



Minor Advisory Council Minutes April 9, 2026

Attendance

- Council members (see Appendix A)
- Darren Simpson, Board Liaison
- Rachel Allan, President
- Shaquille Gilbert, Umpires & Championship Director (Staff Liaison)
- Diane St-Denis, Executive Director (Staff)

1. Territorial Acknowledgement and Opening Remarks

B. Edamura (chair) was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and started with an in-camera discussion with council members only. Staff and board members joined at 7:35 PM.

2. Quorum

There was a quorum present (Appendix A).

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by A. Douthwright, seconded by G. Johnson, to approve the agenda with the addition of

- **Add 7.b. [Review a proposed regulation on pregnant participants](#)**
- **Add 7.c. Handbook update** **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. Approval of Minutes from the last meeting

Moved by E. Lee, seconded by B. Hawkins, to approve the minutes of March 12, 2026, with the following edits

- **Time of adjournment 10:38pm**
- **Need to record Baukje in the attendance chart** **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. Email Votes

No email votes have been conducted since the last meeting.

6. Business Arising

a. Outcome of motions sent to the Board

None were forwarded following the last meeting.

b. Outcome 8.5.13 Classification Change

Moved by C.Young, seconded by M. MacDonald, to approve the amended motion for 8.5.13 as follows:

- 8.5.13. CLASSIFICATION CHANGE - Any team placing 1st in a Provincial Championship must move **s** 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.

Exception:

The following applies only to the women's U20C category.

Any team placing 1st in a Provincial Championship returning the following year with six (6) or more returning players, must either

- a. Move to the women's division;
- b. Move to the U19B; or
- c. Remain at U20C and be ineligible for districts and provincials for the first year they return as a U20C team.

CARRIED (12-1-0) - Weston against

This was the second vote on this motion. It will be submitted to the Board of Directors.

c. Outcome 8.5.6 Pro Rata (2nd Vote)

Moved by A. Doughtwright, seconded by H. Maleki, to approve the edit 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 first scheduled districts are held for said classification and category, and no earlier than the first Friday in June.
- 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 completed, the pro rata list will be confidentially shared with the District Coordinators, who in turn may share the information with district members at an agreed-upon time/schedule.

CARRIED (12-0-1) Young abstained

This was the second vote on this motion. It will be submitted to the Board of Directors.

d. 8.1.24 Field of Play

Moved by E. Lee, seconded by C. Young, to approve the edit to 8.1.24

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.

At Softball BC District Playdowns, Regionals (including Celebrations and Showcases) and Provincials:

- a. **Playing Field:** The playing field is defined as the fair territory within which the ball may be played and fielded. **Only those individuals listed on the Approved Softball BC roster and approved pickups may access the playing field.**

b. Dugout: The dugout is dead-ball territory for those who are registered those individuals listed on the Approved Softball BC roster and approved pickups only.

Regular Season Play:

a. Playing Field: The playing field is defined as the fair territory within which the ball may be played and fielded. Only individuals listed on the team's roster and pickups may access the playing field.

b. Dugout: The dugout is dead-ball territory for those individuals listed on the team's roster and pickups.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

This was the second vote on this motion. It will be submitted to the Board of Directors.

e. Boys on Girls Teams

Moved by G. Johnson, seconded by M. MacDonald, to approve the edit to 8.1.19, 9.1.17 and 9.1.25

Girls Fastpitch Rules

8.1.19. MALE PLAYER – Male players may play in the female programs, but must adhere to the following limitations.

i. LTP to U13C categories, excluding U11R: The number of male players must not exceed 50% of the roster; however, this can be reviewed by the Minor Coordinator and Umpires & Championship Director on a case-by-case basis.

ii. U11R category: Up to 2 male players are permitted on the roster.

iii. U13B & U13A: Male players are not permitted in female programs.

iv. U15C category: Up to 2 male players are permitted on the roster.

v. U15B above: Male players are not permitted in female programs.

~~8.1.19. MALE PLAYER – A minor male player may play in the girls program at LTP up to and including U15C. The U15C category will be permitted to have up to 2 male players on a girls team. LTP to U13C categories, no limit to the number of boys on a girls team.~~

Boys Fastpitch Rules

~~9.1.17. MALE PLAYER – A minor male player may play in the girls program up to and including U13C. Two male players may play at U15C on a girls' team.~~

9.1.25. FEMALE PLAYERS may play on a boys male team. The number of female players must not exceed 50%; however, this can be reviewed by the Minor Coordinator and Umpires & Championship Director on a case-by-case basis.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

This was the second vote on this motion. It will be submitted to the Board of Directors.

f. Roster size exceptions for U17 and under

Moved by B. Hawkins, seconded by E. Lee, to approve the edit to 8.3.6.1.

8.3.6.1 Maximum Players

i. For teams U17 and under, a maximum of 15 players.

ii. For U19 A & B and U20C teams, a maximum of 17 players.

Exceptions may be granted **for the regular season only** under extraordinary circumstances with the approval of the District Minor Coordinator and the **Umpires & Championships Director**.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

This was the second vote on this motion. It will be submitted to the Board of Directors.

g. 8.4.4 - minors playing in Mens & Womens

Moved by B. Hawkins, , seconded by H. Maleki, to approve the edit to 8.4.4

8.4.4 A team of Minor Players wishing to play ~~league or exhibition games~~ against Men's or Women's teams must have written consent from the Appropriate Minor and Men's & Women's Coordinators

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

This was the second vote on this motion. It will be submitted to the Board of Directors.

h. Question about validating DOB on the RAMP system

K. Tibbles is consulting with RAMP on the usage of the “validated DOB” function in RAMP. More specifically, who can click the box, who can override the validation, and does it follow the file year-to-year? A written response will be provided once we have one.

i. Forms - final feedback

Gilbert thanked those who provided feedback on the forms. He will send the forms out again for a final round of feedback. The forms will be finalized and posted on Monday.

- i. Review Form Submission Protocol (all forms to be submitted to the office)
- ii. Minor Provincial Player Pick-Up Approval Form in District
- iii. Minor Provincial Player Pick Up Approval Form out of District
- iv. Minor Playing With/ Against Men's and Women's Consent Form
- v. Minor Team Application to Play Men's and Women's Team Consent Form
- vi. Add and Delete Form for All Teams
- vii. Waiver Application Exception from Playing with SC Rules
- viii. Reclassification Form (for coordinators)
- ix. Application Waiver for Exemption from 20 Games Maximum
- x. Overage Players
- xi. Minor Coordinator District Participation Confirmation form
- xii. U15C regional participation form

j. 8.1.25 Bat Person

Table for a future meeting.

k. Outcome 8.1.22 Maximum Games

Consensus was to edit this regulation for the 2027 season and to ensure members are notified in early August.

The 2025 language will remain in effect for the 2026 season.

Table for a future meeting.

7. New Business

a. K. Weston's proposal on motion

Reference discussion with the president, who confirmed work would be undertaken by the Governance Committee.

b. Review a proposed regulation on pregnant participants

The Board would like the Minor Advisory Council to review a motion recently adopted by the Men's & Women's Advisory Council for inclusion in the minor regulations.

New SOR 10.4.6 (Women) - In the case of a pregnant participant, the player or coach must provide a doctor's note before competing to be added to their registration profile, confirming medical clearance to participate, which also serves as acknowledgment of the risk associated with participation.

The rule is not in the Softball Canada Rulebook. The office confirmed that this was a recommendation from our insurance broker when a coordinator in the men's and women's advisory council raised the question.

Table for a future meeting.

c. Handbook update

Staff confirmed the handbook will be online by April 15th. The office will look into providing a hard copy of the handbook to all council members.

8. Reports

a. Working group update on Tryout Policy for Rep Ball

S. Maion was not in attendance. Coordinators felt the meeting was well run with lots of positive and constructive feedback from the participants.

b. Minor Development Fund

K. Weston informed the council of the MDF Committee's decision to move to four (4) intakes per year. Once approved by the Board, the information will be posted to the web, and the office will develop a communication plan (emails) to the associations.

c. 2026 Championships Update

S. Gilbert informed the council of the Board's decision to eliminate all prizing at the event with the exception of the Gold Medalist (and in gold pools only). Gold Medalists will continue to receive a "champions" banner. Coordinators recommended that Gilbert circulate a list of the assigned supervisors and UICs to date and ensure introductions of these appointments are made with the host ASAP.

d. Board of Directors

i. Alcohol Policy at Minor Events - D. Simpson shared the recently approved policy from the Board (Appendix B).

ii. Work assigned to Governance Committee - D. Simpson informed the council of the Board's directive to the Governance Committee to

- (i) develop a flow chart to guide councils as it pertains to handling motions; and
- (ii) review the use of proxies on councils in light of bylaw 3.10, which allows for the appointment of a temporary replacement (with conditions).

- iii. District Review Working Group - D. Simpson shared with the council that in order to do meaningful work, the working group will consult with the membership to determine whether they feel they are receiving good service through the district structure, whether they are happy with the current system, or whether they believe there is a better way of doing things. To that end, the working group is developing a survey and considering using multiple communication channels to solicit meaningful feedback. This work will continue throughout the season, as that is an optimal time to identify unresolved issues within districts.

Coordinators questions why they were not part of the working group as they have knowledge of what is happening in the districts. D. Simpson committed to taking the information back to the Working Group to ensure they, post survey, are engaging the Advisory Councils.

- iv. Assignr - D. Simpson inform the council that there was no written report not available at this time. He reminded the council that this was a pilot. Staff will bring to a future meeting information on how the pilot will be evaluated.
- v. Renegades Motion Forwarded by Board
Coordinators noted that they had rejected this motion in November 2025. After some discussion, there was consensus to have D. St-Denis draft a timeline for the review to be completed. The council will review it at its next meeting.

e. Rural Participation Pilots - Your role in the evaluation process

D. St-Denis shared (Appendix C) the approach taht will be taken to evaluations the three pilots. THe information was share to ensure coordinators had clear sight of the work they would be contributing to the evaluation.

- i. Rural Overage Pilot - Evaluation
- ii. Grassroot Classification Pilot
- iii. U15C Regionals Pilot

9. Round Table Check-in

Brief round table check-in was completed.

10. Next Meeting and Adjournment

Next meetings

- Sunday, May 3rd - 7 pm
- Sunday, June 7th - 7 pm

Motion to adjourn: B. Hawkins

Seconder: A. Charlworth

Carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm

APPENDIX A
COUNCIL 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		0
8	Kathy Weston	7	1	7
9	Michelle Kirkbright	5	1	5
10	Margaret MacDonald	3	1	3
11	Amy Douthwright	3	1	3
12	Andy Ferguson	3		0
13	Patrick Beckerton	3		0
14	Chris Young	3	1	3
15	Gord Johnson	3	1	3
	Total	53		43
	31.8 votes is 60%			81.13%

APPENDIX B

Alcohol Policy at Minor Events

The Board approved the following policy as it pertains to alcohol at Softball BC minor events.

“In accordance with the Softball BC Code of Conduct, members shall refrain from promoting or selling alcohol at sanctioned Softball BC minor events, which include age categories from Learn to Play to U20.

Exception: A host facility with a permanent structure where alcohol can be sold and consumed, and which complies with all city, municipal and provincial liquor licensing regulations.

The Men’s & Women’s Advisory Council and Slo-Pitch Advisory Committee have been asked to review a similar policy for those events.

APPENDIX C

Rural Participation Pilot Evaluation

Rural Overage Exemption

Evaluation Area	Key Indicators	Data Sources	Timeline
1. # of exemptions provided	# requested/approved/denied	Minor Advisory Council Chair	Submit applications (approved and/or denied) to the office immediately after review.
2. Team Viability	Number of teams formed/maintained with overage players	District Minor Coordinators reports Association submissions (via Minor Advisory Council Chair)	July 1, 2026 Submit applications (approved and/or denied) to the office immediately after review.
3. Player Retention	Return rate of eligible players and overage participants	Registration data (via Member Services Manager)	June 15, 2026
4. Competitive Balance	Game scores, feedback on parity	League and tournament records (via District Minor Coordinators)	July 1, 2026
5. Stakeholder Feedback	Satisfaction and fairness perceptions	Surveys of parents, players and coaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey should be mandatory for teams with overage players - Survey can be optional for teams without overage players that competed against teams with overage players 	

		<p>District Minor Coordinators to confirm teams to be surveyed</p> <p>Umpires & Championship Director to prepare and send survey</p>	<p>July 1, 2026</p> <p>July 15, 2026</p>
6. Administrative Feasibility	Ease of application, clarity of process	<p>Umpires & Championship Director and District Minor Coordinators feedback</p> <p>Umpires & Championship Director to prepare and send survey</p>	<p>July 1, 2026</p>

Umpires & Championship Director to submit final report to Council by August 15, 2026

Grassroots Classification

WHAT	WHO	TIMELINE
Participation Metrics (DATA COMPILATION) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	D10 Minor Coordinator	June 1, 2026
Operational & Compliance Metrics (DATA COMPILATION) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	D10 Minor Coordinator	July 15, 2026
Community & Association Outcomes (SURVEY) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Umpires & Championships Director	July 15, 2026
Player Development & Competitiveness (SURVEY) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skill development opportunities: qualitative assessment from coaches (e.g., more playing time, exposure to multiple positions). 	Umpires & Championships Director	August 1, 2026
Player & Parent Experience (SURVEY) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfaction surveys for players and parents (see Survey): 	Umpires & Championships Director	July 15, 2026

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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). 		
<p>Final Report Compilation</p> <p>Pilot Success Thresholds (Example Benchmarks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● >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. 	Umpires & Championships Director	August 1, 2026
<p>2027 ONLY (IF PROGRAM CONTINUES)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opportunities for higher-level play: tracking how dual-rostered players progress in C/B teams. 		

U15C Regionals

What	who	timeline
Gather Hosting Metrics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of interested parties 	Umpires & Championships Director	August 1, 2025
Gather Participation Metrics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of teams attending Regional events. • Number of teams attending U15C Provincials from the Regions implementing a Regional compared to previous seasons. 	Umpires & Championships Director	August 1, 2025
Stakeholder Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Umpires & Championships Director UIC and Supervisor	August 1, 2025
Final Report & Recommendations for Future Seasons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of whether to continue, modify, or expand the Regional events. • If recommendation the continued delivery of a U15C regional, identify potential improvements to the regional competition model. 	Umpires & Championships Director	August 31, 2025