- 8.3.6.10. U20C Category & Classification – Exception - A player who was registered on a U19A team in the previous year or was/is a collegiate player will be excluded from eligibility to participate on a U20C team.

8.4. MINOR PLAY IN MEN'S OR WOMEN'S

8.4.1. A player 18 years of age or younger may only play with or against Men's or Women's teams as a pickup or registered player with the written consent of the player's parents and the District Minor Coordinator.

8.4.2. In making their decision about whether to permit a Minor player to play with

or against Men's or Women's teams, the Minor Coordinator will consider the best interests of the player, the Minor team/association which that player is or would otherwise be registered with, and the Men's or Women's team/association with which they wish to play or register. In undertaking this consideration, the Minor Coordinator will consult with the District's Men's and Women's Coordinator as appropriate.

8.4.3. A second year U19A or B player or a second or third year U20C player may register on a Minor team, or on a men's or women's team without needing approval from their District's Minor Coordinator or otherwise.

8.4.4. A team of Minor Players wishing to play against Men's or Women's teams must have written consent from the Appropriate Minor and Men's & Women's Coordinators

8.4.5. Any coach, player, team or association permitting a Minor player to participate in practices or games with a Men's or Women's team without having obtained written consent as required by this section may be subject to discipline.

8.5. GUIDELINES FOR MUSIC FOR ALL SOFTBALL BC REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL EVENTS.

8.5.1. Responsibility

The Head Coach is responsible for ensuring that their team, which includes players, staff, parents/guardians, and spectators, adheres to these guidelines.

Policy

- 1 All music (including pre-game/warm-up) must be good taste and profanity-free (otherwise known as "the clean" version)
- 2 Between innings, the team on defence gets to play the warm-up music.
- 3 To ensure the pace of play is maintained, all music must stop as the batter enters the batter's box. A batter cannot delay the game in order to have a walk-up song played.
- 4 The music volume must be set so it does not disrupt other games on adjacent/nearby diamonds.

8.5.2. Authority

The tournament management committee is responsible for implementing this policy.

If the playing of music is delaying or interfering with the game's progress:

- 1 A member of the tournament management committee will issue a verbal warning to the head coach.
- 2 If the team continues to not adhere to guidelines. The tournament management committee will instruct the coach that they are no longer allowed to use music OR player intros for the remainder of the game.
- 3 If the team continues to disregard the guidelines, the tournament management committee will issue a pro tem suspension to the head coach.

8.6. DISTRICT AND PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (see also Article 13)

- 8.6.1. RULES: Softball BC rules apply to all play leading to Provincial Championships, including District playdowns.
- 8.6.2. DISTRICT MINOR COORDINATOR DUTY - A form will be provided for District Coordinators to notify the Softball BC Office of their District Teams' intent to participate in the provincials if they secure a berth via district qualification. Failure by a coordinator to submit the form seven (7) business days before districts will result in the disqualification of that District in further Provincial play
- 8.6.3. PROVINCIAL 'A' CHAMPIONSHIPS are open to all teams registered in that classification. Any 'A' Championship having eight or more participating teams shall be a three-day event.
- 8.6.4. PROVINCIAL 'B' and 'C' CHAMPIONSHIPS shall be open to 16 teams selected in District playdowns. If each District is not represented, the Pro Rata system will be implemented.
- 8.6.5. DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE – Will be:
 - a. Where all associations in the District agree on a format and the District Minor Coordinator agrees, the winner of association or inter-association qualifier competitions.
 - b. Otherwise will be, the winner of a playdown open to qualified district teams.
- 8.6.6. PRO RATA SYSTEM
 - a) If a Championship specified to contain 16 teams (one per District plus Host Team) is not filled to 16 teams by District Representation, then each District shall be allocated by weighted lottery, with each District receiving one opportunity for each team placing second or lower for the Pro rata spot. This determination process will repeat in multiple rounds until all Provincial Championship sports are filled.

- b) The pro rata draw for a given classification and category will take place five (5) business days before the first scheduled districts are held for said classification and category, and no earlier than the first Friday in June.
- c) Per 8.6.2, District Coordinators will submit the list of teams that intend to participate in the provincials if they secure a berth via district qualification.
- d) Once completed, the pro rata list will be confidentially shared with the District Coordinators, who in turn may share the information with district members at an agreed-upon time/schedule.

8.6.7. DISQUALIFIED - Teams with six or more returning players from a team that indicated they would attend district playdowns that do not attend Provincials when offered a place, will be disqualified from attending districts or provincials for the next season. Coach or team name change will not be cause for an exemption.

8.6.8. DISTRICT PLAYDOWNS

8.6.8.1. District playdowns will be a modified Round Robin or Knockout Championship Draw, as determined by the District Minor Coordinator.

8.6.8.2. The Softball BC Umpires & Championships Director shall provide the District Minor Coordinators with standard draws for District playdowns.

8.6.8.3. Teams not intending to participate in a Provincial Championship may not participate in the related District playdown.

8.6.8.4. The Roster Form must be approved by the District Coordinator by the registration date, and available at District playdown.

8.6.8.5. Pick ups are not allowed at District playdowns.

8.6.8.6. District playdown winners must be declared by the dates set by Softball BC

8.6.9. HOST TEAM - The Host Association of a Provincial Championship shall be allocated a place in the round robin. The Host Team shall be:

- a. The team designated by the Host Association prior to the playdown, or if not designated prior to the playdown, the Host Association team placing highest in the District playdown.
- b. Where the Host Team chooses to play in the playdown and places first, the team placing second will be the District representative.

- c. Where the Host does not have a team registered in the applicable category/classification, or elects not to enter any association team in the Provincial Championship, the Host Team shall be identified as the team placing second at the Host District playdown.

8.6.10. ENTRY - District playdown winners and pro rata teams must confirm their participation to the Softball BC office and the appropriate Tournament Director 15 days prior to the Provincial Championship.

8.6.11. MULTIPLE PROVINCIALS - Players, coaches, and pick-ups may participate in more than one Minor Provincial in the same year.

8.6.12. COACHES MEETING

8.6.12.1 In-Person Meeting Protocol

The head coach from each team must provide the following to the Softball BC Supervisor at the designated pre-Provincial Championships coaches meeting:

- a. A copy of your Approved Softball BC Team's Roster (from RAMP).
- b. A copy of the Team's Roster for Provincials, which reflects the players attending provincials.
- c. Provide NCCP qualifications for all coaches.
- d. The signed Softball BC Minor Provincial Player Pick-up Approval form for each pick-up. EFFECT: Pick-ups without documents are ineligible.
- e. Proof of age in the form of a photocopy of birth certificate, baptismal certificate or other recognized government identification for all players and pick-ups. EFFECT: A player is ineligible until suitable proof of age is provided to the
- f. Proof of participation of each player or pick-up in a minimum of three league, exhibition or tournament games with their Registered Minor Team, in the form of game score sheets, on request. EFFECT: disqualification of a player or team following a review by the appointed protest committee. EXCEPTION: National Team Players

8.6.12.2 Virtual Meeting Protocol

Should the Coaches Meeting be held virtually in the week before the championship, coaches will be required to provide the following information in electronic format within 24 hours of the meeting having concluded:

- a. A copy of your Approved Softball BC Team's Roster (from RAMP).
- b. A copy of the Team's Roster for Provincials, which reflects the

- players attending provincials.
- c. Provide NCCP qualifications for all coaches.
 - d. The signed Softball BC Minor Provincial Player Pick-up Approval form for each pick-up. EFFECT: Pick-ups without documents are ineligible.
 - e. Proof of participation of each player or pick-up in a minimum of three league, exhibition or tournament games with their Registered Minor Team, in the form of game score sheets, on request. EFFECT: disqualification of a player or team following a review by the appointed protest committee. EXCEPTION: National Team Players

Note: Proof of age, in the form of a birth certificate, baptismal certificate, or other recognized government identification, must be provided in person to the Softball BC Supervisor no less than 3 hours prior to the start of the first game for all players and pick-ups.

EFFECT: A player is ineligible until suitable proof of age is provided to the Softball BC Supervisor.

8.6.13. CLASSIFICATION CHANGE - Any team placing 1st in a Provincial Championship must move up in classification, if playing in the same category and having six (6) or more returning players to the team in the following year.

Exception: The following applies only to the women's U20C category. Any team placing 1st in a Provincial Championship returning the following year with six (6) or more returning players, must either

- a. Move to the women's division;
- b. Move to the U19B; or
- c. Remain at U20C and be ineligible for districts and provincials for the first year they return as a U20C team.

8.6.14. PICK-UPS (REFER TO Appendix 'E')

8.6.14.1 Teams may use up to three pickups for Provincial Championships, one or more of which may be coaches, provided that the total number of registered players and coaches on the approved team roster, together with their pickups, does not exceed the maximum number permitted in these Special Operating Rules.

8.6.14.2 Pickup players are not position specific. If a team needs to pick up a player, it must first ask everyone in its district who is eligible whether they are willing to be picked up. This means all players must be asked to be a pickup, not just for a specific position, before a team can go out of district.

- 8.6.14.3 “A” teams may pick up from any District for Provincial Championships. No priority is given to teams within a given District. However, “A” teams must refrain from contacting “B” or “C” players until they have completed their district playdowns.
- 8.6.14.4 The following applies to “B” and “C” teams picking up players for Provincial Championships:
- a. Within a given District, teams will be permitted to pick up in the following order:
 - i. The team that places first at District Championships.
 - ii. The team that is hosting the Provincial Championships.
 - iii. Teams that earned pro rata spots in the Provincial Championships, in the order in which they finished at Districts.
 - b. Each team will be given 48 hours to select their pickups before the next team is given their turn.
 - c. In-District pickups must be approved in writing by the District Minor Coordinator.
 - d. Teams must pick up from within their District where there are players available as defined in the Pick-Up Chart located in Appendix E.
 - e. A player that declines an invitation to be a pickup for a team within their District may subsequently accept an offer to be a pickup for another team within their District, but may not be a pickup for any team outside their District for any Provincial Championship that season.
- 8.6.14.5 In “C” Provincial Championships, only one of a team’s pickups may be a pitcher, and such pickup will be declared at the commencement of the Championship. No other pickup may be used as a pitcher once this declaration is made.
- 8.6.14.6 Out-of-district pickups, where permitted by this section, must be approved in writing by the Minor Coordinators of the District of the team picking up the player and the District of the player.
- 8.6.14.7 As per 8.6.1.2, the head coach must provide a copy of all approved pickup forms to the Softball BC Supervisor at the coaches' meeting held prior to the Provincial Championship. Teams are not required to add their pickup players or coaches to their official team roster.
- 8.6.14.8 A player who is requested to be a pickup and whose team is participating in a Western or National Championship after the Provincial Championship for which they are being picked up must have written permission from their coach before they agree to be picked up. Permission may be indicated by providing a copy of the team’s approved Softball BC roster to the coach of the team picking the player up.

8.7. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT The format of the Provincial Championships shall be qualifying round robin followed by a knockout championship draw with single knockout final.
EXCEPTION: U13C, Article 8.8

8.7.1. ROUND ROBIN DRAW format is provided in Appendix 'A'.

8.7.2. DRAW DATE - All Minor Provincial Championship Draws may be conducted up to one week in advance of the start of championship and may be virtual or in person at the pre- Provincial Championship coaches meeting as preferred by the host and the Softball BC Supervisor. The Host Team may choose to be the highest number in the draw in or can be part of the draw.

8.7.3. HOME TEAM for round robin games will be determined by a coin toss at the coaches meeting. Knockout Championship Draw home team will be determined by the higher seeded team's choice at least 30 minutes prior to the start of those games.
EXCEPTION: In the Championship final game, the undefeated team in the championship round will have the choice of home team at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the final game.

8.7.4. TIME LIMITS:

- a. U19A, U17A, U19B, U17B: none
- b. U20C, U17C, U15A, U15B: no new inning after 90 minutes. A time limit will be in effect for the bronze medal game. No new innings after 90 minutes. No time limit will be in effect for gold medal game.
- c. U13A, U13B, U15C: no new inning after 90 minutes except the gold medal game in the gold division/pool.

8.7.5. Ties are permitted in round robin play. Ties are NOT permitted in playoff games and extra innings must be played until there is a winner. For all playoff games that are tied after 7 complete innings or after time has expired, subsequent innings shall be played using the TIEBREAKER rule.

8.7.6. GAMES WILL END and scores will be:

- a. If the time limit has not been reached after 4½ or 5½ innings, runs and bases touched will count until the time limit is reached, (e.g., home team leading 2-1 in the bottom of the 6th inning with 5 minutes remaining. During those 5 minutes the home team scores 5 runs and leave runners on base when the time limit expires. The final score would be 7-1 and bases touched including the runners left on base would be counted).
- b. If the home team is losing after 4½ or 5½ innings after time has

expired, or 6½ innings whether time has expired or not, all runs scored and bases touched in the play which results in the winning run will be counted in the scoring (e.g., Tie game with only one runner on base at third, the batter hits a ground ball to the outfield and makes it to second base safely as the ball is returned to the infield preventing any further advance beyond that base. The runner on third base will be credited with a base touched and the winning run after crossing home plate on the play. The batter will be credited with two bases touched.)

8.7.7. A Run Ahead Rule shall result in the conclusion of the game when:

- a. After 2 ½ or 3 complete innings of play there is a difference of 15 runs or more. EXCEPTION: after 2 ½, 3, 3 ½, or 4 complete innings of play for U13A and U13B a 10 run mercy rule will be in effect.
- b. After 3 ½ or 4 complete innings of play there is a difference of 10 runs or more runs.
- c. After 4 ½, 5, 5 ½, or 6 complete innings of play there is a difference of 7 or more runs.

8.7.8. A seven run mercy rule will apply in both the round robin and Knockout Championship Draw finals after 4 ½, 5, 5 ½ or 6 innings.

8.7.9. MODIFICATIONS FOR U13A, U13B, U15C, U17C and U20C.

- 8.7.9.1. All players listed on the entry roster shall be on the games rotational batting order unless ill, injured or absent.
INTENT: All available players to participate in the game.
- 8.7.9.2. No penalty applies where a player listed on the rotational batting order becomes ill or injured after the batting order is submitted and cannot play. The next player listed shall take the batting position and that new rotation shall carry on throughout the game. A player who is injured while running the bases and is unable to continue in the game can be replaced by last out player preceding them in the batting order.
- 8.7.9.3. An out will be recorded each time a rotational player scheduled to bat is missing for any other reason.
- 8.7.9.4. Once a player has missed one turn at bat, they may not re-enter the game.
- 8.7.9.5. Where a player has permanent medical issues or disabilities, which may cause intermittent inability to participate in their regular

rotation, there will be no penalty, and that player may be skipped in the batting lineup. Unlimited substitutions may be made if the player bats and requires a substitute runner. If the player is removed from the batting lineup the player may not return to the batting lineup; notification of the possibility of this must be made at the Coaches meeting and at the plate meeting. Medical Certificate is required to outline permanent medical condition.

8.7.9.6. Ties are allowed during round robin play.

8.7.9.7. Unlimited and multiple defensive substitutions may be made at any time and need not be announced to the umpire; EXCEPTION for U13 categories changes to the pitcher should be announced to the umpire.

8.7.9.8. A five run maximum rule shall apply in half innings up to and including the 5th inning. Subsequent innings shall be open.

8.7.9.9. In the U13A, U13B and U15C categories, pitchers may pitch a maximum of 4 innings per game (one pitch is considered an inning). The pitching limit rule is suspended in extra-inning games when the time limit has been reached or in the top of the 8th inning. Disciplinary actions/suspensions will be applied to coaches who do not follow the above rule at the discretion of the Softball BC Supervisor.

8.7.10. **KNOCKOUT CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL QUALIFICATION:**

Teams advancing to the Knockout Championship Draw will be determined and seeded as follows:

- a. Seven teams or less, the top four teams advance to the Knockout Championship Draw as per Appendix 'B' Knockout Championship Draw. Games 1 & 2 should be completed Saturday night.
- b. Eight to 11 teams, the top six teams advance to the Knockout Championship Draw Final as per Appendix 'B' Knockout Championship Draw. Games 1 & 2 should be completed Saturday night.
- c. 12 or more teams, the top eight teams advance to the Knockout Championship Draw Final as per Appendix 'B' Knockout Championship Draw. Games 1 to 4 must be completed Saturday night. If these four games cannot be completed, the format will be a single knockout starting Sunday morning.

8.7.11. **SEEDING**

The final seeding shall be determined as follows:

- a. Won-Loss record. If still tied, then:
- b. When only two (2) teams are tied, the winner of the game between the tied teams is declared the winner. When three or more teams are tied, or when two teams are tied, but have not played each other in the qualifying round, only criteria (c), (d), (e) and (f) will apply in that order.
- c. Combined Run Differential (Total runs for minus total runs against). Note: Run differential limit is +7 or -7 runs per game. If still tied, then:
- d. The least (fewest) runs scored against during the entire qualifying round. (Note: full team records from the qualifying round shall be used). If still tied, then.
- e. Most runs scored for during the entire qualifying round (Note: full team records from the qualifying round shall be used). If still tied, then:
- f. If time and facilities permit, play a tie-breaker game. If time and facilities do not permit, the final seeding will be determined by a coin toss by the Softball BC Supervisor or designate.

8.7.12. U13A, U13B, U15B, U15C, U17B, U17C, U19B, U20C PLAYOFF ROUND:

- a. Teams will be seeded after the round robin as per 8.7.11 SEEDING. All teams shall be placed into playoff pools as follows:
 - i. Eight (8) teams or less: all teams advance to the Gold Division playoff pool.
 - ii. Nine (9) to 15 teams, the top half of the teams advance to the Gold Division playoff pool. The remaining teams advance to the Silver Division playoff pool. In the event there is an odd number of teams, the extra team advances to the Gold Division, subject to approval by the Umpires and Championships Director.
 - iii. 16 or more teams, the top eight teams advance to the Gold Division playoff pool. The remaining teams advance to the Silver Division playoff pool.
- b. The Gold Division playoffs shall be modified double-knockout (Appendix 'B'). The first round of playoff games are to be played Saturday night. Medals shall be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers.
- c. The Silver Division playoffs shall be single-knockout (Appendix 'B'). In the event there are more than eight (8) teams in the Silver Division, playoff games can start Saturday night to eliminate all but eight (8) teams in the Silver Division. All other playoff games are to be played on Sunday. Medals shall be awarded to the 1st and 2nd place finishers only.

8.7.13. If two teams who have put in their Letters of Intent for a Western or Canadian Championship are knocked out at a provincial at the same point in the championship (for example, tied for 6th or tied for 8th) and one or the other team will attend the Championship in the last available spot, the two teams will have a playoff game to determine which team will attend the Championship.

8.8. U13C CHAMPIONSHIP The U13C Regional Championship is meant to be all-inclusive, fun, and meet the competition requirements for Long Term Player Development.

8.8.1. REGIONS:

- #1 District 1, 2, 3
- #2 District 4, 5 6, and 15
- #3 Districts 7, 8, and 14
- #4 Districts 9, 10 and 11
- #5 Districts 12 and 13

In the years where Region #5 does not host its own Regional Championship, Region 5 teams may register for and attend the Region 4 event.

8.8.2. MODIFIED PLAYING RULES:

- 8.8.2.1. Pitching limit of four innings per game.
- 8.8.2.2. A five run maximum rule shall apply in all half innings.
- 8.8.2.3. No new inning after 90 minutes. Time will start at the first warm up pitch and a new inning is deemed to start on the umpire's "out" call for the third out on the home team.
- 8.8.2.4. Replacement players are allowed from U13C and U11C.
- 8.8.2.5. Players must play at least two innings on defense per game.
- 8.8.2.6. All players on roster to be in batting line-up.
- 8.8.2.7. Teams must start games with nine players, but may play with eight due to injury.
- 8.8.2.8. No protests.
- 8.8.2.9. Two umpires per game will be paid by Softball BC.

8.8.2.10. All other Softball BC rules will apply.

8.8.3. **FORMAT:**

8.8.3.1. Round Robin: Three games, all teams seeded into single knockout playoffs in groups of eight seeded per 8.6.11.

Playoffs: Blue Pool –Top 8 teams.

Red Pool – Next 8 teams. White Pool – Next 8 teams,

Yellow Pool – Next 8 teams.

8.8.3.2. Skills and Team Building component.

Participation in all components of the tournament is mandatory.

8.9. U11C CELEBRATION OF SOFTBALL

The intent is to create a fun, year-end participation event for U11C players and teams that will engage both parents and players to continue playing softball. Events are recommended to be mid to late June (prior to the end of the school year). Fun activities such as face painting, dragon races, balloon toss, etc. are encouraged.

8.9.1. Celebration events will include neighbouring districts. Suggested groupings of districts are Districts 1,2,3, Districts 4, 5, 6, 15 Districts 7, 8, 14, Districts 9, 10, 11 and Districts 12, 13.

8.9.2. **Format will be a 3-game round robin only. No playoffs.**

8.9.3. Modified Playing Rules

a. Pitching limit of 2 innings per game

b. All players must play at least 2 innings on defense

c. All players on roster are to be in batting line-up

d. Maximum 4 runs per inning

e. Teams must start with 9 players

f. Teams without 9 players may pick up or combine with another U11C team to a maximum of 12 players from their own district

g. One umpire per game will be paid by Softball BC

h. No protests

i. All other Softball BC rules apply

8.10.U11R SHOWCASE

8.10.1. **Format will be 3 game round robin with all teams seeded into single knockout playoffs in groups of 8 or as needed depending on the number of teams.**

8.10.2. Modified Playing Rules

a. Pitching limit of 2 innings per game

b. All players must play at least 2 innings on defense

c. All players on roster are to be in batting line-up

- d. Maximum 4 runs per inning
- e. Teams must start with 9 players
- f. Teams without 9 players may pick up or combine with another U11C team to a maximum of 12 players from their own district
- g. One umpire per game will be paid by Softball BC
- h. No protests
- i. All other Softball BC rules apply

8.11. COACH & PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

- 8.11.1. ALCOHOL/TOBACCO: minor players and coaches are forbidden to smoke, chew tobacco or have alcoholic products in dugouts, on player's benches or any part of the playing field. EFFECT: ejection.
- 8.11.2. The head coach, or in their absence, another coach shall be responsible for the conduct of the team's attendees. If after a warning from an umpire, Softball BC Supervisor, or Tournament UIC, concerning the behaviour of the team's attendees, they may choose to eject the coach from the game and the game will be forfeited. Note the coach is responsible for the conduct of the attendees before and post-game.

8.12. INTERPROVINCIAL EVENTS

See article 15



Standard Operating Rules

Article 9 - Minor Boys Fastpitch

9.1 MINOR BOYS - DEFINITIONS

- 9.1.1. ALL-STAR TEAM: Team(s) formed of outstanding players chosen from two or more teams playing in an association/ league, to compete in a Provincial Championship, are not allowed.
- 9.1.2. BATS – Use of official Little League bats will be allowed if they meet the requirements of Softball BC Devices including attachments to otherwise official bats, as commercially manufactured and marketed specifically for use by amputee or physically challenged players, and which do not impose an impractical or unreasonable hazard to any participant engaged in the game, will be allowed.
- 9.1.3. BATTING POSITION - A player may touch the lines of the batter's box, but no part of the feet may be outside of the lines prior to the pitch.
- 9.1.4. CHARGED CONFERENCE (DEFENSIVE AND OFFENSIVE) – The defensive conference rule with regard to pitchers and the offensive conference rule are both waived for the U13 and below categories.
- 9.1.5. DESIGNATED PLAYER – The designated player rule is in effect for U15 and above categories.
- 9.1.6. DOUBLE BASE – Minor Only: The offensive player must use the orange portion of the bag if a play is made at first base, and the defensive player must use the white portion.
Exception: On any live ball play from first base side foul territory, the defensive and offensive players may use either portion of the base.
- 9.1.7. DROPPED THIRD STRIKE – In U13 and below categories, the batter is out on the third strike, whether or not the ball is caught. The ball remains alive.
- 9.1.8. PHONES: and ELECTRONIC DEVICES –including mobile phones, tablets, earpieces, smart watches and cameras may not be used on the field of play except in the following circumstances:
 - a. By or under the supervision of a coach for purposes of stats, scorekeeping, and music.
 - b. By a coach for purposes of tracking time.
 - c. In no circumstances may electronic devices be used for purposes of communication amongst participants or between participants and spectators or others outside the game.
- 9.1.9. FOOTWEAR - Metal cleats are not allowed except for Westerns and

Canadians.

9.1.10. HELMETS

In accordance with Softball Canada Regulation 2.1.9, A helmet that is cracked, broken, dented or altered will be declared an illegal helmet and removed from the game.

- a) For an on-deck batter, batter, batter-runner and a runner, a helmet must have two ear flaps (one on each side) and must be of the type that has safety features equal to or greater than those provided by the full plastic cap with padding on the inside. A liner covering only the ears does not meet the specifications of a legal helmet.
- b) For a catcher or a defensive player, a helmet may be the skull type without earflaps.
- c) For U17 categories and below, all on-deck batters, batters and base runners must have an attached face mask.
- d) Youth age players who coach in the first and third base coach's box.
NOTE: A youth age coach registered only as a coach is not required to wear a helmet when coaching in the coach's box.
- e) Youth age representatives that participate as a batboy or batgirl while on the field or in the dugout.

9.1.11. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- a) MASKS. All catchers must wear a mask, throat protector, and helmet. Catchers (or other members of the defensive team) must wear a mask, throat protector and helmet while receiving warm-up pitches from the pitching plate, or in the warm-up area. If the person catching the pitch will not wear the mask, they must be replaced by a person who will do so. An extended wire protection attached to the mask may be worn instead of the throat protector. The ice hockey goalie style facemask is approved for use by catchers. If there is no throat protector built onto the mask, the throat attachment must be added to the mask before using.
 - 1. If the person catching for the pitcher will not wear the mask, after a warning, they will be removed from the game.
 - 2. If the person catching for the pitcher is anyone other than a team member and will not wear the mask after a warning, it shall mean the removal of the coach or manager of the offending team.
- b) FACE MASKS. Any defensive or offensive player may wear an approved plastic face mask/guard. Face masks/guards that are cracked or deformed, or if padding has deteriorated or is missing, are

prohibited from use and must be removed from the game. Catchers may not wear the plastic face mask/guard in place of the regular mask with a throat protector.

Pitchers in the U17 and below categories are required to wear a protective face mask.

c) **BODY PROTECTORS.** All youth/minor catchers must wear a body protector.

d) **SHIN GUARDS.** Youth/minor catchers must wear shin guards that will offer protection to the kneecap.

e) **PROTECTIVE LEG/ ARM GUARDS.** These may be worn by a batter and a batter-runner.

- 9.1.12. **HOME PLATE** – The distance from the plate to the backstop shall be between 17 feet and 25 feet.
- 9.1.13. **INFIELD FLY** – The Infield Fly rule shall not apply to U9 and U11. Does apply to U13 and older.
- 9.1.14. **LEAGUE** – three teams of the same classification.
- 9.1.15. **REPLACEMENT RUNNER:** A replacement runner is a player who may run for the catcher and/or pitcher of record from the previous defensive inning and who is now on base with two out.
- The replacement runner must be:
 - currently in the batting order;
 - the person in the batting order who is furthest from coming to bat and who is not on base.
- 9.1.16. **RETURNING PLAYER:** players registered on a team in the previous year and pick-ups used by the team in Provincial, Western Canadian Championships and Canadian Championships in the prior year.
- 9.1.17. **MALE PLAYER** – A minor male player may play in the girls program up to and including U13C. Two male players may play at U15C on a girls' team.
- 9.1.18. **START TIME** – The time will start after the first warm-up pitch, and a new inning is deemed to start on the umpire's "out" call of the third out on the home team.
- a. U20, U17: no new inning after 90 minutes. No time limit will be in effect for all medal games.
 - b. All other classifications/categories: no new inning after 90 minutes.

No time limit will be in effect for the Gold Pool, Gold Medal Game only.

- 9.1.19. FIELD OF PLAY - The field of play includes all of: the area on the playing field side of the backstop fence bounded by the backstop fence, side fences, extended to the outfield fence of the Playing Field, including the Dugouts.
- Playing Field: The playing field is defined as the fair territory within which the ball may be played and fielded.
 - Dugout: The dugout is dead-ball territory for those who are registered on the Softball BC approved roster only.
- 9.1.20. ON DECK CIRCLE – the on-deck batter has the right to go to either on-deck batting circle as he/she chooses.
- 9.1.21. UNIFORMS – all District, Provincial and sanctioned events must meet uniform regulations detailed in Article 13.
- 9.1.22. OVERTHROWS – applicable to Minor categories: A play in which a ball is thrown from one fielder to another, resulting in the ball going beyond the boundary lines of the playing field or becoming blocked.
- 9.1.23. PROHIBITION – In all minor categories, players and coaches are forbidden to smoke, chew tobacco or have alcoholic products in dugouts, on players' benches or any part of the playing field. Violators will be ejected from the game.
- 9.1.24. RE-ENTRY – When all substitutions have been entered by a team in a game, the Re-Entry rule is waived in the event of injury in all Provincial Championship play. The injured player may not return to the game.
- 9.1.25. FEMALE PLAYERS may play on a male team. The number of female players must not exceed 50%; however, this can be reviewed by the Minor Coordinator and Umpires & Championship Director on a case-by-case basis.
- 9.1.26 TIEBREAKER - Starting with the top of the eighth inning OR the first new inning after time has expired: for each half-inning thereafter until the game ends, the offensive team starts its turn at bat the player scheduled to bat last in that respective half-inning placed on second base as a runner.

9.2 REGISTRATION

- 9.2.1. RECOGNIZED MINOR ASSOCIATION is an association that had minor teams registered with Softball B.C. in the prior year. An organization

wanting to become a new Recognized Minor Association must apply to the Softball BC Board of Directors, setting out why their organization becoming a new Recognized Minor Association is to the betterment of softball in their District and the Province. Where an organization applies to become a new Recognized Minor Association, the existing Recognized Minor Associations within their District will be given the opportunity to make submissions to the Board on the application, and the Board shall consider such submissions in making its decision.

- 9.2.2. MINOR PLAYER REGISTRATION: Minor player registration is complete once a player has committed to the team, has had their name placed as a player on the Softball BC Team Registration Form, no earlier than January 1st of the current playing year. Such commitment is concluded when the team and teams in their category/classification have completed competition at the Provincial, Western Canadian or Canadian Championship level.
- 9.2.3. A minor player who completes registration with more than one team in a current playing year, and whose name is listed on multiple Softball BC Minor Registration forms confirmed by the Minor Coordinator, is considered ineligible for either team, and is ineligible to participate on any team in District, Provincial or extra-Provincial events.
- 9.2.4. Minor players may register with two different teams in the current playing year. A team may be formed in a higher classification (example: players from 'C' teams combine to form a 'B' team) if there is no team registered in that classification already in the District. This team must be made up of players from at least 3 teams of a lower classification. Regular Softball BC Registration Fees will apply.
- 9.2.5. Any coach who allows participation of an ineligible player in Provincial or extra-Provincial events may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Softball BC Discipline Policy.
- 9.2.6. Release
 - 9.2.6.1. Prior to the Team Roster Being Approved by the District Minor Coordinator - A release for a player who has been duly registered by an association and has paid their registration fees shall only be considered if:
 - a. The player submits a written release request to the District Minor Coordinator, which must include a rationale for the release.
 - b. The player's team will not be jeopardized or put in a position of collapse due to the player's release, as confirmed by the player's head coach.

- c. And the District Minor Coordinator agrees that a release is in the player's and their association's best interests.

Once approved, the District Minor Coordinator shall instruct the Association's registrar to strike the player's name from the team's Softball BC Team Registration form. The Coordinator shall also inform the Softball BC Member Services & Communication Manager of the player's release.

- 9.2.62. After the Team Roster Has Been Approved by the District Minor Coordinator - A release for a player who has been duly registered by an association, has paid their registration fees, and whose Team Roster has been approved by the District Minor Coordinator, shall only be considered if:

- a. The player submits a written release request to the District Minor Coordinator no less than seven (7) days before the start of any District playdown. The request must include a rationale for the release.
- b. The player's team will not be jeopardized or put in a position of collapse due to the player's release, as confirmed by the player's head coach.
- c. The player's head coach agrees to the request to remove them from the team's roster, and the player's association registrar agrees to strike the player's name from the team's Softball BC Team Registration form.
- d. The coach and association's registrar from any other team agree to accept the player's registration on their team without affecting the registration of any other player already listed on the approved roster of that team.
- e. And the District Minor Coordinator and Umpires & Championships Director agree that a release is in the player's and the association's best interests.

Once approved, the District Minor Coordinator shall instruct the Association's registrar to strike the player's name from the team's Softball BC Team Registration form. The Coordinator shall also inform the Softball BC Member Services & Communication Manager of the player's release.

- 9.2.8. Any Minor player considered ineligible pursuant to these rules may be subject to disciplinary action.

- 9.2.9. MINOR TEAM REGISTRATION: Minor team registration is complete on the date when the coach or a representative of a Recognized Association has submitted a completed Softball BC Team Registration

is uploaded to the registration site on or before the Final Registration Deadline. Registration is fifteen (15) players and five (5) coaches, except for U20 teams, which is 17 players. Plus, one Approved **Junior** Coach paired with the rostered Mentor Coach. **Junior** Coaches are approved before Rosters are submitted, through the online application (see Article 18).

9.3 MINOR REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- 9.3.1. All team rosters are to be uploaded and marked confirmed by May 31st of the current year. Additions/deletions under extraordinary circumstances will be determined by the designated Minor Coordinator up to and including June 5th of the current year. After June 5th, only the Umpires & Championships Director may authorize additions/deletions to an approved roster.
- 9.3.2. Changes after the deadline must be approved by the Umpires & Championships Director. Such changes shall be processed by the Softball BC office once per week. Changes will be considered for extreme circumstances only.
- 9.3.3. Team registrations received after the deadlines will be assessed a late registration fee of \$100 per team.
- 9.3.4. **The Executive Director can, on an annual basis, extend the above deadlines for an association or district due to exceptional circumstances. When possible, the application for an extension must be made by the association or, in the case of the district, by the Minor Coordinator, 7 days before the deadline in question. Deadlines cannot be extended beyond 7 days before the first provincial event, including the U11 Celebration of Softball, U11 Showcase, 13C Regionals, or Provincials. The approval of an extension will be communicated to the member associations, including the Minor Coordinator, with the district where the extension has been granted.**
- 9.3.5. TRANSFER: The movement of any minor player from one Softball BC Team Registration form to another at any time after a player has committed to an approved Softball BC Team Registration Form in the current year.
- 9.3.6. PLAYER – to be eligible:
 - a. Minor players, managers, and coaches are to be registered on a Softball BC Team Registration Form;
 - b. Pursuant to Article 2 Residence Rule, Minor players must be a resident in the Province of BC, or when attending school out of Province, their parents(s) or legal guardian must be a resident in

the Province of BC on May 1st in the year of registration.

9.3.7. TEAM

9.3.7.1. Maximum Players:

- i. For teams U17 and under, a maximum of 15 players.
- ii. For U20 teams, a maximum of 17 players.

Exceptions may be granted for the regular season only under extraordinary circumstances with the approval of the District Minor Coordinator and the Umpires & Championships Director.

9.3.7.2. Coaches:

Five (5) total team staff members, including coaches, assistant coaches, managers and treasurers, plus one Approved Minor Junior Coach paired with the rostered Mentor Coach. Junior Coaches are approved before Rosters are submitted, through an online application (see Article 18).

9.3.7.3. Minimum nine players in U13 or above.

9.3.7.4. Adult coaches or non-playing coaches may register on and participate with multiple Minor teams in a given year

9.3.7.5. A team that plays in two affiliated leagues or has two home parks will establish their District of registration by considering:

- a. Where most home games are played;
- b. Where most of the players reside.

9.3.7.6. If a recognized league or association registers one team with Softball BC, all other teams registered with or playing under the authority and supervision of that league or association must register with Softball BC Failure to do so may result in all teams in the league or association being ruled ineligible for District or Provincial play.

9.4 MINOR PLAY IN MEN'S

9.4.1. A player 18 years of age or younger may only play with or against Men's or Women's teams as a pickup or registered player with the written consent of the player's parents and the District Minor Coordinator.

9.4.2. In making their decision about whether to permit a Minor player to play with or against Men's or Women's teams, the Minor Coordinator will consider the best interests of the player, the Minor team/ association

which that player is or would otherwise be registered with, and the Men's or Women's team/association with which they wish to play or register. In undertaking this consideration, the Minor Coordinator will consult with the District's Men's and Women's Coordinator as appropriate.

- 9.4.3. A second or third year U20 player may register on a minor team, or on a men's or women's team without needing approval from their District's Minor Coordinator or otherwise.
- 9.4.4. **A team of Minor Players wishing to play against Men's or Women's teams must have written consent from the Appropriate Minor and Men's & Women's Coordinators**
- 9.4.5. Coaches and managers may be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension, if a player works out, practices or plays with or against a Men's or Women's team without first obtaining consent signed by their District's Minor and Men's and Women's Coordinator. Where a minor-aged player is registered on a Men's or Women's team, the consent form must be presented at District playdowns and Provincial Championships.

9.5 GUIDELINES FOR MUSIC FOR ALL SOFTBALL BC REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL EVENTS.

9.5.1 Responsibility

The Head Coach is responsible for ensuring that their team, which includes players, staff, parents/guardians, and spectators, adheres to these guidelines.

Policy

- a) All music (including pre-game/warm-up) must be good taste and profanity-free (otherwise known as "the clean" version)
- b) Between innings, the team on defence gets to play the warm-up music.
- c) To ensure the pace of play is maintained, all music must stop as the batter enters the batter's box. A batter cannot delay the game in order to have a walk-up song played.
- d) The music volume must be set so it does not disrupt other games on adjacent/nearby diamonds.

9.5.1 Authority

The tournament management committee is responsible for implementing this policy.

If the playing of music is delaying or interfering with the game's progress:

- a. A member of the tournament management committee will issue a verbal warning to the head coach.
- b. If the team continues to not adhere to guidelines. The tournament management committee will instruct the coach that they are no longer allowed to use music OR player intros for the remainder of the game.
- c. If the team continues to disregard the guidelines, the tournament management committee will issue a pro tem suspension to the head coach.

9.6 PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (to be read in conjunction with Article 13)

- 9.6.1. All play leading to Provincial Championships, including District Playoffs, must be played according to Softball BC rules.
- 9.6.2. DRAW DATE All Minor Provincial Championship Draws may be conducted up to one week in advance of the start of the championship and may be virtual or in person at the pre-Provincial Championship coaches meeting as preferred by the host and the Softball BC Supervisor. The Host Team may choose to be the highest number in the draw in or can be part of the draw.
- 9.6.3. PICK-UPS (REFER TO ANNEX 'E')
 - 9.6.3.1. Teams may use up to three player pickups and one coach pickup for Provincial Championships, provided that the total number of registered players and coaches on the team, together with pickups, may not exceed the maximum number permitted in these Special Operating Rules.

The following applies to teams picking up players for Provincial Championships:

 - a. Teams can start the pick-up process as of June 15th.
 - b. Teams must pick up from within their District where there are players available in the same category or one lower category.
 - c. In-District pickups must be approved in writing by the District Minor Coordinator.
 - d. Out-of-district pickups, where permitted by this section, must be approved in writing by the Minor Coordinators of both the home District of the team picking up the player and the home District of the player.
 - e. A player that declines an invitation to be a pickup for a team within her or his District may subsequently accept an offer to be a pickup for another team within her or his District, but may not be a pickup for any team outside her or his District for any Provincial Championship that season.
 - f. Pickup players are not position-specific. If a team needs to

pick up a player, they must ask everyone who is eligible in their own district first if they are willing to be pick up (this means that all players must be asked to be a pick up and not just a specific position before a team can go out of district. The Umpires & Championship Director may authorize out of district pickups under extreme and unusual circumstances.

- g. A player who is requested to be a pickup and whose team is participating in a Western or Canadian Championship after the Provincial Championship for which they are being picked up must have written permission of their coach before they may be picked up. Permission may be indicated by providing a copy of the team's approved Softball BC roster to the coach of the team picking the player up.

9.6.3.2. In Provincial Championships only, one of a team's pickups may be a pitcher, and such pickup will be declared at the commencement of the Championship. No other pickup may be used as a pitcher once this declaration is made.

9.7 PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

(Exception: U13, U15) Minor Provincial Championships will include a Modified Round Robin, a Knockout Championship Draw (Elimination Round) with a single knockout final.

9.7.1. **ROUND ROBIN FORMAT AND Knockout Championship Draw WITH A SINGLE KNOCKOUT FINAL** – the following criteria shall be followed. Definition – the final game will be game 6 in a 4 team double knockout, game 10 in a 6-team double knockout, game 12 in a 7-team double knockout, and game 14 in an eight-team double knockout.

9.7.1.1. Games will have a five run maximum rule shall apply in half innings up to and including the 5th inning. Time will start on the warm up pitch, and a new inning is deemed to start on the umpire's "out" call of the third out on the home team. In these categories, no time limit will be in effect for the final game.

9.7.1.2. Games in the Knockout Championship Draw round (or special playoff games that may be necessary) that determine which of the two teams will advance to a Canadian or Western Canadian Championship will have no time limit. (Note: The time limit is waived when only one team of the two will advance to either a Canadian or Western.)

Exception: U15.

9.7.1.3. In the event the home team is losing after 4½ or 5½ innings after time has expired, or 6½ innings whether time has expired or not, all runs scored and bases touched in the play which results in the winning run will be counted in the scoring (i.e. Tie game with only one runner on base at third, the batter hits a ground ball to the outfield and makes it to second base safely as the ball is returned to the infield preventing any further advance beyond that base. The runner on third base will be credited with a base touched and the winning run after crossing home plate on the play. The batter will be credited with two bases touched.)

9.7.1.4. A Run Ahead Rule shall result in the conclusion of the game when:

- a. After 2 ½ or 3 complete innings of play there is a difference of 15 runs or more. EXCEPTION: after 2 ½, 3, 3 ½, or 4 complete innings of play for U13 a 10 run mercy rule will be in effect.
- b. After 3 ½ or 4 complete innings of play there is a difference of 10 runs or more runs.
- c. After 4 ½, 5, 5 ½, or 6 complete innings of play there is a difference of 7 or more runs.

9.7.1.5. Ties are permitted in round robin play. Ties are NOT permitted in playoff games and extra innings must be played until there is a winner. For all playoff games that are tied after 7 complete innings or after time has expired, subsequent innings shall be played using the TIEBREAKER rule.

9.7.2. To be eligible to participate in any Provincial Championship, teams will be required to:

- a. Provide a copy of the Softball BC Team Registration Form, signed by the District Minor Coordinator, to the Softball BC Supervisor. For Provincial Championships, a copy of the Softball BC Team Registration Form for each pick-up must be provided. Provincial Pick-up Approval form is to be submitted to the District Coordinator to verify player eligibility. This form is to be submitted with the team roster at the pre-provincial coaches meeting. Failure to do so will make the player ineligible.
- b. Carry proof of age in the form of a birth certificate, baptismal certificate or other recognized government identification. Photocopies of proof of age documents are sufficient to meet this requirement. For Provincial Championships, proof of age must also be presented for each pick-up player in order for them to participate. Failure to do so will deem the player ineligible, until such time as proof of age is supplied.

- c. Prove participation in a minimum of three (3) games with the team on which they are registered. Participation shall include league, exhibition and tournament games. Players will be required to provide documentation demonstrating a history of playing together throughout the season. Such documentation shall include game score sheets. For Provincial Championships game sheets may also be required for each pick-up. Failure to provide such documentation at District or Provincial Championships upon request of a Softball BC Supervisor may result in the disqualification of a player or team from further participation in the applicable event following a review by the appointed protest committee. Players unable to fulfill the 3 game minimum requirement due to their commitment to the National Team program will be exempt from participating in the 3 game minimum with the team on which they are registered.
- d. In order for a team to compete in a Provincial Championship, the Softball BC Team Registration form must be uploaded and approved by the District Coordinator by the registration date.
- e. The Softball BC Umpires & Championship Director shall provide the District Minor Coordinators with a set of standard tournament draws and rules for all District playoffs.
- f. Minor teams not intending to participate in a particular Provincial Championship will not be permitted to participate in the District playoff leading to the Championship.
- g. A form will be provided for all District Coordinators to notify the Softball BC office of his / her District's intent to participate in each of the categories of Provincial Championships. Failure to make prior notification with the Softball BC office will result in disqualification of that District in further Provincial play.
- h. Any team intending to participate in a Provincial Championship must notify the Softball BC office and the appropriate Tournament Director 15 days prior to the Provincial Championship.
- i. All teams must submit an entrance fee to be eligible to compete in a Provincial Championship. All entry fees are to be submitted to the Softball BC office 10 days prior to the tournament.
- j. Each team participating in a Provincial Championship shall submit a copy of their roster form including any player(s) picked up to the Softball BC Supervisor or designate assigned to any given Championship. (A release form is not necessary.)

9.8 MODIFICATION FOR U13 & U15:

- 9.8.1. All teams players names handed in at the coaches meeting on the Minor Provincial Championship Roster form, to a minimum of nine (9), shall be listed on the lineup card and shall bat accordingly to the lineup on a rotational basis throughout the game. Lineup cards to be handed in 30

minutes before game may or may not contain all of the players on the official players list handed in at the coaches meetings and the sequence may vary per coach's discretion;

- 9.8.2. where due to illness or injury a player listed on the rotational batting order is removed from the game, no penalty shall apply, and the next player listed shall take the batting position and that new rotation shall carry on throughout the game; the player who proceeds them in the batting order and not already on base shall replace a player, who is injured while running the bases and is unable to continue in the game. The player who has left the game due to injury may not return to the lineup;
- 9.8.3. if for any other reason a listed rotational player fails to show up for a game, leaves the game, or is removed by the coach from the game, an out will be recorded each time that rotational player is scheduled to bat;
- 9.8.4. in either case, when a listed rotation player fails to show, leaves, or is removed from the game, under no circumstances shall the player be allowed to re-enter or participate during the remainder of the game;
- 9.8.5. where a player has permanent medical issues or disabilities, which may cause intermittent inability to participate in their regular rotation, there will be no penalty, and that player may be skipped in the batting lineup. Unlimited substitutions may be made if the player bats and requires a substitute runner. If the player is removed from the batting lineup the player may not return to the batting lineup; notification of the possibility of this must be made at the Coaches meeting and at the plate meeting. Medical Certificate is required to outline permanent medical condition;
- 9.8.6. unlimited and multiple defensive substitutions may be made at any time during the game and need not be announced to the umpire. EXCEPTION for U13 categories changes to the pitcher should be announced to the umpire;
- 9.8.7. the Minor time limit shall apply in the 6th inning, or when tied in all subsequent innings, the five run maximum rule is suspended and the game shall rule is suspended with no maximum run limit;
- 9.8.8. pitchers will be limited to a maximum of 4 innings per game (one pitch is considered an inning). The pitching limit rule is suspended in extra-inning games when the time limit has been reached or in the top of the 8th inning.

9.9 KNOCKOUT CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW

- 9.9.1. If the Championship started with 7 teams or less, the top four teams

advance to the Knockout Championship Draw as per Annex 'B' Knockout Championship Draw. Games 1 & 2 should be completed Saturday night.

- 9.9.2. If the Championship started with 8 to 11 teams, the top 6 teams advance to the Knockout Championship Draw Final as per Annex 'B' Knockout Championship Draw. Games 1 & 2 should be completed Saturday night.
- 9.9.3. If the Championship started with 12 or more the top 8 teams advance to the Knockout Championship Draw Final as per Annex 'B' Knockout Championship Draw. Games 1 to 4 must be completed Saturday night. If these 4 games cannot be completed the format will be a single knockout starting Sunday morning.
- 9.9.4. If 2 or more rounds (the same number of games for each team) is complete the top 8 teams will then play a single round robin based upon their standings. If teams are tied in points, run differential and bases touched if a head to head game was played, it will determine standings or if no head to head game played a coin flip will break the tie.
- 9.9.5. And any teams that have a record equal to or better than a 3 wins & 1 loss will advance to the Knockout Championship Draw final as per Annex 'B' Knockout Championship Draw. Games 1 to 4 must be completed Saturday night. If these games cannot be completed, the format will be a single knockout starting Sunday morning.
- 9.9.6. Ties are permitted in round robin play. Ties are NOT permitted in playoff games and extra innings must be played until there is a winner. For all playoff games EXCEPT the final game that are tied after 7 complete innings or after time has expired, subsequent innings shall be played using the TIEBREAKER rule.

9.10.KNOCKOUT CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

- 9.10.1. At the end of the qualifying round the top four or six teams advance to the Knockout Championship Draw final and will be determined as follows:
 - a. Won-Loss record. If still tied, then:
 - b. When only two (2) teams are tied, the winner of the game between the tied teams is declared the winner. When three or more teams are tied, or when two teams are tied, but have not played each other in the qualifying round, only criteria (c), (d), (e) and (f) will apply in that order.
 - c. Combined Run Differential (Total runs for minus total runs against).
Note: Run differential limit is +7 or -7 runs per game. If still tied, then:

- d. The least (fewest) runs scored against during the entire qualifying round. (Note: full team records from the qualifying round shall be used). If still tied, then.
 - e. Most runs scored for during the entire qualifying round (Note: full team records from the qualifying round shall be used). If still tied, then:
 - f. If time and facilities permit, play a tie-breaker game. If time and facilities do not permit, the final seeding will be determined by a coin toss by the Softball BC Supervisor or designate.
- 9.10.2. If two teams who have put in their Letters of Intent for a Western or Canadian Championship are knocked out at a provincial at the same point in the championship (for example, tied for 6th or tied for 8th) and one or the other team will attend the Championship in the last available spot, the two teams will have a playoff game to determine which team will attend the Championship.

9.11. COACH & PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

- 9.11.1. ALCOHOL/TOBACCO: Minor players and coaches are forbidden to smoke, chew tobacco or have alcoholic products in the dugouts, on player's benches or any part of the playing field.
EFFECT: ejection.
- 9.11.2. The head coach, or in their absence, another coach shall be responsible for the conduct of the team's attendees. If after a warning from an umpire, Softball BC Supervisor, or Tournament UIC, concerning the behaviour of the team's attendees, they may choose to eject the coach from the game and the game will be forfeited. Note the coach is responsible for the conduct of the attendees before and post-game.

9.12. INTERPROVINCIAL EVENTS

See article 15



Standard Operating Rules

Article 10 - Women's Fastpitch

10.1 WOMEN'S FASTPITCH CATEGORIES & POST SEASON:

(also see Article 15)

Women's A	Leads to a Canadian Championship
Intermediate A	Leads to a Canadian Championship
Women's B	Provincial Championship only
Women's C	Provincial Championship only
Women's D	Provincial Championship only
U23 Women	Leads to a Canadian Championship

10.2 DEFINITIONS:

- 10.2.1. PROHIBITION – Players and coaches are forbidden to smoke, chew tobacco, and have alcoholic or legal recreational drugs in the dugout or on any part of the playing field. Consequence – violators will be ejected from the game.
- 10.2.2. PREVIOUSLY ROSTERED PLAYER - A player who was listed on the official roster of a team registered with Softball BC during the season in which their medical condition occurred and/ or the immediately preceding season. Proof that the player participated with that registered team prior to their medical condition is required to meet the current season criteria.

10.3 TEAM AND PLAYER CLASSIFICATION

- 10.3.1. Players, managers and coaches are to be registered through Softball BC electronic registration.
- 10.3.2. Each team shall be entitled to carry a maximum of twenty (20) players and five (5) coaches/managers.
- 10.3.3. A player identifying as male shall not be permitted to register on a female team.
- 10.3.4. A player identifying as a female may be permitted to register with either a male team or a female team.
- 10.3.5. Team registration shall be considered final when the team roster has been confirmed and approved by the Men's and Women's District Coordinator, or in the absence of a District Coordinator, the Umpires & Championships Director.

- 10.3.6. A team that plays in multiple leagues, or has multiple home parks will establish their district of registration by considering the following criteria:
10.3.6.1. Where they play a majority of their games;and
10.3.6.1. Where the majority of the players reside.
- 10.3.7. Team registration to Softball BC through the online process is to be complete and confirmed for women's teams by June 15th.
- 10.3.8. The Softball BC team roster is to be approved by the Men's and Women's District Coordinator or in the absence of a District Coordinator, the Umpires & Championships Director by June 30th of the current playing year. Team registrations received after the deadline will be assessed a late registration fee of \$100 per team.
- 10.3.9. Changes to rosters will be permitted using the addition / deletion form as long as there is signoff by both the player and the player's team coach. Changes to rosters must be made by the affected player and the coach signing the addition/deletion form and submitting it to the District Men's and Women's Coordinator, who shall sign the form and submit it to the office. No changes to rosters may be made after the Tuesday prior to the team's Provincial Championship.
- 10.3.10. The Men's and Women's Coordinator may reclassify teams to a higher or lower category as they deem necessary. The coordinator must notify the affected team in writing within seven (7) days of their reclassification. Teams may appeal this reclassification within seven (7) days by notifying their coordinator in writing. Appeals will not be considered after July 7th of the current playing season.

10.4 TEAM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 10.4.1. Manager/coach shall not be eligible to play unless currently registered as an active player, in the proper manner, on the team's Softball BC roster form.
- 10.4.2. Any team placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd in a Provincial Championship in the previous year, and having six (6) or more players returning to the team, will move up one (1) classification. The definition of six (6) or more returning players shall include all players registered on the team, and any pick-ups used by the team at the previous Provincial Championship.
**Exception Intermediate A will move up one classification after placing 1st at their Provincial Championship with at least six (6) returning players, including pick-ups and roster players.
- 10.4.3. A team may return to a lower classification after competing for at least two

(2) years at the higher classification with their Men's & Women's Coordinator approval.

10.4.4. Teams graduating from minor categories shall use the following chart based on their previous year's registration and/or participation at their Provincial Championship. Subject to approval from the Men's & Women's Coordinator:

- U19A to Women's Intermediate A or Women's A
- U19B to Women's B
- U20C to Women's C or Women's D

10.4.5. Each player must have played a minimum of four (4) games with one team in order to participate at the Provincial Championship as a rostered player with that team. Proof of participation will be required at the Pre-Provincial coaches meeting if requested. Exceptions may be made for a previously rostered player recovering from an injury or other medical condition which prevented them from playing the minimum number of games. The Softball BC Supervisor will accept medical clearance for the rostered player in lieu of number of games played.

10.4.6 In the case of a pregnant participant, the player or coach must provide a doctor's note before competing to be added to their registration profile, confirming medical clearance to participate, which also serves as acknowledgment of the risk associated with participation.

10.5 ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION OF TEAMS FOR PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

10.5.1. Teams must submit their provincial entry fee to the Softball BC office no later than 1 month before the championship unless there is the ability of the host to accommodate a late registration.

10.5.2. Every team participating in a Provincial Championship shall submit a copy of their Softball BC roster form, duly authorized by the Men's and Women's Coordinator, and the same for any player or coach pick-up, to the Board Member or designate assigned to that Provincial Championship.

10.5.3. Teams intending to participate in their Provincial Championship are required to notify their Men's and Women's Coordinator of their intent no later than one month before the Provincial Championship. Failure to do so could result in the team not being eligible to attend the championship if space is not available due to venue restrictions.

10.6 PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

10.6.1. DRAW

10.6.1.1. Teams must register for their provincial championships no later than 1 month before the championship begins.

10.6.1.2. Draw will take place fourteen (14) days before the Championship is to begin.

10.6.1.3. When drawing for the tournament, first team drawn will be marked as Team #1 and so on until all team names have been drawn.

10.6.2. FORMAT

10.6.2.1. All teams will play a two (2) game seeding round, with all teams advancing into a modified double knockout elimination round (championship game will be a single knockout final). Host will try to have games start no earlier than 4:00 PM on the Friday of the event and the final game will be scheduled for no later than 4:00 PM on the Sunday of the event.

10.6.2.2. Games are to be scheduled a minimum of two (2) hour time slots.

10.6.2.3. Run difference - [see Softball Canada Rules](#).

10.6.3. QUALIFYING ROUND

10.6.3.1. Home team decided by coin toss at the coaches meeting.

10.6.3.2. Game time starts with the first warm up pitch.

10.6.3.3. Time limit of one hour forty minutes, or seven (7) innings, with no new inning to start after time has expired. (Exception: A game is constituted by 4 ½ or 5 innings. Games must be played out regardless of the time limit to 4 ½ or 5 innings unless the Run Ahead Rule is in effect.) The home team will not bat if they are leading after 6 1/2 innings.

10.6.3.4. A tied game shall be broken by extra innings regardless of the time limit.

10.6.3.5. When there is a stoppage in play due to an injury, the blood rule, or concussion protocol, the game clock shall be stopped.

10.6.3.6. In the event the Home team is losing after 4 ½ or 5 ½ innings, and after time has expired, the game will end with either the final out of the inning, or the play which results in the Home team scoring the winning run.

10.6.3.7. In the event the game is tied at the end of seven (7) innings, or after 4 ½ -6 completed innings, and the time has expired, the tie shall be broken by extra innings (Tie Breaker rule is to be used).

10.6.4. ELIMINATION ROUND

10.6.4.1. Higher seeded team from qualifying round shall have the option of home or visitor

**Exception – If Article 10.6.4.6 comes into effect, which takes priority.

10.6.4.2. Game time starts with the first warm-up pitch.

10.6.4.3. A time limit of one hour forty minutes will be in effect for all games in the Elimination round, with the exception of the final game, which shall have no time limit.

10.6.4.4. When there is a stoppage in play due to an injury, the blood rule, or concussion protocol, the game clock shall be stopped.

10.6.4.5. All ties are to be broken by extra innings All ties are to be broken by extra innings (Note: With the exception of the final game, the Tie Breaker rule is to be used in the Elimination round).

10.6.4.6. In Women's provincials using the modified double knockout format, the undefeated team in the final is given the choice of Home or Visitor.

10.6.4.7. Tie Breaker - The final seeding shall be determined as follows:

a. Won-Loss record. If still tied, then repeat.

b. When only two (2) teams are tied, the winner of the game between the tied teams. When three or more teams are tied, or when two teams are tied, but have not played each other in the qualifying round, only criteria (c), (d), (e) and (f) in that order will apply.

c. Combined Run Differential (Total runs for minus total runs against). Note: Run differential limit is +7 or -7 runs per game.

d. Least runs scored against during entire qualifying round. (Note: full team records from the qualifying round shall be used) If still tied, then.

e. Most runs scored for during entire qualifying round (Note full team records from the qualifying round shall be used) If still tied then.

f. If time and facilities permit, play a tie breaker game. If time and facilities do not permit, the final seeding will be

determined by a coin toss by the Softball BC Supervisor or designate.

10.7 DESIGNATED RUNNER

- 10.7.1. The team may designate one player as a runner. The player shall be called the Designated Runner (DR) and the following shall apply:
- a. The DR must be listed in the starting line up.
 - b. The DR must be listed in the last spot of the starting line up (10th with no DP or 11th with a DP).
 - c. The DR may run for only one player per inning and may do so each time that player becomes a runner in the inning.
 - d. The DR may run for a different player each inning.
 - e. The DR may not bat or play defence.
 - f. An eligible player not in the game may substitute for DR
 - g. The DR may not re- enter the game. Exception: In the event where an injury would result in a forfeit, the DR may enter the game.
 - h. A team is not obligated to use the DR the entire game.

10.8 MASTER FASTPITCH

- 10.8.1. Players of Masters Fastpitch age are allowed to register and play on both a Masters and a Women's Fastpitch team roster. Each team may play in a league with the Women's team roster taking priority in the event both Provincial Championships are being played on the same weekend.
- 10.8.2. Masters Fastpitch Age: Celebrate their 35th birthday by or in the current playing year.
- 10.8.3. Legends Masters Fastpitch Age: Celebrate their 45th birthday by or in the current playing year.
NOTE: Each team MUST present proof of age for all participants at the Provincial Championship to the Softball BC Supervisor.

10.9 NATIONAL TEAM MEMBER

Any team which has a player or coach not available for a Provincial Championship due to that player's commitment to a Canadian National or a Provincial team, shall be permitted, with written approval of the Umpires & Championships Director, a substitute on their roster for that Provincial Championship on the following basis: (this will not count as a pick-up player).

- a. Pitcher for Pitcher
- b. Non-Pitcher for Non-Pitcher
- c. Coach for Coach

10.10 PICK-UPS

10.10.1. To be read in conjunction with Articles 13 (Provincial Championships) for eligibility of players to participate in Provincial play, please refer to Annex "F" Men's and Women's Pick-up chart (Women's teams may pick up from outside their home district).

10.10.2. Teams attending Provincial Championships may pick up a maximum of 3 players.

10.10.3. A player may play in more than one Men's and Women's Provincial Championship, as long as they:

- a. Have fulfilled all obligations to their registered team, and
- b. Have the permission of their team's head coach. This is granted by providing a signed approval on the Softball BC approved roster.

10.10.4. Any team using a pick-up player who is ruled ineligible will be subject to forfeiture at any time during a Championship upon receipt of a formal protest.



Standard Operating Rules

Article 11 - Men's Fastpitch

11.1 MEN'S FASTPITCH CATEGORIES & POST SEASON:

(also see Article 15)

Men's A	Leads to a Canadian Championship
Men's B	Provincial Championship only
Men's Intermediate A	Provincial Championship only
Men's Intermediate B	Provincial Championship only
U23 Men	Leads to a Canadian Championship

11.2 DEFINITIONS:

- 11.2.1. ELECTRONIC DEVICES – Electronic devices (e.g. smartphone, tablet) are not permitted on the field of play.
- 11.2.2. PROHIBITION – Players and coaches are forbidden to smoke, chew tobacco, and have alcoholic or legal recreational drugs in the dugout or on any part of the playing field. Consequence – violators will be ejected from the game.

11.3 TEAM AND PLAYER CLASSIFICATION

- 11.3.1. Players, managers and coaches are to be registered through Softball BC electronic registration.
- 11.3.2. Each team shall be entitled to carry a maximum of twenty (20) players and five (5) coaches/managers.
- 11.3.3. A player identifying as male shall not be permitted to register on a female team.
- 11.3.4. A player identifying as a female may be permitted to register with either a male team or a female team.
- 11.3.5. Team registration shall be considered final when the team roster has been confirmed and approved by the Men's and Women's District Coordinator, or in the absence of a District Coordinator, the Umpires & Championships Director.
- 11.3.6. A team that plays in multiple leagues, or has multiple home parks will establish their district of registration by considering the following criteria:
 - 11.3.6.1. Where they play a majority of their games; and
 - 11.3.6.1. Where the majority of the players reside; and

- 11.3.7. Team rosters are to be submitted for approval through the Softball BC registration process no later than June 30th of the current playing year. Registrations received after the deadline will be assessed a late registration fee of \$100 per team.
- 11.3.8. The Softball BC team roster is to be approved by the Men's and Women's District Coordinator or in the absence of a District Coordinator, the Umpires & Championships Director by July 15th of the current playing year.
- 11.3.9. The addition/deletion form shall be in effect up to and including the day of the Provincials coaches' meeting. Only additions for documented medical reasons, or moved out of the province will be considered for approval by the Men's and Women's Coordinator. After July 1st, approval is to come from the Men's and Women's District Coordinator. After July 1st, approval is to come from the Umpires & Championships Director.
- 11.3.10. The Men's and Women's Coordinator may reclassify teams to a higher or lower category as they deem necessary. The coordinator must notify the affected team in writing within seven (7) days of their reclassification. Teams may appeal this reclassification within seven (7) days by notifying their coordinator and Softball BC in writing. Appeals will not be considered after July 7th of the current playing season.
- 11.3.11. U23 Male team registration – turning 23 the year of the current playing season.

11.4 TEAM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 11.4.1. Manager/coach shall not be eligible to play unless currently registered as an active player, in the proper manner, on the team's Softball BC registration form.
- 11.4.2. Any team placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd in a Provincial Championship in the previous year, and having eight (8) or more players returning to the team, will move up one (1) classification. The definition of eight (8) or more returning players shall include all players registered on the team, and any pick-ups used by the team at the previous Provincial Championship.
**Exception- Intermediate A will move up one classification after placing 1st at their Provincial Championship with at least 8 (eight) returning players including pick-ups and roster players.
- 11.4.3. A team may return to a lower classification after competing for at least two (2) years at the higher classification with their Men's & Women's Coordinator's approval.

11.4.4. Each player must have played a minimum of four (4) games with one team in order to participate at the Provincial Championship as a rostered player with that team. Proof of participation will be required at the Pre-Provincial coach's meeting if requested. Exceptions may be made should a regular member of a given team sustain, or be recovering from an injury which prevented them from playing the minimum number of games. The Umpires & Championships Director shall have sole authority in this decision.

11.5 ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION OF TEAMS FOR PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 11.5.1. Men's teams must submit their provincial entry fee to the Softball BC office no later than 1 month before the championship unless there is the ability of the host to accommodate a late registration.
- 11.5.2. Every team participating in a Provincial Championship shall submit a copy of their Softball BC roster form, duly authorized by the Men's and Women's Coordinator, and the same for any player or coach pick-up, to the Board Member or designate assigned to that Provincial Championship.
- 11.5.3. Teams intending to participate in their Provincial Championship are required to notify their Men's and Women's Coordinator of their intent no later than one month before the Provincial Championship start date. Failure to do so could result in the team not being eligible to attend the championship if space is not available due to venue restrictions

11.6 PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

- 11.6.1. DRAW
- 11.6.1.1. Teams must register for their Provincial Championships one month prior to the Provincial Championship start date.
- 11.6.1.2. Draw will take place fourteen (14) days before the Championship is to begin.
- 11.6.1.3. When drawing for the tournament, first team drawn will be marked as Team #1 and so on until all team names have been drawn.
- 11.6.2. FORMAT
- 11.6.2.1. Four game guarantee with format dependent on the number of teams registered in the Championship.
- 11.6.2.2. Games are to be scheduled a minimum of two (2) hour time

slots.

11.6.2.3. Run difference - see **Softball Canada Rules**.

11.6.2.4. MEN'S MASTER PROVINCIAL FORMAT

Four game guarantee with format dependent on the number of teams registered in the Championship.

11.6.3. QUALIFYING ROUND

11.6.3.1. Home team decided by coin toss at the coaches meeting.

11.6.3.2. Game time starts with the first pitch to the first batter.

11.6.3.3. Time limit of one hour thirty minutes, or seven (7) innings, with no new inning to start after time has expired. (Exception: A game is constituted by 4 ½ or 5 innings. Games must be played out regardless of the time limit to 4 ½ or 5 innings unless the Run Ahead Rule is in effect. With NO EXCEPTION will the home team bat if they are leading after 6 ½ innings

11.6.3.4. A tied game shall be broken by extra innings regardless of the time limit.

11.6.3.5. When there is a stoppage in play due to an injury, the blood rule, or concussion protocol, the game clock shall be stopped.

11.6.3.6. In the event the Home team is losing after 4 ½ or 5½ innings, and after time has expired, the game will end with either the final out of the inning, or the play which results in the Home team scoring the winning run.

11.6.3.7. In the event the game is tied at the end of seven (7) innings, or after 4 ½ -6 completed innings, and the time has expired, the tie shall be broken by extra innings (Tie Breaker rule is to be used).

11.6.4. ELIMINATION ROUND

11.6.4.1. Higher seeded team from qualifying round shall have the option of home or visitor
**Exception – If Article 11.6.4.6 comes into effect, which takes priority.

11.6.4.2. Game time starts with the first pitch to the first batter of the game

11.6.4.3. A time limit of one hour forty minutes will be in effect for all games in the Elimination round, with the exception of the final game, which shall have no time limit.

- 11.6.4.4. When there is a stoppage in play due to an injury, the blood rule, or concussion protocol, the game clock shall be stopped.
- 11.6.4.5. All ties are to be broken by extra innings with no exception. (Note: With the exception of the final game, International, the Tie Breaker rule is to be used in Elimination round).
- 11.6.4.6. In all Men's and Women's provincials using the modified double knockout format, the undefeated team in the final is given the choice of Home or Visitor.
- 11.6.4.7. Tie Breaker - The final seeding shall be determined as follows:
- a. Won-Loss record. If still tied, then
 - b. When only two (2) teams are tied, the winner of the game between the tied teams. When three or more teams are tied, or when two teams are tied, but have not played each other in the qualifying round, only criteria (c), (d), (e) and (f) in that order will apply
 - c. Combined Run Differential (Total runs for minus total runs against). Note: Run differential limit is +7 or -7 runs per game.
 - d. Least runs scored against during entire qualifying round. (Note: full team records from the qualifying round shall be used) If still tied, then:
 - e. Most runs scored for during entire qualifying round (Note full team records from the qualifying round shall be used) If still tied then:
 - f. If time and facilities permit, play a tie breaker game. If time and facilities do not permit, the final seeding will be determined by a coin toss by the Softball BC Supervisor or designate.

11.7 DESIGNATED RUNNER

For Men's Master's categories only.

- 11.7.1. The team may designate one player as a runner. The player shall be called the Designated Runner (DR) and the following shall apply:
- a. The DR must be listed in the last spot of the starting line up (10th with no DP or 11th with a DP).
 - b. The DR may run for only one player per inning and may do so each time that player becomes a runner in the inning.
 - c. The DR may run for a different player each inning.
 - d. The DR may not bat or play defence.
 - e. An eligible player not in the game may substitute for DR.
 - f. The DR may not re- enter the game. Exception: In the event

where an injury would result in a forfeit, the DR may enter the game.

- g. A team is not obligated to use the DR the entire game.

11.8 MASTER FASTPITCH

11.8.1. Players of Masters Fastpitch age are allowed to register and play on both a Masters and a Men's or Fastpitch team roster. Each team may play in a league with the Men's team roster taking priority in the event both Provincial Championships are being played on the same weekend.

11.8.2. Masters Fastpitch Age: Celebrate their 40th birthday by or in the current playing year.

11.8.3. Legends Masters Fastpitch Age: Celebrate their 55th birthday by or in the current playing year

NOTE: Each team MUST present to the Softball BC Supervisor, proof of age for all participants at the Provincial Championship.

11.9 NATIONAL TEAM MEMBER

Any team which has a player or coach not available for a Provincial Championship due to that player's commitment to a Canadian National or a Provincial team, shall be permitted, with written approval of the Umpires & Championships Director, a substitute on their roster for that Provincial Championship on the following basis: (this will not count as a pick-up player).

- a. Pitcher for Pitcher
- b. Non-Pitcher for Non-Pitcher
- c. Coach for Coach

11.10 PICK-UPS

11.10.1. To be read in conjunction with Articles 13 (Provincial Championships). For eligibility of players to participate in Provincial play, please refer to Annex "F" Men's and Women's Pick-up chart (Men's and teams may pick up from outside their home district).

11.10.2. Men's teams attending Provincial Championships do not have a limit for pick-ups.

11.10.3. A player may play in more than one Men's Provincial Championship, as long as they have fulfilled all obligations to their registered team, and have the permission of their team's head coach. This is granted by providing a signed approval on the Softball BC approved roster.

11.10.4. Pick-ups must have written permission from their Head coach in the form of a copy of the Softball BC approved roster form, which must also be signed by the head coach or a designate. Any team using a pick-up player who is ruled ineligible will be subject to forfeiture at any time during a Championship upon receipt of a formal protest.



Standard Operating Rules

Article 12 - Men's, Women's and Co-Ed Slo-Pitch

12.1 SLO-PITCH

12.1.1. MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SLO-PITCH CATEGORIES

(also see Article 15)

Canadian Championships	Provincial Championship
Men's Open A	Intermediate A and B
Women's Open A	Recreational A and B

12.1.2. CANADIAN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S OPEN A

Teams wishing to participate in the Softball Canada Men's or Women's Open Canadian Championship must express their intent to participate, with a formal letter of intent online submission by May 1st of the previous tournament year. Teams that do not comply with these dates will be considered for participation on a space available basis only. The Umpires & Championships Director will determine if the team will be accepted for registration.

The criteria for ranking teams wishing to participate, in order, will be as follows:

- a. Order of finish at the most recent Softball Canada Championship. Teams entering in this tournament years Canadian Championship would be ranked by the previous years Provincial Qualifier.
- b. Host team as determined by Softball Canada Article 1.2 a) team representation slo-pitch.
- c. If there are two teams to be ranked, a two out of three playoff will be arranged in the championship year.
- d. If there are more than two teams to be ranked, a ranking tournament between the teams who have submitted their letter of intent, along with all payments and deposits will be arranged in the championship year.

12.1.3. Any teams that participate in a ranking tournament that do not qualify to attend the Canadian Championship will not be invoiced for Canadian Championship entrance fee.

12.1.4. EQUIPMENT

12.1.4.1. Footwear – No metal cleats allowed in all categories of slo-pitch.

12.1.4.1. Helmets:

- i. Helmets are mandatory for:
 - Batters
 - On Deck Batters
 - Batter-Runners
 - Pitchers (Helmet with Mask)
 - Runners

Effect: Players shall be called out immediately when ordered by the umpire to wear a helmet and fail to do so.

12.1.5. ELIGIBILITY OF TEAMS – CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP CHAMPIONSHIPS

12.1.5.1. In order for a team to be eligible to compete in a Canadian Championship, the team registration form must be processed through the Softball BC electronic registration system by the registration deadline without exception. Note: Slo-pitch registration deadline – May 1st.

12.1.5.2. Each Men's and Women's Coordinator must notify the Softball BC office of team(s) from their District which intend to participate in a Canadian Championship by May 1st of the current year.

12.1.5.3. To be eligible to compete in a Canadian Championship, all teams must submit a Letter of Intent and an entrance fee to Softball BC All entry fees are non- refundable unless the championship has been cancelled.

12.1.5.4. Any team continuing on to a Canadian Championship must notify the Softball BC office. Where vacancies occur, the Umpires & Championships Director shall offer available spots to other teams.

12.1.5.5. Every team competing in a Canadian Championship must submit a roster form under the full membership plan.

12.1.6. REGISTRATION

12.1.6.1. Players, managers and coaches in membership are to be registered using the online registration system.

12.1.6.2. Each team shall be entitled to carry a maximum of seventeen (17) properly registered players. Exception: Women's, Masters and Mixed categories (20).

12.1.6.3. Females may register on a male team, but males are not

allowed to register on female teams except as manager or coach.

12.1.6.5. A team that plays in two leagues or has two home parks will establish their District of registration by considering the following criteria:

- a. Where do they play a majority of their home games?
- b. Where do a majority of the players reside?
- c. Is there a historical precedent to associate the team with a particular District?

12.1.6.5. The registration date for Slo-pitch is August 1st. Team registrations received after the deadline will be assessed a late registration fee of \$100 per team.

12.1.6.6. MINOR AGED PLAYERS:

Any minor aged (under 19 years) player or team, shall not sign or play with a Men's or Women's team until a written consent form from a parent(s) or guardian(s), is received by the District Minor Coordinator, who with the District Men's and Women's Coordinator shall forward their decision in writing to the Softball BC office by April 15 of that playing year and a copy sent to the parent or guardian.

12.1.7. MASTERS SLO-PITCH

12.1.7.1. The representative Masters team from BC participating in a Canadian Championship will comply with the Canadian roster size rule (maximum 20 players).

12.1.7.2. Masters Slo-pitch age:

- Men: (+35): Celebrate their 35th birthday by or in the current playing year.
- Men: (+40): Celebrate their 40th birthday by or in the current playing year.
- Women: Celebrate their 30th birthday by or in the current playing year.

12.1.7.3. Masters Slo-pitch player may coach in any other category.

12.1.7.4. Mixed Masters age:

- Men: 35th birthday by or in the current playing year.
Women: 30th birthday by or in the current playing year.

Softball Canada Rules will be adhered with the exception of the following:

12.2 RUN AHEAD RULE

- 12.2.1. A run ahead rule shall result in the conclusion of the game when:
 - a. After 3 complete innings of play if there is a difference of 25 or more runs.
 - b. After 4 complete innings of play if there is a difference of 20 or more runs.
 - c. After 5 complete innings of play if there is a difference of 15 or more runs.

12.3 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- 12.3.1. FACE MASKS. All pitchers must wear a mask with helmet. Any defensive or offensive player may wear an approved plastic face mask/guard. Face masks/guards that are cracked or deformed, or if padding has deteriorated or is missing, are prohibited from use and must be removed from the game. Masks are recommended in Adult Slo-pitch.

12.4 PLAYERS

- 12.4.1. Co-ed: 10 players – (six males and four females) The batting order must not have more than 3 males in a row.
- 12.4.2. Co-ed with Extra Players (EPs): Twelve players – seven males and 5 females. The batting order must not have more than 3 males in a row.

12.5 ENTERING THE GAME (SUBSTITUTIONS)

- 12.5.1. Temporary Runner (may be used for the pitcher who gets on base, the following provisions apply:
 - a. Optional before two outs – mandatory after two outs.
 - b. may be any player on the line-up card who is not on base at the time of application (even if they have previously been in the game and cannot legally re-enter the game) but cannot be a player who has been ejected or removed from the game for violation of the rules.
 - c. The player who finishes the previous inning in pitching position (or is designated as the pitcher in the line-up card for Home team's first inning at bat) is the only person eligible to have a temporary runner.
 - d. Re-entry and substitution rules are waived for temporary runner.
 - e. If the temporary runner is on base and due to bat, they shall be replaced by another eligible player without penalty.

f. Co-Ed only – Temporary Runner will be gender for gender.

12.5.2. Courtesy runner – is legal for a batter who gets on base. No courtesy runner for open divisions, three courtesy runners for intermediate divisions per game, unlimited courtesy runners for recreational division. The following apply to a courtesy runner:

- a. may be any player on the line-up card who is not on base at the time of application (even if they have previously been in the game and cannot legally re-enter the game) but cannot be a player who has been ejected or removed from the game for violation of the rules.
- b. If the courtesy runner is on base and due to bat, the batter shall be declared automatically out for the at bat. Vi. Co-Ed only – Courtesy Runner will be gender for gender

12.6 BATTING ORDER

12.6.1. In Co-Ed Games, the batting order shall consist of six males and four females, no more than three males in a row (Co-ed).

12.6.2. If a team bats out of order, any player skipped in the order shall be declared automatically out.

12.6 PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

All teams will play a two (2) game seeding round, with all teams advancing into a double knockout elimination round, including the championship game (a second final will be scheduled if the undefeated team loses the first game). When possible, the host will try to have games start no earlier than 4:00 PM on the Friday of the event and the final game will be scheduled for no later than 4:00 PM on the Sunday of the event.

APPENDIX – PLAYING FIELD AND DIAMOND LAYOUT

QUICK REFERENCE TABLE SAFE LINE

(Co-ed, Intermediate and Recreational Divisions Only)

Is a line drawn in foul territory starting at the front corner of home plate closest to third base and perpendicular to the third base line. It shall extend 1.22 m (4ft.) from the third base line in foul territory

APPENDIX – BAT SPECIFICATIONS

OFFICIAL BAT

For open divisions only use 240 compression stem/thumb print on bats. Intermediate divisions same as above plus bats manufactured with 220 compression. These grandfathered bats need to pass a 240 compression test.

APPENDIX – SCORING

a. MAXIMUM HOMERUNS SCORED PER GAME

For Co-ed, women who hit home runs do not count towards total homeruns for the team. Each team is responsible for recovering the ball.

- b. Open divisions – five homeruns, match plus one.
- c. Intermediate divisions – 3 homeruns, match plus one.
- d. Recreational division – 1 homerun, match plus one.



Standard Operating Rules

Article 13 - Provincial Championships

13.1 ELIGIBILITY

13.1.1. INELIGIBLE PLAYER - Upon the discovery of the use of an ineligible player or players in any Softball BC District Zone, Regional or Provincial Championship play, the game shall be forfeited either to the team being played, or the last defeated team, and the team so forfeiting the game shall immediately be reviewed by the Protest Committee to determine whether the team shall be disqualified from the Tournament.

13.2 PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY FEES:

13.2.1. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY FEES

EVENT	FEE
U11C Celebration of Softball	\$400 plus GST
U11Rep Showcase	\$450 plus GST
U13C Regional Championship	\$400 plus GST
U15C Regional Championship (Pilot)	\$400 plus GST
All Minor Provincial Championships	\$600 plus GST
All Men's & Women's Fastpitch Championships	\$600 plus GST
All Slo-Pitch Championships	\$600 plus GST

13.2.2. ON-REFUNDABLE - All Provincial Championship Entry Fees are non-refundable.

EXCEPTION: Men's and Women's Fastpitch. A team unable to participate 21 days before the tournament may apply for a refund of their entry fee less the umpire fees and the expense money.

13.2.3. Tournament UICs of Minor Provincial Championships, at the end of the tournament, are to provide the Softball BC Supervisor an accounting of monies from the Host Association (or Softball BC) to cover the cost of officials and return unused funds to the Softball BC Supervisor who shall in turn return the funds to the Softball BC office.

13.2.4. **DEADLINES** Entry fees for Men & Women's categories are to be submitted to the Softball BC office by June 30th. Failure to submit the entry fee by the deadline will make the team ineligible to participate.

- 13.2.5. FORM OF FEES - All entry fees are to be are to be paid by credit card. Entry Fees not received on time, as stated, will automatically eliminate the team from the Provincial Championship.
- 13.2.6. REQUIRED INFORMATION - The entry fee be accompanied by the following information: team name, category, male or female, coach's name and phone number.

13.3 PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW – General

- 13.3.1. NO CHAMPIONSHIP if there is only one team registered in that category.
- 13.3.2. TWO TEAMS - Two teams will play a best of three series.
- 13.3.3. DRAW - The tournament draw format and actual draw shall be conducted by the Board of Director (or his or her designate) assigned to that tournament. Once the draw and schedule of game times has been made known to the teams and the host association, any changes to the game times shall only be made after consultation with the host association.
- 13.3.4. APPROVAL BY SOFTBALL BC SUPERVISOR
 - The starting times for the draw of all games, time, use of park(s) and all items in the Tournament Kit deemed necessary for the success of all parties connected to the tournament must be approved by the Softball BC Supervisor in charge of the Provincial Tournament. This must be done prior to any announcements, publications, or phone calls to anyone associated with the tournament

13.4 INCOMPLETE CHAMPIONSHIP PROCEDURE

- 13.4.1. MUST PLAY ONE GAME - All teams must play at least one game. If this is not possible, all team names will be put into a lottery and a winner (only) will be drawn by the Softball BC Supervisor (or designate) unless the participating teams unanimously agree to play the tournament at a later date at their own expense. Championships leading to a Western Canadian or a Canadian would have to be rescheduled so as to be able to declare a winner at least 7 days prior to the scheduled departure date to those competitions.
- 13.4.2. INCOMPLETE GAMES that are discontinued shall be resumed at the break-off point that same day or night. If games cannot be completed on the same day or night the following shall apply the next day before the scheduled games:
 - a. Less than 4½ or 5 Innings Played: resume at breakoff point.

- b. Winner after 4½ or 5 Innings: legal game.
 - c. After 5 Tied: resume at breakoff point.
- 13.4.3. REVERT TO SINGLE KNOCKOUT - If no games are played until the last day or is otherwise delayed to the point that insufficient time is available for a modified round robin or double knockout, the tournament format shall revert to a single knock-out using as many parks as possible. If 6 or fewer teams are entered, the Knockout Championship Draw shall be played on one day if there are 2 parks available; or single knockout if only one park available. The order of the draw shall remain the same except for modified round robin formats would now apply their original draw order to a single knockout format. The same number of teams originally slated for the Knockout Championship Draw will use that draw. In the case of a modified round robin format, they will revert back to the last point at which all teams had played an equal number of games.
- 13.4.4. UNDEFEATED RESUME OR LOTTERY - If the Softball BC Supervisor and Host are unable to work 13.4.3, and there is time and place available, subject to the conditions in 13.4.1 above, the undefeated teams shall try to agree to resume the championship at a later date at their own expense and declare a winner. Otherwise, winner shall be determined by lottery of undefeated teams. There will be no second or third place awards.
- 13.4.5. TOURNAMENTS USING MODIFIED ROUND ROBIN FORMAT - If the Softball BC Supervisor and Host are unable to work 13.4.3 or 13.4.4 above, and there is time and place available, subject to the conditions in (a) above, then the teams can agree to resume the championship at a later date (at their own expense), and declare a winner. If the tournament has not progressed past the round robin portion then play would revert back to the point where all teams played an equal number of games and then determine the elimination round qualifiers based on the criteria outlined in Article 8.7.10 Minor Female and 9.6.4. Minor Male. Those elimination round qualifiers would be the teams eligible to agree to move the tournament. If the agreement is not forthcoming then a winner (and second and third) will be declared based on the round robin record. If the tournament has passed the round robin portion and has progressed so that all of the elimination round qualifiers have played at least one game then you would revert back to the last point in the elimination round where the teams have played an equal number of games and select the undefeated teams (in the elimination round) and attempt to reach a mutual agreement regarding moving the tournament. Teams entering the elimination round with only “one life” shall be considered to have one loss in their record. If agreement is not forthcoming then those undefeated teams’ names shall be entered in a lottery and a winner drawn and declared. There will be no drawing of second and third.

- 13.4.6. **PLAYING CONDITIONS** - Prior to the start of the tournament and prior to the start of any game the decision as to the suitability of play (weather conditions or otherwise) shall be made by the Softball BC Supervisor or their appointed designate, in consultation with the UIC. Once a game has started, the Umpires, in consultation with the Softball BC Supervisor, shall decide if it shall continue.
- 13.4.7. **UNDEFEATED TEAM** - If the Championship game has an undefeated elimination round team and a one loss elimination round team, and is unable to continue, the undefeated team shall be declared champion if the game has not progressed 4½ or 5 complete innings. If it has progressed past 4½ or 5 complete innings and the game has been declared legal, but a necessary final (if game) is unable to be played, then the two teams' names will be put in a lottery and drawn for the winner unless those two teams agree upon a resumption of play at another time and place (at their own expense) and subject to the conditions in (a) above.
- 13.4.8. **DEADLINE** - The Softball BC Supervisor shall be required to wait until the final schedule day of the tournament at 12p.m. (for Minor only) or 2p.m. (on an unlit park) or 4p.m. (on a lit park) (Fastpitch) before cancelling the tournament and resorting to drawing for or declaring champions or to moving the championship time and place as per other provisions of this article.
- 13.4.9. **POST PROVINCIAL PLAY** - In any event where the champion was declared by lottery, and where these are championships that lead to a Western Canadian or Canadian, the Softball BC Supervisor shall continue the draw to determine the order of finish as a contingency against the first place winner choosing not to compete further.
- 13.4.10. **SOFTBALL BC SUPERVISOR DISCRETION** - If there are situations that arise that are not covered by this Incomplete Championship Procedure or by other Articles under the Special Operating Rules or Constitution of Softball BC, the Softball BC Supervisor shall have the sole authority to rule on those situations.

13.5 UNIFORMS ON THE FIELD OF PLAY

- 13.5.1. Uniforms, team names, logos and mascots cannot be of a discriminatory or harassing nature.
- 13.5.2. **SHORTS AND PANTS** - Shorts and pants are allowable styles of uniform bottoms. An individual player is allowed to wear the allowable style of uniform bottom of their choice. Regardless of the mix of styles of uniform bottoms on a team, all uniform bottoms of the team must be identical in colour and pattern.

- 13.5.3. All players on a team must wear their uniforms as intended alike in colour, trim, and style.
- 13.5.4. MINOR C - In Minor 'C' Championships full team uniforms are encouraged but proper dress may be shirts which have 6-inch numbers on the back, and caps for boys are mandatory.
- 13.5.5. Metal cleats are allowed in Rep ball at U15 and above. Metal cleats are not allowed in the game of Slo-pitch, Orthodox, Mixed Fastpitch
- 13.5.6. NO JEANS - At District and Provincial Championships coaches may not wear jeans of any colour.

13.6 FORFEIT

- 13.6.1. PROTEST COMMITTEE - Any team which loses a game because of forfeit, default or failure to complete a scheduled game during a District, Zone or Provincial Championship, shall immediately be reviewed by the Protest Committee to determine whether that team will be disqualified from the Tournament.
- 13.6.2. INJURY - In the case of a forfeit because of injury, the Softball BC Board Rep will allow that team to compete in any further games and retain their points from any previous games. The Designated Runner may be subbed in if a team is going to otherwise forfeit the game due to injury causing fewer than 9 players. That player is no longer a DR.
- 13.6.3. RUNS CREDITED - In case of a forfeited game, the winning team is credited with the maximum of ten runs in Slo-pitch and seven runs in Fastpitch.

13.7 UMPIRES (PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS)

- 13.7.1. CURRENT TICKET - Umpires shall not be permitted to umpire in any District or Provincial playoffs without a current Softball BC ticket, which must be obtained on or before June 15th of the current year.
- 13.7.2. UIC - In Provincial Championships, the Provincial Umpire- in-Chief or their appointed representative shall oversee all officiating.
- 13.7.3. ALLOCATION of game officials will be the Tournament Umpire- in-Chief's responsibility and their decision is final.
- 13.7.4. DESIGNATE - If a District Umpire-in-Chief is unable to supervise a Provincial Championship in their District, then their designate must be

appointed by the Provincial Umpire-in- Chief.

13.7.5. NUMBER OF UMPIRES:

13.7.5.1. 'A' (Fastpitch) men and women will use three umpires, subject to availability, per game in all Semi- Final and Final Provincial Championship games.

13.7.5.1. All Slo-pitch categories shall use 1 umpire per game in the Round Robin games and 2 umpires per game in the Elimination games. (Note: Host has the option to supply 2 or 3 umpires).

13.7.5.1. All Minor categories shall use 2 umpires per game (Host, Umpire-in-Chief has the option of using 3 umpires per game).

13.7.5.1. All Provincial Championships that lead to a National Championship shall use the three-umpire system for the Championship round where sufficient umpires are available.

13.7.6. **AUTOMATIC one (1) game suspension when ejected in or after the 5th Inning for a behavioural ejection; this does not pertain to a technical ejection. Any coaches or players who are ejected in the 5th inning or later at Districts or Provincials will automatically receive a one (1) game suspension for the following game.**

13.8 PROTESTS – PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

13.8.1. PROTEST COMMITTEE will be made up of the Tournament Umpire-in-Chief, Tournament Director and the Softball BC Supervisor in charge, or their assigned designate. The Board Representative shall be the Protest Committee Chair.

13.8.2. ELIGIBILITY - Softball BC Supervisor (or their appointee) shall make the final decision on an eligibility protest of a player in a Provincial Championship.

13.8.3. CASH FEE - In Provincial Championships, before the Protest Committee hears the protest, the protesting manager/head coach must submit to the Protest Committee Chair a protest fee of \$50.00 cash. Should the protest be upheld the fee will be returned. Should the protest be denied, the fee will be retained by Softball BC.

13.8.4. SCHEDULE NOT APPEALABLE - There can be no protest on the rescheduling of any games at a Provincial Championship. Failure of a team to appear in any Provincial Championship game shall immediately be reviewed by the Protest Committee to determine whether that team

shall be disqualified from the Championship and further disciplinary action considered by the Board of Directors of Softball BC.

- 13.8.5. RULEBOOKS - The Protest Committee must have a copy of the current Softball BC Handbook and a current Softball Canada Rule Book.
- 13.8.6. SOFTBALL BC SUPERVISOR ROLE - The Softball BC Supervisor shall have the power to act and be in complete charge of all Provincial Championship games.
- 13.8.7. PAUSE TIME - In the event of a protest during a game where a time limit is used the game clock will be paused until the protest has been resolved.
- 13.8.8. DISCIPLINE - Any player or team official that has been ejected from a game before, during or after a Provincial Tournament may be subject to further disciplinary action, to be decided by the Protest Committee or submitted to Softball BC for further investigation.

13.9 TOURNAMENT OBLIGATIONS - PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 13.9.1. LEGAL AGREEMENT - Leagues or Associations having been awarded the Provincial Championship Tournament must fulfill all obligations as specified in the bid and in the signed legal agreement between Softball BC and the organizing League(s) or Association(s).
- 13.9.2. NO LIABILITY FOR DEBT - Softball BC shall not be liable for any claims or indebtedness incurred in the conduct of any Provincial Championship.
- 13.9.3. BALLS - Softballs to be used at Minor, Men's and Women's Fastpitch and Slo-pitch (male and female) Provincial Championships are as follows:

Men and Women Fastpitch	
Jr./Women/Master Women	Cor 47 12" Optic Raised Seam
Jr./Men's and Women's/Master Men	Cor 47 12" Optic Rolled Seam Orthodox
Mixed Fastpitch	Cor 47 12" Optic Rolled Seam
Minor Fastpitch Boys	
U20 'A', 'B' & C boys	12" Optic Rolled Seam
U17 'A', 'B' & 'C' boys	12" Optic Rolled Seam
U15 'A', 'B' & 'C' boys	12" Optic Rolled Seam
U13 'A', 'B' & 'C' boys	11" Optic Rolled Seam
Minor Fastpitch Girls	

U19A, U19B and U20C Girls	12" Optic Rolled Seam
U17 'A', 'B' & 'C' Girls	12" Optic Rolled Seam
U15 'A', 'B' & 'C' Girls	12" Optic Rolled Seam
U13 'A', 'B' & 'C' Girls	11" Optic Rolled Seam
Slo-pitch (all categories – Open/C/D)	
Women's Slo-pitch	ZN 1147SP 11"
Men's Slo-pitch	ZN 1247SP 12"
Mixed Slo-pitch – Men	ZN 1247SP 12"
Mixed Slo-pitch – Women	ZN 1147SP 11"

- 13.9.4. ENTRY PASS ALLOCATION - For ticketed events, teams competing in a Provincial Championship will be entitled to no more than five entry passes for all games, over and above the official player's roster submitted at the coaches meeting.
- 13.9.5. ACCOMMODATION - Leagues and Associations hosting Provincial Championships will advise participating teams upon registration of the accommodations closest to the ballpark being used for this championship.
- 13.9.6. COACH MEETING - Host Associations are required to have a Coaches and Managers meeting prior to the start of the Provincial Championship. The Softball BC Supervisor and the Tournament Umpire-in-Chief must be in attendance.
- 13.9.7. DOUBLE BASE - The Official Double Base is mandatory in all District, Zone and Provincial Playoffs for all categories.

13.10 AWARDS

Softball BC medals will be awarded: Gold to the winning team, Silver to the second place team and Bronze to the third place team.

- 13.11 The Softball BC Supervisor can and may stop the game if grossly mismatched and consent is given by coaches from both teams. The game will scored as +7 runs and +30 bases touched for the winning team.



Standard Operating Rules

Article 14 - Regional & Provincial Championship Bids

14.1 BIDS: All bids for Softball U11C Celebrations, U11Rep Showcases, U13C Regionals & Provincial Championships must follow Provincial requirements:

14.1.1. **DEADLINE** - Bid deadline will be established by the Board of Directors prior to the bid period. Championships that have not been bid on by March 1st will be cancelled for the current season. (Exception: Minor).

NOTE: Application forms to submit bids for Championships can be found on the Softball BC website

14.1.2. **CONTENT** - Bids must include a description of the available facilities and a proposed budget for the event.

14.1.3. **ELIGIBILITY** - Only recognized leagues or associations will be accepted as bidders for Provincial Championships.

14.1.4. **TIMING**

14.1.5.1. Minor category Provincial 'A' Tournaments will begin on the third weekend after the long weekend in July.
EXCEPTION: U15 in Summer Games years.

14.1.5.2. Minor category Provincial 'B' Tournaments will be held on the second weekend after the long weekend in July.

14.1.5.3. Minor category Provincial 'C' Tournaments will be held on the first weekend after the long weekend in July.

14.1.5.4. All Provincial Championships leading to a Canadian or Western Canadian be scheduled at least two weeks prior to the Inter-Provincial Championship.

14.1.5. **RIGHT TO CHANGE** - Softball BC has the right to withdraw, reassign or reschedule any Provincial Championship for reasons including but not limited to:

- a. The hosting fee has not been received.
- b. The Provincial Championship Host Agreement has not been returned to the Softball BC office duly signed by the Coordinator and District Umpire-in-Chief.
- c. Playing conditions are not acceptable.
- d. Planning is not acceptable.
- e. In taking such action the tournament dates will be varied only after every possible effort has been exhausted to find a suitable location for the Championship on the originally scheduled date.

14.1.6. **SOFTBALL BC ROLE** - Softball BC shall conduct and control Provincial Championships. They shall scrutinize the bids to confirm the best possible

site for the Championships.

- 14.1.7. MAY COMBINE - The Board of Directors of Softball BC has the authority to combine two or more Provincial Championships into one site with the approval of the host association(s), providing that the number of teams does not exceed 20 teams.



Standard Operating Rules

Article 15 - Western Canadian or Canadian Championships

15.1 LETTER OF INTENT

1.5.1. To represent BC at a Western Canadian or Canadian Championship, teams must complete and submit a Letter of Intent to Softball BC.

Deadline for submission is as follows:

- Minor (U13-U19) - May 1st of the current playing season
- Adult (fastpitch only) - June 1st of the current playing season
- Adult (slo-pitch only) - June 1st of the year PRECEDING the championship

Note: The president of the minor association or, in the case of an adult team, the team manager will receive notification seven (7) days before the LOI window closing of their team's LOI submissions to date. The same recipient will receive confirmation within 24 hours of the LOI window closing of their team's LOI submission.

1.5.2. In instances where BC is allowed to send more than 4 teams in a designated category to the Canadian Championship, the teams that have submitted an LOI will be provided with an opportunity to retract their LOI by the deadline established by the Softball BC Office.

15.2 MUST ATTEND - Teams that have submitted a Letter of Intent to participate in a Western Canadian or a Canadian Championship, and have qualified for that championship, are obligated to attend. Teams failing to attend **shall result:**

- a. In their Association being subject to a \$2,500 fine from Softball BC and disciplinary action, including but not limited to being declared ineligible for Western Canadian or Canadian Championships for the following season when the team has six or more returning players. If the team is registering as an Independent Adult Team, the team will be subject to the fine and disciplinary action.
- b. The Association may be liable for additional costs, including but not limited to entry fees, administrative fees and penalty assessments made by the Western Canadian Softball Association or Softball Canada, incurred by Softball BC if a replacement team is not found to take that spot. If the team is registering as an Independent Adult Team, the team will be subject to the fine and disciplinary action.

Note: A team cannot intentionally forfeit a game in order to avoid having to decline a berth for the Western Canadian or Canadian Championship. If a team is deemed by the Softball BC Representative assigned to the event to have intentionally forfeited a game, the team's association or in the case of an independent adult team, the team will be subject to the above penalties in 15.2. The team can appeal the decision by providing

a written justification and supporting documentation demonstrating the necessity of the decision.

15.3 REPRESENTATIVE TEAM

The team representing British Columbia at Canadian ('A' Classification) or Western Canadian ('B' Classification) Championships shall be as follows:

- a. BC1: The highest placing team at the qualifying Provincial Championship team to have completed a "Letter of Intent" by the due date.
- b. DEFENDING CHAMPION: Where the defending champion from the previous year's championship is eligible to attend in the same category, and has submitted a "Letter of Intent" by the due date, that team shall be designated as DC.
- c. PRO RATA TEAM - where Softball Canada or Western Canada Softball Association has allocated additional spots to Softball BC, those teams shall be designated as BC2, BC3, BC4, etc. based on their place of finish at the qualifying Provincial Championship.

Note: If two teams who have put in their Letters of Intent for a Western or Canadian Championship are knocked out at a provincial at the same point in the championship (for example, tied for 6th or tied for 8th) and one or the other team will attend the Championship in the last available spot, the two teams will have a playoff game to determine which team will attend the Championship.

15.4 FOLLOW UP - Unless otherwise stipulated by Softball BC before the start of the Provincial Championship, a team that has qualified for a Western Canadian or a Canadian Championship must contact the Softball BC office (Umpires & Championship Director) to confirm their participation and receive further information within 24 hours of the completion of the Provincial Championship.

Note: The Softball BC Representative assigned to a Provincial Championship will notify and remind all teams who qualify for a Western Canadian or a Canadian Championship of the above requirements.

15.5 TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

15.5.1 Where Softball BC has designated funds to assist teams in travel costs to their respective championship, the funds will be paid to the club/association directly. Travel assistance is provided only to the team designated as BC1 (unless the defending champion team finishes higher at the appropriate Provincial Championship and had submitted a Letter of Intent before the deadline, in which case the DC will receive the travel assistance). Funding is based on a formula of number of teams and distance to the championship destination.

15.5.2 RECIPIENTS - The recipients of the team travel fund will be as follows:

1. Teams must participate in a Provincial Championship, providing a championship is held to qualify.
2. Softball BC will determine the funding allocated to teams travelling to Western Canadian and Canadian Championships in the same year as they qualified for the event.
3. The amount of payout to teams is based on how far they travel and other travel funding available.
4. The highest finishing team from the Provincial Championship travelling to a Western Canadian or Canadian Championship is eligible to receive the travel funding. The amount of travel one way must be equal to or greater than 400 kilometres to be eligible. (Ferry travel to and from Vancouver Island is considered to be applied as a 400 km trip).

15.6 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY - To be eligible to participate in any Minor Western or Canadian Championship, all players must have participated in three games in an affiliated league with the team on which they are registered

15.8 CLASSIFICATION OF MINOR PLAYERS

Girls: To be eligible for Western Canadian Championships, all minor 'B' teams must be made up of no fewer than 11 players who have not registered on any 'A' classification team in the preceding year **with the exception U13A**. For the purposes of this, players from teams reclassified from 'A' to 'B' by the Programs & Championships Director pursuant to Articles 8.2.2 d), 8.6.1, 9.2.1.6 and 9.2.10.6 shall be considered 'B' players.

Boys: To be eligible for Western Canadian Championships, all boys' teams must be made up of no fewer than 11 players.

15.9 HOST TEAM:

The host team **for a Western Canadian or Canadian Championship** will be selected by the host association and submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.

Men and Women - If a team from the host association, city and/ or District wins the Provincial Championship, then the second place team in the Provincial Championship would also go to the Canadian or Western Canadian Championship.

MINOR - If a host association/district/city does not compete in Provincials, the host team will be based on the decision of the host, declared prior to the Provincials.

15.10 INTERPROVINCIAL EVENTS - MINOR

Canadian Championships:	U19A Female	U20 Male
	U17A Female	U17 Male
	U15A Female	U15 Male



Standard Operating Rules

Article 16 - Western Canadian or Canadian Championship Bids

- 16.1 BID SELECTION** - Where two or more organizations bid for the same Western Canadian or Canadian Championships, bids must be presented to the Board of Directors at its October Meeting for review and vote. Bids must include a detailed budget.
- 16.2 FEE** - The host association for WCSA submits its \$100 for Minor tournament fees when they submit the WCSA contract.
- 16.3 LOSS** - Softball BC will, upon receipt of a financial statement from the host, supply up to \$2,500.00 should the host report a loss. The grant will be prorated based on the amount of loss, as determined by the Softball BC Executive Director.



Standard Operating Rules

Article 17 - Tournaments, Exhibition Games & League Games

This article applies to all Minor and Men's & Women's Tournaments, Exhibition and League Games. Softball BC's Sport Liability and Participant Accident Insurance does not cover Softball BC members participating in unsanctioned tournaments and exhibition games.

17.1 DEFINITION

- 17.1.1. Exhibition Game - Single game between two opponents.
- 17.1.2. Exhibition Series / Ice Breaker - A series of exhibition games scheduled for the same day or subsequent days between a core group of teams is considered a tournament.
- 17.1.3. League Game - A game scheduled by an oversight body (league executive) for a specific date, time and location between two teams.
- 17.1.4. Tournament - Three or more teams playing a series of games in round-robin, pool play or elimination brackets that take place over one or more days.

17.2 TOURNAMENTS HOSTED BY A SOFTBALL BC MEMBER

All softball tournaments hosted by Softball BC teams and/or associations and held within the Province of BC, must be sanctioned by Softball BC for membership benefits to stand.

17.2.1. APPLYING FOR A SANCTION

- a. Sanction applications are completed online. Team/Association applying for a sanction must be a member in good standing with Softball BC.
- b. RULES All rules, regulations and policies of Softball BC are to be adhered to.
- c. Tournament Sanctions should be obtained at least three (3) weeks prior to the date of the tournament. ANY applications received less than three (3) weeks prior to the tournament may be assessed a late fee of \$50.00. A sanction application MUST be accompanied by the signed / approved by the District UIC - "Online Sanction Request Form".
- d. Tournaments must use Provincial classification when inviting teams to participate in their event. (Senior A, Intermediate B, U23, etc., NOT Division 1, Division 3,... etc.)
- e. The tournament sanction, if granted, will be issued by the Softball BC office with the tournament details being posted to the website.
- f. **Without prior approval from the Umpires and Championship Director,** no sanctions will be issued in conflict with scheduled District Qualifier

- or Regional/Provincial Championships in the area.
- g. To avoid unnecessary confusion and turmoil at the tournament in the event of inclement weather, it is recommended that all tournament organizers adopt some form of rainout rules. Teams should be advised of these rules before they participate in a tournament.
 - h. Umpires **MUST BE** registered with Softball BC or other Softball Governing Body if out of province. Registered umpires must be in an official uniform.
 - i. The tournament host must secure and forward to Softball BC proof of insurance (CGL – Commercial General Liability) from all non-Softball BC Affiliated teams participating in the tournament. Non-Softball BC Affiliated teams are not allowed to participate in the tournament without proof of insurance.
 - j. Softball BC's Injury and Liability Insurance covers teams in good standing with Softball BC when participating in tournaments hosted by a Softball BC Member in good standing. Proof of membership can be verified with the Softball BC Office

17.2.2. **RESULTS**

- a. Any irregularities, problems, conflicts, etc. must be reported to Softball BC within 72 hours after the completion of the tournament.
- b. For Minor Tournaments Only
 - i. The results of all minor tournaments, together with any recommendations as to team classification, shall be forwarded by the tournament hosts to the Softball BC office immediately upon conclusion of the tournament for the use by Association administrators and Minor Coordinators to properly assess and classify teams in their respective Association/District.
 - ii. Failure to submit tournament results may result in having future sanction requests denied.

17.3 IN PROVINCE EXHIBITION **GAMES / SERIES & LEAGUE GAMES**

17.3.1. Softball BC's Injury and Liability Insurance does cover both teams when the game or series is between two Softball BC teams in good standing.

17.3.2. Softball BC Members are **not** allowed to participate in exhibition games/series against teams that are non-Softball BC Members unless the opposing team is duly registered, and by extension sanctioned, by a Softball BC recognized Provincial, National or International Sport Governing Body. Failure to adhere to this requirement will void all Softball BC insurance coverage for the game(s) in question.

17.4 TOURNAMENTS HOSTED BY A NON-SOFTBALL BC MEMBER

Softball BC Members are not allowed to participate in tournaments against or hosted by teams that are non-Softball BC Members unless the opposing team is

duly registered, and by extension sanctioned, by a Softball BC recognized Provincial, National or International Sport Governing Body. Failure to adhere to this requirement will void all Softball BC insurance coverage for the game(s) in question

17.5 PARTICIPATION IN OUT-OF-PROVINCE EXHIBITION / LEAGUE GAME OR TOURNAMENTS

- 17.5.1. In accordance with Softball BC rules, members who wish to play or officiate softball outside of BC, but within Canada, are no longer required to notify the office unless they require a travel permit.
- 17.5.2. The Softball BC's Sport Liability (CGL) and Participant Accident (PA) Insurance does cover members in good standing with Softball BC when participating in out-of-province exhibition games or tournaments as long as the team has the following terms met:
 - a. The Softball Canada affiliated Provincial or Territorial Softball Association has sanctioned the exhibition game or tournament.
 - b. The opposing team is duly registered, and by extension sanctioned, by a Softball BC recognized Provincial, National or International Sport Governing Body.
- 17.5.2.1. Members are responsible for having their own travel medical insurance when traveling out of province to ensure you are covered for out-of-pocket expenses e.g., hospitalization, medication, ambulance, and treatment fees for injuries sustained off the field of play. Please note: The British Columbia Medical Services Plan (BCMSP) does NOT provide medical coverage to you in another province.
- 17.5.3. Softball BC Members are allowed to participate in tournaments against or hosted by teams that are non-Softball BC Members as long as the opposing team is duly registered, and by extension sanctioned, by a Softball BC recognized Provincial, National or International Sport Governing Body.

17.6 PARTICIPATION IN OUT-OF-COUNTRY EXHIBITION GAMES / SERIES OR TOURNAMENTS

- 17.6.1. In accordance with Softball BC rules, members who wish to play or officiate softball outside of Canada, are no longer required to notify the office unless they require a travel permit.
- 17.6.2. The Softball BC's Sport Liability (CGL) and Participant Accident (PA) Insurance does not cover Softball BC members travelling to tournaments or exhibition games outside of Canada

- 17.6.3. Teams are responsible for securing their own insurance which should include:
- a. Commercial General Liability (CGL) Insurance
 - b. And adequate travel medical insurance to ensure you are covered for out-of-pocket expenses e.g., hospitalization, medication, ambulance, and treatment fees for injuries and illness.

Teams can apply to Softball BC for assistance in securing a quote from our insurance broker, SBC Insurance or use another broker of their choice. Please note, a separate form (NOT the Softball BC Travel Advisory Form) will be sent to you to collect the details necessary to provide a CGL and/or travel medical insurance quote.



Standard Operating Rules

Article 18 - Coaching Requirements

18.1 Softball BC Coach Requirements by Category:

A team must have a qualified NCCP coach on the field of play at the Softball BC Celebrations, Showcases, Regionals, District Playdowns and Provincial Championship. The same expectation applies to Western Canadian Championships.

CATEGORY	REQUIREMENT: All Events leading up to and including Provincial Championships	REQUIREMENT: Western Canadian Championships	REQUIREMENT: Canadian Championships (Head Coach)
Girls & Boys Learn to Play, U7, U9	Recommended - Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, PLUS Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered	event not offered
Girls & Boys U11 Community	Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, PLUS Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered	event not offered
Girls & Boys U11 Rep	Community Sport On-Going Participation OR Competition Introduction Weekend #1 AND Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, PLUS Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered	event not offered
Girls U13A	Competition Introduction Trained AND Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, PLUS Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered	event not offered
Girls U13B	Competition Introduction Trained AND Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, PLUS Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	Competition Introduction Certified Trained and Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered
Girls U13C	Community Sport On-Going Participation OR Competition Introduction Weekend #1 AND Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, PLUS Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered	event not offered
Boys U13	Community Sport On-Going Participation, OR Competition Introduction Weekend #1 AND Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, plus Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	Competition Introduction Certified and Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered
Girls U15A	Competition Introduction Trained AND Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, plus Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered	Competition Introduction Certified and Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation *

Girls U15B	Competition Introduction Trained AND Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, plus Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	Competition Introduction Certified and Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered
Girls U15C	Community Sport On-Going Participation OR Competition Introduction Weekend #1 and Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, plus Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered	event not offered
Boys U15	Community Sport On-Going Participation OR Competition Introduction Weekend #1 and Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, plus Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	Competition Introduction Certified, and Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	Competition Introduction Certified and Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation *
Girls U17A	Competition Introduction Trained AND Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, plus Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered	Competition Introduction Certified and Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation *
Girls U17B	Competition Introduction Trained AND Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, plus Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	Competition Introduction Certified and Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered
Girls U17C	Community Sport On-Going Participation OR Competition Introduction Weekend #1 and Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, plus Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered	event not offered
Boys U17	Community Sport On-Going Participation OR Competition Introduction Weekend #1 and Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, plus Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	Competition Introduction Certified and Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	Competition Introduction Certified and Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation *
Women U19A	Competition Introduction Trained AND Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, plus Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered	Competition Introduction Certified and Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation *
Women U19B	Competition Introduction Trained AND Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, plus Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	Competition Introduction Certified and Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered

Women's U20C	Community Sport On-Going Participation OR Competition Introduction Weekend #1 AND Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, PLUS Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered	event not offered
Men's U20	Community Sport On-Going Participation OR Competition Introduction Weekend #1 AND Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, PLUS Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	Competition Introduction Certified and Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	Competition Introduction Certified, plus Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation *
Men & Women U23	Community Sport On-Going Participation OR Competition Introduction Weekend #1 AND Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, PLUS Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered	Recommended - Competition Introduction Certified, plus Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation *
Men's & Women's A	Recommended - Competition Introduction Trained, PLUS Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered	Recommended - Competition Introduction Certified, plus Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation *
Women's Intermediate A	Recommended - Competition Introduction Trained, PLUS Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered	Recommended - Competition Introduction Certified, plus Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation *
Men's & Women's B	Recommended - Competition Introduction Trained, PLUS Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered	event not offered
Men's Intermediate A & B	Recommended - Community Sport Ongoing Participation OR Competition Introduction in Training, PLUS Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered	event not offered
Women's C & D	Recommended - Community Sport Ongoing Participation OR Competition Introduction in Training, PLUS Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered	event not offered
Women's & Men's Masters	Recommended - Community Sport Ongoing Participation OR Competition Introduction in Training, PLUS Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered	Recommended - Competition Introduction Certified, plus Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation *
Men's & Women's Slo-Pitch	Recommended - Community Sport Ongoing Participation OR Competition Introduction in Training, PLUS Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	event not offered	Recommended - Competition Introduction Certified, plus Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation *

18.2 COACHING QUALIFICATION EXEMPTIONS - Softball BC may exempt any coach who, for any unusual or exigent circumstance, may not have achieved the appropriate coaching qualifications for participation in District Playdowns, Regional Championship, Celebrations of Softball, Showcases or Provincial Championships. Coaches requesting an exemption must:

- i. Have completed the Safe Sport and Making Ethical Decisions online modules, and
- ii. Be in a position to demonstrate that all opportunities to obtain required qualifications were exhausted

A request for an exemption must be submitted online via the Softball BC Website.

NOTE: Softball BC cannot grant exemptions from Western Canadian or Canadian Coaching Qualifications requirements.

18.3 JUNIOR COACH PROGRAM

18.3.1 Definitions

- i. **Junior Coach**
 - Must be a Softball BC Rostered Player.
 - Can only coach in categories below their own age, regardless of the category the player is rostered in. For example, a U13-aged player who registers in U15 is, for the purposes of this program, considered a U13-aged player and can coach in the U11 and younger age groups.
 - Must have completed the Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2, and the Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation before submitting the application.
- ii. **Mentor Coach**
 - Must be a Softball BC Rostered Coach.
 - Must be NCCP certified to the level they are currently coaching.
 - Must have completed the online Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation.

18.3.2 Application Procedure

The application forms available on the Softball BC Website

18.4 COACH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTENDEES

The head coach, or in their absence another coach, shall be responsible for the conduct of their team's attendees. If, after a warning regarding the behaviour of a team's attendees from an umpire, the Softball BC Supervisor, or a Tournament UIC, the umpire may choose to eject the coach from the game and the game will be forfeited.

The responsibilities of a coach relative to the team's attendees is in effect prior to the game, during the game, and post-game.

18.5 WHEELCHAIR COACHES

Criteria for on field (coach's box) participation

- a. The wheelchair must be manually propelled. Motorized wheelchairs are not acceptable.
- b. Hazardous areas or protrusions of the wheelchair, as determined by the Softball BC Supervisor, in consultation with the Tournament Umpire-in-Chief and the Tournament Director, will be removed or padded.
- c. In reference to Softball Canada Rule 10.1 should a question pertaining to the safety of any participants, due to the mobility of the wheelchair coach, the plate umpire must consult with the Softball BC Board Supervisor, the Tournament Director and the Tournament Umpire-in-Chief before any action is taken.



Standard Operating Rules

Article 19 - Umpires

19.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

- 19.1.1. Only umpires currently registered and in good standing with Softball BC, may vote on their respective District Umpire-in- Chief position.
- 19.1.2. The designated Umpire-in-Chief of all Minor 'A' Provincial Championships shall not umpire in the Tournament.
- 19.1.3. The designated Softball BC Board Representative shall not umpire in the Provincial tournament.
- 19.1.4. The designated Tournament Umpire-in-Chief of all Men's and Women's, Fastpitch and Slo-pitch Provincial Championships, shall not umpire in the Tournament, except under unusual circumstances.
- 19.1.5. Umpire procedures and duties shall confirm to Rule 3.6 Umpire of the Softball Canada Rulebook.
- 19.1.6. In all Softball BC Championships, Western Canadian Championships (hosted in BC), international tournaments or international tours hosted in BC, requiring Softball BC and / or Softball Canada sanction, the Softball BC Provincial Umpire-in- Chief or his appointed representative, shall select and oversee the assignment of all game officials. International tournaments or international tours shall be defined as "A tournament or tour which has teams from outside North America or national teams from North American countries." All World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) sanctioned events held in BC will be administered by the Softball Canada National Director of Umpires (NDU). The Softball Canada NDU may appoint the Softball BC UIC or his designate to UIC these events.
- 19.1.7. Softball BC shall recognize only one Amateur Umpire Association in BC, that to be the Association that is presently affiliated with BCA.S.A.
- 19.1.8. No District Umpire-in-Chief and/or designate shall receive remuneration for allocating District or BC Championship umpires.
- 19.1.9. All District Umpires-in-Chief must make the Provincial Championship(s) in their District their first priority over invitational tournaments.

19.2 UMPIRE CERTIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION

Softball BC shall follow the Umpire certification criteria for Softball Canada with the certification levels and Provincial/National responsibilities as outlined below.

Level 1	This certification is for a new umpire and allows individuals to officiate local Minor and Men's and Women's recreational softball. To maintain Level I status, a Certification clinic or Refresher Clinic must be taken every year and successfully pass the National Umpire Exam (70%).
Level 2	This certification is for an umpire who has been a Level II for at least two years. This certification allows umpires to officiate local and provincial/territorial Minor level and/or local Men's and Women's softball and consideration for selection as a secondary selection to a U15 or U17 Canadian Championship. To maintain Level II status, a Certification clinic must be taken every 2 years and successfully pass the National Umpire Exam (70%).
Level 3	This certification is for Umpires who has been a Level II for at least 2 years and allows them to Officiate Provincial/Territorial Minor and Men's and Women's softball and qualifies Umpires to officiate U19, U23, Women's, and Masters National tournaments. Individuals must be at least 18 years old. To obtain this certification an Umpire must be invited to a Level III clinic and be evaluated at a U19A or Women's tournament with recommendation from the Championship UIC. To maintain Level III status, a Certification clinic must be taken every year and successfully pass the National Umpire Exam (80%).
Level 4	To obtain this certification, umpires must be a Level III at least 2 years, be recommended by the Provincial UIC, complete a Level IV national clinic, and have recommendations from the U19 Women's.
Level 5	To obtain this certification, umpires must be a Level IV for at least 2 years, attend 2 FP or 1 SP Canadian Championships with successful evaluations and get a recommendation from the National Director of Umpires (NDU) and approved by the Softball Canada Board of Directors.
Emeritus	For the umpire who has retired from on field-work and is working in an administrative role such instructing clinics or evaluating.

19.3 SOFTBALL BC UMPIRE REGISTRATION must be completed online by May 31st of the current year.

19.4 UMPIRE MEMBERSHIP/REGISTRATION shall be granted by the District UIC and approved by the Provincial UIC.

19.5 THE PROVINCIAL UIC may refuse a Softball BC umpire registration for reasons deemed to be characteristic of a member not in good standing. This refusal must be ratified by the Board of Directors of Softball BC.

19.6 THE TERM OF MEMBERSHIP shall begin upon affiliation and payment of set fees, and exist until the next affiliation date of January 1st.

19.7 SOFTBALL BC UMPIRES REGISTRATION / MEMBERSHIP shall be granted after January 1st for the current season.

19.8 SOFTBALL BC UMPIRES are required each year to complete the Softball Canada National Umpires Exam on-line for the certification level they hold as of January 1st of that year.

19.9 EACH DISTRICT UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF will be responsible to schedule all appropriate clinics to be held in their district, notify the office of the dates to be publicized on the Softball BC website and schedule instructors for each clinic working with the PODC Education Officer.

19.10. DRESS AND EQUIPMENT

19.10.1. Softball BC registered umpires must comply with the required Softball BC approved dress code for umpires when umpiring in the province. There will be no exceptions. Umpires assigned to Western and Canadian Championships must comply with the Softball Canada dress code. Umpires traveling out of province will be required to follow the Softball Canada dress code. Failure to comply with the above dress code requirements may result in disciplinary action.

19.10.2. A registered umpire will be expected to comply with all the required protective safety equipment as spelled out in the Softball Canada Umpires Certification Manuals.

19.11. EXPENSES – UMPIRES

All umpires expenditures must be submitted in writing, complete with receipts, directly to the Softball BC office. All expenditures will be subject to the approval of the Provincial Umpire-in-Chief. If the expense claim is approved, the expenditure will be submitted for payment.

19.12. UMPIRE TRAVEL PERMITS

All umpires who are requested to officiate out-of-province must have permission from the Provincial UIC; actions contrary to this may lead to immediate suspension.

19.13. EVALUATIONS AND INTER-PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL TRANSFERS

An incoming umpire shall hold their former Softball Canada level in BC if coming from another Provincial or Territory within Canada. Baseball certified Umpires may join Softball BC at one level below their Baseball certification pending an evaluation by the Provincial Umpire in Chief or their designate.



Standard Operating Rules

Appendix F - Men's and Women's Pickup Chart

YOUR TEAM	M/W A	INTERMEDIATE A	M/W B	M/W C	M/W D	U23A	U23B	U23C	U23D	U19A	U19B	U20C
M/W A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
INTERMEDIATE A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MASTER	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
M/W B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
M/W C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
M/W D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U23A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U23B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U23C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U23D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U19A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U19B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U20C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MAY PICK UP FROM												
MASTER	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U23D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U23C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U23B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U23A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
M/W D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
M/W C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
M/W B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U23B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U23C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U23D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U19A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U19B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U20C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

M/F = Men and Women

- ✓ **Yes**, you may pick up from that category/classification
- ✗ **No**, you may not pick up from that category/classification



Standard Operating Rules

Appendix G - 2026 Age and Distance Chart

2026 AGE AND DISTANCE CHART

CATEGORY	AGE (prior to January 1st of the current year)	YEAR	BALL	PITCHING	BASELINES	FENCE (min - max)
MALE						
Master *	40+	X	12"	46'	60'	225' - 265'
Master *	55+	X	12"	46'	60'	225' - 265'
<i>* In Master Men's Fastpitch, the minimum age limit will be 40 years of age, in the year of the event.</i>						
Men's Fastpitch	X	X	12"	46'	60'	225' - 265'
Men's U23	23 and under	2003 / 2004 / 2005	12"	46'	60'	225' - 265'
Men's U20	20 and under	2006 / 2007 / 2008	12"	46'	60'	225' - 265'
Boys U17	17 and under	2009 / 2010	12"	46'	60'	225' - 265'
Boys U15	15 and under	2011 / 2012	12"	42'	60'	210' - 250'
Boys U13	13 and under	2013 / 2014	11"	38'	55'	170' - 225'
Boys U11	11 and under	2015 / 2016	11"	35'	45'	160' - 225'
Boys U9	9 and under	2017 / 2018	11"	30'	45'	160' - 225'
Boys U7	7 and under	2019 / 2020	11"	30'	45'	160' - 225'

2026 AGE AND DISTANCE CHART

CATEGORY	AGE (prior to January 1st of the current year)	YEAR	BALL	PITCHING	BASELINES	FENCE (min - max)
FEMALE						
Master *	35+	X	12"	43'	60'	210' - 225'
Master *	45+	X	12"	43'	60'	210' - 225'
<i>* In Master Women's Faspitch, the minimum age limit will be 35 years of age, in the year of the event.</i>						
Women's A, B & C	X	X	12"	43'	60'	220' - 235'
Intermediate A Women	X	X	12"	43'	60'	220' - 235'
Women's C	X	X	12"	43'	60'	200' - 210'
Women's U20C	20 and under	2006 / 2007 / 2008	12"	43'	60'	200' - 210'
Women's U19 A & B	19 and under	2007 / 2008	12"	43'	60'	200' - 210'
Girls U17	17 and under	2009 / 2010	12"	43'	60'	180' - 210'
Girls U15	15 and under	2011 / 2012	12"	40'	60'	170' - 210'
Girls U13	13 and under	2013 / 2014	11"	38'	55'	160' - 210'
Girls U11	11 and under	2015 / 2016	11"	35'	45'	150' - 210'
Girls U9	9 and under	2017/2018	11"	30'	45'	150' - 210'
Girls U7	7 and under	2019 / 2020	11"	30'	45'	150' - 210'

2026 AGE AND DISTANCE CHART

CATEGORY	AGE (prior to January 1st of the current year)	YEAR	BALL	PITCHING	BASELINES	FENCE (min - max)
SLO-PITCH						
Men	X	X	12"	50'	70'	300' - 375'
Women's	X	X	11"	50'	65'	225' - 275'
Co-Ed	X	X	12"	50'	65'	275' - 325'

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