



# Minor Advisory Council Minutes

## December 11, 2025

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### Attendance

- Council members (see Appendix A)
- Darren Simpson, Board Liaison
- Shaquille Gilbert, Umpires & Championship Director (Staff Liaison)
- Jim Ullock, Sport Development Director (Staff)
- Diane St-Denis, Executive Director (Staff)

### 1. Territorial Acknowledgement and Opening Remarks

B. Edamura (chair) was called to order at 7:00 PM, followed by a brief territorial acknowledgement and a few opening comments.

### 2. Quorum

Quorum (Appendix A) was present.

### 3. Approval of the Agenda

**Moved A. Ferguson, seconded by A. Dougtrwright, to approve the agenda as circulated.** **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 4. Approval of the Minutes for December 4, 2025

**Moved A. Ferguson, seconded by S. Maion, to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2025, meeting.** **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 5. Email Votes

No email votes since the last meeting.

### 6. Reports

No reports.

### 7. Business Arising

#### a. Rural Participation Working Group Update

B. Edamura provided an update on the Rural Participation Committee. See Appendix B.

#### b. Eliminate bronze medal in silver pool revision

**Moved by H. Maleki, seconded by A. Dougtrwright, to approve the following revisions to SOR 8.6.12.** **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **8.6.12. U13A, U13B, U15B, U15C, U17B, U17C, U19B, U20C PLAYOFF ROUND:**

**a. Teams will be seeded after the round robin as per 8.6.11 **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.**



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- 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.

~~Teams will be seeded after round robin play as per 8.7.11. The top 8 will play in the Gold Division, with the bottom 8 (or less, if less than 16 teams) playing in the Silver Division.~~

- b. The Gold Division playoffs shall be modified double-knockout (Annex '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 (Annex 'J'). 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. New Business

### a. 8.1.22 Maximum 20 Games

The Council discussed the original motion regarding the 20-game limit, which the Board changed. The Council requested that D. St-Denis research the past minute to find the original council proposal and rationale, and share the information with the council to bring it back to the council at their January meeting. It was suggested that we consider developing a waiver form if we retain that language in the SOR moving forward.

### b. SOR 8.5.14 Pick-Ups

The question of whether 8.5.14.2 overrules 8.5.14.3 / Who takes precedence, A or B, was raised last fall when we had the A and B provincials in a specific age category scheduled for the same weekend. K. Weston to prepare a proposal for the next meeting to ensure teams within their districts retain priority over out-of-district A teams.

D. St-Denis questioned whether it is realistic for coordinators to monitor SOR 8.5.14.4. After much discussion, there was no consensus on making a change. No further action required.

### c. 8.5.13 - classification change

D. St-Denis shared the decision from the appeal committee regarding Fleetwood and the committee's feedback on the lack of clarity as it pertains to the exceptions.



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**Moved by B. Hawkins, seconded by M. Kirkbright, to approve the following edits to 8.5.13.**

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

**EXCEPT AT U20C : any team placing 1st in the U20C Provincial Championship must move up to U19B or the Women's division, if playing in the same category and having 6 or more returning players to the team in the following year.**

~~EXCEPT AT U20C and when players from teams placing first, second or third in a Provincial Championship in the previous year, amalgamate into one team the following year, that team must move up one classification if playing in the same category and having a combination of six (6) or more players returning from the former teams that placed first, second or third in the previous Provincial.~~

~~EXCEPT AT U20C, any team placing first or second in a Provincial Championship will remain in the same or higher classification if playing in the next higher category when having six (6) or more players returning to the team, or when amalgamated into one team and having a combination of six (6) or more players from the former teams that placed first or second in the previous Provincial.~~

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

d. Coaching Requirements

This item was moved to the end of the agenda. Due to the late hour, it was not addressed.

(Post meeting note: Coordinators were invited to send any feedback to Jim Ullock to bring to the Coaching Development Committee's attention.)

e. Clarifying redacted rosters

Staff prepared a few recommendations to address concerns raised at the August meeting regarding rosters and privacy protection.

Adjust Pick Up form

The form will be adjusted as follows:

- Include a statement that if approved, you need to bring this form to the coaches' meeting. You do not need the approved roster from the team you are picking up from. You do need to bring proof that they have played three (3) games with their original team.
- The form will only contain the pick-up player's full name, date of birth and gender. The phone number and email address will no longer be listed.

Change to RAMP Rosters

- Staff will work with RAMP to alter the official roster (approved by coordinators)



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### **For Players** - Full name, DOB, gender

- This is the information the District Rep needs to validate the roster and the Softball BC Rep to confirm their eligibility at the Championships.

### **For Team Staff** - Full name, phone number, NCCP #

- This is the information the District Rep needs to validate the roster and the Softball BC Rep to confirm their eligibility at the Championships.

Questions were raised about whether hosts need players' personal contact information in the event of an emergency. D. St-Denis noted that it is the head coach's (or manager's) responsibility to carry with them the emergency contact information (including medical conditions, allergies, etc.) for their team (including coaching staff) as they have the direct duty of care for their participants. She noted that we will make this recommendation to coaches as part of the pre-championship package.

#### f. Tournaments - 2026 Assigned & Scheduled

##### i. Article definitions of "exhibition game, tournament and league play"

**Moved by E. Lee, seconded by M. MacDonald, to approve the addition of these definitions to Article 17.1**

###### **17.1 DEFINITION**

**17.1.1. Exhibition Game(s)** - Single game or double header between two opponents.

**17.1.2. Exhibition Series / Ice Breaker** - A series of exhibition games scheduled for the same day or subsequent days between three or more 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.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

##### ii. Concerns raised on inclusivity in the annual tournament scheduling call

D. St-Denis noted that she missed the tournament scheduling call. She did listen to the recording and heard several individuals make references that Softball BC should host this call to eliminate the perception of bias and add guidelines for how decisions are made to ensure the process is inclusive and open to everyone. She requested that the council discuss the feedback some coordinators heard on the call and reach a consensus on how to proceed.

E. Baujke provided an opportunity for each district coordinator to express their thoughts on the subject. The consensus was unanimous that the Softball BC Office should manage the process from start to finish.

The Office will bring to the next meeting an approach to beginning consultation on the annual tournament scheduling process.



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g. Bat Person

**Moved by M. MacDonald, seconded by B. Hawkins, to approve the addition of 8.1.25**

**A bat person is allowed as long as they:**

1. **wear an approved helmet with a facemask on the field and in the dugout; and**
2. **received training from the coaching staff before each game as to when they are allowed to enter the field of play; and**
3. **remain inside the dugout and only leave the dugout when the play has concluded, and**
4. **remain fully inside the dugout. They cannot stand in the dugout entryway.**
5. **Cannot be younger than 8 years of age.**
6. **Maximum of one bat person per team per game.**

**The umpires must also check the bat person's helmet when they are conducting the pre-game equipment check.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

h. Field of Play - who is allowed access

Adding clarification as to who is allowed in the dugout and field of play during warm-up and the game.

**Moved by H. Maleki, A. Charlesworth to approve the edit to 8.1.24. 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.**

- a. **Playing Field:** The playing field is defined as the fair territory within which the ball may be played and fielded.
- b. **Dugout:** The dugout is dead-ball territory for those who are registered on the Softball BC approved roster only

**NOTE: Only those players and coaches listed on the approved Softball BC roster are allowed on the field of play and in the dugout during warm-ups and the game. Exception: bat person (art. 8.1.25).**

i. 8.3.4 Registration Deadlines

A coordinator raised last summer the need for a later registration deadline due to variations in start dates for their region. Discussion ranged from having a secondary set of dates for specific districts to allowing staff to approve an extension/. D. St-Denis noted that staff have no authority within the SOR to provide an extension. To that end, she recommended staff draft language to include in SOR 8.3.4. MINOR REGISTRATION DEADLINE that allows the ED to extend the deadline for an association or district due to exceptional circumstances. A draft will be brought to the next meeting.



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### j. U13 DP/Flex

The Western Canadian Softball Association plays regular substitution rules (bat nine and play nine defence). Other than BC, none of the other WCSA members allow the DP/Flex Rule in U13. D. St-Denis wanted to engage the council in a discussion about whether we should review our SORs for alignment. This item was moved to the next meeting.

### k. Western Canadian Softball Association

i. D. St-Denis reported that BC is now the office and the treasurer for the WCSA.

#### ii. Motion to edit the Handbook

D. St-Denis share the motions, which were reviewed by the Board at their December 6 & 7 meeting, being sent to the WCSA for its AGM. She thanked Kathy Weston and Elizabeth Lee for leading the charge in providing several recommendations for the WCSA handbook.

### 9. Round Table Check-in

Coordinators shared brief updates on activities happening in their district.

### 10. Next Meeting and Adjournment

Next meetings: Thursday, January 15, 2026 and Thursday, February 12, 2026.

**Moved by M. MacDonald, seconded by B. Hawkins, to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 pm.** **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



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### Appendix A

#### Council Member Attendance

		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	arrived at 7:35 pm
11	Amy Douthwright	3	1	3	
12	Andy Ferguson	3	1	3	left at 9:00 pm
13	Patrick Beckerton	3		0	
14	Chris Young	3		0	
15	Gord Johnson	3		0	
<b>Total</b>		<b>53</b>		<b>44</b>	
<b>31.8 votes is 60%</b>			11	<b>83.02%</b>	



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### Appendix B

#### Rural Participation Working Group Update

The Rural Participation Working Group Report provided to the Board.

- 3 pilot projects
- revised report was presented to the board this past weekend.
- The board has opted to make adjustments to each of the 3 pilot projects and conditionally approve all 3. Here are the updates:

#### U15C Regional:

The original pilot project concept was to create two hybrid Regional competitions: one on Vancouver Island and one in the Interior that would be attended by all Provincials-Intent teams in those regions as a way to qualify for the U15C Provincial. The competition would also allow non-Provincials-intent teams from those regions to participate. The board was concerned that the cost of attending 2 Provincial-level competitions would be prohibitively expensive for provincials-bound teams. The updated proposal was to run 2 U15C Regional competitions that is open ONLY to teams that DO NOT want to compete for a spot in Provincials. In other words, teams will need to decide whether to enter District Playdowns to earn a spot at Provincials OR they can choose to enter the U15C Regional event instead.

The board opted to hold this year's U15C Provincial on Vancouver Island so the board opted to adjust the U15C Regional Pilot to create 2 events: one for Central BC (D9, D10, D11) and one for the North (D11, D12, D13). While the board has approved the concept, they will first need to ensure that there are umpires available to support these events AND they will need to secure hosts.

#### "G" - Grassroots

This proposal creates a local participation pathway that allow athletes to compete on a "G" team as well as a team in a traditional "A", "B", or "C" category. The idea is to create local playing opportunities for athletes in communities that struggle to put meaningful teams together - especially when the athletes within a given age group are a mix of kids that cannot commit to traditional categories due to financial or time constraints as well as athletes that are seeking "C" or "B" opportunities.

The board is intrigued by the concept but there are many unknowns in creating a whole new category of softball. The board will run a small pilot project in one small area of the Province. At the end of the year, they will look at how the pilot unfolded which will give valuable insight into whether this is an idea that is worth expanding.

#### Overage Exemptions

This proposal allows players to participate as overage players in one of two scenarios:

1. Where there is no age-appropriate team for the player to play on.
2. Where overage players are needed in order for there to be enough players to form a team at a younger age group.

There are limits for Overage Players:

- Maximum of 2 Overage Players can participate in any given game



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- Overage Players cannot pitch or catch full games (board has added limit of 2 innings/game)
- Overage Players cannot participate in District Playdowns or any Provincial-level or Post-Provincial-level competitions.

The process to apply for Overage Exemptions is as follows:

1. Association must apply to the responsible District Minor Coordinator, providing rationale
2. District Minor Coordinator can deny the application if they feel the rationale does not meet the standard.
3. District Minor Coordinator must present the Overage Application to the Minor Advisory Council and the MAC must vote to approve or deny the application BEFORE the athlete is allowed to participate with their team. The intent for this step is to provide guardrails to avoid misuse of Overage Exemptions as well as to create a transparent process by which everyone can inform their associations of any approved Overage Exemptions in the hopes of avoiding conflict on the diamond.

The board would like to receive assurance from the MAC that you are willing to entertain