



BULLETIN

Bulletin #: 2026-03

Date: January 19, 2026

To: Minor Associations

CC: Board of Directors, Minor Coordinators, and Staff

From: Diane St-Denis, Executive Director

Subject: Regional and Provincial Championship Update

U11C Celebration of Softball 2026 pilot

The Board of Directors reviewed at its November 2025 meeting a recommendation from the minor advisory council to eliminate the U11 Celebration of Softball event effective immediately. The Board instructed staff to survey the membership regarding the elimination of the event. Member feedback was mixed, with the primary concern from members and the Board being the lack of alignment between the event's competitive nature and the Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD).

Based on staff feedback, the Board has decided to "alter" the format of the U11 Celebrations for 2026 rather than eliminate them, to determine whether the modifications address the concerns raised by members.

New Format

- U11 Celebrations will consist only of round-robin play. There will be no playoffs.
- Softball BC will no longer provide medals or gifts for each participant. The funds saved by this discontinued practice will be added to the hosting grant to support the delivery of social bonding/fun activities that create a memorable event for all participants (fun games, prizes for best cheers, best homemade sign, best costume). A total of \$2,000 per event will be available post-event to each host upon proof of expenditures.
- The previous hosting grant and provisions of balls will be maintained.
- Head coaches will be required to participate in a pre-event briefing (virtual) facilitated by Umpires & Championship Director the week prior to their U11 Celebration. Rules, format and social activities will be the main focus of the meeting. This meeting will replace a large portion of the in-person meeting typically held prior to these events.

Mandatory Education

- Head Coaches will be invited, via their Association President, to attend a preseason briefing for U11 programs. Attendance will be a requirement for participation in the U11 Celebration and Showcase events. The briefing, which will be facilitated by the Softball BC Office, will consist of (i) an overview of U11 regulations coaches need to adhere to in season to prepare their teams for the U11 Celebration or Showcase event. Heavy emphasis will be placed on coaches focusing on player development rather than competitive performance.
- The Softball BC Office will provide each minor association with documentation (in electronic format) to be shared with the parents/guardians of each U11 participant. The

goals for distributing the documentation is to (i) emphasize the importance of focusing on learning and enjoying the game vs competitive performance at the U11 level, (ii) how the changes to the U11 Celebration and Showcase events are meant to emphasize that approach, and (iii) most importantly, their role in creating a supporting environment for their child and all other participants to learn the game.

Evaluation

1. As part of the post-season evaluation process, the Softball BC Office will develop an evaluation tool for the designated Softball BC Rep and the UIC to use at the U11 Celebrations to record/report on coach behaviour. The aim here is to determine if the altered format led to more positive conduct.
2. Participants (parents) and coaches will receive a post-event survey to gather their feedback on the event, with a focus on participant enjoyment.
3. The Host will complete the usual post-event host evaluation.

Declaring Participation

- Each district retains the right to host their own U11 year-end events. As such, each District Minor Coordinator will be required to confirm by February 1st which members in their district plan to participate in the U11C Celebration. The declaration is to assist with event planning.
- The team registration process for all U11C Celebrations remains unchanged. Only U11C teams can participate.

Securing Hosts

- District Minor Coordinators are asked to consult with other coordinators in their region to identify a suitable host for their regional event schedule to take place June 19 - 21st. The host must be identified by February 1st. This timeline is intended to align with each coordinator's need to confirm which members in their district plan to participate in the U11 Celebration, as the number of participating teams may affect host selection or signal the cancellation of the event.

Revision of U11 Showcase Pilot

Format

- The format will remain unchanged.
- Two showcases (2 x 24 teams) to be held on a weekend different than the U11 Celebration of Softball.
- Softball BC will no longer provide gifts for each participant. The funds will be provided to the host to use for other awards, such as most sportsmanlike team, best cheers, etc. Award to be voted on by the players themselves (see Abbotsford awards). A total of \$1,000 per event will be available post-event to each host upon proof of expenditures.
- The previous hosting grant and provisions of balls will be maintained.
- Head coaches will be required to participate in a pre-event briefing (virtual) facilitated by Umpires & Championship Director the week prior to their U11 Celebration. Rules, format and social activities will be the main focus of the meeting. This meeting will replace a large portion of the in-person meeting typically held prior to these events.

Mandatory Education

- Head Coaches will be invited, via their Association President, to attend a preseason briefing for U11 programs. Attendance will be a requirement for participation in the U11 Celebration and Showcase events. The briefing, which will be facilitated by the Softball

BC Office, will consist of (i) an overview of U11 regulations coaches need to adhere to in season to prepare their teams for the U11 Celebration or Showcase event. Heavy emphasis will be placed on coaches focusing on player development rather than competitive performance.

- The Softball BC Office will provide each minor association with documentation (in electronic format) to be shared with the parents/guardians of each U11 participant. The goals for distributing the documentation is to (i) emphasize the importance of focusing on learning and enjoying the game vs competitive performance at the U11 level, (ii) how the changes to the U11 Celebration and Showcase events are meant to emphasize that approach, and (iii) most importantly, their role in creating a supporting environment for their child and all other participants to learn the game.

Evaluation

1. As part of the post-season evaluation process, the Softball BC Office will develop an evaluation tool for the designated Softball BC Rep and the UIC to use at the U11 Showcase to record/report on coach behaviour. The aim here is to determine if the altered format led to more positive conduct.
2. Participants (parents) and coaches will receive a post-event survey to gather their feedback on the event, with a focus on participant enjoyment.
3. The Host will complete the usual post-event host evaluation.

Declaring Participation

- The team registration process for all U11 showcases remains unchanged, except that participation is no longer limited to Rep Teams. Combined teams will be accepted at both events.

Securing Hosts

- Minor Associations interested in hosting the U11 Showcase (scheduled for the weekend of June 12th to 14th) are invited to contact the Umpires & Championships Director no later than February 1st to express interest and secure a copy of the bid package.

U13C Regionals

The Umpires & Championships Director is consulting with district minor coordinators to secure hosts for Region 3 (Districts 7, 8, 14) and Region 5 (Districts 12 & 13). Region 4 (Districts 9, 10, 11) has been assigned to the Merritt Minor Softball Association. Region 1 (Districts 1, 2, 3) and Region 2 (Districts 4, 5, 6, 15) will be announced in the upcoming week.

U15C Regionals Pilot

The Board of Directors has approved the Rural Participation Committee's recommendation for a U15C Regional Championship Pilot. Two regional events with a maximum size of 16 teams are part of the pilot.

- North - Districts 12, 13 and a portion of 11
- Central - District 9, 10 and a portion of 11

The event will use the same format as the current U13C regionals. Coaches must be qualified in accordance with the coaching requirements. Teams will need to sign an LOI stating that if they don't qualify for provincials, they will go to regionals.

The Umpires & Championships Director will consult with the minor coordinators for districts 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 to assign the hosts for the pilot. Minor Associations interested in hosting should contact their district coordinator prior to February 1st.

Visit <https://www.softball.bc.ca/> for updates on all provincial events.