



BULLETIN

Bulletin #: 2026-04

Date: January 20, 2026

To: Minor Associations

CC: Board of Directors, Minor Coordinators, and Staff

From: Diane St-Denis, Executive Director

Subject: Townhall - Adherence to Softball Canada Rulebook

The Board of Directors recently discussed concerns raised by the Softball BC Umpire Advisory Council regarding the lack of adherence by Softball BC members of the rules of the games as published in the Softball Canada Rule book (Official Fast Pitch Softball Rules and Official Slo-Pitch Softball Rules). Our umpires believe that adopting the rules as written will facilitate umpires' training and development and minimize the possibility of confusion at events/games, which often leads to conflict between coaches and umpires.

Mandating the use of Softball Canada and Softball BC rules

It is an acceptable practice for a Provincial Sport Organization to require its members to follow the official rules set by the National Sport Organization. Leagues or associations (for tournaments) that choose to play outside the rules may be subject to disciplinary action and, at a minimum, lose their insurance coverage and other benefits.

While leagues or associations (for tournaments) must adhere to the core provincial framework, there are examples, such as in soccer, where a league is permitted to establish its own specific rules with BC Soccer's approval. For instance, a league's rules may specify details such as unlimited substitutions in league games or weather protocols for a coastal league. Some examples for Softball BC could include no time limits on league play, or the option to play one more inning in a run-ahead rule situation.

Townhall and Feedback

Softball BC will host a townhall meeting on at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, February 4th, to hear feedback from minor association members on the following topics:

1. For categories U15C and Up:

Softball BC will remove from its Special Operating Rules (SORs) all rules that alter the rules found in the Softball Canada Rule book (Official Fast Pitch Softball Rules and Official Slo-Pitch Softball Rules).

- i. We may allow the replication of a Softball Canada Rule in the Softball BC SORs when it is deemed a tool for managing our risk (i.e., player equipment).

- ii. We will articulate the procedure for a league or association (for tournaments) to request an exemption to a Softball Canada rule. Approval of all exemptions will be at the discretion of the Softball BC Office in consultation with the PUIC.
2. For categories U13A down:
- b. Using the Recommended Minor Softball Rules contained in the Softball Canada Rule book (pages 248 to 260 of the 2024-2025 book), Softball BC will review its SORs to ensure rules of play for the U13, U11 and U9 categories are clear for consistent application within BC.
3. Consequence for non-compliance
- Leagues or Associations (including tournament directors) or teams (in the case of an exhibition game) who do not adhere to the Softball Canada Rule book (Official Fast Pitch Softball Rules and Official Slo-Pitch Softball Rules), or where appropriate and approved, Softball BC exemption, are subject to progressive disciplinary measures which can range from a written warning, disqualification from provincial events, removal of insurance benefits, to potential loss of membership with Softball BC.

Calling Instructions

Time: Feb 4, 2026 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84764498372?pwd=qkYizvm9nvjluyYpq7jJiPVYO4wRpK.1>

Meeting ID: 847 6449 8372 Passcode: 130119

The call will be recorded.