

CALGARY MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

Over 50 Years

HOME OF MINOR SOFTBALL IN CALGARY

OFFICIAL 2024 RULEBOOK



OPERATING RULES

Play by rules, Govern by Ethics

Affiliated with
Softball Canada
Softball Alberta
Sport Calgary

Updates may occur and will be reflected on the website – in the event of a discrepancy the web version will be considered most current. Past Presidents of Calgary Minor Softball Association

1970 – 1971	Jake Pohl
1972 – 1973*	Doug Dippel
1974 – 1975	Alice Thomas
1976 -1977	Dave Anderson
1977 -1978	Randolph Headley
1978 – 1981	Ed Corbett
1982 – 1984	Dale Hertlein
1985 – 1986	Penny Dutchak
1987 -1988	Bill Peters
1988 – 1992	Paul A. Wagner
1993 – 1994	Brian Galipeau
1995 - 1996	Evelyn Clapson
1996 – 1998	Shelley Rudd
1999 – 2003	Darrel Kesslering
2004 - 2007	Maria Dougherty
2007 – 2011	Murray Slezak
2011 - 2013	Wendy Wilson
2014 - 2015	Shelley Rudd
2016 - 2018	Wendy Wilson
2018 - 2023	Adelle Young
2023 -	Kyle Ostermann

** Calgary Minor Softball Association registered in 1973**

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Calgary Minor Softball Association Information

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Calgary, Alberta
T2E 7M9

(403) 245-3008

fastpitch@calgaryminorsoftball.com

www.calgaryminorsoftball.com

Provincial Team Entry	June 1
Calgary Minor Softball Regional Qualifier Zone Playdown Fee	\$100.00 per team
Provincial Team roster submission deadline	June 15
Softball Alberta deadline date	

2024 KEY DATES

Season Start for ALL Teams -	FRIDAY, APRIL 26 th .
Division 3 + U9 – U11 – City Championship End Date	SUNDAY, JUNE 23 rd
Division 2 City Championship End Date	SUNDAY, JULY 7 th
Division 1 City Championship End Date	SUNDAY, JULY 21 st

**See www.calgaryminorsoftball.com for list of full dates





EXECUTIVE & DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SPORT COORDINATOR
SPORT ADMINISTRATOR

Kathy Worthington
Caitlyn Olson
Lauren Dansereau

EXECUTIVE:

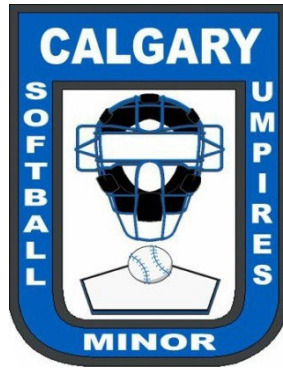
President
Vice President
Commissioner
Treasurer
Secretary
Registrar
League Director
Sport Development
Past President
CMSU President/UIC

Kyle Ostermann
Lanky Johnson
Steve Smith
Danielle Smith
Lance Block
Frank Worthington
Shelley Rudd
Dave Dansereau
Adelle Young
Jim Portman

BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S:

U9 Category Chair
U11 Category Chair
U13 Category Chair
U15 Category Chair
HS Category Chair
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director
Softball Alberta Minor Delegate

Vacant
Shannon Cleary
Lindsey Wright
Sarah Desveaux
Lanky Johnson
Leona Wowniar (SBR)
Lance Block (West Valley)
Christine Bullock (Southfour)
Shireen Bond (West Hill)
Stacey Tessier (Nosecreek)
Tamara Spencer (Foothills Fury)
Melissa Fair (Chestermere)
Brandi Rodericks (Airdrie)
Alison Clayton (Cochrane)
Andrea Khoury (Calgary Boys)
Tom Clooney (Strathmore)
Todd Neuman
Kathy Ervin
Blaine Rudd
Kathy Worthington
Kyle Ostermann



CALGARY MINOR SOFTBALL UMPIRES

Committee

President
1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Mentorship Director
Divisions Coordinator
Past President

Jim Portman
Mark Taylor
Kyle Muise
Lynn Muise
Kathy Ervin
Emma Jerome-Smith
Ian Clarke
Keith Davies



CANADIAN SPORT FOR LIFE (CS4L) CORE VALUES

- 1** CS4L believes in one vision and one system for Canada, building and linking the strengths of organizations and institutions at the national, provincial, territorial, and local level.
- 2** CS4L believes physical literacy is the basis of life-long participation and excellence in sport and physical activity.
- 3** CS4L believes every child is an athlete; therefore, is genetically predisposed to be active if their environment encourages participation!
- 4** CS4L recognizes life's significant development stages with their transitions from child; to adolescent; to adult; to senior.
- 5** CS4L is anchored in the belief that each participant; child, player or athlete, is different with distinctive rates of growth, maturation and behavioral development resulting in individualized progression through the stages of long-term athlete development (LTAD).
- 6** CS4L recognizes a variety of factors affect the planning of optimal training, competition and recovery programs.
- 7** CS4L recognizes that the accumulation of deliberate practice and training age is linear, and that the development of key capacities is non-linear and individualized¹.
- 8** CS4L believes providing guidance through the developmental stages across a lifetime of sport and physical activity will result in increased participation and performance.
- 9** CS4L recognizes that mastery in sport develops over time, through participation in quality sport and physical activity programs.
- 10** CS4L is participant / athlete centered, appreciating the interdependence of home, organized sport, community recreation, school sport and physical education for quality programs.
- 11** CS4L values inclusiveness of all, regardless of gender, geography, race, intellectual or physical disability or ability.
- 12** CS4L is of the belief that quality sport and physical activity, combined with proper lifestyle, results in: better health.

1. Modified after Pat Duffy's unpublished outline of sport coach UK's LTAD Core Values 2007

Purpose of the NCCP Code of Ethics

The National Coaching Certification Program™ (NCCP) Code of Ethics provides ethical standards that reflect the core values of the coaching profession in Canada, and guides sport coaches to make balanced decisions to achieve personal, participant and team goals. The NCCP Code of Ethics applies to every coach in Canada—from the first-time coach to the head coach of a national team. The NCCP Code of Ethics is used to guide the conduct in sport that stipulate acceptable and non-acceptable behaviours and associated repercussions.

Core principles and ethical standards of behaviour

Coaches value Leadership and Professionalism, Health and Safety, and Respect and Integrity. For each of these core principles, there are associated ethical standards of in-person and on-line behaviour expected of every NCCP coach and NCCP Coach Developer in Canada, whether on or off the field.



¹“Participants” include but are not limited to athletes, opponents, parents, other coaches, volunteers, administrators, officials and medical/IST irrespective of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, religion, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status, or physical or mental ability (Source of inclusivity statement: Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES)).

Hints for Coaches

1. The coach who controls his team (including Fans) helps the umpire to control the game.
2. The team is as good as its coach; the game is as good as its umpire. Both work towards the success of the game. Therefore, both should work as a team.
3. A good team can look better with good umpiring. Therefore, co-operation toward better umpiring helps the good team.
4. The umpire and coach are both striving toward success through excellent achievement. The coach teaches his players to play well. The umpire encourages them to play well through good umpiring.
5. The umpire can do a better job when he is not badgered or intimidated. The coach can do a better job when he is not provoked or needled. Both should work toward preventing this.
6. Spectators should be controlled and influenced by coaches as well as by umpires. Both can do a better job this way. Spectators who razz the umpire who errs will also razz the coach who makes a mistake.
7. Coaches and umpires who back up each other need not back off from spectators or players.
8. Coaching is a public interest; so is umpiring. Both work for the welfare of the players.
9. Players look good when the coach and umpire look good. Bizarre incidents and arguments take attention and credit away from the players.
10. The coach who wants an umpire to favor his team and the umpire who does so are both guilty of premeditated cheating.
11. Good umpiring complements good coaching. Both know and interpret rules and techniques similarly.
12. The coach's job is to teach; the umpires to arbitrate. Neither should encroach on each other's duties.
13. A coach who tries to secure home team favors from an umpire should keep in mind that he will be the visiting team 50% of the time.
14. The coach and umpire are worthy of the utmost in respect. However, they must earn this respect through their actions.

15. The coach wants his team to win because he thinks it is the best; the umpire hopes the best team will win.
16. The coach and umpire who live by the rules are apt to live right on the field.
17. To get others to do what you want them to do you must see things through their eyes. Try to win an agreement, not an argument.
18. The coach and umpire set the example; players follow it.
19. Dignified coaches and umpires do not resort to childish regressions and behavior. Their efforts are absorbed in helping children become adults.
20. Coaches and umpires do not individually win or lose games. Team effort does.
21. The coach who frequently stops the game to teach fundamentals has a team as poorly prepared as the umpire who tries to learn the rules during the game.
22. The coach or team that depends upon the breaks will lose. Breaks are mystical occurrences that cannot be predetermined through a crystal ball.
23. The coach who creates better working conditions for umpires attracts better umpires.
24. The umpire is a judge who prevents persecution; he should not be the object of it.
25. An alibi is like a crutch. It is only for the lame and the weak.
26. Think big and your results will be big.

This article taken from the magazine "Balls and Strikes": American Softball Association.



Operating Rules of Calgary Minor Softball Association

The Operating Rules of Calgary Minor Softball are for the operation of the teams playing in the scheduled leagues of Calgary Minor Softball Association.

Calgary Minor Softball Association Registered Clubs, Coaches and Team Managers are responsible to read and follow these rules. It is not an acceptable excuse that lack of awareness or application of these rules and regulations discharge the responsibility of the rules. In addition, **NO rules are to be changed at the diamond by coaches or umpires.**

Upon acceptance by Calgary Minor Softball Association of a teams Player Roster, the team and persons registered to the team is deemed to have accepted and agreed to the Calgary Minor Softball Association Rules, Regulations and Policies as stated and will accept any interpretation of these the rules set out by Calgary Minor Softball Association

1 DEFINITIONS

1.1 Mission and Vision Statements

Vision: Calgary Minor Softball is committed to providing a successful youth fastpitch program.

Mission: To build a successful program, we will:

- Govern and Coordinate Calgary Minor Softball Programs
- Incorporate the principles of (CS4L) Canadian Sport For Life and (LTPD) Long Term Player Development
- Promote lifelong sportsmanship.
- Facilitate skill development.
- Encourage Fun and Fair Play.

1.2 Principle Statement & Values

Play by Rules, Govern by Ethics

The Calgary Minor Softball Association Executive and Board of Directors are dedicated to offering a balanced competition by providing a safe and positive experience for all. Our focus is to provide a competitive, safe and abuse free sporting experience to all players in Calgary and Greater Calgary area through our Competitive and Developmental streams. We extend this commitment to all coaches, team, Club and League representatives, umpires, and staff. We foster and value positive player, parent, volunteer, Umpires, and supporter experiences.

Fair play is a virtue of rule adherence whereby players and athletes abide by the rules of competition. It is also a commitment to contest in a good spirit and encourage a good attitude towards sport that includes respect, modesty, generosity, and friendship.

1.3 Definitions and Terms

Club Association

Is a Member Association or Sports Association that is assigned to a Club.

Calgary Minor Softball Association

Is the Calgary Minor Softball Association and is referred to as either Calgary Minor Softball or the Association.

Affiliated Organization or Sub Committees

An organization that operates under the bylaws of Calgary Minor Softball Association that provides a specific program or service that benefits Calgary Minor Softball Association and the sport of fastpitch. The subcommittee of Calgary Minor Softball Association is:

- Calgary Minor Softball Umpires (CMSU).

Category

An age grouping of the Association for the purpose of playing fastpitch. The categories are: U7, U9, U11, U13, U15, U17 and U19. Each category shall have divisions or tiers.

Division or Tiers

The rating or level of teams in each category. There may be up to three (3) divisions (tier) in each category: Division 1, Division 2, and Division 3, Tiers will be used as required.

Board

The board of Directors of the Calgary Minor Softball Association elected by the members.

Executive

The Executive Committee of the Calgary Minor Softball Association.

Directors

Any person elected or appointed to the Board, including the President and the immediate Past President.

Members

A member is any person who is:

- Club Member – A Club composed of Team Members as recognized by the Society.
- Team Member – Any team registered with a Club Member composed of Athlete Members and Affiliate Members.
- Athlete Member – Any individual who is a participant or athlete who is registered with a Club Member.
- Affiliate Member – Any individual, who is a volunteer, coach, or official, who is registered with a Club Member.
- Director Member – Any individual who is a Director of the Society

Unless otherwise determined by the Board, the membership year of the Society will be May 1st to April 30th.

Any person wishing to withdraw from the membership may do so upon written notice to the Society. Any member may be expelled from the Association for any reason the Association deems reasonable but only upon a two-thirds majority vote by members at a Special Meeting. The rights and obligations of the members shall be to adhere to the bylaws. A member may not resign from the Society when the Member is subject to disciplinary investigation or action by the Society.

Player Release

An approved release or transfer permits a player who resides in one Club to be on a roster of a team in a different Club.

Unacceptable Behavior

An individual is displaying unsportsmanlike, unacceptable behavior if they are verbally or physically harassing and/or abusing any coach, player, certified or volunteer umpire, league volunteer, office staff or spectator.

It is the responsibility of any Club Representative, parent, coach, player or official to report any incident of abuse or harassment to the Calgary Minor Softball Executive Director (Appeals, Suspension & Discipline committee), as per the Disciplinary Policy. It is not the responsibility of any parent, coach, player or official to take matters into their own hands. The policy processes will begin within 24 hours of the incident being reported to the Calgary Minor Softball office (Disciplinary committee).

2 FEES

- The team registration fees will be set by the Executive at least thirty (30) days prior to the team registration date.
- Upon payment of team registration fees, the team if applicable becomes members of Calgary Minor Softball Association as defined by Bylaw Article II Membership.
- Player and coach insurance are included in the team registration fee. Any teams travelling outside of Alberta and within Canada require a travel permit from Softball Alberta for valid insurance. Teams travelling to areas outside of Canada need to contact Softball Alberta.
- In all cases, payment of any fees must be made payable to Calgary Minor Softball Association. Late fees for Player Registration will be set at \$200.00/per team. Late fees must be paid to Calgary Minor Softball Association before teams can participate in league play.

3 ROTATIONAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Annual General Meeting will elect the Officers of Calgary Minor Softball Association:

- Vice-President, Secretary and Registrar for two-year (2) terms in even numbered years.
- President and Treasurer for two-year (2) terms in odd numbered years.
- Other Directors are elected for a two-year (2) term and appointed to appropriate roles. In the event of a position becoming vacant, the Board may appoint a Board member to that position.

4 LEAGUE OFFICIALS

4.0 Calgary Minor Softball Association Executive Committee Responsibilities

These are the duties and responsibilities for the League Officials that are responsible for the operation of the Softball programs. See Calgary Minor Softball Association Constitution and Bylaws, Article IV, Governance.

4.1 Commissioner

- There shall be at least one (1) member of the Board appointed annually by the Executive to serve as Commissioner of the Calgary Minor Softball Association.
- The Commissioner appointment shall be within ninety (90) days of the Annual Meeting. The term of appointment shall be for a minimum of one (1) year.
- The Commissioner shall be responsible to the Association that the Calgary Minor Softball Playing Rules are followed in the leagues and divisions.
- The Commissioner shall have the power to issue a suspension to any member, player, coach, or member of the leagues or divisions, in accordance with the suspension rules.
- The Commissioner may appoint an Assistant Commissioner to act for the Commissioner.

4.2 League Director and Assistant League Director

- There shall be at least one (1) member of the Board appointed by the Executive to serve as League Director of the Calgary Minor Softball.
- The League Director appointments shall be within ninety (90) days of the Annual Meeting.
- The terms of the appointment shall be for a minimum of two (2) years, overlapping terms between the League Director and Assistant League Director. The League Director shall be responsible to the Association by assisting the Category Chairperson in the organization of the leagues and divisions.
- The League Director shall be standing member(s) of each Category Committee.
- The League Director may appoint an Assistant League Director to assist in the running of the categories.

4.3 Umpire-in-Chief

- If deemed necessary, the Board may appoint an individual to the Board of Directors to serve as the Umpire-in-Chief.
- If appointed, the Umpire-in-Chief shall be appointed at least thirty (30) days prior to the team registration date. The term of the appointment shall be for the duration of the current season until the Annual Meeting.
- The Umpire-in-Chief shall act as a consultant to the Commissioner on the interpretation of playing rules, serve as liaison to the Calgary Minor Softball Umpires (CMSU) and the Calgary Softball Umpires Association (CSUA) and other roles as deemed necessary by the Executive.

4.4 Category Chair

- The Executive shall appoint annually one (1) person to each category to serve as Category Chair for the divisions set out for each playing season.
- Shall be appointed within ninety (90) days of the Annual meeting.
- Term of appointment shall be for a minimum of one (1) year.
- Shall be the Chair of the respective Category Committee.
- Shall be responsible to the Association for the organization of teams into equally balanced tiers and divisions.
- May be selected for appointment through the Board, Division Coordinators and Category Chair to assist with the organization of the categories.
- Is a member of the League Committee.

5 AMENDMENTS TO OPERATING RULES

The Operating Rules of Calgary Minor Softball Association can be changed as recommended by the Executive Committee.



6 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

It is the Clubs responsibility to ensure the correct ages of their players are on the Player Registration form.

6.1 Ages will be verified by Calgary Minor Softball, with a copy of one (1) of the following documents:

Birth Certificate, Alberta Health Care Card, Passport, Nexus Card, Baptism certificate, Driver's license or a letter duly signed by a Notary Public or Commissioner of Oaths or Calgary Minor Softball registration number.

Effect: Penalty for playing over-age players is forfeiture of game(s) and the possible suspension of coach for the balance of the season.

Note: Overage exception request form must be approved by Calgary Minor Softball Association. No overage players will be approved over U19 age of the current season. Only 2 players per team will be approved as overage players.

Learn To Play	players born in 2017, 2018 & 2019	Determined by Club
U9	players born in 2015 & 2016	Games: Mon/Wed
U11	players born in 2013 & 2014	Games: Tues/Thurs
U13	players born in 2011 & 2012	Games: Mon/Wed
U15	players born in 2009 & 2010	Games: Tues/Thurs
U17 HS	players born in 2007 & 2008	Games: Mon/Wed
U19 HS	players born in 2005 & 2006	Games: Mon/Wed

6.2 Players will play for the Calgary Minor Softball Club in which they have permanent residence. If there is no team of their age category within the Club boundaries in which they reside, they will be transferred for that season to play in another recognized Club. **All players will register in their home Club.** A player may not miss their own league games and/or activities to play for another team or league, this includes any minor and adult leagues and tournaments.

6.3 RELEASES: Calgary Minor Softball Association shall enforce the player release policy as set out by the Association.

Effect: Failure to comply with this policy will result in Suspension of the coach, team and/or players until all player release requirements have been met.

6.3.1 There will be no releases granted for U9 & U11 players.

6.3.2 All requests for releases/transfers must accompany team registration forms on the date set annually by the league. This will ensure that no players are denied releases once the season and teams are underway. All Releases and Transfers will be signed by the Club President.

6.3.3 Player Release Request Form: is in effect while the player plays in the same age category only. The form must be signed by the requesting Club, the releasing Club, and the Commissioner or Executive Director for Calgary Minor Softball Association.

6.3.4 Player Permanent Release Request Form: must be completed for all players who intend to play out of their designated Club on a permanent basis. The form must be signed by the requesting Club, the releasing Club, and the Commissioner or Executive Director for Calgary Minor Softball Association. This is intended to release a player out of the Club indefinitely and avoid unnecessary paperwork for players who will be released on an annual basis. Once the release is complete the player now is part of the accepting Club. If the player returns to their previous Club a release will need to be completed.

6.3.5 Player Transfer Request Form: between Clubs must be completed for all players who are being transferred from their designated Club to another program, typically due to a program being unable to accommodate players due to lack of players in a particular category. The Player Transfer is for the current season only.

Appeal Process: If a Player Release is not granted by the Club, the Club has the right to appeal the refusal to the Calgary Minor Softball Association Appeals, Suspension and Discipline Committee. The decision of Calgary Minor Softball Association is final.

6.3.6 The High School (HS) Division is U17 to U19 and will have three divisions:

High School Division 1, U17 to U19 aged players or combined will play at the highest level. Teams can also be set at U17 or U19 age only.

High School Division 2, U17 & U19 aged Teams or combined.

U17 Division only, for non-high competitive U17 teams, up to three (3) maximum overage players with minimal experience and must be approved by the league.



7 TEAM PROCEDURES AND REGISTRATION

- 7.0 Team registrations will be accepted from Clubs and from approved nonmember teams. Nonmember teams will have their registration reviewed via the Executive Director and/or League Executive for acceptance. Non member teams that are accepted into Calgary Minor Softball league play must be able to play scheduled games as posted.
- 7.1 Acceptance will be made on a team-by-team basis, reviewed annually.
- 7.2 Team Rosters (U11 - U19) will be accepted with a minimum of nine (9) players,
- 7.3 U9 Modified will be accepted with a minimum of seven (7) players to a maximum of nine (9). Clubs that require more than nine (9) on a team must have Calgary Minor Softball approval.
- 7.4 Calgary Minor Softball will consist of Divisions 1, 2 and 3; subdivisions will be added where required.
- 7.5 No player shall be registered on more than one (1) Calgary Minor Softball Association team during any one season.
- 7.6 Calgary Minor Softball reserves the right to mandate team placement into all tiers to maintain appropriate competition amongst the divisions. Calgary Minor Softball will have the ultimate authority to approve where teams will be placed. This could mean changes to the original age group or division entered. In the event a Club has one (1) or more team(s) in a category, the Club will be required to field the team(s) in the highest possible Division the team(s) can play.
- 7.7 Calgary Minor Softball Association shall enforce the player registration deadline as set annually by the Executive. The Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all information they obtain for their players and team officials each season (full address including postal code, email address and phone number) is correct and up to date. All Player/Team rosters must be accompanied by the required documentation and must be presented to the Calgary Minor Softball Association office on the yearly assigned registration date fully completed. **Failure to do so will result in the immediate suspension of the team, player, and/or coach.** Suspensions will be lifted immediately upon receipt of required information. Registration forms shall NOT be altered in any way. Players' names listed on the Player Roster must be the given name and not a nickname.
- 7.8 Registered Players - All players listed on the Player Registration Form must play a minimum of three (3) games during league play before they can qualify to play in City Championships.
- 7.8.1 Deadline for adding players to a roster is June 1, exceptions may take place at the discretion of the Executive Director and Commissioner.
- 7.8.2 All players must be registered through their home Club before they can be added to a roster. All requests for late additions must be made through the Club by written correspondence only to the Executive Director.
- 7.8.3 No player may participate in any scheduled Calgary Minor Softball activities, including games and practices without the proper player registration submitted to the league. All player rosters will be finalized and approved by Calgary Minor Softball.
- 7.9 Learn To Play Softball: All Calgary Minor Softball Clubs should register their Learn to Play Softball teams with the Calgary Minor Softball Association. Players must be registered with Calgary Minor Softball prior to playing as affiliated players as per Substitution Procedures – Affiliated Players.

7.10 Travel: All Calgary Minor Softball registered teams from U9 to U19 will travel to all diamond locations within Calgary and the surrounding out of city Club locations.



8 U9 MODIFIED (6 PLAYERS) PLAYING RULES

All games must be played following the Calgary Minor Softball Rules. Game rules cannot be modified by coaches or umpires.

Adjustments can be made at the discretion of the Executive Director or League Executives.

Principles

1. No walks - every run will come off a hit ball. More hits mean more defensive plays for the infield.
2. Less pressure on parent umpires regarding calling balls and strikes.
3. A wider variety of pitchers may be used since players who want to pitch can try without having to worry about walking in four (4) runs.
4. Lower scoring games. There will be an increased number of strikeouts and defensive outs, which should result in less four (4) run innings.
5. Innings will be quicker, which should result in more innings played per game.
6. The home run line will become a major factor and the home run will be an exciting play for all players and fans to look forward to.

8.1

- 8.1.1 Team rosters must have at least seven (7) players to a maximum of nine (9), Clubs that require more than nine (9) on a team must have Calgary Minor Softball approval.
- 8.1.2 The maximum number of players allowed on the playing field is six (6).
- 8.1.3 The home run line will be twenty-five (25) feet behind each base. Pylons to be placed at the twenty-five (25) foot mark in the field.
- 8.1.4 **Indoor "Softie" Balls will be used for all league play and practices.**
- 8.1.5 All players bat, unlimited substitutions does not impact the batting order. Players sitting out in a particular inning will play in the field in the next inning. No player will sit out two (2) consecutive innings.
- 8.1.6 All players must remain in a reasonable approximation of normal positions when the coach/parent enters the game to pitch. The defensive pitcher will remain on the playing field (within the pitcher's circle) to field balls hit into play.
- 8.1.7 No spectators are permitted on the playing field except those designated as base umpires up to a maximum of two (2).
- 8.1.8 A home run is a ball that crosses past the home run line when the player is pitching. **When the coach pitches no home runs are permitted, ground rule double comes into effect.** The umpire will determine if a ground ball lands past the homerun line.
- 8.1.9 Fly ball caught past the home run line is an out.

8.1.10 Stealing is allowed on 1st and/or 2nd base. Players cannot leave the base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. No additional bases are awarded on an overthrow when a play is made on a runner stealing. Stealing of home is not allowed under any circumstance. You may only advance to home off 3rd base on a ball put in play with a hit. Players must be tagged to be put out by a steal or lead-off.

Clarification: This rule does not apply to a hit ball. All runners may advance as many bases as they wish on a hit ball until they are put out or the ball has been returned to the Pitcher in the Pitcher's Circle.

8.1.11 When the coach/parent is pitching there is no stealing of any kind permitted.

8.1.12 In case of an overthrow into foul territory the runner gets to advance one base except on 3rd base. You may only advance to home off 3rd base on a ball put into play with a hit.

8.1.13 Batting out of order: In the event the batter bats out of order there is no penalty. The batter who missed should bat next and the team returns to proper order as soon as possible.

8.1.14 A player pitcher will start pitching to each new batter. If a batter strikes out before getting four (4) balls called, then they are out with no coach participation. If the batter gets four (4) balls called, their coach steps in and pitches the remainder of the at bat.

8.1.15 The coach/parent will pitch from the pitching rubber (normal distance) and may pitch an underhand toss or windmill pitch.

8.1.16 When the coach/parent pitches every pitch is considered a called strike no matter where the pitch is thrown. The batter does not have to swing to strike out, nor does the pitch have to be in the strike zone.

8.1.17 On the third strike only, if the batter hits a foul ball, he/she continues to bat, unless the foul ball is caught! This will be the same as regular rules regarding a third strike foul ball.

8.1.18 If a ball is hit into play by the batter that:

- comes in contact with,
- is touched by the parent/coach, whether intentional or accidental
- is interfered with by the coach/parent acting as the pitcher as determined by the umpire, the play will be called dead & treated like a foul ball.

8.1.19 Batters are not permitted to bunt when the coach/parent comes on to the field to pitch.

8.1.20 Batters hit by a pitch. Call it a ball and keep playing. A batter struck by a pitched ball will continue to bat. The hit by pitch would be considered a ball. Should the player be injured from the hit pitch they can be removed from the game and re-entered once they have recovered.

Clarification: If the player doesn't finish their at bat and leaves the game "injured" they will not be allowed to run the bases for that at bat. They can return to the game to play defense or bat when their turn comes again. On the scoresheet, the player that is removed, mark INJ on the scoresheet. This player is not considered an out.

8.1.21 There is ZERO tolerance for unruly behaviour. Unruly players, coaches, and fans will be asked to leave the diamond. Coaches will be looked on to assist umpires in enforcing this rule.

Example:

Batter # 1 (B1) is at the plate. After the 4th ball, the batter will have a count against them. It will either be 4 balls and 0 strikes, 4-1 or 4-2. The coach, or designated pitcher for the offensive team (B1's coach or selected parent), will pitch to their own batter. The number of pitches that the batter will receive from the coach/parent is dependent upon the number of strikes that the pitcher had achieved against that batter prior to throwing the 4th "ball". All batters continue using the same rules.

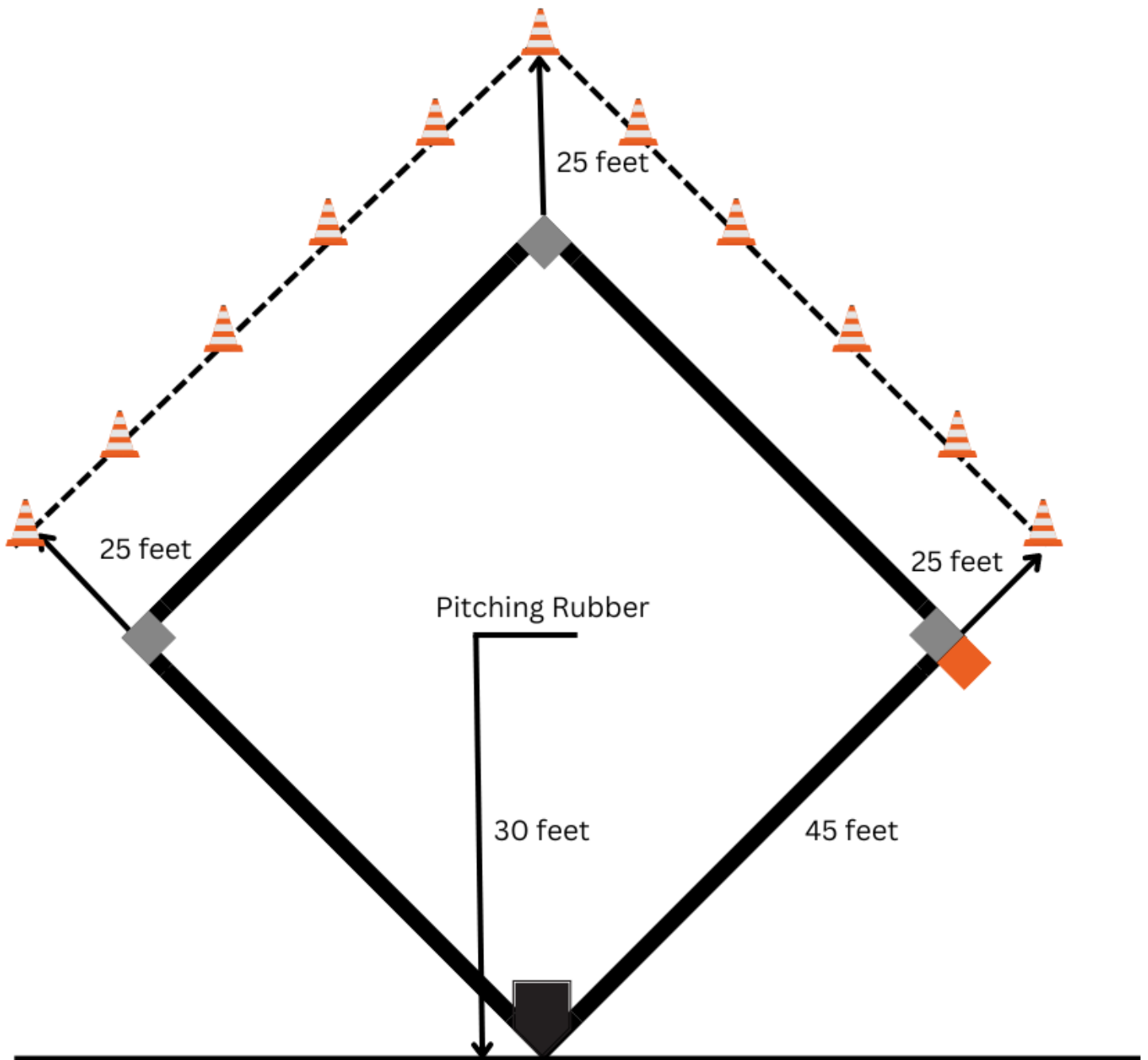
Count 4-0, coach parent may throw up to 3 pitches.

Count 4-1, coach parent may throw up to 2 pitches.

Count 4-2, coach parent may throw only 1 pitch.

If the batter uses up all his/her strikes without hitting the ball, they are out. There is no opportunity to walk.





The Home Run Line" (HRL) will be used for U9. The HRL eliminates the need for players in the outfield. Teams will operate with only six (6) players on the field instead of nine (9). **All players must remain in a reasonable approximation of normal positions when the coach enters the game to pitch. **The defensive pitcher will remain on the playing field (within the pitcher's circle) to field balls hit into play.**

9 PLAYING RULES U11 through U19

Calgary Minor Softball Association follows the current Softball Canada Rules, except where noted otherwise in the Softball Alberta Operating Rules and in the Calgary Minor Softball operating rules.

All games must be played following the Calgary Minor Softball Rules. Game rules cannot be modified by coaches or umpires.

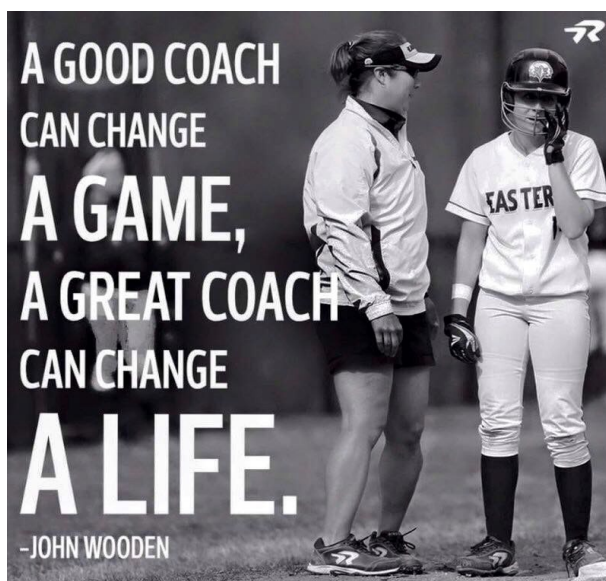
9.1 The home team takes the third base dugout, the visiting team takes the first base dugout.

9.2 Run Ahead Rule (Softball Canada Rule 1.2.3)

RUN AHEAD RULES: A Run Ahead Rule shall result in the conclusion of the game when there is a difference of:

1. 15 or more runs after 3 innings of play.
2. 10 or more runs after 4 innings of play.
3. 7 or more runs after 5 innings of play.

Complete innings are played unless the home team scores the required number of runs while at bat. When the visiting team reaches the required number of runs in the top half of the inning, the home team bats in the bottom half of the inning. All plays must have finished before the game is declared won by the score of the run ahead rule. If in the bottom of the inning, no scores above the run ahead score shall count unless the game ending play is a home run, then all runs scored because of the home run shall count.



Run Per Inning / Open Inning

Category	Division	Runs / Inning Limit	Open Inning
U9	All	4	None
U11	All	4	None
U13	Div. 1	4	Final Inning Capped @ 10 runs
U13	Div. 2	4	None
U13	Div. 3	4	None
U15	Div. 1	N/A	All
U15	Div. 2	4	Final Inning – Capped @ 10 runs
U15	Div. 3	4	None
High School	Div. 1	N/A	All
High School	Div. 2	4	Final Inning Capped @ 10 runs
High School	Div. 3	4	None

Note: Adjustments to Run per Inning/Open Inning Rule can be made at the discretion of the Executive Director or League Executive.

9.3 Age categories as of January 1 of the current year, baselines, and pitching distances.

Category	Ball	Pitching Distance		Diamond Layout	
		Male	Female	Base- Lines	Diagonal
U9 Modified	11" Indoor ball	30' (9.1m)	30' (9.1 m)	45' (13.7 m)	25ft passed each base
U11	11"	35' (10.6m)	35' (10 m)	45' (16.7 m)	63'8" (16.76 m)
U13	11"	38' (12.2m)	38' (11.6 m)	55' (18.3 m)	77'9" (18.29.5 m)
U15	12"	42' (12.8m)	40' (12.2 m)	60' (18.3 m)	84'10" (25.5 m)
U17 HS	12"	46' (14.0 m)	43' (12.2 m)	60' (18.3 m)	84'10" (25.5 m)
U19 HS	12"	46' (14.0 m)	43' (12.2 m)	60' (18.3 m)	84'10" (25.5 m)

* Per Softball Alberta Operating Rules

Note: Teams playing up a category will use the pitching distances and baselines of the higher category. Example - U13 teams that move up to U15 will be required to use the 12" ball.

9.4 Dropped Third Strike (Softball Canada Rule)

This rule will not apply to the U9, U11 and U13 categories.

- Can occur on either a called 3rd strike or a swinging 3rd strike. Cannot occur when there is a baserunner on first base at the time the pitch is released and there are less than two outs.

- The umpire will verbalize the strike 3 call but not that the ball is dropped.
- The batter may be tagged out or thrown out at first.
- The batter is out if they leave the field of play.
- The batter is out if they break their established base-path.
- occurs when the catcher does not legally catch the thrown pitch.

Note: a pitch hitting the ground and then caught by the catcher is not a legally caught ball.

- a) The batter is out.
- b) If the ball stays alive (e.g., not a passed or trapped ball) any baserunners may steal at the risk of being put out.
- c) The umpire does not verbalize that the ball has been dropped.
- d) It is up to the catcher to realize that the dropped 3rd strike rule is not in effect and decide whether or not to try and throw out any baserunner who may be stealing.
- e) in an obvious situation, where in the umpire's judgement, the batter knows they are out because first base was occupied but continues to run the bases in an attempt to distract the defense the batter may be called for interference; the umpire will kill the play; since the batter is already out the base-runner closest to home will be called out; any other runners will be returned to their original bases.

Note: if the bases are loaded the catcher can touch home plate for a third out force.

9.5 Charged Conference (Softball Canada Rule)

The Charged Conference Rule limiting conferences between coaches, manager, or other team representatives and pitchers, batters, or runners.

When the offensive team requests a suspension of play or delays play to allow the manager, or other team representative, to confer with any member of their team. This includes the batter, runner, on-deck batter, and the coaches among themselves.

Charged Offensive Conference - When the offensive team requests a suspension of play or delays play to allow the manager, or other team representative, to confer with any member of their team. This includes the batter, runner, on-deck batter and the coaches among themselves.

Defensive Conference

U15 will have 5 defensive conferences, 3 for older categories in a seven (7) inning game.

Charged defensive conferences are accumulative and do not start over when a new pitcher enters the game.

Charged defensive conferences not taken in the seven innings do not carry forward to extra-inning games.

There is only one charged defensive conference for every extra inning in an extra-innings game. A charged defensive conference not taking an extra inning of a game may not be carried over to any subsequent extra inning.

A charged defensive conference ends when the defensive team member crosses the foul line returning to the dugout or a fielder returns to the field.

There shall only be one (1) charged offensive conferring in an inning.

EFFECT: For the fourth and each additional charge defensive conference un a seven-inning game or for any charged defensive conference in excess of one per inning in an extra-inning game, the pitcher in the game during the conference is declared an illegal pitcher who may not pitch again for the remainder of the game but may play another fielding position.

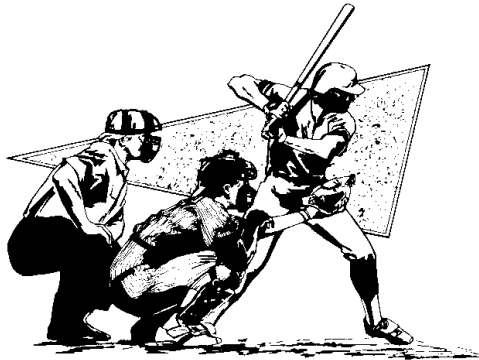
Charged Offensive Conference – It is not a charged conference when a pitcher is outing on a warm-up jacket while on base or when the offense confers while the defensive team is in conference or the game is suspended, provided that the offense is ready to play when the defense is ready, or the umpire restarts the game.

Only one (1) charged conference per inning is permitted.

EFFECT: Rule 5.2 b Second Charged Conference

Ejection of the coach or manager insisting on the second charged conference.

See Softball Canada rulebook for further clarifications.



9.6 Pitching Specific Rules

U9, U11, U13 & U15 categories Pitchers may pitch a maximum of:

Category	Innings Pitched / Game
U9	3
U11	3
U13	4
U15	4
High School	N/A

Should a pitcher throw one (1) pitch (excluding warm-up pitches), this is classified as a complete inning pitched. In the event of extra innings, the pitching rule is not in effect. The penalty for pitcher(s) exceeding the limit of innings pitched is that the coach is ejected; player(s) is removed from pitching position.

At the time of the appeal, the non-offending team shall have the option of:

- Allowing all plays to stand
- Or revert to the spot in the game when the violation occurred.

Note: This is an appeal play, the umpire will not call it unless it is appealed.

Note: Between innings the pitcher only gets a maximum of three (3) warm up pitches

9.7 Temporary Runner for Catcher and Pitcher (Softball Canada Rule)

A Temporary runner is legal for a pitcher or catcher of record from the previous half inning who is on base with two (2) outs. The following provisions apply.

- a) The use of a Temporary Runner is optional for the offensive team manager.
- b) The Temporary Runner may be used any time after the second out occurs.
- c) The Temporary Runner is the player scheduled to bat last and who is not on base at the time of the option is taken.

If an incorrect player is used as a Temporary Runner, the error will be corrected without penalty when noticed.

Wrong runner for temporary runner and runner in tiebreaker situation is an appeal play. Penalty for wrong runner is an out.



9.8 Infield Fly (Softball Canada Rule)

This rule will not apply to the U9, U11 and U13 categories.

When it seems apparent that a batted ball will be an infield fly, the umpire shall immediately declare, "INFIELD FLY, IF FAIR THE BATTER IS OUT," for the benefit of the runners.

A fair fly ball (not including a line drive or an attempted bunt) that can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when first and second, or first, second, and third bases are occupied before two are out. The pitcher, catcher and any outfielder who positions themselves in the infield on the play will be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule.

An Infield Fly is declared.

EFFECT The ball is live, and a runner may advance at the risk of the ball being caught, or retouch and advance after the ball is touched, the same as on any fly ball. If a declared infield fly becomes a foul ball, it is treated the same as any foul ball.

If a declared infield fly is allowed to fall untouched to the ground and bounces foul before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball.

If a declared infield fly falls untouched to the ground outside the baseline and bounces fair before passing first or third base, it is an infield fly.

9.9 Batting Out of Order (Softball Canada Rule)

1. This is an appeal play that may only be made by the manager, coach, or player of the defensive team only. The defensive team forfeits its right to appeal for batting out of order when all defensive players have left fair territory on their way back to the bench or dugout,
 - a. When the error is discovered while incorrect batter is at bat:
 - i. The correct batter may legally take their place and assume the ball and strike count of the incorrect batter.
 - ii. Any runs scored, or bases ran while the incorrect batter is at bat shall be legal.
 - b. When the error is discovered after the incorrect batter has completed their turn at bat and before a legal or illegal pitch has been made to another batter:
 - i. The player who should have batted is out: and
 - ii. Any advance or score made as a result of the improper batter becoming a batter-runner shall be nullified. Any out that is made prior to discovering this infraction remains out.
 - iii. The next batter is the player whose name follows that of the player called out for failing to bat. If the next player was the incorrect batter who was called out, go to the next person in the lineup.
 - iv. If the player who was the improper batter was called out, their turn at bat will not take place in the same inning, until all other batters in the batting order have completed their turn at bat. If their turn at bat occurs before this occurs, go to the next batter.
 - v. If the batter declared out under these circumstances is the third out, the correct batter in the next inning shall be the player who would have come to bat had the player been put out by ordinary play.
 - vi. If the third out is made on a batter-runner or runner prior to the discovery of the infraction, an appeal may still be made to reinstate the correct batting order.

- c. If the error is discovered after the first legal or illegal pitch to the next batter:
 - i. The turn at bat of the incorrect batter is legal.
 - ii. All runs scored and bases run are legal.
 - iii. The next batter in order will be the one whose name follows that of the incorrect batter.
 - iv. No one is called out for failure to bat.
 - v. Players who have not batted and who have not been called out have lost their turn at bat until reached again in the regular order.

- d. No runner will be removed from the base they are occupying to bat in their proper place. They merely miss their turn at bat with no penalty. The batter following in the batting order becomes the legal batter. This does not apply to a batter-runner who has been taken off the base by the umpire as in b) (ii) above.



9.10 Appeal Play

Softball Canada Rule

On an appeal play, the runner will not be out unless the appeal is made legally.

- a) An appeal may be made while the ball is live or dead, but the defensive team loses the opportunity of making an appeal if it is not made.
 - i. Before the next legal or illegal pitch, except for an illegal substitute, unannounced player, illegal re-entry, replacement or withdrawn player and runners switching bases.
 - ii. Before all defensive players have left fair territory on their way to the bench or dugout area. If a fielder makes the appeal, the fielder must be in the infield when making the appeal; or
 - iii. In the case of the last play of the game before the umpires have left the field of play.
- b) Runners may leave their base during live ball appeal plays when:
 - i. The ball leaves the pitcher's circle.
 - ii. The ball leaves the pitcher's possession, or
 - iii. The pitcher makes a throwing motion indicating a play or fake throw.
- c) Dead ball appeal. Once the ball has been returned to the infield and the "Time" has been called or the ball becomes dead, any defensive team member in the infield, with or without possession of the ball, may make a verbal appeal on a runner missing a base or leaving a base too soon on a caught fly ball. A coach or manager may only make a dead ball appeal after stepping onto the playing field. The administering umpire should acknowledge the appeal and then name a decision on the play, no runner may leave their base during this period as the ball remains dead until the next pitch.

EXCEPTION: A runner who has left a base too soon on a caught fly ball or who has a base may attempt to return to such base while the ball is dead.

- i) If the ball goes out of play, the dead ball appeal cannot be made until the plate umpire places a new ball into the game.
 - ii) If the pitcher has possession of the ball and is in contact with the pitching plate when making a verbal appeal, no illegal Pitch is called.
 - iii) If the umpire has declared "Play Ball" and the pitcher then requests an appeal, the umpire would again call "Time" and allow the appeal process.
- d) Additional out appeals may be made after the third out as long as they are made properly and are made to remove a run or made to reinstate the correct batting order.
 - e) These are the types of appeals:
 - i) Missing a base.
 - ii) Leaving a base on a caught fly ball before the ball is first touched.
 - iii) Batting out-of-order.
 - iv) Attempting to advance to second base after reaching first base.
 - v) Illegal substitutions
 - vi) The use of an unannounced player under the Replacement Player Rule.
 - vii) Illegal Re-entry
 - viii) The use of an unannounced player under the Designated Player Rule.
 - ix) Runners switching positions on the bases they occupied; or
 - x) *SC: illegal pitcher returning to the game as a pitcher.*

10 SUBSTITUTION PROCEDURES

This is for Calgary Minor Softball league play purposes.

10.1 Number of Players

The required number of players to start or continue a game is eight (8) players. There is no automatic out for Calgary Minor Softball Association league play.

Exception: U9 Modified the required number of players to start or continue a game is five (5) players. There is no automatic out for Calgary Minor Softball Association league play.

When a team cannot field eight (8) players or five (5) players for U9, the game is forfeited.

10.2 Affiliated Players

An affiliated pick-up player is allowed a maximum of four (4) league games as an Associated Player with any team. Any subsequent games must be approved by the Executive Director or Commissioner.

Effect: Forfeiture of game and possible suspension of coach and/or players will be subject to discipline and suspension.

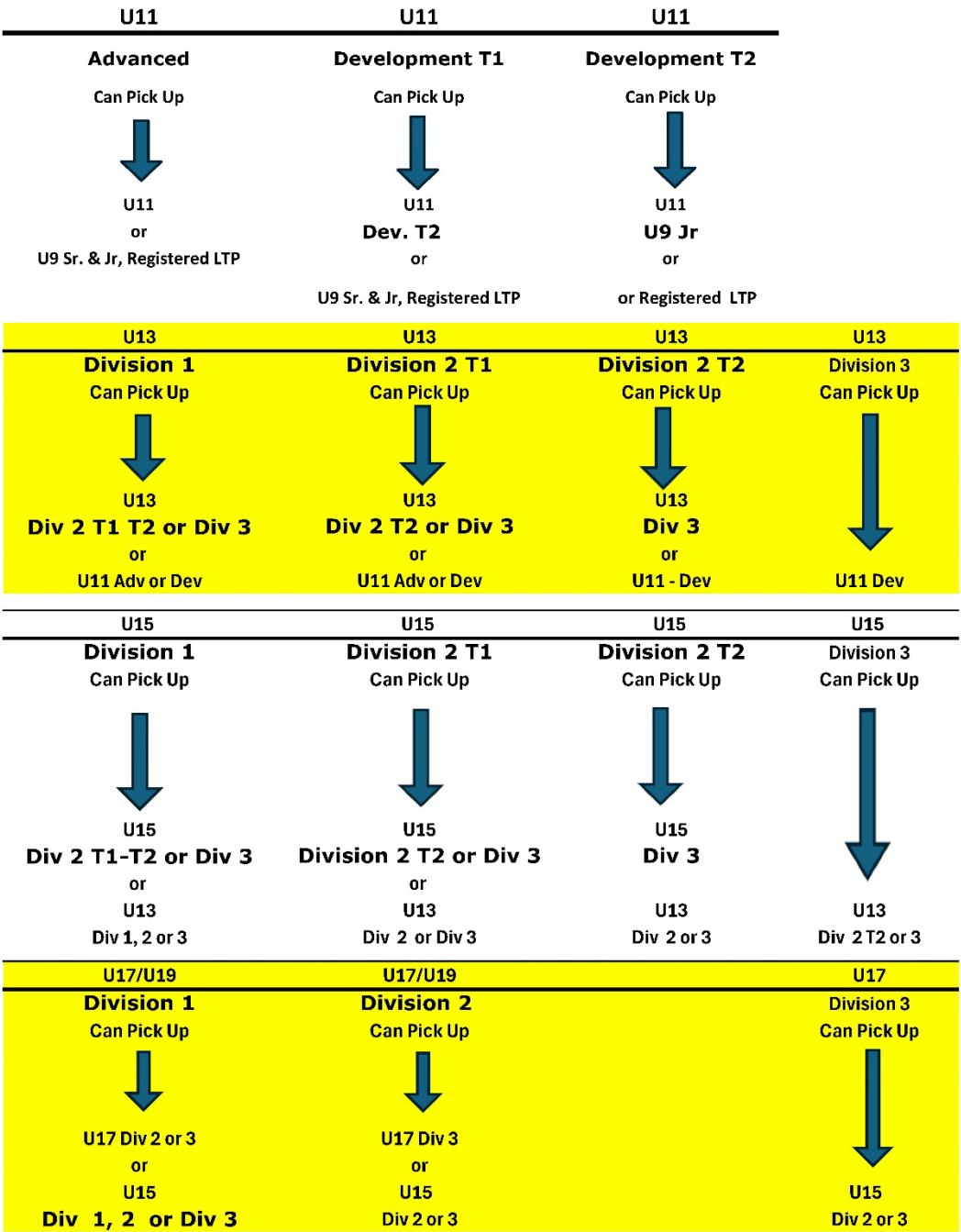
A player may not miss their own league games and/or activities to play for another team or league, this includes any minor and adult leagues and tournaments.

Effect: Player will be subject to disciplinary actions and possible suspensions.

A player being picked up must be from an **equal** or lower division registered with a Calgary Minor Softball team from your own Club. For Example, a division 1 team may pick up a player from any category. Division 2 can pick up players from Division 2 and 3. Division 3 may pick up players in Division 3. A Modified U9 cannot pick up a U11 player, any Learn to Play picked up by a U9 team must be registered with Calgary Minor Softball. See Chart.

Effect: Forfeiture of game and possible suspension of coach and/or players will be subject to discipline and suspension

Pick Up Procedure Chart





Teams playing in City Championships must do so with only their Calgary Minor Softball Rostered & Registered Players.

NOTE: All players listed on the Player Registration Form must play a minimum of three (3) games during league play before they can qualify to play in the City Championships.

Exceptions: Teams may pick up a maximum of two (2) players per team to bring their roster to a maximum of nine (9) players only. The pickups must be approved by the Executive Director or League Executives. Teams must use their own rostered players first before an affiliate player can be played.

Effect: If an affiliated player is used without league permission, the game is an automatic forfeit and discipline action may be taken with the coach.

NOTE: Learn To Play Softball teams must be registered with Calgary Minor Softball prior to using players as Affiliated Player'.



10.3 Player Rotation

10.3.1 “ABC” Rotation is the rotation of players into the field such that all players participate in every game. A, B, or C designation is not related to skill level.

- Players must be designated as “A”, “B”, or “C” on the Line-Up Card/Score Sheet.
- Players designated “A” play defensively in all innings.
- Players designated “B” and “C” alternate defensive innings.
- Designation of “A”, “B”, and “C” should vary from game to game.

No. Of Players at Game	Code “A”	Code “B”	Code “C”
9	9	0	0
10	8	1	1
11	7	2	2
12	6	3	3
13	5	4	4
14	4	5	5
15	3	6	6

Batting order: all players present are listed onto the scoresheet and bat in the order listed. Players arriving late are added to the end of the batting order and are designated as “C” players. The addition of a player requires a move of an “A” player to a “B” player.

Player Coding Adjustments: designation of “A”, “B”, or “C” may be changed to allow for substitution in the event of injury, ejection, discipline, pitcher substitution. In the event of player ejection or removal, the player is removed from the batting order and may not re-enter.

Reminder: ABC is for rotational purposes only; it does not classify the player’s caliber

10.3.2 Universal Substitution

The rotation of players into the field is such that all players participate in every game.

Defensive rotation is defined such that no player shall sit more than one (1) inning, until all players have had an inning on the bench.

Players are designated with the order in which they will have their bench inning on the line-up card/ score sheet.

Batting order: all players present are listed on the score sheet and bat in the order listed. Players arriving late are added to the end of the batting order and will have their designated bench order inning assigned or arranged, as necessary.

Player Coding Adjustment: Bench inning designation may be changed to allow for substitution in the event of an injury, ejection, discipline, pitcher substitution. In the event of player ejection or removal, the player is removed from the batting order and may not re-enter.

Note: Teams shall select between ABC Rotation or Universal Substitution to play by. The choice is on a game-by-game basis.

Note: U13 Div. 1, U15 Div. 1 and High School Div. 1 only will be permitted to use the Softball Canada Regular Substitution Rule or ABC or Universal.

Effect: Coaches not playing the above stated substitution rules properly will be subject to suspension and/or forfeited games where the rule has been misused or abused.

10.4 Line-up cards and Scoresheets

10.4.1 Are to be used in all divisions to record their batting order, and their defensive player rotation.

10.4.2 Lineup Card will be used for ABC, Universal and Regular substitution.

10.4.3 Line up cards must be filled in, signed by the coach and the top copy presented to the umpire, the opposing coach or scorekeeper presented with the yellow copy, and the home team coach or scorekeeper to keep the card copy.

10.5 Scoresheets

Team Managers and/or Coaches are responsible to ensure ALL scoresheets are legible, accurate and completed in full, including team name as documented on the official league schedule, identification of AP (Affiliated Player(s)), game start time, diamond location, number of umpires, first and last name of players, player number. Failure to include these details may result in the game not being recorded in the league standings, final points. Teams are to retain all scoresheets until the end of the season. These will be referred to in case of a dispute.

Note: Scorekeepers should compare scoresheets to confirm accuracy of the final score.

Note: Home team shall be the official score keeper and must email the score into their respective category chair within 24 hours of the game completion.

10.6 Injury

ABC and Universal Substitution: An injured player has until the end of the following inning to resume their place in the batting order. If the player is removed from the game, they should be designated as "INJ" on the score sheet. If the player cannot return to the game, all players batting moves up one spot. If the player was injured while on base, the last person in the batting order who is not on base at the time of use replaces the injured player offensively. If the player cannot return, remove the injured player from the lineup. If they can return, they return to their original spot in the order.

10.7 Discipline

Notwithstanding player coding adjustments for ejection or removal, the coach may for good cause, keep a player from any game or remove a player from a game for disciplinary purposes. When a player is kept out of or removed from a game, under this section the player will be designated "D" on the score sheet and may not bat or enter the field. Good causes include insubordination, uncooperativeness, and unsportsmanlike conduct or similar behavior.

Coaches will have the discretion to sit a player for an inning for objectionable conduct of the player (example: swearing).

11 COACHES

- 11.1 Respect in Sport: All coaches and assistant coaches of teams in Calgary Minor Softball Association are required to take the Respect in Sport Activity Leader Course. This course must be completed by April 1. Coaches have the ability to transfer their certification to Calgary Minor Softball through the Respect in Sport Site. At least one (1) parent must take the Respect in Sport Parent Course. The parent course must be completed by April 1.
- 11.2 Foundations of Coaching Softball: All coaches and assistant coaches of teams in Calgary Minor Softball Association are required to take the Foundations of Coaching Softball. This course must be completed by April 1.
- 11.3 There shall be no more than two (2) coaches for the team at bat to direct the players of their team in running the bases. They must remain within the coach's box, one (1) coach stationed near first base and the other near third base. Helmets are mandatory for minors coaching in these positions.
- 11.4 One (1) of the coaches must be of the same gender as the team. This person must attend all practices and games and have a Police Clearance completed.
- 11.5 No smoking, alcohol, recreational drugs, or illicit drugs are permitted by any coaching staff including the Manger, while at practices or games or any Calgary Minor Softball activity.
- 11.6 All Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Managers must complete and submit to Calgary Minor Softball Association a valid Police Check or RCMP check, clearly indicating the Vulnerable Sector Check has been completed and is clear. Volunteers listed on a team roster request a volunteer voucher from Calgary Minor Softball Association before applying. Head Coach, Assistant Coaches and Managers will only receive one voucher every three years, no additional vouchers will be provided to those who fail to complete the three-step process. Head Coach, Assistant Coaches and Managers who do not complete the three-step process are ineligible to coach or be Managers and must be taken off the official roster and will be suspended from all Calgary Minor Softball Duties. Volunteers who have not completed the process will be responsible for obtaining a clearance through CPS or their District RCMP at their own expense. For Calgary Minor Softball Purposes Police Checks are valid for three (3) years from the year of issue and must be completed by April 1.
- 11.7 Coaches shall always be responsible for their conduct and that of their parents and players. They must endeavor to prevent disorderly conduct before, during and after the game, on or off the field. Failure to comply with this supervision may result in the suspension of the Head Coach for at least one game. Any adult found complicit with any undesirable activity can be suspended for a period of at least one year.
- 11.8 Coaches will endeavor to prevent disorderly conduct, bullying and vandalism in any form. Failure to comply with this supervision may result in the suspension of the Head Coach for at least one game. Any adult found complicit with any undesirable activity can be suspended for a period of at least one year.



12 GAME PROCEDURES AND CANCELLATIONS

12.1 Scheduled Start Time: All Calgary Minor Softball scheduled games will start at 6:45 pm, unless notified otherwise via the official league schedule or by the Executive Director. A 15-minute grace period will be allowed if the minimum number of players have not arrived. Failure to comply with the 15-minute grace period will result in forfeiture of game by offending team. **Game start time shall be from the end of the plate conference and recorded on the home team score sheet.** The score for a forfeited game is recorded as 7- 0. Games can be cancelled by the Executive Director or League Executive when deemed that the weather conditions are unsafe.

12.2 Regulation game shall consist of seven innings (**Softball Canada Rule 1.2**) or time limit. The umpire is empowered to call a game at any time because of darkness and/or weather conditions that may put players at risk. A game called by the umpire shall be regulation provided any one of the following conditions is met:

- five (5) or more completed innings have been played.
- the team second at bat has scored more runs than the other team has scored in four and one-half (4½).
- The time limit allotted for the game has expired and the current inning is completed. If the team second at bat has scored more runs than the other team, the team second at bat does not take its bat.
- Run Ahead Rule (Softball Canada Rule 1.2.3) has been applied.

Note: Games that are less than 4 ½ innings that have not reached or exceeded the time limit shall be replayed from the beginning.

Note: The game is over and complete when the winning run is scored.

12.3 League Game Time Limits

No new inning to start after the allotted time limit has passed. The open inning is considered the final inning, and the game is over. The game start time is recorded on the home team score sheet, as determined by the umpire. Run ahead Rules is in effect. If the open inning has been played, the game is over even if there is still time remaining. Only one (1) open inning will be played. No open Innings for double headers.

Category	Game Length	Double Header Game Length
U9	1 hour & 15 minutes	1 hour
U11	1 hour & 30 minutes	1 hour & 15 minutes
U13	1 hour & 45 minutes	1 hour & 30 minutes
U15	1 hour & 45 minutes	1 hour & 30 minutes
High School	1 hour & 45 minutes	1 hour & 30 minutes

Note: A league game that is tied at the end of seven innings or time limit shall be declared a regulation tie game.

Double header games will start no later than 6:15 pm.

If a Double Header ends early due to the Run Ahead rule, the second game is still played at the specified times in Rule 12.3.

Note: Adjustments to length of game can be made at the discretion of the Executive Director, Category Chair, Commissioner, or League Director to accommodate schedule changes and/or weather circumstances.

12.4 Game Cancellations

The home team is responsible for rescheduling a game due to weather. If the home team does not have a diamond available, work with the visiting team for a diamond. Disputes shall be resolved by the Executive Director, Category Chair or League Executive. The Executive Director or League Executive will have the authority to schedule double headers & reschedule rainout games cancelled by the league due to weather conditions.

12.5 Game Locations

It will be the responsibility of Calgary Minor Softball Coaches and/or Managers to have their team at the scheduled game locations.

12.6 Postponed games may not be made up as a two-point (2) game - (i.e., playing each other once for four (4) points rather than twice (home and away) for two (2) points per game). Postponement of games for any division where umpires are scheduled must be coordinated by the involved teams to accommodate umpire scheduling.

12.7 Teams must give the opposing team at least twenty-four (24) hours' notice prior to the original scheduled time to avoid a forfeit loss and /or fine/penalty. Teams are not allowed to forfeit or reschedule games to attend/travel to any non-league games, exhibition games, or tournaments in Calgary or outside of Calgary, disciplinary action shall take place.

12.7.1 Failure to provide appropriate notice may result in a \$200.00 fine.

12.7.2 Fines must be paid within five (5) business days of the notice of fine to Calgary Minor Softball Association.

12.7.3 Failure to remit fine shall result in team being suspended until fine is paid in full.

12.8 All games, including City Championships, must be played as scheduled even though a Calgary Minor Softball Umpire is not present. The home team supplies the home plate umpire, visiting team supplies base umpire.

12.9 Forfeits: Teams will be allowed to forfeit a maximum of two (2) games only. Any further forfeits may result in the suspension of the offending team and coaches by the Commissioner upon notification from the Executive Director or Category Chairs.

If it is determined that deliberate and willful forfeiture has occurred to thwart or benefit a team's standing in league or City Championship schedules, Calgary Minor Softball shall take disciplinary action.



13 LEAGUE PROCEDURES

13.1 Playing Season - If games cannot be played as scheduled, the Executive of Calgary Minor Softball reserves the right to place teams where suited.

13.2 Category Specific Rule Applications

Division	Infield Fly	Dropped 3rd Strike	Charged Conference	Flex Player	ABC or Universal Rotation
U9 All	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Applies
U11 All	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Applies
U13 All	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Applies
U15 Div. 2, 3	Applies	Applies	Applies	N/A	Applies
U15 Div. 1	Applies	Applies	Applies	N/A	Applies + Regular Substitution
HS U17	Applies	Applies	Applies	N/A	Applies
HS Div. 2	Applies	Applies	Applies	N/A	Applies
HS Div. 1	Applies	Applies	Applies	Applies	Applies + Regular Substitution

13.3 Final League Standings

13.3.1 2 Points for a win
 1 Point for a tie
 0 Point for a loss
 0 Point for a forfeit

13.3.2 Ranking: the final standings in league play shall be established using:

- Win Percentage
- Win/Loss records of teams
- Winners of games between tied teams; if still tied, then
- Difference of Plus/Minus (total runs scored), in games between tied teams (only full innings are used).
- Positions will be settled with a coin toss.



13.4 City Championships

- All teams in each category will be entered into City Championships.
- City Championship games may be played on any night of the week.
- City Championships are a Double Knockout Tournament to be started on a date set annually by the Board. City Championships will be formatted on an annual basis based upon schedule for Provincials.
- The double knockout format may be revised to a single knockout for any reason deemed necessary when required.
- Cancellations due to weather can impact the planned schedule, the Executive Director, will determine the rescheduling of the remaining Championship games based on diamond and umpire availability.
- Double Headers may be played at each category if required.
- The Executive Director, League Director along with the Category Chairperson will coordinate the Championships for their respective Divisions.
- The home team for games will be the highest ranked team, the highest ranked team will host the diamond if scheduled at a community diamond and have choice of being home or visiting team.

13.4.1 Games are to start at scheduled times, which takes precedence over pregame warm-ups. All coaches must confirm with the Category Chair or Category Playoff Headquarters the locations and times for subsequent games in City Championships. Grace periods may be granted to teams playing back-to-back games.

13.4.2 Teams involved in a game tied at the end of seven innings or at time limit shall complete the game use the Softball Canada International Tiebreaker rule. Starting with the top of the inning and for each half-inning thereafter until the game ends, the offensive team starts its turn at bat with the player scheduled to bat ninth in the respective half-inning placed on second bases as a runner.

13.4.3 Coaches will be required to present their Player Roster with attached Release and Overage Forms, if applicable, to League Officials, upon request. If a coach is unable to produce the forms at the field or in cases of disagreement, the game shall be played as scheduled and the Category Chair notified immediately after the game. The Executive Director will maintain copies of all Player Rosters and verify eligibility. Use of ineligible (including 'AP') players or suspended players will result in forfeiture of the games and possible suspension of the coach. Note: Overage exception request form must be approved by Calgary Minor Softball Association Commissioner or Executive Director. No overage players will be approved over U19 age of the current season. Only 2 players per team will be approved as overage players. Over age players are not eligible as affiliates to a higher Division or Category

13.4.4 Players, Coaches and Managers must sign the Record of Play Form after each City Championship game. Failure to do so could result in forfeiture of that game if there is a question of player eligibility.

13.4.5 If the game was not a complete game, the scorekeeper for teams should record the batters count, the outs, and placement of runners. At the restart of the game, all players should be in the original positions. If a player(s) cannot attend, then affiliated player rule comes into effect and all players must be approved by the league prior to the game being played.

- 13.4.6** When incomplete games cannot be immediately continued due to darkness, weather or any other extenuating circumstance, Calgary Minor Softball shall direct when and where the games shall be played. Such games are to be continued from the point where they were abandoned and are to be played at the earliest possible moment so as not to delay.
- 13.4.7** Any City Championship game which was played using the incorrect rules (regular season rules or any other rule) and in all other aspects the game was complete whether by time limit or number of innings. The game is complete and will not be replayed.
- 13.4.8** Affiliated pick-up players for City Championships: Teams may pick up to a maximum of two (2) players per team to bring their roster to a maximum of nine (9). A player being picked up must be from an equal or lower division registered with a Calgary Minor Softball team and have played a minimum of three (3) league games. The pickups must be approved by the Executive Director or Commissioner. **Teams must use their own rostered players first before an affiliate player can be played-** If an affiliated player is used without league permission, the game is an automatic forfeit and discipline action may be taken.

Note: Any Affiliated player must be from your own Club.

13.4.9 City Championships Re-Scheduling

Teams are not permitted to reschedule their Championship games (date and/or time) without league approval.

Calgary Minor Softball can adjust or reschedule games, dates and times for any reason deemed necessary when required.

All attempts will be made to complete the Championship round, in varying circumstances, one (1) or more of the following may be considered.

- Rescheduling game to another diamond, day, time. Teams should be aware that rescheduled games may not be on their regular playing night.
- Condensing the Championships to a single elimination game – this may include the winning team advancing to play another team on the same night.
- Enforcing shorter time limits on games.
- If the weather conditions prevent a City Championship final game from being completed, Calgary Minor will set a date and time for a makeup game to enable the City Championship round to be completed within a two-week time frame.
- Weather ONLY, preventing the City Championship game will result in co-winners.
- Voiding the entire City Championship series and naming the regular season league winner(s) as Champions.



14 REGIONAL QUALIFIERS, PROVINCIALS AND TOURNAMENTS

Note: The Regional Qualifiers are not part of the League Play or City Championship structure. If required, Regional Qualifiers leading to Provincial Championships will be conducted according to the Softball Alberta guidelines.

- 14.1** Teams travelling to weekend tournaments, non-league games, or exhibition games are not permitted to cancel their league games due to their team travel. Any infraction will result in a forfeit, disciplinary actions, and fines for the cancelling team. No makeup game will be permitted.
- 14.2** Completed Provincial entry form must be submitted to Softball Alberta, completed with entry fee payable to Softball Alberta by June 1.
- 14.3** The Regional Qualifier fee of \$100.00 payable to Calgary Minor Softball must be paid by June 1. The Regional Qualifier fee will be used to offset Regional Qualifier expenses for the applicable category.
- 14.4** Coaches must submit NCCP Certification papers at the time of Provincial Registration June 1.
- 14.5** All players registered to a Calgary Minor Softball team will attend Provincials with their registered team.
Exception:
- The Club has formed a separate team(s) for a category.
 - Clubs must give all players registered in that category the opportunity to try out.
 - Two Clubs have formed a separate team(s) for a category.
 - Only applicable when both Clubs can show they have exhausted all possibilities of entering a team on their own.
- 14.6** All players registered on a provincial roster outside their respective Club must return to their respective Club in the following year.
- 14.7** Teams entering Provincials are expected to enter a playoff category which corresponds to their demonstrated team capabilities. If it is brought to Calgary Minor Softball's attention that a team in our program has entered a category which creates unfair competition, then the situation will be investigated, and the results forwarded to Softball Alberta.



Calgary Minor Softball Association Provincial Entry Guidelines

Calgary Minor Softball Association Provincial Entry

Calgary Minor Category	Playing Season Location	Provincial Championship Entry Levels
U11	Calgary Minor Softball	Traditional
U13 Div. 1	Calgary Minor Softball	A/B
U13 Div. 2	Calgary Minor Softball	B/C
U13 Div. 3	Calgary Minor Softball	D
U15 Div. 1	Calgary Minor Softball	A/B
U15 Div. 2	Calgary Minor Softball	B/C
U15 Div. 3	Calgary Minor Softball	D
HS Div. 1	Calgary Minor Softball	A/B/C
HS Div. 2	Calgary Minor Softball	C
HS Div.3	Calgary Minor Softball	D

14.8 Provincial Playoff dates and locations are as per Softball Alberta guidelines.

14.9 Coaches should obtain and review the current Official Handbook from Softball Alberta **Provincial Rules which are different than league rules.**

14.10 Tournaments

Calgary Minor Softball teams should try and attend Softball Alberta/Softball Canada sanctioned tournaments. Sanctioned tournaments are verified by requesting the sanction number. Sponsors of tournaments MUST obtain tournament sanctions from the Softball Alberta office. Player Insurance provided through team registration is only valid when tournaments are sanctioned by the Softball Alberta or Softball Canada affiliated members. Any team travelling Out-of-Province must have a Travel Permit through the Softball Alberta office.

Calgary Minor Softball should be informed of all tournaments to avoid conflicting tournament dates and diamonds. City Championships and Regional Qualifiers and Provincial Championships have precedence over tournaments.



15 EQUIPMENT & SAFETY

Equipment (Reference Softball Canada Rule & Softball Alberta Minor Specific Rules)

- 15.1** 11" core 47 optic ball shall be used for the U11 and U13 Category, boys, and girls. A 12" core 47 optic ball shall be used for U15, U17 and U19. 11" optic indoor ball shall be used for all play at the U9 (6 Player) level. Rubber balls are not allowed. The home team shall supply one new ball (which must be used for the game) and one back up ball acceptable to both coaches, and/or umpires.
- 15.2** Bats must comply with the current Softball Canada bat standards and must be on the ASA approved Bat list and comply with all the standards. Shall be marked by the manufacturer in a prominent manner to be easily visible: "Official Approved Softball" or other notification as may be selected and approved by Softball Canada. If the approval notice cannot be read due to wear on the bat, the bat may still be permitted in play if it follows Softball Canada Rules in all other respects and that compliance is determinable with reasonable certainty. See Softball Canada Rule 2.3.1 for the entire rule.
- 15.3** Double First Base is required for all categories.
- 15.4** Offensive Players are required to wear a correctly fitted, protective batting helmet with dual ear flaps and face guard, and properly fastened with a chin strap, always while batting, running the bases, or while on the playing field. (Reference Softball Alberta Minor Specific Rules).
- 15.5** An approved facemask/guard is required as part of the protective batting helmet for all players.
- 15.6** All Minor players in the, U9, U11, U13, U15, U17, and U19 categories, regardless of positions being played, must wear an athletic support with cup for males (jock strap) or female protective pad (Jill strap).
- 15.7** Minor catchers in all categories are required to wear:
- protective helmet with ear flaps and
 - mask with the attached throat protector.
 - appropriate glove (trapper style or normal softball),
 - chest protector.
 - double knee shin guards (which offer protection to the kneecap).
 - All equipment is to fit properly.
- Minor catchers must wear a protective helmet and mask with the attached throat protector prior to the game and between innings, when warming up a pitcher.
- 15.8** Adults or minors, warming up a pitcher, or umpiring at the plate, must wear a protective face mask or catcher's protective helmet and mask.
- 15.9** Full uniforms with numbers on the back of shirts are required for Calgary Minor Softball Association teams. This is also a Softball Alberta provincial requirement when advancing beyond city play-offs or tournament play. Uniforms must be alike in colour, trim and style, and must be worn properly. Coaches are to wear like and coordinate colours and other clothing on the diamond.
- 15.10** Metal cleats are permitted to be worn by U17 - U19 HS, Division 1 players only. No other division is permitted to wear metal cleats in Calgary Minor Softball.

15.11 Jewelry – Distracting Adornments: The umpire is to follow the rule as set out by Softball Canada (see **Softball Canada Rule**)

No exposed items (including jewelry) judged by the umpire to be distracting to opposing players may be worn or displayed. The umpire shall require the item to be removed or covered. Medical alert bracelets and/or necklaces, if deemed to be distracting, shall be required to be taped to the body in such a manner that the medical alert information is visible.

Effect: If a player is requested by the umpire to remove jewelry and they refuse, the player will be removed from the game and ruled ineligible.

15.12 Pitchers in categories Learn to Play to U19 are required to wear an approved protective face mask/guard when pitching. No pitcher will be allowed to throw a pitch in a game until an approved face mask/guard is worn. Failure to wear an approved face mask/guard will result in the pitcher being unable to continue pitching and they must be replaced and/or substituted for.

16 UMPIRES

The use of official Calgary Minor Softball Umpires (CMSU) for any Calgary Minor Softball Association game will be at the discretion of the Executive Director, Commissioner or League Director. This will depend on the availability of umpires and funds in any given year.

16.1 All games, including City Championships, must be played as scheduled even though a Calgary Minor Umpire is not present. The home team supplies the home plate umpire, visiting team supplies the base umpire. The home team is responsible for diamond layout.

16.2 When an official Calgary Minor Softball Umpire is used, it is up to the Calgary Minor Softball Umpire's discretion as to which team supplies the base umpire, if so required.



17 PROTESTS

- 17.1** The Calgary Minor Softball Association Protest Committee shall consist of five (5) Board members, which should include the Category Chairperson concerned and the Umpire in Chief or designated alternate.
- 17.2** A protest to Calgary Minor Softball Association that will be received and considered includes matters of the following types: (see **Softball Canada Rule**)
- 17.2.1** The misinterpretation of a Rule
 - 17.2.2** The failure of an umpire to apply the correct rule to a given situation.
 - 17.2.3** The failure to impose the correct penalty for a given violation.
 - 17.2.4** After one pitch has been thrown (legal or illegal), no umpire ruling can be changed.
- 17.3** All protests must be submitted in writing to Calgary Minor Softball, accompanied by the score sheet of the game in question. Protests must be received by the Executive Director and the appropriate Category Chairperson, within 24 hours of the game start time. The note must also include the name of the umpire and scorekeeper.
- 17.4** Umpires and/or League Officials will in all cases note and record on the score sheet the incident and conditions affecting the protest at the time the official protest is lodged.
- 17.5** Any ruling of a Protest Committee shall affect only the game protested and following games in the series or league play.
- 17.6** The Protest Committee shall use its best efforts to judge each protest within two (2) days from the time the protest is received by the Executive Director.
- 17.7** During City Championships, the protest shall be judged before the next scheduled City Championship game; in a time-constraint situation, a quorum of three (3) members shall form the protest committee. The Executive Director, Commissioner, League Director, or Umpire-in-Chief must be notified immediately if a protest is filed during a City Championship game in order to immediately gather the quorum to judge the protest.
- 17.8** The Protest Committee chairperson shall be responsible for immediately notify verbally the Head Coach involved in submitting the protest, with confirmation to follow in writing to the Head Coach and/or managers involved, of the result of the protest.



18 APPEALS, DISCIPLINE AND SUSPENSION

18.1 The effect for violating the Operating Rules, Playing Rules or Bylaws shall include but not be limited to:

Warning

Removal from the game - The offender shall leave the grounds for the remainder of the game. Failure to do so will warrant a forfeiture of the game.

Ejection from the game – suspended from the game and the next scheduled game. Individuals may be subject to a disciplinary hearing.

18.2 Calgary Minor Softball reserves the right to evaluate individual teams or programs that Calgary Minor Softball members may play or be asked to play. **This includes exhibition games of any kind.** All Calgary Minor Softball Association teams will contact the Calgary Minor Softball Association office to inquire on a nonaffiliated team's status prior to playing. Not being able to contact the office is NOT permission to play.

18.3 Individuals and/or teams who choose to ignore the operating rules, playing rules and/or by-laws set forth by Calgary Minor Softball Association members will be considered to be in contempt. This willful choice places the violators to a "non-affiliate" status.

18.4 It is prohibited that teams associated with Calgary Minor Softball at all levels too willfully and intentionally play teams termed "non-affiliate". It is understood that teams attending tournaments sanctioned by recognized programs will be temporarily exempt from these operating rules.

18.5 Team officials who willfully and intentionally violate the above operating rule will be brought forward to a Disciplinary Hearing. This may lead to penalties up to and including suspension.

18.6 If during the game, the conduct of the supporting fans of either team becomes objectionable, the umpire may suspend play for a suitable interval while an attempt is made to rectify the situation. If, after a suspension of play, there is no improvement in the situation, the umpire may, at his or her discretion, suspend the game, play to resume later at the point at which it was suspended.

Effect: If the game is suspended to a later date, play will resume at a time and place specified by the Executive Director or League Director. On this occasion, should the supporting fans of the same team persist in the conduct which led to suspension; the game will be declared forfeit.

18.7 Video or audio replay of any on field related incidents will be permitted as evidence, however on points of fact connected to plays in the game, such as whether a runner scores or not, and the results of the game will not be permitted. Video or audio replay of any off-field incidents will be permitted but must be submitted to Calgary Minor Softball Association a minimum of 2 business days prior to the disciplinary hearing.

18.8 Players or individuals in any official capacity with a team shall not make disparaging, insulting, or obscene remarks prior, during or after a game, to or about opposing players, officials, or spectators. The penalty for violation by a player, coach or manager is on the first offense, player, coach, or manager may be warned but on the second offense they are promptly removed from the game.

Effect: Umpires should note violation on the back of score sheet. This ruling will apply to all league and City Championship games. Duration of the suspension shall be determined by the Calgary Minor Softball Appeals, Suspension & Discipline Committee. Participation by a suspended player, coach, or manager in any game will result in forfeiture of the game in question.

18.9 The Calgary Minor Softball Association Appeals, Suspension and Discipline Committee shall consist of five appointed Board members as per the Appeals, Suspension & Discipline Committee.

18.10 Suspensions may be issued by any of the President, Executive Director, Commissioner or League Director for:

- Improper conduct on or off the playing field,
- Clubs or Coach's recruiting players from other Clubs
- Failure to pay fees due to Calgary Minor Softball Association
- Having received money for his or her services while carrying out any duties or activities on behalf of the Calgary Minor Softball Association,
- Failure to comply with Player Registration deadline.
- Knowing and continuing violation of the operating rules, playing rules and/or bylaws of Calgary Minor Softball Association

18.11 The President, Executive Director, Commissioner, or League Director who has issued a suspension will forward a written report to the Appeals, Suspension & Discipline Committee immediately. This report will contain all pertinent information required for the cause of suspension.

18.12 Suspension will be effective until judged upon by the Appeals, Suspension & Discipline Committee which will be within seven (7) days from the date the suspension was issued.

18.13 The Appeals, Suspension & Discipline Committee will use its best efforts to meet within seven (7) days from the date that the suspension was issued, or the date that the incident report was received by the Executive Director. Attendance at the Appeals, Suspension & Discipline Committee hearing shall be open to:

- member(s) under suspension or discipline
- individual(s) who filed the complaint.
- any team officials or witnesses to the issue
- umpire(s)

18.14 Notification procedure of the ruling from the Appeals, Suspension & Discipline Committee to the member(s) shall be a verbal notification and written notice.

18.15 A suspended individual will remain ineligible to participate in Calgary Minor Softball Association throughout the duration of the suspension. Teams, players, coaches or managers that have been suspended may be reinstated by the Appeals, Suspension & Discipline Committee or by majority vote at an Annual meeting or General meeting. Suspensions may be carried over from one season to another.

18.16 In order that the game of Softball, as controlled by Calgary Minor Softball Association and its affiliated members shall not be affected by financial interest, any appeal to courts of law, or to a lawyer in anticipation of legal action, BEFORE all processes of appeal through Calgary Minor Softball Association and if applicable, through Softball Alber or Softball Canada are exhausted, shall be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct. Any team, manager, coach, player (or parent/guardian if minor) or umpire who resorts to such procedure shall automatically and immediately be suspended from all privileges and affiliations with Calgary Minor Softball Association and Associated Leagues.

18.17 The Calgary Minor Softball Association will recognize all Calgary Minor Softball Umpires, Softball Alberta, and Softball Canada suspensions.

