



Minor Advisory Council Minutes

January 15, 2026



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 S. Maion, seconded by B. Hawkins, to approve the agenda with the following additions:

- 6.c.ii. Townhall of Non-Compliance with Softball Canada Rules (D. St-Denis)
- 7.n. Working group update on Tryout Policy for Rep Ball (S. Maion).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Approval of the Minutes for December 11, 2025

Moved S. Maion, seconded by B. Hawkins, to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2025, meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Email Votes

No email votes since the last meeting.

6. Reports

a. Minor Development Fund

- i. K. Weston reminded council members that the application window for events taking place between May 1st and August 31st closes on March 1st @ 5:00 pm.

b. 2026 Championships Update

- U11C Celebrations and U11 Showcases
 - D. Simpson provided an update to the council on the Board's decision as it pertained to the U11C Celebrations and the U11 Showcases (Appendix B).
 - Combine teams are defined as players from the same association being selected to form a team representing that Association.
 - Teams registered as a "rep" team will get first pick at registering for the Showcases registration, as they cannot register for Celebrations.
 - S. Gilbert will be working with the coordinators in each region to identify the host for the U11C Celebrations.
 - The office will be seeking expressions of interest for the Showcases
- U13C Regionals
 - Region 1 - Oceanside has submitted a bid. The office is working to clarify the dates.



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- Region 2 - Coquitlam and Richmond have both submitted bids. Coquitlam was submitted by the deadline. The host should be confirmed shortly.
- Region 3 - Awaiting an update from District 7.
- Region 4 - assigned to Merrit Minor Softball.
- Region 5 - discussion of joining Region 4
- Boys Provincials
 - Yes, U17 teams can play against U20 teams.
 - Office to speak with Softball Canada about a 15 or 16-year-old player rostering on a U20 team for nationals.
(post meeting note - There is no minimum age in any of the minor categories. Only for Men's/Women's in FP or SP does an athlete have to be 15 or older.)
- U15C Regionals (pilot)
 - The event needs to be scheduled after July 15th to address umpired concerns.
- Minor Coordinators to develop hosting rotation for U13C and Celebrations.
- The office will work with the Minor Coordinators to create a rotation for regional events for next season.

c. Board of Directors

- i. Celebrations of Softball & Showcases
Addressed in 6.b.
- ii. Townhall of Non-Compliance with Softball Canada Rules
D. St-Denis provided an update to the council on the Board discussion regarding concerns raised by the Softball BC Umpire Advisory Council regarding the lack of adherence by Softball BC members to the rules of the games as published in the Softball Canada Rule book (Official Fast Pitch Softball Rules and Official Slo-Pitch Softball Rules). A bulletin will be sent out tomorrow announcing a townhall meeting on at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, February 4th, to hear feedback from members on the following topics as it pertains to adherence to the Softball Canada Rule book (Official Fast Pitch Softball Rules and Official Slo-Pitch Softball Rules); for U15C and UP, adhere to Softball BC rules for categories U13A down and consequence for non-compliance.

Preliminary questions:

- Will "C" ball be required to adopt play nine / bat nine?
- If a team has fewer than 9 players, will they have to forfeit?
- Need clear rules for U9, U11C, U11 Rep, U13C, U13B, U13A.

7. Business Arising

a. Rural Participation Working Group Update

B. Edamura apologized for getting the documents out late.

- 1. Rural Overage Exemptions Pilot (Appendix D)
The Board requested that the MAC entertain approving Overage Exemptions - even if the exemption is not from their District, or they will never use Overage



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Exemptions. She also reviewed the evaluation tools, which will be used at the conclusion of the pilot to prepare a year-end report.

Staff will prepare communication for circulation to the membership following the January 27th Board meeting.

2. U15C Regional Competition Pilot (Appendix E)

The Board approved the pilot, which will consist of two (2) U15C Regional competitions: one in Central BC (D9, D10, D11) and one in Northern BC (D11, D12, D13). The U15C Regional competition will be open to teams that are NOT participating in District Playdowns. The idea is to create competition opportunities for teams that otherwise do not have access, either because they feel they lack sufficient skill to earn a Provincials berth, or because they opt not to compete for one due to travel distance.

The staff is currently identifying potential weekends for these events. This work includes liaising with the PUIC to coordinate umpire logistics and connecting with participating districts to identify potential hosts.

The Minor Coordinators for the participating districts are asked to connect with the presidents of your associations so that:

1. The associations are aware of this competition and start working with their teams
2. Potential hosts can be identified

Staff will prepare communication for circulation to the membership following the January 27th Board meeting.

3. G (Grassroots) Classification Pilot (Appendix F)

The pilot project will take place in District 10 for the 2026 season.

Staff will prepare communication for circulation to the membership following the January 27th Board meeting.

b. 8.3.2. REGISTERED MINOR PLAYER (revised)

Moved B. Hawkins, seconded by S. Maion, to approve the following modification to 8.3.2.

8.3.2 REGISTERED MINOR PLAYER is on a Team Roster approved by their District Minor Coordinator. ~~This~~ **Their team** affiliation concludes when **all** the teams in their category/classification have ~~completed competition at the~~ **been eliminated from further post-season competition which includes Regionals**, Provincial, Western Canadian or Canadian Championship. ~~level.~~ **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



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c. 8.5.2 and 8.5.6 Pro Rata (revised)

Moved S. Maion, seconded by B. Hawkins, to approve the following modification to 8.5.2

8.5.2. DISTRICT MINOR COORDINATOR DUTY - A form will be provided for District Coordinators to notify the Softball BC Office of **their** his-/her-District Teams' intent to participate **in the provincials if they secure a berth via district qualification. in each category of Provincial Championships.**

Failure by a coordinator Failure to submit the form seven (7) business days before districts prior to the deadline will result in the disqualification of that District in further Provincial play.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved S. Maion, seconded by B. Hawkins, to make the pro rata public.

CARRIED (8-2-3)

**D 10 and D6 were opposed
D8, D11 and D14 abstained**

Moved S. Maion, seconded by B. Hawkins, to approve the following modification to 8.5.6

8.5.6. 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 last scheduled districts are held for said classification and category.**
- c) Per 8.5.2, 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 complete, the pro rata list will be shared with the coordinators and made public on the Softball BC website and social media.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff provided the following to the council for information only, not for inclusion in the SORs.

RECOMMENDED OFFICE PROCEDURE

1. The pro rata draw for a given classification and category will take place 10 days before the first district held for said classification and category. For



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- example, if all districts are held June 19th - 21st, the pro rata draw will be held on June 9th.
2. Per 8.5.2, district coordinators are to submit the list of teams that intend to participate in the provincials if they secure a berth via district qualification.
 3. Once complete, the pro rata list will be shared with the coordinators and made public on the Softball BC website and social media.

d. 8.5.12 Coaches Meeting (revised)

Moved L. Lee, seconded by B. Hawkins, to replace “8.5.12 Coaches Meeting” with this NEW section

In-Person Meeting Protocol

The head coach from each team must provide the following to the Softball BC Representative 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**

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.**



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- 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**
Proof of age, in the form of a birth certificate, baptismal certificate, or other recognized government identification, must be provided to the Softball BC Representative 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
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e. Reg Deadline for Exceptional Circumstances

D. St-Denis noted that 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.

Moved A. Fersuson, seconded by P. Beckerton, to edit 8.3.4 Minor Registration Deadlines with the addition of 8.3.4.3 below

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 Programs & 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.**



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After June 5th, only the Programs & Championships Director may authorize additions/deletions to an approved roster.

- 8.3.4.3 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.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

f. Proposed rewrite for 8.1.22

Moved B. Hawkins, seconded by G. Johnson, to approve the edits to 8.1.22.

8.1.22 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 a SBBC District Playdown tournament, a SBBC Provincial Championship and a Canadian Championship. A waiver may be applied for by the player contacting the Programs & Championships Director in writing to request permission. The waiver will be determined at the Programs & Championships Director's sole discretion in consultation with the Minor District Coordinator(s). 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.~~

- 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 player may apply for a waiver. A waiver may be granted at the sole discretion of the Programs & Championships Director in consultation with the relevant Minor District Coordinator. The number of games calculation will run from March 1st to 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 (11-0-2)
D9 and D 13 Abstained**



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g. SOR 8.4.1

Moved S. Maion, seconded by M. MacDonald, to approve the edits to 8.4.1

- 8.4.1. **A player 18 years of age or younger ~~A minor player other than a second year U19A or B player or a second or third year U20C player~~**, 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. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

h. Transfer, Release and Abandon

Moved L Lee, seconded by A. Charlesworth, to replace 8.3.2.3 Release/Abandon, 8.3.2.4 Release and 8.3.5 Transfer with a new 8.3.2.3. Release

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.



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- 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.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

i. SOR 8.5.14 Pick-Ups

The item requires further review and needs to be written in a motion format. It was tabled until the next meeting.

j. Eliminate bronze medal in silver pool revision

Motion was carried unanimously on the first vote.

Moved S. Maion, seconded by L.Lee, to approve the following revisions to SOR 8.6.12.

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.**
 - 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.~~



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- 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.

CARRIED (9-5-0)

k. 8.5.13 - classification change

The motion carried unanimously on the first vote.

Moved by B. Hawkins, seconded by G. Johnson, 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.~~

MOTION FAILED (51%)

**D7, D8 were against
D4, D10, D11, D13 abstained**

D. St-Denis noted that staff would be reviewing this SOR to bring back a rewrite as the regulation is unclear. There were many different interpretations last year, which signals the need for clarity. She also noted that the appeals committee that heard the



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Fleetwood case recommended a rewrite in its decision due to the lack of clarity in the rule.

I. Bat Person

This motion was carried unanimously at the first vote.

Moved by E. Lee, seconded by S. Maion, 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

Moved by B. Hawkins, seconded by G. Johnson, to reconsider the vote on 8.1.25 until the next meeting to allow staff time to address its application against the revised 8.1.24. FIELD OF PLAY, which defines who is allowed on the field of play.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

m. Field of Play - who is allowed access

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

n. Working group update on Tryout Policy for Rep Ball

S. Maion spoke to the townhall the working group will be hosting in February (Appendix G). The townhall will be held on Wednesday, March 25th (presentation followed by Q&A).

8. New Business

a. Article 8.1.9 Minor Girls - Definition - Footwear

Moved by B. Hawkins, seconded by S. Maion, to approve the edit to 8.1.9 as follows:

- 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**



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classifications. ~~Not C players, U13A or U13B.~~ Metal cleats are not permitted in any other category or classification.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Round Table Check-in

D1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday - president's meeting: 11 of 13 attended, which was really positive - great turnout.• Don't get a good sense of numbers until March - that's when there is a tally on the number of teams. That said, on track to see growth - assuming that.• Not many A teams - U17A unhappy about dates for Provincials at the end of June -> their season will be over at the end of June if they don't qualify for Nationals• Are the U9 only guidelines? Want to do alternative programming, but don't want to go too far down the planning if these guidelines turn into rules and can't do alternative programming. Includes introducing pitching at U9.
D2	Had left the meeting.
D4	Met with one association virtually a couple of days ago. Both associations opened registration with a slow start. For the last 5 or 6 meetings - going very long. Can we shorten?
D5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• D5 held its first meeting of 2026. In previous seasons, we communicated on an as-needed basis, with only 1 in-person meeting at the end of each season. This year, we will be meeting virtually more regularly.• One of the topics of discussion was to get a better sense of how Softball BC's existing District structure can better support the associations. They identified communication gaps at times, so bringing everyone together and sharing what each is up to is very helpful in closing them. For our first meeting, we had the association presidents, Minor Coordinator, and DUIC. Moving forward, we will also invite the Men's & Women's coordinator, as both associations will have adult teams in 2026.• My associations are busy getting their registration systems up and running. Richmond is moving to full Ramp, while Vancouver is using a hybrid model where people register in Ramp and TeamSnap. As a result of changes to the registration systems, registration hasn't opened yet in either association, but they anticipate opening soon. Winter skills clinics are ongoing in both associations. A winter umpire clinic is running in Richmond, and planning for a D5 umpire certification clinic is underway.
D6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Umpire clinics are ongoing, moving ahead with planning• Unhappy with the tournament process.• Doing D6 awards to recognize volunteers.• Very B heavy in D6 - 7 teams in U13/U15/etc so Districts will be a challenge• Hoping to balance out with C registrations



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D7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Try softball, there's nothing soft about it - at Wickfest next week. Supported by Cloverdale. 27 kids signed up for that. Hailey Wickenheiser is a multi-athlete who played softball.• Coach clinic last weekend - discussion around arm health and pitchers. The limit is the number of innings per game, not per day. Some kids are pitching 20-24 innings per day for teams that are at Provincials• Happy to hear SBBC is getting involved in the tournament registration process - grumbling• More discussion on league play means more going into districts & provincials
D8	From the umpiring POV: 120 umpires in weekly clinics in D8
D9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growing quite a bit, more rep teams in the district, hoping to encourage them to play league games. Rep teams tend to do things in strange ways here.• Dates for 20 games thing: the majority of A provincials are happening before the B provincials, which may impact numbers. Need to consider which Provincials
D10	Had left the call.
D11	Not doing too much yet. The president's meeting is scheduled later this month. Slowly starting.
D12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Still planning. One more AGM to go in PG. Getting a new association going in Ft St. John.• Canadian Natives are being held in Prince George this year.
D13	The first association meetings are going well. In the planning stages for the season. Clinics for coaches, umpires, etc.
D14	Not in attendance
D15	Gearing up for the season. Good numbers for registration - especially younger categories. Significant surge coming through.

10. Next Meeting and Adjournment

Next meetings:

- Thursday, February 12, 2026 @ 7:00 pm
- Thursday, March 12, 2026 @ 7:00 pm

Moved by G. Johnson, P. Berckerton to adjourn the meeting at 10:11 pm.

CARRIED



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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	left at 9:41 pm
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	replaced by Paul Muirhead
9	Michelle Kirkbright	5	1	5	
10	Margaret MacDonald	3	1	3	left at 9:41 pm
11	Amy Douthwright	3	1	3	joined at 7:40 pm
12	Andy Ferguson	3	1	3	
13	Patrick Beckerton	3	1	3	
14	Chris Young	3	absent		
15	Gord Johnson	3	1	3	
	Total	53	13	50	
	31.8 votes is 60%			94.34%	



Appendix B

Board of Directors Update on U11C Celebrations and U11 Showcases

Changes to the U11C Celebration of Softball 2026 pilot

The Board of Directors reviewed at its November 2025 meeting a recommendation from the minor advisory council to eliminate the U11 Celebration of Softball event effective immediately. The Board instructed staff to survey the membership regarding the elimination of the event. Member feedback was mixed, with the primary concern from members and the Board being the lack of alignment between the event's competitive nature and the Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD).

Based on feedback from staff, the Board has decided to “alter” the format of the U11 Celebrations for 2026 rather than eliminate them to determine whether the modifications address the concerns raised by members.

New Format

- U11 Celebrations will consist only of round-robin play. There will be no playoffs.
- Softball BC will no longer provide medals or gifts for each participant. The funds saved by this discontinued practice will be added to the hosting grant to support the delivery of social bonding/fun activities that create a memorable event for all participants (fun games, prizes for best cheers, best homemade sign, best costume). A total of \$2,000 per event will be available post-event to each host upon proof of expenditures.
- The previous hosting grant and provisions of balls will be maintained.
- Head coaches will be required to participate in a pre-event briefing (virtual) facilitated by Umpires & Championship Director the week prior to their U11 Celebration. Rules, format and social activities will be the main focus of the meeting. This meeting will replace a large portion of the in-person meeting typically held prior to these events.

Mandatory Education

- Head Coaches will be invited, via their Association President, to attend a preseason briefing for U11 programs. Attendance will be a requirement for participation in the U11 Celebration and Showcase events. The briefing, which will be facilitated by the Softball BC Office, will consist of (i) an overview of U11 regulations coaches need to adhere to in season to prepare their teams for the U11 Celebration or Showcase event.



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Heavy emphasis will be placed on coaches focusing on player development rather than competitive performance.

- The Softball BC Office will provide each minor association with documentation (in electronic format) to be shared with the parents/guardians of each U11 participant. The goals for distributing the documentation is to (i) emphasize the importance of focusing on learning and enjoying the game vs competitive performance at the U11 level, (ii) how the changes to the U11 Celebration and Showcase events are meant to emphasize that approach, and (iii) most importantly, their role in creating a supporting environment for their child and all other participants to learn the game.

Evaluation

1. As part of the post-season evaluation process, the Softball BC Office will develop an evaluation tool for the designated Softball BC Rep and the UIC to use at the U11 Celebrations to record/report on coach behaviour. The aim here is to determine if the altered format led to more positive conduct.
2. Participants (parents) and coaches will receive a post-event survey to gather their feedback on the event, with a focus on participant enjoyment.
3. The Host will complete the usual post-event host evaluation.

Declaring Participation

- Each district retains the right to host their own U11 year-end events. As such, each District Minor Coordinator will be required to confirm by February 1st which members in their district plan to participate in the U11C Celebration. The declaration is to assist with event planning.
- The team registration process for all U11C Celebrations remains unchanged. Only U11C team can participate.

Securing Hosts

- The changes to the U11 Celebration events will be shared with the Minor Advisory Council and our Member Associations immediately following the Board of Directors meeting on January 12th.
- Coordinators will be asked to consult with other coordinators in their region to identify a suitable host for their regional event. The host must be identified by February 1st. This timeline is intended to align with each coordinator's need to confirm which members in their district plan to participate in the U11 Celebration, as the number of participating teams may affect host selection or signal the cancellation of the event.



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Revision of U11 Showcase Pilot Format

- The format will remain unchanged.
- Two showcases (2 x 24 teams) to be held on a weekend different than the U11 Celebration of Softball.
- Softball BC will no longer provide gifts for each participant. The funds will be provided to the host to use for other awards, such as most sportsmanlike team, best cheers, etc. Award to be voted on by the players themselves (see Abbotsford awards). A total of \$1,000 per event will be available post-event to each host upon proof of expenditures.
- The previous hosting grant and provisions of balls will be maintained.
- Head coaches will be required to participate in a pre-event briefing (virtual) facilitated by Umpires & Championship Director the week prior to their U11 Celebration. Rules, format and social activities will be the main focus of the meeting. This meeting will replace a large portion of the in-person meeting typically held prior to these events.

Mandatory Education

- Head Coaches will be invited, via their Association President, to attend a preseason briefing for U11 programs. Attendance will be a requirement for participation in the U11 Celebration and Showcase events. The briefing, which will be facilitated by the Softball BC Office, will consist of (i) an overview of U11 regulations coaches need to adhere to in season to prepare their teams for the U11 Celebration or Showcase event. Heavy emphasis will be placed on coaches focusing on player development rather than competitive performance.
- The Softball BC Office will provide each minor association with documentation (in electronic format) to be shared with the parents/guardians of each U11 participant. The goals for distributing the documentation is to (i) emphasize the importance of focusing on learning and enjoying the game vs competitive performance at the U11 level, (ii) how the changes to the U11 Celebration and Showcase events are meant to emphasize that approach, and (ii) most importantly, their role in creating a supporting environment for their child and all other participants to learn the game.

Evaluation

1. As part of the post-season evaluation process, the Softball BC Office will develop an evaluation tool for the designated Softball BC Rep and the UIC to use at the U11 Showcase to record/report on coach behaviour. The aim here is to determine if the altered format led to more positive conduct.
2. Participants (parents) and coaches will receive a post-event survey to gather their feedback on the event, with a focus on participant enjoyment.



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3. The Host will complete the usual post-event host evaluation.

Declaring Participation

- The team registration process for all U11 showcases remains unchanged, except that participation is no longer limited to Rep Teams. Combined teams will be accepted at both events.

Securing Hosts

- The changes to the U11 Showcase events will be shared with our Member Associations immediately following the Board of Directors meeting on January 12th. An invitation for expressions of interest in hosting will accompany the notification.



Minor Advisory Council Minutes

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Appendix C

Townhall on adherence to the Softball Canada Rule book

The Board of Directors recently discussed concerns raised by the Softball BC Umpire Advisory Council regarding the lack of adherence by Softball BC members of the rules of the games as published in the Softball Canada Rule book (Official Fast Pitch Softball Rules and Official Slo-Pitch Softball Rules). Our umpires believe that adopting the rules as written will facilitate umpires' training and development and minimize the possibility of confusion at events/games, which often leads to conflict between coaches and umpires.

Mandating the use of Softball Canada and Softball BC rules

It is an acceptable practice for a Provincial Sport Organization to require its members to follow the official rules set by the National Sport Organization. Leagues or associations (for tournaments) that choose to play outside the rules may be subject to disciplinary action and, at a minimum, lose their insurance coverage and other benefits.

While leagues or associations (for tournaments) must adhere to the core provincial framework, there are examples, such as in soccer, where a league is permitted to establish its own specific rules with BC Soccer's approval. For instance, a league's rules may specify details such as unlimited substitutions in league games or weather protocols for a coastal league. Some examples for Softball BC could include no time limits on league play, or the option to play one more inning in a run-ahead rule situation.

Townhall and Feedback

Softball BC will host a townhall meeting on at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, February 4th, to hear feedback from members on the following topics:

1. For categories U15C and Up:

Softball BC will remove from its Special Operating Rules (SORs) all rules that alter the rules found in the Softball Canada Rule book (Official Fast Pitch Softball Rules and Official Slo-Pitch Softball Rules).

- i. We may allow the replication of a Softball Canada Rule in the Softball BC SORs when it is deemed a tool for managing our risk (i.e., player equipment).
- ii. We will articulate the procedure for a league or association (for tournaments) to request an exemption to a Softball Canada rule. Approval of all exemptions will be at the discretion of the Softball BC Office in consultation with the PUIC.



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2. For categories U13A down:
 - b. Using the Recommended Minor Softball Rules contained in the Softball Canada Rule book (pages 248 to 260 of the 2024-2025 book), Softball BC will review its SORs to ensure rules of play for the U13, U11 and U9 categories are clear for consistent application within BC.
3. Consequence for non-compliance

Leagues or Associations (including tournament directors) or teams (in the case of an exhibition game) who do not adhere to the Softball Canada Rule book (Official Fast Pitch Softball Rules and Official Slo-Pitch Softball Rules), or where appropriate and approved, Softball BC exemption, are subject to progressive disciplinary measures which can range from a written warning, disqualification from provincial events, removal of insurance benefits, to potential loss of membership with Softball BC.

APPENDIX D

Pilot Proposal: Rural Overage Exemptions

Background

Rural associations across BC often face roster shortages, particularly at the U15–U20 “C” levels. In many communities, one or two additional players can mean the difference between fielding a team or having no program at all. It also means that associations that have a small group of players that cannot form a team within their own age group have an option to play instead of being forced to travel to another community in order to play or to quit the sport.

Currently, Softball BC’s rules do not adequately support the inclusion of overage players in these situations. The Rural Participation Working Group identified the lack of flexibility around overage participation as a **barrier to player retention and rural team sustainability**.

While the original intent of this proposal was to create a mechanism for approving Overage Exemptions for Rural associations, there was no consensus on how to define “Rural”. The burden of defining “Rural” 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.

Rationale

- **Team viability:** Allowing limited overage players can prevent team collapse.
 - **Retention:** Keeps players engaged with peers and associations they have grown up with.
 - **Equity:** Ensures rural athletes are not excluded from softball opportunities due to geography and demographics.
 - **Participation-first approach:** Focused on sustaining local play, not gaining competitive advantage.
-

Structure

NOTE:

*Revised as requested after December 7, 2025 approval by Softball BC board of Directors
January 14, 2026*

1. Roster Exception Model

- Rural U15–U20 “C” 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 continue to be able to roster a maximum of 15 players (U15C, U17C) or 17 players (U20C) that fall within the age group requirements additional roster spots are provided for overage players.
 - **Intent:** overage players do take roster spots away from age-appropriate players
- Overage players:
 - May participate in **league, tournament, and regional competition.**
 - Are **not eligible** to compete in 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** must be approved **BEFORE** an overage player can play any games with their team.
- **Associations** must apply for an exemption for their team(s) through their **District Minor Coordinator**.
 - The last date for an association to submit an application is May 14.
- **District Minor Coordinator** will review the application to determine whether they support the application. 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.
 - The last date to hold an Overage Exemption meeting is May 30.
- When considering **Overage Exemptions** at a Minor Advisory Council meeting or an Overage Exemption meeting:
 - Each Overage Exemption application will be presented by the responsible **District Minor Coordinator**.

NOTE:

*Revised as requested after December 7, 2025 approval by Softball BC board of Directors
January 14, 2026*

- 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 is in effect for all tournament games.
 - With the agreement of both coaches, this rule can be ignored in league/exhibition games
 - **Intent:** to encourage 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 is in effect for all tournament games.
 - With the agreement of both coaches, this rule can be ignored in league/exhibition games
 - **Intent:** to encourage 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.
 - **NOTE:** Since Overage Exemptions must be signed by the Association President, the Rural Participation Working Group feels this consequence is appropriate and is expected to deter misuse. In the event misuse occurs, it is important to have a defined mechanism for Softball BC to impose consequences. Softball BC's rules have an avenue for appeal in the event an Association feels the consequence has been incorrectly applied.

Benefits

- **Saves teams:** Provides flexibility for small communities at risk of losing programs.
- **Keeps athletes engaged:** Offers overage players an extra year of play in their community.

NOTE:

*Revised as requested after December 7, 2025 approval by Softball BC board of Directors
January 14, 2026*

- **Protects fairness:** Restricting Provincials eligibility prevents competitive imbalance.
- **Builds inclusivity:** Supports players who are developmentally aligned with younger peers or new to the sport.

Pilot Recommendation

- Pilot this policy in **all districts** in the 2026 season.
- Associations must submit overage player requests to their District Minor Coordinator prior to **any games played by the overage player**.
- Evaluation criteria:
 - Number of teams supported by overage players,
 - Player/parent feedback,
 - Impact on competitive balance,
 - Retention outcomes.

Evaluation Framework

Softball BC will conduct a structured review at the end of the 2026 season. Evaluation criteria include:

Evaluation Area	Key Indicators	Data Sources
Team Viability	Number of teams formed/maintained with overage players	District Minor Coordinator report, Association submissions
Player Retention	Return rate of eligible players and overage participants	Registration data
Competitive Balance	Game scores, feedback on parity	League and tournament records
Stakeholder Feedback	Satisfaction and fairness perceptions	Surveys of parents, players and coaches - Survey should be mandatory

NOTE:

*Revised as requested after December 7, 2025 approval by Softball BC board of Directors
January 14, 2026*

		<p>for teams with overage players</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Survey can be optional for teams without overage players that competed against teams with overage players <p>District Minor Coordinator report</p>
Administrative Feasibility	Ease of application, clarity of process	Softball BC staff and District Minor Coordinator feedback

NOTE:

*Revised as requested after December 7, 2025 approval by Softball BC board of Directors
January 14, 2026*



Rural Overage Exemption Application

Season: _____ District: _____

Association Information

Association Name: _____

Team Name (Age Category & Classification): _____

Overage Player Information

Player Name: _____

Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY): _____

This player intends to:

- ☐ Pitch
- ☐ Catch

Rationale for Overage Placement

Overage exemptions are available only when needed to form a viable team OR when an association does not have enough players to form an age-appropriate team.

Please describe the reason(s) this player is being placed on a team in a younger age category (e.g., team viability, player retention, local participation challenges):

Association Declaration

☐ The association confirms that this team is the highest-available age category team available for this player within our association.

Association President Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Rural Overage Exemption Application

Parent/Guardian Consent

I, the undersigned, am the parent/guardian of the above-named player and consent to their participation on a team in a younger age category as per the Softball BC Rural Overage Exemption guidelines. **I understand that the above-named player is ineligible to participate in District Playdowns, Provincials, Western Canadians, and Canadian Championships with this team.** The above-named player remains eligible to be picked up for a Provincials, Western Canadians, and Canadian Championships by a team that is in an age category where the player would otherwise be eligible to play.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

District Minor Coordinator Approval

District Minor Coordinator Name: _____

☐ I have reviewed this application and support this overage placement in accordance with Softball BC policy.

☐ I have reviewed this application and DO NOT support this overage placement for the following reason(s):

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Minor Advisory Council Approval

Date: _____

☐ Approved ☐ Not Approved

Comments:

Softball BC – Rural Overage Exemption Pilot Survey

Season: 2026

Purpose: This survey is designed to collect feedback from players, parents, and coaches on their experience with the Rural Overage Exemption pilot program. Your responses will help Softball BC evaluate the policy and inform future decisions.

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Not shared

* Indicates required question

Section 1: Respondent Information

Association: *

Your answer

Team Name: *

Your answer



Age Category: *

☐ U15

☐ U17

☐ U20

☐ Other: _____

Which best describes you? I am a: *

☐ Player who played as an Overage Player

☐ Parent of a player who played as an Overage Player

☐ Player who played on a team with an Overage Player

☐ Parent of a player who played on a team with an Overage Player

☐ Coach of a team that had an Overage Player on it

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APPENDIX E

Pilot Proposal: U15C Regional Event

Background

The current system for U15C Provincials qualification relies on **District Playdowns**, with each District entitled to send one representative. However, this structure creates significant inequities:

- In **smaller rural districts**, there are often too few teams to hold meaningful playdowns. In some cases, a single team advances by default.
- In **smaller rural districts**, cost and geographical distance to travel to a Provincial can be prohibitive causing some teams to opt out of participating in District Playdowns.
- In **larger districts**, playdowns can be highly competitive, creating inconsistent experiences across the province.
- Many **teams and players not interested in Provincials** are left without a meaningful post-season play option.

Meetings of the Rural Participation Working Group highlighted that rural communities in the **Interior/North** and **Vancouver Island** regions need an alternative system that provides fair access to Provincials while ensuring every team gets a valuable year-end competition.

While the Rural Participation Working Group originally conceived of using a Regional Qualification competition for identifying provincially-bound U15C teams, upon considering the cost to attend both a Regional Qualifier as well as a Provincial, the decision was made that the existing District Playdowns structure remains the preferred competition for identifying provincially-bound U15C teams. However, the Rural Participation Working Group continues to believe that a Regional competition is important for the U15C level in order to create a meaningful year-end event for non-provincials-intent teams.

Rationale for Removal of Provincial-Intent Teams

- Aligns with the purpose of offering a postseason opportunity for non-provincial-intent teams only.
- Ensures competitive balance.
- Eliminates confusion about the role of the pilot event.
- Simplifies communication to coaches and parents.

NOTE:

*Revised as requested after December 7, 2025 approval by Softball BC board of Directors
January 15, 2026*

Purpose

To provide **non-provincial-intent U15C teams** with a meaningful, competitive, end-of-season playing opportunity that does **not** serve as a step in the pathway to Provincials. This model strives to meet the need for meaningful competition opportunities in rural regions. This event is intended to:

- Support retention by offering a competitive experience for teams not pursuing Provincials.
- Provide an accessible, positive postseason opportunity.
- Reduce pressure on small or rural associations to declare provincial intent when they are not structured for it.
- Create a pilot that can be tested, evaluated, and refined without interfering with the Provincial Championship system.

This pilot **is not a qualifier, is not a pathway** to Provincials, and **does not include provincial-intent teams**.

Key Features

1. Structure

The proposal recommends the Pilot consists of holding **two Regional Competitions**:

- **North**
 - D11, D12, D13
- **Central**
 - D9, D10, D11

2. Eligibility

Teams:

NOTE:

*Revised as requested after December 7, 2025 approval by Softball BC board of Directors
January 15, 2026*

- Must be registered U15C teams with no provincial intent declaration. Teams that participate in District Playdowns are ineligible.
- Must apply for entry by the event deadline.

Players:

- Must be rostered on the team they are playing with.
- Teams may use replacement players for any player on their roster that is unable to attend. This rule is consistent with the Replacement Player rule for U13C Regionals.

3. Format and Rules

- The format for the U15C Regional will be the same as the format for the U13C Regional.
- The rules for the U15C Regional will be the same as the rules for the U15C Provincials.

4. Benefits

- **Rural teams included** in Regional events, even if they are not Provincials-bound.
- **Enhanced access:** Regional events will be more geographically accessible for rural areas which lightens the cost and travel barriers for rural teams.
- **Equity across regions:** All players, regardless of their district size or goals, have access to a meaningful season-ending event.

Pilot Recommendation

- Implement this **regional event** for U15C in the 2026 season.
- Host **two U15C Regionals**:
 - **North (D11, D12, D13)**
 - **Central (D9, D10, D11)**
- Evaluate success after one season using the following measures:
 - Number of teams participating in Regionals
 - Feedback from teams, parents, and associations.
 - Regional representation at Provincials.
 - Travel/time impacts on rural families.

NOTE:

*Revised as requested after December 7, 2025 approval by Softball BC board of Directors
January 15, 2026*

Evaluation Framework

1. Participation Metrics

- Total number of teams attending Regional events.
- Number of teams attending U15C Provincials from the Regions implementing a Regional compared to previous seasons.

4. Stakeholder Feedback

- Surveys from coaches, players, and parents/guardians regarding satisfaction and experience (see U15C Regional Event – Pilot Feedback Survey).
- Event reports from Softball BC Board Representative and UIC.
- Identification of challenges, bottlenecks, or unforeseen issues during the pilot season.

5. Recommendations for Future Seasons

- Identification of potential improvements to the regional competition model.
- Evaluation of whether to continue, modify, or expand the Regional events.

Costs

The cost to Softball BC to run a U15C Regional event will be similar to the cost of running a U13C Regional or a U15C Provincial. The total cost will depend on the number of teams participating in the event.

The chart below shows the costs that were incurred by Softball BC to run the 2025 U13C Regional events and the 2025 U15C Provincial:

	U13C Region 1 (Districts 1, 2, 3)	U13C Region 2 (Districts 4, 5, 6, 15)	U13C Region 3 (Districts 7, 8, 14)	U13C Region 4 (District 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13)		U15C Girls Provincial
# of registered teams	24	16	16	22		16
Estimated # games	60	32	36	40		54
umpire payment per game	70	70	70	70		70

NOTE:

Revised as requested after December 7, 2025 approval by Softball BC board of Directors
January 15, 2026

Team Entry Fee	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	600
Hosting Grants per team	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125	200
REVENUE					
Revenue: Entry Fees	9,600.00	6,400.00	6,400.00	8,800.00	9,600.00
Revenue: Hosting Fees	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Total Revenues	9,800.00	6,600.00	6,600.00	9,000.00	9,800.00
EXPENSES					
Umpire Fees	4,200.00	2,240.00	2,520.00	2,800.00	3,780.00
Hosting Grant	3,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,750.00	3,200.00
Umpire Travel					
UIC Per Diem&Exp	478.67	478.67	478.67	478.67	416.38
BoD Rep Per Deim & Exp					
Balls	336.00	336.00	336.00	336.00	336.00
Prizing:					29.62
Drawstring Bags	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
medals (\$6.35)	1,143.00	1,143.00	1,143.00	1,143.00	762.00
Banner	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00
1st place team					750.00
2nd place team					450.00
3rd place team					300.00
Total Expenses:	10,282.67	7,322.67	7,602.67	8,632.67	10,149.00
Excludes shipping, staffing and operating costs					

NOTE:

Revised as requested after December 7, 2025 approval by Softball BC board of Directors
January 15, 2026

U15C Regional Event – Pilot Feedback Survey

Purpose: This survey is intended to gather feedback from participants in the 2026 U15C Regional events to evaluate satisfaction, experience, and areas for improvement. Your input will help Softball BC evaluate the success of this pilot event.

Instructions: Please answer all questions honestly. Responses are confidential.

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Not shared

* Indicates required question

Section 1: Respondent Information

Role (please select): *



Coach



Player



Parent/Guardian

District: *

Your answer



Team Name:

Your answer

Section 2: Participation & Experience

Before attending the U15C Regional event, have you ever participated in a Softball BC event in the past? (U11 Celebration of Softball, U13C Regional, U15C Provincial)

☐ Yes

☐ No

How satisfied were you with the Regional event overall? *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very Satisfied	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very Dissatisfied

How would you rate the fairness of the competition at the Regional?

☐ Excellent

☐ Good

☐ Fair

☐ Poor



How would you rate the quality of organization (scheduling, communication)? *

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor

How appropriate was the travel requirement for your team? *

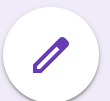
- ☐ Very manageable
- ☐ Manageable
- ☐ Somewhat challenging
- ☐ Very challenging

If the U15C Regional event had not been offered this season, would you have wanted your team to try to qualify for the U15C Provincial? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Section 4: Open Feedback

The questions in this section are your opportunity to provide in-depth feedback. The questions in this section are optional and responses are much appreciated.



What aspects of the Regional event worked well?

Your answer

What aspects could be improved?

Your answer

Would you attend a Regional event in the future if one is available in your age category?

Your answer

Are you open to answering some follow-up questions?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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Pilot Proposal: Formation of “G” – Grassroots Classification

A Participation-First Pathway for Local and Rural Play

Definition

The “**G**” – **Grassroots Classification** is a **local and developmental participation pathway** designed to complement existing A, B and C classifications. It provides a structured opportunity for associations — particularly in **rural and small communities** — to offer meaningful softball experiences focused on **access, enjoyment, and community connection** rather than competitive advancement. It directly addresses the issues faced in rural areas around roster exclusivity, retention, and cost barriers.

Purpose

The Grassroots Classification is intended to:

- **Strengthen rural participation** by allowing players to stay engaged locally while remaining connected to the broader softball pathway.
- Enable **dual-rostering** for players who wish to both:
 - Play on one **Grassroots (G)** team for local, low-cost, community play; and
 - Compete on one **C or B or A** team within Softball BC’s existing competitive or recreational structure.
- Provide **flexibility and inclusion** so that all players — regardless of skill, schedule, or location — can continue playing.

This approach ensures that **local teams remain viable**, local competition remains meaningful through the opportunity to spread out skilled players across local teams, communities retain active softball programs, and players have opportunities for both development and fun.

Key Features

1. Eligibility

- Aimed at **U15 and older**, where drop-off and roster shortages are most acute. Players may hold a **primary roster** at A or B or C, and a **secondary roster** at G.

NOTE:

*Revised as requested after December 7, 2025 approval by Softball BC board of Directors
January 14, 2026*

- Associations must receive **District Minor Coordinator approval** prior to creating a Grassroots team, confirming the need and intent to support participation within the district.

2. “G” Team Characteristics

- Focused on **local league play**, and **community-based scrimmages**.
- Not eligible to participate in any tournaments other than “G” tournaments that are organized as part of the “G” league (for example, year-end wrap-up event).
- **Not eligible** for Regionals, Provincials, or post-Provincials play.
- Emphasis is on **participation, enjoyment, development, and local pride**.
- Ideal for athletes who prefer to play **close to home** or cannot commit to extensive travel or competition.

3. Coaching Credentials

- Foundations of Coaching Softball 1 & 2 plus Make Ethical Decisions Evaluation

4. Dual-Rostering Safeguards

- Players must declare their **primary roster** (A or B or C).
- On “G” teams, dual-rostered players:
 - Can pitch a maximum of 2 innings (to avoid overpowering and to encourage development of catchers).
 - Can catch a maximum of 2 innings (to avoid overpowering and to encourage development of pitchers).
 - Are encouraged to play **neutral or rotating positions** to support team development.
- G coaches must guarantee **minimum play time** for all rostered players — no benching of true Grassroots players.
- Associations cannot limit access to C programs. Any players that want to play on a C team must be placed on a C team in addition to a “G” team. Where an Association does not have enough players to field a C team, they are encouraged to work with their District Minor Coordinator and the other Associations within the District to maximize the number of C teams within the District so that everyone has a place to play as close to home as possible.
 - C teams cannot hold tryouts or evaluations (aligns with existing rules for C teams).

NOTE:

*Revised as requested after December 7, 2025 approval by Softball BC board of Directors
January 15, 2026*

- Players registered only on a "G" roster are ineligible to play on A or B or C teams as pick-ups at provincial events (Regionals/Provincials).
 - This limitation **MUST** be communicated to players when they register.

5. Local Play Flexibility

"G" teams may play local exhibition games against C, B, or A teams provided that:

- The coaches of both teams agree
- The purpose of the game is friendly competition
- The "G" team cannot travel to find competition - games must take place in the region the "G" team normally plays its games in
- If the C, B, or A team does not participate in the same league as the "G" team, the exhibition game must be played in the "G" team's community

A or B or C teams may play in the same league as "G" teams provided that:

- The A or B or C team is a good fit skill-wise for the league
- The purpose of the A or B or C team to participate in the league is to facilitate local play

This flexibility allows for meaningful local play.

6. Administrative Structure

- Rosters submitted as usual, with **dual-rostered players flagged**.
- Softball BC to track participation for insurance and compliance.
- **District Minor Coordinators** will oversee:
 - Local implementation and monitoring,
 - Appropriate use of the classification, and
 - Prevention of roster "stacking" or competitive misuse.

7. Benefits

- **Sustainability:** Helps rural and small-town programs maintain teams.
- **Retention:** Keeps players engaged who might otherwise leave due to travel or cost.
- **Development:** Provides additional playing opportunities that strengthen skills and confidence - particularly for A/B/C players.

NOTE:

*Revised as requested after December 7, 2025 approval by Softball BC board of Directors
January 15, 2026*

- **Community Connection:** Reinforces pride, mentorship, and engagement in local softball.
- **Program Growth:** Encourages associations to reintroduce or expand age divisions where numbers have dropped.

Pilot Recommendation

- Trial the "G" classification in **District 10** in 2026 season.
- Evaluate based on:
 - Number of teams created or sustained through the classification,
 - Player and parent satisfaction (via post-season survey),
 - Retention and registration trends from U15–U19,
 - Feedback from District Minor Coordinators and association executives.

Pilot data will inform adjustments to eligibility, rules, and oversight before a potential expansion to other areas of the province.

Evaluation Framework

Participation Metrics

- **Number of "G" teams created.**
- **Number of players registered** in "G" teams (total and by age group).
- **Dual-rostered players:** count of athletes participating in both "G" and C/B/A teams.
- **Team retention:** % of returning players from previous seasons.

Player & Parent Experience

- **Satisfaction surveys** for players and parents (see Survey):
 - Overall enjoyment of playing on a "G" team.
 - Perceived fairness of playing time and dual-roster rules.
 - Sense of community and connection to local softball.
- **Feedback on rules clarity** (e.g., pitching/catching limits, dual-roster expectations).

Community & Association Outcomes

NOTE:

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- **Number of associations able to field teams** that otherwise would not have enough players.
- **Local engagement:** attendance at games, tournaments, and scrimmages.
- **Volunteer/coaching support:** number of active coaches and helpers.

Player Development & Competitiveness

- **Skill development opportunities:** qualitative assessment from coaches (e.g., more playing time, exposure to multiple positions).
- **Opportunities for higher-level play:** tracking how dual-rostered players progress in C/B teams.

Operational & Compliance Metrics

- **Roster tracking accuracy:** dual-rostered players flagged correctly in registration system.
- **District oversight effectiveness:** adherence to guidelines preventing "stacking" or unfair advantage.
- **Incidents or disputes:** number and type of rule-related or participation conflicts.

Pilot Success Thresholds (Example Benchmarks)

- **>80% of eligible rural associations** field at least one "G" team.
- **>75% of surveyed players/parents** report satisfaction with the program.
- **Reduction in player drop-off** for U15–U19 age groups compared to previous seasons.
- **Successful dual-roster implementation** with minimal conflicts reported.

These metrics will allow the **Softball BC board of directors** to determine:

- Whether the "G" Classification meets participation and retention goals,
- If rules and safeguards work effectively, and
- How to refine the program.
- Pathway to program expansion to other areas of the province.

Communication Plan

Key Message

NOTE:

*Revised as requested after December 7, 2025 approval by Softball BC board of Directors
January 15, 2026*

The **"G" – Grassroots Classification** is about **access, enjoyment, and development**, not hierarchy or ability level.

It exists to **keep players playing, keep teams together, and keep communities connected**.

Target Audiences

- **Coaches and association leaders:** clarity on eligibility, rostering, and dual-participation safeguards.
- **Parents and players:** understanding the purpose — fun, inclusion, and local engagement.
- **District Minor Coordinators and officials:** consistent implementation across regions.

Communication Tools

- Dedicated **Grassroots information page** on the Softball BC website (see "Communication Plan: "G" Classification" document) for participating Associations to link to.
- Webinars or briefing sessions for District Coordinators and local association presidents.
- Printable **FAQ and registration handout** (see "Info Sheet: "G" Classification" document) for associations to distribute during sign-ups.

Messaging Themes

- "Keep players playing."
- "Stay local. Stay connected."
- "Softball for everyone, everywhere."

NOTE:

*Revised as requested after December 7, 2025 approval by Softball BC board of Directors
January 15, 2026*

Introducing the “G” Classification – Community & Local Play

What is the “G” Classification?

The **“G” Classification**, also known as Grassroots Softball, also known as Grassroots Softball, is Softball BC’s newest pathway designed to keep the game local, affordable, and fun.

This level is built for players and associations who want to focus on participation and community connection — not standings or travel.

“G” teams play close to home, in local leagues or fun events, and emphasize development, teamwork, and enjoyment.

Who Can Play Grassroots Softball?

- The “G” classification is for **U15 and older** players, where team numbers often drop and travel can be a challenge.
- Players can:
 - **Play only on a “G” team**, or
 - **Dual-roster** — meaning they can play on both:
 - A **“G” team** (local, developmental play), and
 - A **C or B or A team** (travel or competitive play).

Being able to dual-roster means players don’t have to choose between supporting their hometown team and pursuing a higher level of play — they can do both.

What Makes “G” Different?

Feature	G - Grassroots	C & B & A Classifications
Focus	Participation, local play, and development	Competition and travel play
Travel	Minimal – mostly local games or events	Regional and provincial travel

Feature	G - Grassroots	C & B & A Classifications
Tournaments	Local league or fun events	Travel tournaments, Regionals and Provincials
Cost	Lower	Moderate to higher
Goal	Keep players playing in their communities	Broader competition and skill development

Can “G” Teams Play Against “C” Teams?

Yes!

G teams can play **exhibition games** against C teams or even B or A teams as long as G teams do not need to travel outside of the region they normally play in. As long as the coaches of both teams agree, teams of different classifications are welcome to compete against each other in friendly competition. Similarly, a “C”, “B”, or “A” classified team can play in a Grassroots league - as long as the league organizers feel the team would be a good fit for the league. The “G” classification isn’t about skill level - it’s about staying local. Games between “G” teams and teams in other classifications are meant for **fun and development**.

Important Rules for Dual-Rostered Players

To keep the level fair and enjoyable:

- Dual-rostered players must **declare their primary team** (C or B or A).
When playing on a “G” team, they:
 - **Cannot pitch or catch full games.**
 - Should **rotate through positions** to support team development.
 - G coaches must ensure **all players get fair playing time**.
 - Single-rostered “G” players must be prioritized.
 - Players **registered only on a “G” team** are **not eligible** to be pick-ups for A or B or C teams at provincial events.
-

Why Softball BC Created This Level

Softball BC recognizes that many rural and small-town associations face similar challenges:

- Fewer players in older age groups,
- High travel costs, and
- Limited access to competition without leaving their communities.

The "G" **Classification** offers a solution, keeping the game **accessible, affordable, and community-driven** — a **Grassroots pathway** where everyone can play, develop, and stay connected to their local softball family.

How Associations Can Start a "G" Team

Associations interested in forming a "G" team must:

1. Get **approval from their District Minor Coordinator**.
2. Register their roster through **Softball BC's regular system**, flagging any dual-rostered players.
3. Commit to the **Grassroots principles**: participation, fairness, inclusion, and community focus.

NOTE: for the 2026 season, the "G"-Grassroots classification is available in District 10 ONLY.

What's Next?

The "G" Classification will begin as a **pilot program in District 10 for the 2026 season**. Softball BC will gather feedback from players, coaches, and associations to help refine the program for possible expansion.

Our Message to Players and Families

Softball BC believes **every player deserves a place to play**, regardless of geography, cost, or competition level.

The "G" – **Grassroots Classification** is about:

- **Access** – Keeping softball local and inclusive
- **Enjoyment** – Playing for the love of the game

- **Connection** – Strengthening community bonds through sport

Keep players playing. Stay local. Stay connected.



"G" - Grassroots Classification Information Sheet

What is the "G" – Grassroots Classification?

- Participation-first pathway for players U15+.
- Focus on local play, skill development, and community connection.
- Not focused on competition or provincial advancement.

Who Can Play?

- Anyone U15+ interested in playing softball can join a "G" team.
- Players can sign up for **only one "G" team** OR be dual-rostered and play on one "G" team AND one C or B or A team.

Key Features for "G" teams

- Local and community-focused play.
- Participation-first; all players get meaningful playing time.
- Dual-rostered players are limited to playing 2 innings as pitcher/catcher per game.
- Not eligible to attend any tournaments other than tournaments which are part of the "G" league schedule.
- Not eligible for District Playdowns, Regionals, or Provincials.

Can "G" Teams Play Against C (or B or A) Teams?

- Yes, as long as the coaches of both teams agree.
- Yes, only when those games take place within the region the "G" team normally plays in - "G" teams do not travel to find competition.
- For fun and development only.

Why "G" – Grassroots Exists

- Keep players playing locally.
- Reduce travel and cost barriers.
- Support rural and small-town associations.
- Provide extra development opportunities.

FAQ

Q1: Does Grassroots mean a player is "less skilled"?

A1: No! Focus is on participation, fun, and development. Players have many reasons for choosing to play on a "G" team:

- to have better access to local playing opportunities;



"G" - Grassroots Classification Information Sheet

- to minimize travel costs;
- to remain connected to Softball while also pursuing other sports or activities;

Q2: Can my child play for both a "G" and a C, B, or A team?

A2: Yes, with dual-roster rules for fairness.

Q3: Are "G" teams eligible for Provincials?

A3: No, but dual-rostered players can compete via their primary A/B/C roster.

Q4: Are "G" players eligible to be picked up for a Provincial or post-Provincial competition by an A or B or C team?

A4: It depends:

- Yes - Players that are dual-rostered and play on a "G" team and on a C or B or A team can be picked up as per established pick-up rules.
- No - Players that play only on one "G" team cannot be picked up.

Q5: If my child plays only on a "G" team, will they still have playing opportunities?

A5: Coaches are to provide minimum play time to ensure that true Grassroots players do not sit on the bench; dual-rostered players are limited to pitching/catching a maximum of 2 innings per game. These rules are in place to provide single-rostered players with guaranteed playing time and access to opportunities to play in positions such as pitching and catching.

Q6: How do I register?

A6: Through your local association.

Q7: Can "G" teams travel?

A7: Travel is minimal; focus is local and accessible. "G" teams do not participate in tournaments except for events that are organized as part of the league in which the "G" team plays.


Q8: Who to contact?

A8: For more information, reach out to your local association.

G (Grassroots) Classification Pilot Satisfaction Survey

executive.director@softball.bc.ca [Switch account](#)



 Not shared

* Indicates required question

Participant Information

Please provide the following information about which Grassroots team you/your child played on:

District: *

Your answer

Association: *

Your answer

Section 1: Player Feedback

This section is to be completed by the player.



I played on the following teams: *

- ☐ G (Grassroots) team only
- ☐ G (Grassroots) team and "C" team
- ☐ G (Grassroots) team and "B" team
- ☐ G (Grassroots) team and "A" team

Overall Experience

	1 - Strongly Disagree	2 - Disagree	3 - Neutral	4 - Agree	5 - Strongly Agree
I enjoyed playing on my G – Grassroots team.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I felt included and had enough playing time.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I felt supported by my coaches.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playing on a G team helped me stay connected to my community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The rules around dual-rostered players were fair and clear.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Skill Development *

1 - Strongly
Disagree

2 - Disagree

3 - Neutral

4 - Agree

5 - Strongly
Agree

I had
opportunities to
develop new
skills or
improve
existing ones.

☐☐☐☐☐

I was able to
play multiple
positions if I
wanted.

☐☐☐☐☐

What did you enjoy most about your G – Grassroots experience?

Your answer

What could be improved about your G – Grassroots experience?

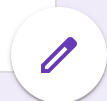
Your answer

Any other comments or suggestions?

Your answer

Section 2: Parent/Guardian Feedback

This section is to be completed by the player's parent or guardian.



Overall Experience *

	1 - Strongly Disagree	2 - Disagree	3 - Neutral	4 - Agree	5 - Strongly Agree
I am satisfied with my child's experience on the G – Grassroots team.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The program was affordable and accessible.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The program provided meaningful opportunities for my child to play.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understood the rules and purpose of the G – Grassroots Classification	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communication from the association and coaches was clear and timely.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Player Development & Community Engagement *

1 - Strongly
Disagree

2 - Disagree

3 - Neutral

4 - Agree

5 - Strongly
Agree

My child had opportunities to develop skills and try different positions.

☐☐☐☐☐

My child felt connected to their team and community.

☐☐☐☐☐

What did you like most about your child's participation in G – Grassroots Softball?

Your answer

What improvements would you suggest for the G – Grassroots program?

Your answer

Any other comments or concerns?

Your answer

Submit

Clear form

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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

AUGUST

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