



SOFTBALL ALBERTA U13/U15 PROVINCIAL TIERING WEEKENDS

Rules & Regulations

1. Acceptance of late applications is subject to the approval of the Softball Alberta Director in charge of the applicable category in conjunction with the Softball Alberta administration. A \$200.00 late fee may be charged to any team applying to enter PTW after the PTW entry deadline.
2. Teams who withdraw their PTW entry or do not participate in any one or all the PTW weekend(s) forfeit their PTW entry fees paid.
3. Forfeiture of games where a team fails to appear on the field or refuses to play a game as scheduled in a PTW will result in a forfeit and the team and/or the Association may be subject to a disciplinary meeting.
4. A team must have nine (9) players to start or continue a game. If the team does not have 9 players, the game is forfeited. Teams may use Affiliate Players to fill roster positions left vacant by a rostered player not being able to attend. (See Affiliate Player info)
5. There will be no grace period from the designated start time of a game. Result would be forfeiture. This pertains to all categories of PTW. Teams must be ready to play at completion of plate conference (warmups, team cheers, etc. must be completed).
6. Home Team - Home team will be determined by a coin toss at the Coaches/Manager meeting prior to the start of PTW#1 and PTW #2. For PTW#3, highest ranking team determined by the previous weekends, will have choice of either Home or Visitor. Highest ranking team to inform supervisors of their decision when they hand in the line-up cards.
7. Home team to provide official scorekeepers, including in PTW#3.
8. Coaches to have line-up cards to the Softball Alberta Supervisors a minimum of 30 minutes prior to scheduled game-time. Scorekeepers must pick up the game sheet from the Softball Alberta Supervisor 15 minutes prior to the scheduled game start time.
9. No games shall be played prior to PTW.
10. A regulation game consists of 7 completed innings with the exception of # 9 – Time Limits & #14 – Run Ahead Rules
11. TIME LIMITS: (Time starts at completion of Plate Conference)
 - a. NO new inning shall start after a 1 hour & 45-minute time limit for ALL games. Games are complete when one of the following occurs:
 - i. No new inning after 1 hour and 45mins, or
 - ii. Completed 7-innings (Ties are allowed) (or 6 ½ innings if home team is ahead), or
 - iii. Run Ahead Rule (see Run Ahead Rule):
 - Note: The Drop-dead time limit is NOT in effect**
 - b. Coaches, Umpires and Supervisors: Below are examples of situations on when a game is declared over and more importantly when does the home team take their last bats. Please review and make yourself aware of these situations. We are aware that there may have been some instances on weekend one that did not follow these guidelines, these will be the guidelines used for tiering and U13 and U15 A/B provincials.
 - i. Situation 1
 1. Game official start time was 9:00 am. It is now 10:44 am when the umpire declared the 3rd out. Do we start another inning?
 - a. Yes – the next inning starts immediately at the time of the 3rd out and since that was 1 minute before the 1 hour 45-minute time limit a new inning is to be played. Reminder if you have 1 second left on the timer a new inning must be played (if the timer has not gone off another inning is played).

- ii. Situation 2: You are nearing the time limit or time limit has expired and home team can not score enough runs to tie or win the game. Does home team get to bat the bottom of the inning even though they can not score enough runs to tie or win the game?
 - 1. Yes – If an inning has been started then the home team shall bat even though they may not be able to score enough runs to tie or win the game. The final score is used for the runs for and against standings. In addition, potentially 3 quick outs could happen and there is still time left on the clock that another inning could be played.
- iii. Situation 3: Home team is down (by 2 runs for example), and this will be the last inning due to time – does the game end when the home team scores the winning run (3 runs for example) or can they continue to play until they reach the allowable runs for the inning.
 - 1. No - The game will be declared over when the home team reaches the number of runs (example: 3 runs) needed to win the game. Exception: On an over the fence home run, the batter is credited with the home run, and all the runs count towards the final score.
- iv. Situation 4: Time has expired – visitors have batted, and home team is ahead by 1 or more runs. Does home team get to bat?
 - 1. No – Home team has won the game – they will not bat.
- v. Other Information:
 - 1. Run Ahead Rule – if a team has reached the required number of runs for the run ahead rule the game is declared over.
 - 2. The final score of the game is the score used for standings – no reverting back to previous inning.
 - 3. There are no drop-dead situations – the inning needs to be completed.
- c. Time limits ‘may’ be extended at the discretion of the home plate umpire and/or the UIC and/or the Softball Alberta Supervisor for such matters as injuries, field maintenance, protests, etc.

12. Games can end in a tie.

13. All games called by the umpire shall be “completed games” if five or more completed innings have been played, or if the team second at bat has scored more runs than the other team has scored in four and one-half (4½) or more innings.

14. When incomplete games cannot be immediately continued due to darkness, weather or any other extenuating circumstance, the Softball Alberta Supervisor 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 unduly delay the series. (Also, Refer to Article III, C. SCHEDULES, Cancellations, Rainout Reschedules).

15. RUNS PER INNING: - categories with a Run per Inning Limit are:

- a. U13 – A five (5) run rule per inning per team will be in effect throughout the game. Once the fifth (5th) run is scored all other runners are stranded. They DO NOT start on base next inning.
- b. U15 – A seven (7) run per inning per team rule will be in effect throughout the game. Once the seventh run is scored, all other runners are stranded. They DO NOT start on base the next inning. When the team behind cannot score enough runs to win in the allotted time or after 4 ½ innings, the game is declared over.

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

- a. 15 or more runs after 2½ or 3 complete innings of play.
- b. 10 or more runs after 3 ½ or 4 complete innings of play.
- c. 7 or more runs after 4½, 5, 5½ or 6 complete innings of play.

17. PITCHING SPECIFIC RULES:

- a. All categories follow the standard softball pitch as outlined by Softball Canada.
- b. Pitchers may pitch a maximum of four (4) innings per game,

- c. Should a pitcher throw one (1) pitch (excluding warm-up pitches), this is classified as a complete inning pitched.
- d. In the event of extra innings, the pitching rule is not in effect.
- e. 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:
 - i. allowing all plays to stand,
 - ii. or revert to the spot in the game when the violation occurred.

18. Other CATEGORY SPECIFIC RULES:

- a. U13 category
 - i. The 'Infield Fly Rule' is NOT in effect. The batter is out on the third strike, regardless of if the ball is caught or not, and the ball remains alive.
 - ii. The 'Designated Player' rule (FP) IS NOT permitted.
 - iii. Metal Cleats – metal cleats are NOT allowed.
- b. U15 category
 - i. The 'Designated Player' rule (FP) is permitted.
 - ii. Metal Cleats – metal cleats are allowed (subject to facility regulations). Teams that compete in the PTW will be able to use the above rule for the duration of all provincials.

19. Softball AB Handbook equipment rules (Article III, Section J), uniform rules (Article III, Section K), Protests (Article VI, Section A) - above.

20. Format/Rankings (2026 Season)

- a. Weekend Structure
 - i. PTW#1 and #2 will be round robin pool style play.
 - 1. Based upon number of received entries per category, the pools will be as follows:
 - a. U13
 - i. Pools 1, 2 and 3 will have 7 teams.
 - ii. Pool 4 will have 8 teams.
 - b. U15
 - i. Pools 1, 2 and 3 will have 8 teams.
 - ii. Pool 4 will have 9 teams.
 - 2. Teams will move from pool to pool based upon their records upon completion of PTW#1 and #2 (see pool structure below)
 - ii. Upon completion of PTW#2, the number of registered entries will be split into 2 categories per age division an “A” division and a “B” division.
 - 1. U13A – 14 Teams (U13 Pools 1 and 2) 10 Teams qualify for Provincials, 4 teams eliminated.
 - 2. U13B – 15 Teams (U13 Pools 3 and 4) 10 Teams qualify for Provincials, 5 teams eliminated.
 - 3. U15A – 16 Teams (U15 Pools 1 and 2) 10 Teams qualify for Provincials, 6 teams eliminated.
 - 4. U15B – 17 Teams (U15 Pools 3 and 4) 10 Teams qualify for Provincials, 7 teams eliminated.
 - iii. PTW#3 will then become a traditional bracket style draw (modified triple elimination c/w consolation games at the discretion of Softball Alberta Supervisor)
- b. Pool Structure
 - i. PTW#1 – Teams will be placed into pools based upon the rankings, received from the teams and/or Softball Alberta Tiering Committee.
 - 1. Teams ranked 1 to 7 will be in Pool #1, Teams ranked 8 to 14 will be in Pool #2, Teams ranked 15 to 21 will be in Pool #3, etc.
 - a. The number of pools will be based upon the number registered teams.
 - ii. Teams play a modified round robin within their pool for that weekend, upon completion of that weekends play, team will be re-pooled based upon their records within the pool.
 - 1. Top 3 teams in the pools will move up into the higher pool (exception Pool #1 those teams will remain as there is no place to move up to)
 - 2. Bottom 3 teams will move into the lower pool (exception Last Pool those teams will remain as there is no place to move down to)

3. Teams that are ranked in the 4th, 5th or 6th (depending on the pool and number of teams) place will remain in the same pool that they played.
 - iii. PTW#2 – will be re-pooled and played as per PTW#1
 - iv. PTW#3 – Upon completion of weekend #2 teams will split into 2 divisions as outlined above.
- c. Ranking format during playing
- i. WIN / LOSS / TIE record.
 - ii. Games played against each other
 - iii. If there are teams still tied after criteria a) and b), then the following criteria are used to determine the ranking of the tied teams only:
 1. Runs For/Against with a maximum per game being 7.
 2. Least runs allowed in all games by each team.
 3. Total runs scored in all games for each team.
 4. Positions settled with a coin toss

21. Roster deadline

- a. April 15th of the current year
- b. PTW rosters will be the same for the Provincial Championships
 - i. Upon completion of the Tiering Weekends, the Softball Alberta Provincial Championship pick up rules will apply. (Reference Softball Handbook)
 - ii. As per the Softball Alberta Provincial Handbook, please note that now U13A is a Post Provincial Category (Western Canadians). Any team that qualifies for U13A will not be eligible to pick up players for the Provincial Championship weekend.

22. Emergency Injury/Medical Replacement

- a. Affiliate Players must be used prior to applying for an Injury Replacement player.
- b. Injury Replacement player will only be considered when a medical certificate indicates a player will not return for the balance of the year.
- c. Injury Replacement for Provincial Championship remains the same (See Softball Alberta Handbook)

23. Affiliate Players

- a. The Affiliate Player is in place to provide coaches with an option to add players from a lower category/division in the event of unforeseen circumstances where their roster would drop below the original size.
- b. Coaches have the option to bring their roster size up to its original size utilizing Affiliate Players. For example, if your team's original roster is 13 players and 2 players are injured or unable to play, the coach can potentially "affiliate" 1 or 2 players. This is not in place to add depth to the team's current roster but as an emergency backup plan.
- c. Coaches will be required to provide information and reasoning for why the player is being affiliated.
- d. The Affiliate Player must be registered with Softball Alberta in RAMP to be eligible.
- e. The Affiliate Player must be drawn from a team within the same organization from a division lower or one age category lower. Exception: Adrenaline, Kaizen, River City and Warriors will be allowed to use Affiliate Players from within their zone. Other teams will require Softball Alberta approval to "affiliate" a player outside their organization. Also see note "l" below.
- f. To utilize an Affiliate Player, the coach/team manager must contact the Affiliate Player's team coach. The Affiliate Player's coach and parent/guardian must approve adding the player as an affiliate by completing & signing the PTW Affiliate Player Form. Softball Alberta must also sign the form as the final approval of the Affiliate Player.
- g. Affiliate Player requests must be approved by the Affiliate Player's team head coach before speaking with the parents or player.
- h. An Affiliate Player may only sign and play for one team per weekend.
- i. Affiliate Players must return to their regular rostered team for Provincial Championships. If their regular rostered team has not entered Provincial Championships, then Softball Alberta's Pickup Player rules will apply.
- j. The application form must be submitted to Softball Alberta at least 2 working days prior to the start of the first game to be played.
- k. The use of an unapproved Affiliate Player in a game will result in the Head Coach being suspended for the use of an ineligible player.

- l. Any requests for exceptions/changes/alternates to any of the Affiliate Player guidelines must submitted to Softball Alberta and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- 24. Softball Alberta reserves the right to adjust as required for the PTW. The Softball Alberta PTW Supervisor in consultation with the Host Committee and the UIC, are in charge and responsible for any rescheduling, postponing, or shortening of any and all games in order to complete the tournament due to inclement weather or any other unforeseen circumstances.