



Minor Advisory Council Minutes May 3, 2026

Attendance

- See Appendix A for the Council attendance chart
- Lucas Crosby, Umpire Advisory Council Representation {guest - left at 7:33 p.m.}
- Darren Simpson, Board of Directors Representative
- Diane St-Denis, Executive Director

1. Territorial Acknowledgement and Opening Remarks

B. Edamura (chair) called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. She also welcomed Lucas Cosby, who joined the council for the discussion on the U11 rules, item 7.a)

Follow-up

- Sent summary of MAC concerns to the Board. Working on identifying a date and time for the MAC to have an in-camera meeting with the Board to discuss their concerns.
- Set up the WhatsApp group (coordinators only) to allow for a less cumbersome dialogue.
- A letter has been sent to the Governance Committee. They did respond and ask that we comply with the current TORs.

2. Quorum

See Appendix A.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by S. Maion, seconded by A. Ferguson, approve the agenda with the addition of the Tournament sanctioning working group under item 8 - Report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Approval of Minutes from the last meeting

Moved by E. Lee, seconded by M. MacDonald, to approve the minutes as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Email Votes

The only email votes were on overage applications. B. Edamura thanks the coordinators who participated in the vote and reviewed the approach used in the voting process to ensure better tracking.

6. Business Arising

a. Outcome of motions sent to the Board

D. Simpson noted that a written report was included in the meeting package. He highlighted that all motions were approved.

b. 8.1.25 Bat Person (K. Weston)

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

c. 8.1.22 Maximum Games

B. Edmuara noted that the proposed motion (below) is for 2027 but that it does not have the information noted in the revised Council TORs.

Moved by B. Hawkings, seconded by S. Maion, to edit 8.1.22 as follows for the 2027 season

- a. **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.**
- b. **Playing in more than 20 games will result in the player being ineligible to participate in any District Playdowns, Provincial Championships, Western Canadian Championships, or Canadian Championships. The onus is on the player to track their pick-up participation (date/times/team/location) should they need to prove compliance with this regulation.**
- c. **The player may apply for a waiver. A waiver may be granted at the sole discretion of the Umpires & Championships Director in consultation with the relevant Minor District Coordinator. The number of games calculation will run from March 1st to June 15th, ~~the start of the provincial championships for that age category~~, and shall include all tournaments, exhibition, and regular-season games, both in and out of province.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The council noted that, if approved by the Board, a bulletin regarding this motion should be sent to all minor associations before tryouts (i.e., August).

Action: [Motion to be circulated to minor associations presidents for feedback.](#)

d. Review a proposed regulation on pregnant participants

The council discussed a proposed regulation on pregnant participants, with members expressing concerns about privacy, legal implications, and potential discrimination. The group ultimately decided not to support including this rule in Articles 8 and 9 of the SORs.

7. New Business

a. U11C/U11R Rules - Overthrow vs Wild Throw

The focus of the discussion was to clarify the differences between "overthrow" and "wild throw" in the U11C and U11R rules. Lucas Crosby, the D9 umpire-in-Chief, identified inconsistencies in the rulebook where "overthrow" terminology was incorrectly used when "wild throw" was intended. The group agreed that the rulebook should be corrected to use "wild throw" in the appropriate sections, particularly in Article 7, page 18, where it currently incorrectly refers to "subsequent overthrows" when discussing plays that should remain in play. The discussion concluded with agreement that this appears to be a typographical error in the rulebook that needs correction.

Motion by B. Hawkins, seconded by H. Maleki, to make the following changes to the SORs effective immediately

- **Rule 7, page 16**

A player can not advance to home on a steal, passed ball, or wild pitch. The player must be batted in or forced home by a walk or is part of a continuation of a play (i.e. ~~overthrow~~ **wild throw).**

- **Item 4, page 18**

For example: A player cannot get a homerun on a bunt. If a batter bunts a ball and an ~~overthrow~~ **wild throw occurs at first, the batter may try to advance to second at their own risk. If there is then an ~~overthrow~~ **wild throw** at second base, the batter-runner may try to advance to third base at their own risk. If there is a subsequent ~~overthrow~~ **wild throw** at third base, the batter-runner will hold at third base.**

CARRIED (10-1-0) D11 opposed

Action: Staff to update the SORs and issue a correction memo to the membership.

Lucas Crosby to ask the UAC to prepare a motion for the Softball BC Board to review and bring forward to Softball Canada to correct "overthrow" to "wild throw" in Softball Canada's rulebook.

b. Renegades Motion Forwarded by Board

Further to the Board's request for the council to review the motion from the Renegades (Appendix B), B. Edamura presented the timeline for potential changes to age categories, which would need to be submitted to the Softball BC Board by July 1st for consideration and submission to Softball Canada for the 2026 AGM and implementation in the 2028 season (Appendix C).

The following working group was formed to prepare recommendations for the June meeting.

- K. Weston
- B Edamura
- S. Maion
- E. Lee

The question was raised about the availability of RAMP data for the committee to use. D. St-Denis noted that the office can review the request if the committee can provide the specifics on what information they are seeking.

Action: The working group is to bring forward recommendations at the next meeting.

c. Discussion Topic: Insurance

- Tournaments - A team that participates in a tournament hosted by a non-Softball BC member has the option to purchase its own general liability and personal liability insurance.
- How does insurance work with Canada Cup (CASS)? Softball BC is working on a memorandum of understanding with CASS to sanction the event, so our participant insurance is active, and they can apply for funding, but CASS must have General

Liability Insurance. The same approach will apply to Softball BC-registered umpires.

- What happens if a team picks up a player that is too old for the category or not in the right classification - what does that go to insurance? - If a coach breaches a rule, such as you stated, and there is a case to be made that the rule allowed someone to be on the field who was responsible for the incident, then Softball BC could refuse to defend the player and coach in a civil suit, as they did not adhere to the rules.
- Is insurance tied to registration? Yes, participants need to be registered before they start playing. The May 1st deadline is for rostering. Staff will be presenting recommended language to address this concern.
 - Our insurance is renewed annually on May 1st, but that is not mistaken for when a member's membership starts and ends.
 - Work is needed to clarify this item, including how to address tryouts.
 - Researching with other PTSOs on their registration dates and on Softball Canada's intentions as they prepare to implement a national registration system.
- How do we know if a tournament is sanctioned? Ask the host to confirm. If unsure, ask the Softball BC office whether they can reach out to the province or the relevant entity to confirm whether it is sanctioned. Tournaments hosted by Softball BC members are sanctioned as long as they adhere to Article 17
- What happens if they don't follow the rule? - The first step will be to coach them to compliance.
- Umpires are not questioning if events are sanctioned - How do they know if the event is sanctioned, and they are therefore covered by our insurance?
 - Education is needed for the host to understand why they must use certified umpires, as it increases the host's and Softball BC's liability exposure in the event of an incident.
 - Education is needed for umpires about insurance being void when they participate in a non-sanctioned event, and the need to ensure that another entity covers them.

8. Reports

a. [Working group update on Tryout Policy for Rep Ball](#)

S. Maion provided an update on the work being completed by the tryout working group. We've modified the proposal based on feedback from the townhall and the feedback form (Appendix D).

Moved by S. Maion, seconded by K. Weston, to implement the new Tryout Policy as presented in Appendix D. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Action: [Motion to be circulated to minor associations presidents for feedback.](#)

b. Minor Development Fund

K. Weston had no report. The window closes on July 31st.

c. 2026 Championships (S. Gilbert)

D. St-Denis noted that S. Gilbert was not available for the call. She mentioned that he was still looking for supervisors for a few events.

- K. Weston requested a list of the UICs, as not all introductions had been done.
- B. Edamura noted she had yet to be introduced to her host, as did several others.
- E. Lee recalled that the previous director suggested holding an annual brief call with all supervisors.
- K. Weston questioned if forms were being revised, for example: "Welcome, you are going to provincials letter", "Supervisor package", review paperwork (scoreboard) for the host.
- D. St-Denis noted that she would bring all of the above to S. Gilbert's attention and recommend that he meet with the more experienced supervisor to ensure feedback from last year is captured in this year's package.

d. Board of Directors

D. Simpson provided a brief update on the following items:

- i. Work assigned to Governance Committee - Committee has yet to meet to address the items discussed at the last council meeting.

The Board did approve changes to the

- Minor Advisory Council Terms of Reference - [see website](#)
- Minor Development Fund Terms of Usage - [see website](#)

- iii. District Review Working Group - No update for this meeting

- iv. Assignr - staff provided the Board with a draft Assignr Pilot Evaluation Approach, which they will be sending to PUIC and subsequently to the Umpire Advisory Council for feedback. Once it's approved, we can share it with the Council.

v. Rural Participation Pilots Evaluations

No update at this time as the evaluation won't be completed until August.

vi. Tournament Scheduling Working Group

No formal update at this time.

K. Weston questioned whether work will be done on Article 17 to clarify how members know whether a tournament is sanctioned. D. St-Denis noted that some of the conversations happening at the tournament scheduling working group level may provide some tactics that can be used for compliance.

B. Hawkins questioned where the feedback opportunity will be for members. B. Edamura welcomed him to share the information directly with her and E. Lee.

9. Round Table Check-in

10. Next Meeting and Adjournment
Next meeting - Sunday, June 7 @ 7 p.m.

**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	
6	Liz Lee	4	1	4
7	Shannon Maion	4	1	4
8	Kathy Weston	7	1	7
9	Michelle Kirkbright	5	1	5
10	Margaret MacDonald	3	1	3
11	Amy Douthwright	3	1	3
12	Andy Ferguson	3	1	3
13	Patrick Beckerton	3		0
14	Chris Young	3		0
15	Gord Johnson	3		0
	Total	53		41
	31.8 votes is 60%		11	77.36%

The White Rock Renegades brought forward this motion to the Minor Advisory Council. The Council recognized that such a change would require a larger debate with our BC membership prior to introducing the topic to our fellow PTSOs. Do we wish to pursue this matter, as research and advocacy would be required?

Softball BC Motion Form

Motions submitted using this form will be reviewed by the Executive Director and referred to the appropriate committee(s) or council(s) for review prior to review by the Board of Directors.

Email *

kim@whiterockrenegades.com

ABOUT THE MEMBER PROPOSING THE MOTION

Full Name *

Greg Timm

Minor Association you are registered with / Team you are affiliated it if not affiliated with a minor program.

RENEGADES SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Email Address *

greg.timm@whiterockrenegades.com

ABOUT THE MEMBER SECONDING THE MOTION

Full Name *

Kim Proctor

Minor Association you are registered with / Team you are affiliated it if not affiliated with a minor *
program.

RENEGADES SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Email Address

kim@whiterockrenegades.com

YOUR MOTION

Please clarify which by-law, policy (found on the website), or article (in the handbook) your *
motion is intended to address. Use the section identifiers to clearly indicate which section your
motion seeks to change.

2025 AGE AND DISTRICT CHART

Please list the current content of the referenced section. *

Please refer to Softball BC Age & District Chart in Softball BC Handbook

Are you looking to amend, delete, or add to this section? *

Amend

Delete

Add

What is your proposed motion? *

Whereas:

The age change from U18 to U19 has been a detriment to this age classification because players are less likely to play "minor youth" softball after their Grade 12 graduation. Canadian Championships and Provincial Championships – as well as many local tournaments – are struggling with numbers at U19. For example, in 2025 there were only seven "A" teams in all of British Columbia – almost 50% less than other age classifications. At the U19A National Championships, there were only 13 teams from across Canada; 5 of which were representing British Columbia. Our understanding is the age – especially in U19 – has also affected the numbers in "B" and "C" as well.

And whereas:

The change to the U19 category was made, in part, to align Softball Canada with WBSC categories and corresponding youth categories in the United States. Both the WBSC and most USA youth associations have returned to 18U categories whereby, first year college/university athletes, are no longer eligible to play "minor youth" softball.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

For the 2027 competitive year, and applying to fastpitch only, Softball Canada changes their minor age categories

FROM:

U7, U9, U11, U13, U15, U17, and U19

TO:

- U6 - Players born in 2021/2022
 - U8 - Players born in 2019/2020
 - U10 – Players born in 2017/2018
 - U12 – Players born in 2015/2016
 - U14 – Players born in 2013/2014
 - U16 – Players born in 2011/2012
 - U18 – Players born in 2009/2010
 - U23 – Players born in 2006, 2007, 2008
-

What is the rationale behind your motion? *

To amend age classifications to strengthen our U19 age classification and align with WBSC and USA softball.

Are there consequences for non-compliance with the revised section if this motion is approved? *

no

Are there other by-laws, policies, or articles that may be affected by this motion if approved? *

no

Are there any financial implications if this motion is approved? *

no

This form was created inside of softball.bc.ca.

Google Forms

Appendix C				
Changing the Age Categories				
Must be approved by 2/3 of eligible voting members at the SOftball Canada AGM				
Activity	Who	Work window		Completion Date
Submit recommendation to the Board of Directors	Advisory COuncil	now to June 30th	2 months	July 1st
Review recommendation from MAC	Softball BC Board	July 1 to July 14th	2 weeks	July 15th
Have secured the support of at least 8 other DTSCs on the motion	Softball BC President and ED	July 15th to Sept 1	2 months	#####
Submit motion to SOftball Canada	Softball BC Office	Sept 15 to 30	5 days	#####
The motion, if we submitted one, would be for the new categories to take affect 2028.				

Revised (April 2026) Tryout Recommendations:

Summary:

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

Tryout start dates:

U11R:

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

Additional notes for clarification:

- Fall skill development camps or clinics are permitted.

Rep A/B U13-U19:

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

Additional notes for clarification:

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

Team selection – Offer Rules:

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

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

Additional notes for clarification:

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

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

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

Additional notes for clarification:

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

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

- **Associations selecting only Rep B**

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

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

Additional notes for clarification:

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

Implementation Timeline

- September 2026 for the 2027 season

Additional notes for clarification:

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

Sample offer template:

Hello,

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

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

Date of offer:

Athlete name:

Team name:

Offer deadline: September 8th, 2026 4pm

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

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

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

Date:

Team:

Athlete name:

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

Parent/Guardian name:

Parent/Guardian phone number: