



Minor Advisory Council

Minutes

June 7, 2026

Attendance

- See Appendix A for the Council attendance chart
- Darren Simpson, Board of Directors Representative (arrived at 8:38 p.m.)
- Diane St-Denis, Executive Director

1. Territorial Acknowledgement and Opening Remarks

K. Weston, vice-chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. She offered a brief land acknowledgement.

2. Quorum

See Annex A

3. Approval of the Agenda

Motion by M. KirkBright, seconded by S. Maion, to approve the agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Approval of Minutes from the last meeting

Motion by S. Maion, seconded by B. Hawkins, to approve the minutes of May 3, 2026, with one edit: add E. Lee to the work group reviewing the Renegades motion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Email Votes - overage approvals only, which were circulated by the chair

6. Business Arising

- a. A feedback letter from Campbell River was provided to the council in the absence of a minor coordinator for D3. K. Weston confirmed the information will be brought forward when the items are discussed.

b. 8.1.25 Bat Person

This item will remain on the agenda until it is addressed in September.

c. 8.1.22 Maximum Games

Moved by S. Maion, seconded by M. Kirkbright, to approve the following edit to 8.1.22 for the 2027 season.

- A player is limited to participating in no more than 20 games as a "pick-up player" at a higher classification and/or category than their own team.**
- Playing in more than 20 games will result in the player being ineligible to participate in any District Playdowns, Provincial Championships, Western Canadian Championships, or Canadian Championships. **The onus is on the player to track their pick-up participation (date/times/team/location) should they need to prove compliance with this regulation.****
- The player may apply for a waiver. A waiver may be granted at the sole discretion of the Umpires & Championships Director in consultation with the relevant Minor District Coordinator. The number of games calculation will run**

from March 1st to June 15th, ~~the start of the provincial championships for that age category~~, and shall include all tournaments, exhibition, and regular-season games, both in and out of province.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ACTION: Motion to be sent to the Board for review. Office to ensure a bulletin is sent out following the Board meeting, if approved.

c. Tryout Policy for Rep Ball

Moved by S. Maion, seconded by E. Lee, to approve the following approach

(Appendix B) to be developed as an SOR.

CARRIED (68%)

(D6 and D8 opposed, D11 abstained)

ACTION: St-Denis will work with Maion to rewrite the content in an SOR format and bring it back to the table for a second vote.

d. Working group recommendation on Renegades Motion

The working group of Edamura, Weston, and Lee secured registration numbers from RAMP (as far back as 2022). The data show that we are strong up to U13 and start losing players when transitioning to U15. We lose approx. 1/3 by U17 and 50% by U19/U20, and significantly more going into Women.

The working group discusses whether a change would help with retention. The group feels that a change would actually cause more overall attrition, even though it might make that particular age group better off. It would begin by informing many players that they no longer have a place to play. A recommendation the group was not comfortable with, as some players would suddenly have nowhere to play if they did not move up to the women's team.

The group noted that Softball Canada's men's division and its women's championships don't align. Men have U15, U17, U20, U23, and men's and master men's. Whereas on the women's side, it's U15, U17, U19, and then women's. There's a whole U23 division that doesn't exist on the women's side, and until Softball Canada fixes that, it would actually give us a place to create a kind of new division where maybe those 19-year-olds could play, but also with the 20s, 21s, and 22s in the U23. Until that happens, it doesn't make sense at this time to recommend to Softball Canada that we realign our age groups, because what would end up happening is that those U19S and U20S who are playing right now would have no place to play.

In addition, Edamura noted that attrition analysis across the A, B, and C categories showed that attrition in the C category increases as players move up in age divisions, leading to a large pool of athletes in U19A ball.

R. Allan noted that Softball Canada previously had a U23 women's division. It eliminated that category due to low registrations.

Based on the working group's recommendation, there was no mover or seconder to pursue the Renegades' recommendation.

ACTION: R. Allen to ask Softball Canada for the rationale for having eliminated the U23 division and also registration data per age category

Board to be informed that the council has rejected the Renegades' motion.

e. Overthrow correction

K. Weston inquired about next steps for the overthrow correction that was circulated to the members.

B. Edamura noted that the council agreed to the change in the SOR. The information was sent to the members as an FYI. L. Crosby agreed at the last meeting to take the review forward to the UIC.

8. New Business

a. RAMP use of "Co-Ed" terminology

K. Weston had inquired about the terminology co-ed" in RAMP. Our SORs

D. St-Denis circulated as part of the meeting that RAMP is designed to include F-on-F and M-on-M teams. The only way to record an M on an F team (which is allowed in certain categories in our SORs) is to change the gender to coed. This is a coding issue. It can't be fixed. AND this isn't new to this year. The word "coed" is only found on the TRF. Consider it an asset in your work, as it signals that the roster includes two genders and that a close look at the gender column is needed.

b. Face visors and specialty glasses

S. Gilbert recently circulated a bulletin clarifying this item.

- i. AI-enabled glasses (e.g., Meta glasses) are treated as communication devices and are therefore not permitted for game participants under Rule 3.4.1.c.iv of the Softball Canada Rulebook. - [See full interpretation](#)
- ii. Face visors are permitted with a caveat. If worn by a pitcher, the visor should not be the same colour as the ball (yellow/optic yellow), as this may create a visual disadvantage for the batter. Preferably, pitching visors should be a neutral colour such as flat black.
- iii. Regular sunglasses currently pose no problem.

ACTION: Office to add clarification in SORs for 2027

c. D9 - 2 teams to U11R Showcase

D. St-Denis noted that she added the letter to the agenda to discuss whether combined teams should be limited to one per district for the U11R Showcase.

After much discussion, the topic was moved to the September meeting, recognizing that precedent had been set with the D9 decision.

d. Motion to alter 8.8.3.1

Submitted motion to alter 8.8.3.1 needs a correction to ensure it references the correct SORs.

K. Weston noted that it should reference 8.7.11 and not 8.6.11. The Council agreed that it was a referencing error and needs to be corrected.

ACTION: Office to fix error in current SORs

e. District Playdowns Time Limits Discussion

B. Edamura and H. Maleka raised the question of whether districts should have to follow provincial regulations, such as time limits.

K. Weston noted that the SORs are silent on Districts having to follow provincial championship SORs.

For 2026, the Council indicated that all districts are to have no time limits.

The outcome was that a motion is needed to break down Article 8 to show what is (i) league rules, (ii) district rules, (iii) provincial rules.

ACTION: Office to work with the Chair to draft a motion to break down Article 8 to show what is (i) league rules, (ii) district rules, (iii) provincial rules.

f. SORs modifications

K. Weston identified several items that need review for the 2027 SORs: There are either typos or references to the wrong rules.

B. Hawkins notes that typos or references to the wrong SORs can be made without a motion. Any other would require a motion.

- Article 7 - Run ahead rule – Maximum of 5 runs per half inning and open after 5 innings – U13C is checked. But Article 8.8.2.2 states that a five-run maximum shall apply in all half innings.
- Article 7 – spelling error – Replacement Runne – should be Replacement Runner.
- Article 7 - Resources U7 Softball – more information about softball can be found at softball.ca/programs/timbitssoftball. This looks like the website is softball.ca/programs/learntoplay
- 8.1.22 Participation - reference to 8.8.25, no article, I believe it should be 8.8.2.5
- 8.1.22 Participation - reference to 8.10.3, no article, I believe it should be 8.10.2b
- 8.4.3 – Remove this as it was part of last year's Handbook and not what was voted on for the motion.
- 8.6.14.7 reference 8.6.1.2 – no such article, I believe it should reference 8.6.12
- START TIME has no time limit and will be in effect for all medal games. 8.7.4 TIME LIMITS – No time limit will be in effect for gold medal games
- 8.7.6 Games will end, and scores will be – A and B reference bases touched. We no longer have bases touched.
- 8.10 U11 R Showcase

Please note that these rules are those for the U11C COS and don't reflect all the rules written in Article 7 as the Softball BC rules for the Showcase – for example, the pitching limit in 8.10.2.a is 2 innings Article 7 is 3 innings.

- 8.10.2.f – this shouldn't be in here as that isn't what was decided in the pick-up appendix; this is a U11C statement.
- 9.7.1.3 bases touched referenced - remove
- 9.9.4 bases touched referenced - remove
- Article 13.2.2 – spelling mistake of Non-refundable; it's listed as On-refundable.
- 13.5.5 needs to add U20C for cleats – but why do we have it in here when it's in article 8.1.9
- 13.11 bases touched referenced - remove
- 18.1.1 i – teams that are eligible to participate in Districts playdowns.....2 coaches registered with the team. Only one (1) needs to be certified. – was in the 2024 handbook – was it removed in 2025? What is our change management for removals?

Move to September

- Following Article all reference Annex but are on the website as Appendix – semantics but doesn't reference right.
 - 9.6.3 references Annex E
 - 9.9.1 references Annex B
 - 9.9.2 references Annex B
 - 9.9.3 references Annex B
 - 9.9.5 references Annex B
 - 10.10.1 references Annex F
 - 11.10.1 references Annex F
 - The table of contents references annexes. But then also Appendices
 - The website calls them Annexes, but then calls them Appendix A - G

Annexes: A

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

- Annex E was modified - motion Dec 4, carried unanimously. But I can't find a reference for it to the Board.
 - This is not correct in the Handbook on page 105, and the website hasn't been updated.

Annex E - Minor Pickup Chart

To be read top to bottom, not right to left

Your team		U19			U20			U17			U15			U13			U11	
may pick up from		A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	Rep	C
	U19	A	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
		B	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	U20	C	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	U17	A	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
		B	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
		C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	U15	A	x	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
		B	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
		C	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	U13	A	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x
		B	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x
		C	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x
	U11	Rep	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x
C		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	

- Esthetics – pages 13, 14 and 17 have a small number on the side that doesn't need to be there.

ACTION: The chair is to bring back the actual wording/changes for the above to a future meeting for review and approval to ensure the correct information is captured.

g. Questions for a MAC meeting

K. Weston also had several questions for the council to discuss. All of these items will be moved to September.

- Article 7 – Helmets should be modified to reflect 8.1.10, as there's no mention of face masks being required.
- Helmets 8.1.10 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 the coach's box. Is the intent of this that if a player on the team is required to coach on 1st or 3rd due to a lack of coaches, they need to have a helmet on. If they are registered only as a coach on one team but a player on another, do they need to wear a helmet?
- 8.1.10e references batboy or batgirl I know that's a copy and paste from Softball Canada but we are calling them batperson. Should we be consistent within our SOR's

- 8.1.1 2 a 2 – I know just copy and paste but should we remove a manager reference?
- 8.1.14 League – should we have R references.
- 8.1.15 Classification – should we have or U11Rep
- 8.3.4.1 should the wording not be the same as article 8.3.4.2.
- Why do we break out A & B but then lump C in with 8.3.4.2 (B)
- 8.3.4.2 no reference to when U11Rep is due, should this be added?
- 8.3.4.3 Team registrations received after the deadlines will be assessed a late registration fee – what date the May 1, 15 or 31st or June 1, 5th?
- 8.3.4.4 – Deadlines cannot be extended beyond 7 days before the first provincial event – shouldn't this read Softball BC event or to include Districts as we are checking approved rosters at Districts.
- 8.4.5 – We only reference in 8.4.1 and 8.4.4 about playing against or play with. But then 8.4.5 mentions practices. Does this need to be rewritten?
- 8.3.5.1 Exceptions may be granted for the regular season – I had a coach question what regular season is. Should this read with a date or clarity that it doesn't include Districts/Provincials rosters have to be set at 15.
- 8.3.6.5 – should this include Rep as a classification.
- 8.6.2 – we reference district playdowns but then call it district qualifications. Should we be consistent? Now that we are driving everyone to the online version which is searchable we should look at the consistency of our wording.
- 8.6.6 c – will submit a list of teams – should that be number of teams.
- Playing time – no player is to sit more than one (1) consecutive inning – what's the consequence? Is it similar to Participation 8.1.22. I ask as at the U11C COS and U11R Showcase we would have to follow this rule.
- 8.6.13 – Exception – the following applies only to the women's U20C category – why do we list it as womens? Shouldn't it just be U20C category otherwise a move to the women's division – seems like they are in that division.
- 8.6.14.4 i. reference District Championships – should that be District Playdowns.
- 8.7. Provincial Championship Format – Exceptions: U13C Article 8.8 – shouldn't that also include U11R as 8.10.1 says single knockout. Although neither technically area Provincial. Or remove the Exception of U13C as it's noted in Article 8.8.

- 13.7.6 Automatic one (1) game suspension – this should be moved out of this article reference as this is 13.7 Umpires (Provincial Championships) In my opinion it should be under Article 8 and 9 or elsewhere in Article 13

ACTION: The chair is to bring back the actual wording/changes or motions for the above to a future meeting for review and approval to ensure correct information is captured.

9. Reports

a. Minor Development Fund

Minor Development was opened on June 1st. The office has been sending reminders to the association about grants open for application. The office will notify the MDF Committee before they meet the total funds available for 2026-27 in accordance with the new terms of use approved by the Board in April.

b. 2026 Championships

S. Gilbert provided a written report.

- U15C Regional Pilot was cancelled due to insufficient participation; only 4 teams confirmed interest.
- PODC has completed most of our UIC assignments. The only remaining events are the U20C Women's Provincial and the U13A Girls Provincial, both hosted by Ridge Meadows. They are still recruiting for these positions, and we will update the host groups once the appointments are finalized.
- All Provincial Championship Supervisor assignments have effectively been completed. The only outstanding need is a partner for Houtan at the U19A Women and U13A Girls Provincials in Ridge Meadows (July 17–19). If no additional Supervisor is identified, Shaquille will work the event alongside him to ensure coverage.
- Provincial registrations for A teams are underway as of June 5th, with B, C & Boys registrations to begin on the 15th after the first weekend of playdowns.
- Final team submission totals to Softball Canada for Canadian Championships June 7th deadline: U15 Women's (9), U17 Women's (10), U19 Women's (7), U17 Men's (1)

Coordinators were seeking clarification as to who was assigned to each event.

ACTION: D. St-Denis to have S. Gilbert email the coordinators the list of assigned supervisors for each event and include the assigned UIC.

c. Board of Directors

i. Work assigned to Governance Committee

The Committee is meeting on June 29th. The chair has received the feedback from the MAC. Priority at this time is to address policies such as SafeSport and other OEI recommendations, as they are tied to funding requirements. A reminder that the committee reports to the Board, so the Board must be the first to hear findings or recommendations.

ii. District Review Working Group

The Committee is meeting on June 17th. It is still in the data-gathering phase. Nothing to report at this time, and we won't anticipate any significant updates until

the fall. A reminder that the working group reports to the Board, so the Board must be the first to hear findings or recommendations.

iii. Assignr

The office shared the proposed evaluation approach with the Umpire Advisory Council. Unfortunately, most didn't understand the assignment: it was to comment on the evaluation approach, not Assignr itself or the pilot. The limited feedback received will be incorporated into the evaluation approach, which will be implemented at the conclusion of the season. We will discuss the evaluation outcomes with the Umpire Advisory Council and provide a formal recommendation to the Board on next steps.

iv. Rural Participation Pilots Evaluations

As previously shared with the Council, the evaluation approach will be implemented in accordance with the timelines listed in the document. A reminder that the working group reports to the Board, so the Board must be the first to hear findings or recommendations.

v. Tournament Sanction Working Group

The working group has met several times over the past few weeks. We have reviewed feedback received through surveys distributed to Tournament Directors and District UICs. Based on that feedback, the group has developed a couple of recommendations, which will be presented to the Board first before any further discussion occurs.

10. Round Table Check-in

Discussion is not recorded.

11. Next Meeting and Adjournment

Moved by B. Edamura, seconded by M. MacDonald, to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APPENDIX A

Quorum

Quorum				
		Weight	In attendance	Votes
1	Bill Hawkins	6	1	6
2	Al Charlesworth	3	1	3
3	vacant			
4	Houtan Maleki	3	1	3
5	Baukje Edamura	3	1	3
6	Liz Lee	4	1	4
7	Shannon Maion	4	1	4
8	Kathy Weston	7	1	7
9	Michelle Kirkbright	5	1	5
10	Margaret MacDonald	3	1	3
11	Amy Douthwright	3	1	3
12	Andy Ferguson	3		0
13	Patrick Beckerton	3	1	3
14	Chris Young	3		0
15	Gord Johnson	3		0
	Total	53		44
	31.8 votes is 60%		11	83.02%

Revised (April 2026) Tryout Recommendations:

Summary:

These recommendations give associations an earliest start date for tryouts and rules around offering roster spots to athletes.

Tryout start dates:

U11R:

- Tryouts can begin anytime after January 1st for the upcoming season.

Additional notes for clarification:

- Fall skill development camps or clinics are permitted.

Rep A/B U13-U19:

- Tryouts cannot start before the Sunday of the Labour Day weekend.

Additional notes for clarification:

- Rep A and Rep B tryouts can happen at the same time or be staggered on different days.
- Tryouts do not need to start on the Sunday of the Labour Day weekend. They can happen anytime after that day but must not start before the Sunday of Labour Day weekend.

Team selection – Offer Rules:

- Offers for a roster spot on a team are made in writing via email or paper.
- Offers are for spots on a roster only and do not guarantee positions or playing time.
- Offers will be made using a provided Softball BC offer template.
- Parents/Guardians of minors will accept or decline the offers on their child's behalf.
- Once tryouts start, athletes can accept or decline offers anytime before the offer deadline.
- No response by the offer deadline is considered a declined offer and the offer is no longer valid.
- Additional offers can be made after first offer deadline. All additional offers have a deadline of 4pm the next day.
- **U11R:**
 - Athletes have until the third day at 4pm after tryouts start to accept or decline a coaches offer. An athlete that does not respond to a coach by 4pm on the third day is considered to have declined the offer and the offer is no longer valid. New offers can be made after the

first offer deadline and athletes are always given until 4pm the next day to accept or decline the offer.

Additional notes for clarification:

- Sample timeline:
Day 1 – Saturday – tryouts start
Day 2 – Sunday – tryouts continue
Day 3 – Monday – offer deadline at 4pm. Additional offers can be made with deadline of 4pm Tuesday. Tryouts can continue.

- **Associations selecting for Rep A and Rep B teams:**

- Rep A:
 - Athletes have until the third day at 4pm after tryouts start to accept or decline a coaches offer. An athlete that does not respond to a coach by 4pm on the third day is considered to have declined the offer and the offer is no longer valid. New offers can be made after the first offer deadline and athletes are always given until 4pm the next day to accept or decline the offer.
- Rep B:
 - Offers can be made to Rep B athletes after 5pm on the fourth day after the start of tryouts.
 - When offers are made, athletes must be given until 4pm the next day to accept or decline the offer.

Additional notes for clarification:

- The offer window for Rep A and Rep B is staggered to allow Rep A teams to send out offers first and then Rep B teams. This allows those players on the cusp of Rep A and Rep B to have an opportunity to be selected by a Rep A team, if that is their goal, before accepting a spot on a Rep B team.
- Sample timeline:
Day 1 – Sunday – tryouts start
Day 2 – Monday – tryouts continue
Day 3 – Tuesday – Rep A first round offer deadline at 4pm. Additional Rep A offers can be made with deadline of 4pm Tuesday. Tryouts can continue.
Day 4 – Wednesday – second Rep A offer deadline 4pm. 5pm Rep B can send out first round of offers with deadline of 4pm Thursday.

Additional tryouts and offers can be ongoing from Day 4 onwards, for Rep A and Rep B, provided all offers have a deadline of 4pm the next day.

- **Associations selecting only Rep B**

- Athletes have until the third day at 4pm after tryouts start to accept or decline a coaches offer. An athlete that does not respond to a coach by 4pm on the third day is considered to

have declined the offer and the offer is no longer valid. New offers can be made after the first offer deadline and athletes are always given until 4pm the next day to accept or decline the offer.

Additional notes for clarification:

- Sample timeline:
Day 1 – Saturday – tryouts start
Day 2 – Sunday – tryouts continue
Day 3 – Monday – offer deadline at 4pm. Additional offers can be made with deadline of 4pm Tuesday. Tryouts can continue.

Implementation Timeline

- September 2026 for the 2027 season

Additional notes for clarification:

- The revised recommendations have been simplified to include a start date, which happens to be the traditional start date for every age group but U11R, and rules around team selection offers. The committee felt that these simplified revised tryout procedures could be implemented right away as they do not require associations to make any additional preparations to host tryouts and associations have the flexibility to conduct tryouts any time that works for them after the earliest start date.

Sample offer template:

Hello,

THANK YOU for participating in the **(association name)** Rep tryouts and for your interest in joining **(name of team)** team.

This email is an official offer for a roster spot for the 2027 season.

Date of offer:

Athlete name:

Team name:

Offer deadline: September 8th, 2026 4pm

Please have a parent/guardian accept or decline this offer, on behalf of the above named athlete, by the deadline listed above. Offers can be accepted or declined at any time before the deadline. No response to an offer is considered a declined offer and the offer becomes invalid. Out of courtesy for the team and other athletes in the tryout process, it would be appreciated if you could let the coach know your athlete's decision, accepting or declining, as soon as that decision is made.

If you have any questions about this offer, please reach out to the head coach.

Please copy and paste the information below with the completed details and email it back to the coach by the offer deadline, as listed above. Thank you.

Date:

Team:

Athlete name:

The athlete, named above, would like to **(ACCEPT or DECLINE)** a spot on the roster for the 2027 season.

Parent/Guardian name:

Parent/Guardian phone number: