



U17C Provincial Rules 2026

1. Softball BC rules will apply.
2. No new innings after 1 hour 30 minutes. Time starts at 1st warmup pitch. Only the Gold medal games in both Silver and Gold Division will have no time limit.
3. A five run maximum rule shall apply in half innings up to and including the 5th inning. Subsequent innings shall be open. (All innings must be played out in Round Robin play even if a team is down by 6 runs in the 4th or 5th inning with time about to expire. They cannot win the game, but must play for runs to a maximum of +7. (Bases touched no longer apply at Provincials.)
4. Game start time is at first warm-up pitch, inning ends and new inning begins on umpires called third out.
5. Ties are permitted in the round robin portion of the event. Tie Breaking rules will be in effect for playoff games.
6. A Run Ahead Rule shall result in the conclusion of the game when:
 - a. After 2 ½ or 3 complete innings of play there is a difference of 15 runs or more.
 - b. After 3 ½ or 4 complete innings of play there is a difference of 10 runs or more runs.
 - c. After 4 ½, 5, 5 ½, or 6 complete innings of play there is a difference of 7 or more runs. Innings are to be completed unless the run ahead rule is applied, or the home team is ahead at end of time limit.
7. Innings are to be completed unless the run ahead rule is applied. If the home team is ahead at the end of the 90 min time limit, the game will end. All runs will be counted to that point.
8. DEFENSIVE CONFERENCES – There shall only be three (3) charged defensive conferences during the game. Extra innings for tie breaking, one conference per inning is allowed.
9. OFFENSIVE CONFERENCES – There shall only be one (1) charged offensive conference in an inning.
10. TIE BREAKER RULE: Starting with the top of the eighth inning, and each half-inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half-inning being placed on second base. No outs.
11. For round robin games, the home team will be decided by a coin toss at the coaches meeting. For the playoff games, the higher seeded team from the round robin will have choice of home or away. Playoff Home and Away (Higher seeded team makes choice 30 minutes before game start) (If in the Championship game, an UNDEFEATED PLAYOFF TEAM gets choice of Home or away 30 minutes before game start).
12. Game lineups cards to be handed in to head scorekeeper 30 minutes prior to game starting.
13. Drop third strike and infield fly rules apply.



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14. Unlimited defensive substitutions and all players on the lineup card will bat.
15. HELMETS – BATTING: an approved helmet shall be one that is fully enclosed, with two ear flaps, a foam liner, and a peak. For U17 and below, all on-deck batters, batters and baserunners must have an attached face mask.
16. When warming up a pitcher, anyone catching for the pitcher must be wearing an approved catcher's helmet/catcher's facemask with throat protector. Infield facemasks are not approved headwear.
17. Metal cleats are not permitted for C divisions.
18. Teams must have 9 players to play. Teams without 9 players will be allowed a 5-minute allowance after the designated start time of their game, if nine players are not ready at that time, the offending team will forfeit the game. (Any team which loses a game because of forfeit, default or failure to complete a scheduled game during a Provincial Championship, shall immediately be reviewed by the Protest Committee to determine whether that team will be disqualified from the Tournament.)
19. If there is an injury during the game and the 9th player cannot play, the team can finish the game with 8 players. There will not be an automatic out.
20. Communication must happen at plate conference for a player with a "Permanent Medical Condition". Medical letter must accompany a request
21. PARTICIPATION - This definition applies to games played using the batting order modification described in Section 8.7.9.1. All players on the entry roster shall receive a minimum of 2 defensive innings in the first 4 innings of the games unless injured or unavailable.

FINAL SEEDING TO BE DETERMINED AS FOLLOWS:

- a. Won-Loss record. (2 points for a win, 0 for a loss, 1 for a tie)
- b. When only two teams are tied, the winner of the game between the tied teams is declared the winner. When three or more teams are tied, or when two teams are tied but have not played each other in the qualifying round only criteria (c), (d), (e) and (f) will apply in that order
- c. Combined Run differential totals (score differential limit up to +7 runs or -7 per game)
- d. If still tied: Least runs scored against during the entire qualifying round
- e. If still tied: Most runs scored during the entire qualifying round
- f. If still tied: If time and facilities permit, play a tie breaking game. If time and facilities do not permit, the final seeding will be determined by a coin toss by the Softball BC Supervisor or designate.



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The top 8 teams from the round robin will advance to the double knock-out Gold Division playoffs and the bottom 8 seeded teams will advance to a modified single knock-out Silver Division playoff.

PROTESTS: This is a protestable tournament. Any protests regarding rule interpretations will be heard, however they must be made before the next pitch (legal or illegal) is thrown, or before the umpires vacate the diamond. To protest, inform the plate umpire of your intention to protest and a \$50 fee must be paid at the time of the protest. If the protest is upheld, then the fee is returned.

Each team must present a copy of their SBBC Team Registration, proof of age documents, NCCP coaching documents, approved pick up player forms (players are not eligible without approved pick up forms), proof of minimum 3 games played and a copy of your provincial tournament roster identifying all pick-ups and any pick-ups which are pitchers (1 only) to the Softball BC Representative at the coaches meeting. A qualified NCCP coach with a minimum coach training of Community Sport Ongoing Participation or Competition Introduction Weekend #1 and Foundations of coaching Softball 1 & 2 with their Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation (MED) must always be on the field of play with the team they are registered with. If you do not have this, then you must provide an exemption letter from the SBBC Director of Coaching or his designate.

A minimum of 2 coaches must be on the team registration form and those coaches will be on the field throughout the duration of the event. Individuals not on the SBBC registration form may not be on the field of play or in the dugout.

If you have a player on your team who has recently joined the team, the player must have participated in a minimum of three games. Have a signed scorebook (or printed copies of Game Changer games) as proof if requested by the Softball BC Representative.

Coaches – no denim, no short shorts, no tank tops, no open-toed shoes, no flip flops.

If there is a discrepancy between these rules and the 2026 Softball BC Handbook, the Handbook is the official ruling.

Batting helmet and Bat checks will be completed by the Umpires prior to each game. Please line up batting helmets and bats along the outside of the dugout fence for inspection. Please check your equipment prior to coming.