



BULLETIN

Bulletin #: 2026-12

Date: February 19, 2026

To: Registrars & Presidents - Minor Softball Associations

CC: Board of Directors, Minor Coordinators and Staff

From: Diane St-Denis, Executive Director

Subject: Rural Overage Exemption Pilot

The Board of Directors approved a Rural Overage Exemption Pilot for the 2026 season to support the inclusion of overage players in rural or remote associations who face roster shortages, particularly at the U15C, U17C and U20C. In these communities, one or two additional players can mean the difference between fielding a team or having no program at all.

Definition of "Rural" or "Remote"

The burden of defining "Rural" or "Remote" will fall firstly to the association's District Minor Coordinator and secondly to the Minor Advisory Council, who will ultimately determine whether to approve or deny the Overage Exemption.

Approval Process

1. Requests for approval will be entertained from April 1 until May 15th. The player in question cannot play until the request is approved.
2. Associations must submit their request
 - a. To their District Minor Coordinator for approval. The coordinator will review the request and, if approved, submit it for final review to the Minor Advisory Council Chair.
 - b. The Minor Advisory Council Chair shall facilitate the review of the request by the Minor Advisory Council.

Note: In the case of a district that does not currently have a Minor Coordinator in place (District 3), the association shall submit its request directly to the Minor Advisory Chair (d5minorcoordinator@softball.bc.ca).

Annual Review

Rural Overage Exemption can only be granted for one (1) season.

Participation of Overage Player in Post-Season

Approved overage players may participate in league and tournament play. It is each head coach's responsibility to proactively inform their opponents or the tournament directors of their overage players.

Overage players are not eligible to compete in District Playdowns, Provincials or Western Canadians or Canadian Championships EXCEPT as a pick-up for a team in an age-appropriate category.

ABOUT THE PILOT

1. Roster Exception Model

- Rural U15C, U17C and U20C teams may apply to roster **overage players** when needed to form a viable team OR when an association does not have enough players to form an age-appropriate/gender-appropriate team for the overage players.
- Regardless of how many overage players are on a team's roster, **only 2 overage players** may participate in any given game.
- Roster spots for overage players are IN ADDITION to existing roster limits. Teams may roster a maximum of 15 players (U15C, U17C) or 17 players (U20C) who meet the age-group requirements, and additional roster spots are provided for overage players.
 - **Intent:** Overage players cannot take roster spots away from age-appropriate players
- Overage players:
 - May participate in **league and tournament**. Head coaches are responsible for proactively informing their opponents or the tournament directors of their overage players.
 - Are **not eligible** to compete in District Playdowns, Provincials or Western Canadians or Canadian Championships EXCEPT as a pick-up for a team in an age-appropriate category.

2. Overage Exemption Application Process

- An Overage Exemption request will be entertained from **April 1 until May 15th**. An overage player cannot play until the request is approved. The application form can be found here - <https://www.softball.bc.ca/content/resource-forms>
- **Associations** must apply for an exemption for their team(s) through their **District Minor Coordinator**.
- **The District Minor Coordinator** will review the application to determine whether to support it. If approved by the District Minor Coordinator, the application is then forwarded to the **Minor Advisory Council Chair** for consideration at the next Minor Advisory Council Meeting.
 - In the event the next Minor Advisory Council Meeting is more than 7 days away, the **Minor Advisory Council Chair** will convene a short, virtual **Overage Exemption** meeting with all the **District Minor Coordinators** meeting within 7 days of receiving the application.
 - When considering **Overage Exemptions** at a Minor Advisory Council meeting or an Overage Exemption meeting:

- Each Overage Exemption application will be presented by the **District Minor Coordinator** where the request originates.
 - The **District Minor Coordinator** will explain the rationale for why they support this Overage Exemption.
 - The **Minor Advisory Council** will vote on whether to approve or deny the application.
- All **Minor Coordinators** are responsible for communicating the approved Overage Exemptions and rationale with their Associations in order to minimize the possibility of conflict at diamonds where Overage players are participating.
- All teams with approved Overage Exemptions must disclose any Overage Players on their roster when they attend tournaments or exhibition games.

3. Safeguards

- Overage players are **restricted to pitching** a maximum of 2 innings per game.
 - This rule applies to all tournament games.
 - With the agreement of both coaches, this rule can be ignored in league/exhibition games
 - **Intent:** to encourage the development of age-appropriate pitchers and to avoid overpowering younger players.
- Overage players are **restricted to catching** a maximum of 2 innings per game.
 - This rule applies to all tournament games.
 - With the agreement of both coaches, this rule can be ignored in league/exhibition games
 - **Intent:** to encourage the development of age-appropriate catchers.
- Associations found to be using overage exemptions in a way that denies roster spots for age-appropriate players will be ineligible to apply for future overage exemptions for a period of 2 years.