



BULLETIN

Bulletin #: 2026-05

Date: March 13, 2026

To: Minor Associations

CC: Board of Directors, Minor Coordinators, and Staff

From: Diane St-Denis, Executive Director

Subject: Townhall - Proposed Policy on Rep Ball Tryouts

The Minor Advisory Council has tasked a working group to develop a proposed policy on Rep Ball Tryouts. As the implementation of a policy that dictates when tryouts can start and how offers to players are administered is considered a significant change in practice, the working group has

elected to provide an opportunity for member associations to share their feedback with the group through a town hall meeting on Wednesday, March 25th, at 7:00 pm.

The working group will speak to the attached proposal and take questions during the townhall. There will also be a post-event feedback form for members to add information that was not addressed during the townhall meeting.

We ask that associations limit their participation to two representatives.

Call Instructions:

Time: Mar 25, 2026 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86457355806?pwd=3Q0TVWbWxNNpBqCSYz0cZPrDtwNvK0.1>

Meeting ID: 864 5735 5806 Passcode: 526522



Rep Ball Tryout Proposal

Goal

Create a fair, transparent policy for rep team tryouts across Softball BC.

Current Issues

- Tryouts are starting earlier each year; the first teams get first picks.
- “Private” tryouts and camps used to secure players early.
- Players are pressured to accept offers immediately, often before leaving the field. • No clear funnel from ‘A’ to ‘B’ tryouts; players risk losing spots if they wait. • Coaches hold too much power; players need time to make decisions that are right for them.
- Coaches and associations can do anything they want; there are no rules.

Key Recommendations

- **U11 Tryouts:** Begin in **March**; fall/winter skill camps still allowed.
Rationale: Early evaluations don’t align with child development.
- **Early Signing:**
 - Allowed for **U15–U19 A/B** only.
 - Up to **6 returning players** can sign during the week before Labour Day
 - Offers must be **written** and accepted by Friday before Labour Day.
- **Looking for feedback on a set tryout start date:**
 - **Option 1:** Sunday of Labour Day weekend
 - **Option 2:** Saturday after the first school week.
- **Offer Rules:**
 - Written offers are valid until **4 PM on day 3** after the official start day and accepted in writing. Players can accept the offer anytime up to the deadline (this is two full days of tryouts plus a school day in both schedule options)
 - Players cannot accept multiple offers, but can entertain multiple offers. ○ Additional offer rounds are allowed if spots remain, but players are always given until the next day at 4 pm to make a decision.

Benefits of a policy

- Players get time to consider offers.
- Reduces the pressure and influence by private camps.
- Promotes transparency and loyalty.
- Aligns with Long-Term Player Development principles.

Implementation

- Education for parents, players, and coaches.
- Standardized forms for early signing and offers.
- Annual timeline announcements by Softball BC.
- Phase-in implementation approach:
 - **2027:** U11 & U13
 - **2028:** U15
 - **2029:** U17
 - **2030:** All rep age



Rep Ball Tryout Proposal

SAMPLE CALENDAR

24	25 Early signing starts U15A/B - U19A/B	26 Early signing U15A/B-U19A/B	27 Early signing U15A/B-U19A/B	28 Early signing U15A/B-U19A/B	29 Early signing U15A/B-U19A/B deadline 4pm	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

SEPTEMBER - TIMELINE SAMPLE 1

/ 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 Rep A Tryouts start U13-U19 Day 1	1 Labour Day Rep A tryouts cont. U13-U19 Day 2	2 Rep A first offer deadline 4pm Day 3 Tryouts continue as necessary	3 Rep A second offer deadline 4pm Tryouts continue as necessary	4 All subsequent offers have deadline of 4pm next day. Tryouts continue as necessary	5	6 Rep B tryouts start U13-U19 Day 1
7 Rep B tryouts cont. U13-U19 Day 2	8 Rep B first offer deadline 4pm Day 3 Tryouts continue as necessary	9 Rep B second offer deadline 4pm Tryouts continue as necessary	10 All subsequent offers have deadline of 4pm next day. Tryouts continue as necessary	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20

SEPTEMBER - TIMELINE SAMPLE 2

/ 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2 First Day of School	3	4	5	6 Rep A tryouts start U13-U19 Day 1
7 Rep A tryouts continue U13-U19 Day 2	8 Rep A first offer deadline 4pm Day 3 Tryouts continue as necessary	9 Rep A second offer deadline 4pm. Tryouts continue as necessary	10 All subsequent offers have deadline of 4pm next day. Tryouts continue as necessary	11	12	13 Rep B tryouts start U13-U19 Day 1
14 Rep B tryouts continue U13-U19 Day 2	15 Rep B first offer deadline 4pm Day 3 Tryouts continue as necessary	16 Rep B second offer deadline 4pm. Tryouts continue as necessary	17 All subsequent offers have deadline of 4pm next day. Tryouts continue as necessary	18	19	20