

ARTICLE 8 – MINOR GIRLS FASTPITCH

8.1. MINOR GIRLS – DEFINITIONS

- 8.1.1. ALL STAR TEAM – Team(s) formed of outstanding players chosen from two or more teams playing in an association/league, to compete in a Provincial Championship, is not allowed. EXCEPTIONS: Article 8.2.2.2) EXCEPTION and Article 8.2.6.7)
- 8.1.2. BATS – Devices including attachments to otherwise official bats, as commercially manufactured and marketed specifically for use by amputee or physically challenged players, and which do not impose an impractical or unreasonable hazard to any participant engaged in the game, will be allowed.
- 8.1.3. BATTING POSITION – Softball Canada Rule 7-3(c) will apply to U13 and below categories, and the ball will be dead.
- 8.1.4. CHARGED CONFERENCE (Defensive and Offensive) – the defensive conference rule with regard to pitchers and the offensive conference rule are both waived for the U13 and below categories.
- 8.1.5. DESIGNATED PLAYER – the designated player rule (Softball Canada Rule 4) is in effect for U15 and above categories.
- 8.1.6. DOUBLE BASE – Minor Only: The offensive player must use the orange portion of the bag if a play is made at first base, and the defensive player must use the white portion. Exception: On a dropped third strike, the defensive and offensive players may use either portion of the base when a live ball is being made from foul ball territory.
- 8.1.7. DROPPED THIRD STRIKE – in U13B & C and under categories the batter is out on the third strike, whether or not the ball is caught. The ball remains alive.
- 8.1.8. ELECTRONIC DEVICES – electronic devices (e.g. smartphones, tablet) are permitted on the field of play as long as they are not used for communication (i.e. scorekeeping apps may be used)
- 8.1.9. FOOTWEAR – players may choose to wear metal cleats beginning in the U15A, U15B, U17A, U17B, U19A, U19B age categories and classifications. Not C players, U13A or U13B.
- 8.1.10. 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.
- 8.1.11. HELMETS & MASKS (Catchers) – Minor catchers must wear a regulation helmet and mask and/or approved equipment.
- 8.1.12. HOME PLATE – the distance from the plate to the backstop shall be between 17 feet, and 25 feet.

- 8.1.13. INFIELD FLY – the Infield Fly rule does not apply to U9, U11 and U13. Does apply to U15 and up.
- 8.1.14. LEAGUE – three teams of the same classification ('A', 'B', 'C').
- 8.1.15. MINOR APPRENTICE COACH - a Registered Minor Player that will help to coach in categories below their own. Apprentice Coaches are approved before Rosters are submitted, through an application.

8.1.16. Classifications: Minor Teams are classified as Rep (further classified as A or B) or Community (classified as C).

- 8.1.17. REPLACEMENT PLAYER – A player picked up to replace a player not able to attend/participate with her team at the U13C Girls Regional Championships.
- 8.1.18. RETURNING PLAYER:
 - 8.1.18.1. players registered on a team in the previous year and
 - 8.1.18.2. pick-ups used by the team in Provincial, Western Canadian Championships and Canadian Championships in the prior year.
- 8.1.19. MALE PLAYER – a minor male player may play in the girl's program at LTP up to and including U15C. The U15C category will be permitted to have up to 2 male players on a girls' team. LTP to U13C categories, no limit to the number of boys on a girl's teams.
- 8.1.20. START TIME – time will start after the first pitch, and a new inning is deemed to start on the umpire's "out" call of the third out on the home team. No time limit will be in effect for the final game.

8.2. 8.2. MINOR STRUCTURE

- 8.2.1. U11 Community teams will be classified as C. U11 Category Teams classified as Rep will not be further subdivided into A or B Classifications.
- 8.2.2. For all other Minor Categories, teams will be classified as follows:
- a. A Classification: Rep Classification open to all teams, with the intent that this classification includes the most competitive teams in the Category
 - b. B Classification: Rep Classification for teams not competing in the A Classification, subject to a Classification Review by the Minor Coordinator
U11 Community teams will be classified as C.
 - c. C Classification: Community Classification open to teams of novice or recreational players.
 - i. Tryouts are not allowed for teams in the C Classification.
 - ii. The 'C' Provincial Championships, U13C Regional Championships and U11 Celebrations of Softball will emphasize participation and fun.
 - d. The District Minor Coordinator has the obligation and responsibility to ensure that teams are properly classified within his or her their District. For any team in question, the District Minor Coordinator shall provide the Minor Director with the results of a thorough investigation and a recommendation to reclassify or not. The Minor Director shall decide and inform the team and the District Minor Coordinator. Reclassification can be done up to but not including the date of the team's participation in a Provincial Championship.

8.3. REGISTRATION

- 8.3.1. **RECOGNIZED MINOR ASSOCIATION** is an association that had minor teams registered with Softball B.C. in the prior year. An organization wanting to become a new Recognized Minor Association must apply to the Softball BC Board of Directors, setting out why their organization becoming a new Recognized Minor Association is to the betterment of softball in their District and the Province.

Where an organization applies to become a new Recognized Minor Association, the existing Recognized Minor Associations within their District will be given the opportunity to make submissions to the Board on the application, and the Board shall consider such submissions in making its decision.

- 8.3.2. **REGISTERED MINOR PLAYER** is on a Team Roster approved by their District Minor Coordinator. This affiliation concludes when the teams in their category/classification have completed competition at the Provincial, Western Canadian or Canadian Championship level.

8.3.2.1. A minor player may not appear on more than one Approved Roster. **EFFECT:** They are ineligible for either team, and ineligible to participate on any team in District, Provincial or extra-Provincial events. **EXCEPTION:** Players may register with two different teams to form a team in a higher classification (example: players from 'C' teams combine to form a 'B' team) but only if there is not a team registered in that classification in the District. This team must be made up of players from at least three teams of a lower classification. Regular Softball BC Registration Fees apply.

8.3.2.2. In addition to the penalties outlined in Article 7.2 any coach who allows participation of an ineligible player in District, Provincial or extra-Provincial events may be disciplined.

- 8.3.2.3. Release/Abandon: No player shall be released from a team or abandon a team within an Association once the player has registered with the Association, paid their registration fees to the Association and has been placed on a team for that current season by the Association. The player must play for this Association for the current season and is not permitted to switch associations and teams during the season. A release from an Association's team shall only be considered if:
- a) A written release request is received by the Association from the player explaining the reasons for the release request.
 - b) The players team will not be jeopardized or put into a position of collapse due to the loss of the player.
 - c) The District Minor Coordinator and Minor Director mutually agree that under exceptional circumstances a release and/or transfer is in the best interest of the player and the programs of Softball BC.
- 8.3.2.4. Release: The discharge of a player already approved to a Softball BC Team Registration Form in the current year. A release shall only be considered if:
- a) A written request is received from a player, as confirmed by the player's coach, by the District Minor Coordinator seven (7) clear days prior to any District playdown affecting the team in which a player wishes to be released from, and from the team the player wishes to transfer to, and;
 - b) The coach mutually agrees to strike the player's name from the team's Softball BC Team Registration form, and;
 - c) A coach from any other team in the District mutually agrees to accept the player's registration on their team without affecting the registration of any other player already signed with the team and;
 - d) The District Minor Coordinator and Minor Director mutually agree that under exceptional circumstances a release and/or transfer is in the best interest of the player and the programs of Softball BC
- 8.3.2.5. Any Minor player considered ineligible pursuant to these rules may be disciplined.

- 8.3.3. **REGISTERED MINOR TEAM** is registered on the date when the Roster Form uploaded by the coach or a representative of a Recognized Association has been approved by the District Minor Coordinator, or the Final Registration Deadline, whichever is first.

8.3.4. **MINOR REGISTRATION DEADLINE:**

- 8.3.4.1. 'A' team Rosters must be uploaded and marked confirmed by the registrar by May 1st of the current year. Additions/deletions under the extraordinary circumstances will be determined by the designated Minor Coordinator up to and including June 1st of the current year. After June 1st, only the Minor Director may authorize additions/deletions to an approved roster.
- 8.3.4.2. All "B" classification team rosters and Executive rosters are to be uploaded and marked confirmed May 15th of the current year. All "C" classification team rosters are to be uploaded and marked confirmed by May 31st of the current year. Additions/deletions under extraordinary circumstances will be determined by the designated Minor Coordinator up to and including June 5th of the current year. After June 5th, only the Minor Director may authorize additions/deletions to an approved roster.
- 8.3.4.3. Changes after the deadline must be approved by the Minor Director. Such changes shall be processed by the Softball BC office once per week. Changes will be considered for extreme circumstances only.

- 8.3.5. **TRANSFER:** The transfer of a Registered Minor Player from one Softball BC Roster Form to another. Only considered if:
- A written request is received from a player, approved by the player's coach and the District Minor Coordinator at least seven days prior to District playdown affecting either team; and
 - The coach agrees; and
 - A coach from another team in the District agrees to accept the player's registration on their team without affecting the registration of any other Registered Minor Player already on that team; and
 - The District Minor Coordinator(s) and Minor Director agree that exceptional circumstances mean that a transfer is in the best interest of the player and the programs of Softball BC

8.3.6. TEAM

- 8.3.6.1. Maximum Players:
For teams U17 and under, maximum of 15 players.
For U19 A & B and U20C teams, maximum of 17 players.
Exceptions may be granted under extraordinary circumstances with the approval of the District Minor Coordinator and the Minor Director
- 8.3.6.2. Coaches:
Five (5) coaches plus one Approved Minor Apprentice Coach paired with the rostered Mentor Coach.
- 8.3.6.3. Minimum nine players in U13 or above.
- 8.3.6.4. Teams registered must have an appropriate NCCP level coach listed on the Softball BC Team Registration form at the time of registration with Softball BC unless an exemption is granted due to reclassification. Failure to do so will make the team ineligible for participation in any Softball BC Provincial Championship. Teams that are eligible to participate in District Playdowns or the U13 Regional Championship or a Provincial must have a minimum of two (2) coaches registered with the team. Only one (1) needs to be certified.
- 8.3.6.5. Adult coaches or non-playing coaches may register on and participate with multiple Minor teams in a given year.
- 8.3.6.6. When Roster Forms are submitted, they must be classified ('A', 'B', or 'C'). Teams may not change category or classification unless reclassified by the Minor Director.
- 8.3.6.7. Any District with 60 or fewer players registered in a category may form a combined 'C' team for District and Provincial Championships but this team may not pick-up players.

- 8.3.6.8. Where an affiliated league of the appropriate category and classification exists in the geographical area where a minor team is registered, and that team elects to participate in a league of a higher category and classification, after four or more league games in that higher category or classification that team will not be eligible to participate in a District or Provincial Championship in the initial lower classification. Where two teams or less exist, the District Minor Coordinator may grant an exception. In any association where there are not enough teams to form an 'A', 'B' or 'C' classification league, that association may form a combined classification league, without prejudice to participation in Provincial Championships. This rule does not apply to minor teams registered in Men's or Women's programs.
- 8.3.6.9. Where an affiliated league is available with three or more teams in a particular category and classification, and a team elects to participate in a Men's/ Women's league, whether or not they participate in a Minor league within the appropriate category or not, the team is not eligible to register in 'C'.
- 8.3.6.10. A team that plays in two affiliated leagues or has two home parks will establish their District of registration by considering:
- Where most home games are played;
 - Where most of the players reside;
 - Whether there is a historical precedent to associate the team with a particular District.
- 8.3.6.11. U20C Category & Classification – Exception - A player who was registered on a U19A team in the previous year or was/is a collegiate player will be excluded from eligibility to participate on a U20C team.

8.3.7. FEE STRUCTURE

Team Fee for liability insurance, U7 to U20	\$20.00
Annual dues players, coaches and managers in Minor U13C to U20C classified team rosters <i>**\$2.00 to Special Minor Fund to be paid by separate cheque payable to Minor Development Fund</i>	\$37.00**
Annual dues players, coaches and managers in Minor U13 A and B to U19 A and B classified team rosters. <i>**\$2.00 to Special Minor Fund to be paid by separate cheque payable to Minor Development Fund</i>	\$42.00
Annual dues, Minor U11	\$35.00
Annual dues, Minor U7 and U9	\$20.00
Lifetime membership (one time only) (Minor players all levels, league officials)	\$10.00
League/Association Executive	\$30.00

8.4. MINOR PLAY IN MEN'S OR WOMEN'S

- 8.4.1. A minor player other than a second year U19A or B player or a second or third year U20C player, may only play with or against Men's or Women's teams as a pickup or registered player with the written consent of the player's parents and the District's Minor Coordinator.
- 8.4.2. In making their decision about whether to permit a Minor player to play with or against Men's or Women's teams, the Minor Coordinator will consider the best interests of the player, the Minor team/association which that player is or would otherwise be registered with, and the Men's or Women's team/association with which they wish to play or register. In undertaking this consideration, the Minor Coordinator will consult with the District's Men's and Women's Coordinator as appropriate.
- 8.4.3. A second year U19A or B player or a second or third year U20C player may register on a minor team, or on a men's or women's team without needing approval from their District's Minor Coordinator or otherwise.
- 8.4.4. Teams of Minor Players wishing to play league or exhibition games against Men's or Women's teams must have written consent from the Minor Director and the Men's and Women's Director.
- 8.4.5. Any coach, player, team or association permitting a Minor player to participate in practices or games with a Men's or Women's team without having obtained written consent as required by to this section may be subject to discipline.

8.5. COACHING REQUIREMENTS

8.5.1. QUALIFICATION: U13A, U13B, U15C, U17C and U20C – minimum: NCCP *Community – Sport On-Going Participation* with –successful completion of *Making Ethical Decisions*.

U15A, U15B, U17A, U17B, U19A, U19B – minimum: NCCP *Introduction to Competition training* (i.e., attended Clinic #1 & #2) with successful completion of *Making Ethical Decisions* module.

Competition – Introduction – Clinic #1 (In Training) - 16 hours

Competition – Introduction – Clinic #2 (In Training) - 16 hours

Make Ethical Decisions module - online

8.5.2. COACH ON FIELD: A qualified NCCP coach must be on the field of play at the District Playdowns and Provincial Championship with the team they are registered with. EFFECT: the team is ineligible without a coach, and the game would be forfeited. (See Article 10.6 (a) & (c)). EXCEPTIONS:

a. Medical emergencies or any unforeseen circumstances deemed so by the Softball BC Board Rep

b. The Softball BC Director of Coaching may exempt any coach who, for any unusual or exigent circumstance, may not have achieved the appropriate level prior to a Provincial Championship.

8.6. DISTRICT AND PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

see also Article 13

8.6.1. RULES: Softball BC rules apply to all play leading to Provincial Championships including District playdowns.

8.6.2. DISTRICT MINOR COORDINATOR DUTY A form will be provided for District Coordinators to notify the Softball BC office of his/ her District's intent to participate in each category of Provincial Championships. Failure to submit the form prior to the deadline will result in disqualification of that District in further Provincial play.

8.6.3. PROVINCIAL 'A' CHAMPIONSHIPS are open to all teams registered in that classification. Any 'A' Championship having eight or more participating teams shall be a three day event.

8.6.4. PROVINCIAL 'B' and 'C' CHAMPIONSHIPS shall be open to 16 teams selected in District playdowns. If each District is not represented, the Pro Rata system will be implemented.

- 8.6.5. DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE
- 8.6.5.1. Will be, where all associations in the District agree on a format and the District Minor Coordinator agrees, the winner of association or inter-association qualifier competitions, or
 - 8.6.5.2. Otherwise will be, the winner of a playdown open to qualified district teams.
- 8.6.6. PRO RATA SYSTEM If a Championship specified to contain 16 teams (one per District plus Host Team) is not filled to 16 teams by District Representation, then each District, in the order of the highest registration in that category/classification, will send the second place team from their District playdown, until 16 teams are established.
- 8.6.7. DISQUALIFIED Teams with six or more returning players from a team that indicated they would attend district playdowns that do not attend Provincials when offered a place, will be disqualified from attending districts or provincials for the next season. Coach or team name change will not be cause for an exemption.
- 8.6.8. DISTRICT PLAYDOWNS
- 8.6.8.1. District playdowns will be a modified Round Robin or Knockout Championship Draw, as determined by the District Minor Coordinator.
 - 8.6.8.2. The Softball BC Minor Director shall provide the District Minor Coordinators with standard draws for District playdowns.
 - 8.6.8.3. Teams not intending to participate in a Provincial Championship may not participate in the related District playdown.
 - 8.6.8.4. The Roster Form must be approved by the District Coordinator by the registration date, and available at District playdown.
 - 8.6.8.5. Pick ups are not allowed at District playdowns.
 - 8.6.8.6. District playdown winners must be declared by the dates set by Softball BC
- 8.6.9. HOST TEAM The Host Association of a Provincial Championship shall be allocated a place in the round robin. The Host Team shall be:
- 8.6.9.1. The team designated by the Host Association prior to the playdown, or if not designated prior to the playdown, the Host Association team placing highest in the District playdown.
 - 8.6.9.2. Where the Host Team chooses to play in the playdown and places first, the team placing second will be the District representative.

- 8.6.9.3. Where the Host does not have a team registered in the applicable category/classification, or elects not to enter any association team in the Provincial Championship, the Host Team shall be identified as the team placing second at the Host District playdown.
- 8.6.10. **ENTRY** District playdown winners and pro rata teams must confirm their participation to the Softball BC office and the appropriate Tournament Director 15 days prior to the Provincial Championship.
- 8.6.11. **MULTIPLE PROVINCIALS** Players, coaches, and pick-ups may participate in more than one Minor Provincial in the same year.
- 8.6.12. **COACHES MEETING** At the pre-Provincial Championships coaches meeting, coaches must be able to provide:
- A copy of their team registration form and a signed Softball BC Provincial Player Pick-up Approval Form for each pick-up. **EFFECT:** Pick-ups without documents are ineligible.
 - Proof of age in the form of a photocopies of birth certificate, baptismal certificate or other recognized government identification for players and pick-ups. A player is ineligible until suitable proof of age is supplied.
 - Proof of participation of each player or pick-up in a minimum of three league, exhibition or tournament games with their Registered Minor Team, in the form of game score sheets, on request. **EFFECT:** disqualification of a player or team following a review by the appointed protest committee. **EXCEPTION:** National Team Players
- 8.6.13. **CLASSIFICATION CHANGE** - Any team placing 1st in a Provincial Championship moves up on classification, if playing in the same category and having 6 or more returning players to the team in the following year. As well, this move in classification must be approved by the District Coordinator.

EXCEPT AT U20C and when players from teams placing first, second or third in a Provincial Championship in the previous year, amalgamate into one team the following year, that team must move up one classification if playing in the same category and having a combination of six (6) or more players returning from the former teams that placed first, second or third in the previous Provincial.

EXCEPT AT U20C, any team placing first or second in a Provincial Championship will remain in the same or higher classification if playing in the next higher category when having six (6) or more players returning to the team, or when amalgamated into one team and having a combination of six (6) or more players from the former teams that placed first or second in the previous Provincial.

8.6.14. PICK-UPS (REFER TO ANNEX 'E')

8.6.14.1. Teams may use up to three pickups for Provincial Championships, one or more of which may be coaches, provided that total number of registered players and coaches on the team together with pickups may not exceed the maximum number permitted in these Special Operating Rules.

8.6.14.2. "A" teams may pick up from any District, no priority is given to teams within a given District.

8.6.14.3. The following apply to "B" and "C" teams picking up players for Provincial Championships:

- i. Within a given District, teams will be permitted to pick up in the following order:
 1. The team that places first at District Championships;
 2. The team that is hosting the Provincial Championships;
 3. Teams that earned pro rata spots in the Provincial Championships, in the order in which they earned those spots.

Each team will be given 48 hours to select their pickups before the next team is given their turn.

- ii. In-District pickups must be approved in writing by the District Minor Coordinator.
- iii. Teams must pick up from within their District where there are players available in the same category and classification or one lower category or classification (but not both).
- iv. A player that declines an invitation to be a pickup for a team within her or his District may subsequently accept an offer to be a pickup for another team within her or his District but may not be a pickup for any team outside her or his District for any Provincial Championship that season.

v. Pickup players are not position specific. If a team needs to pick up a player, they must ask everyone who is eligible in their own district first if they are willing to be picked up (this means that all players must be asked to be a pick up and not just a specific position before a team can go out of district). The Minor Director may authorize out of district pickups under extreme and unusual circumstances.

vi. A player who is requested to be a pickup and whose team is participating in a Western or National Championship after the Provincial Championship for which they are being picked up must have written permission of their coach before they may be picked up. Permission may be indicated by providing a copy of the team's approved Softball BC roster to the coach of the team picking the player up.

8.6.14.4. In "C" Provincial Championships only one of a team's pickups may be a pitcher, and such pickup will be declared at the commencement of the Championship. No other pickup may be used as a pitcher once this declaration is made.

8.6.14.5. Out of District pickups, where permitted by this section, must be approved in writing by the Minor Coordinators of both the home District of the team picking up the player and the home District of the player.

8.7. **PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT** The format of the Provincial Championships shall be qualifying round robin followed by a knockout championship draw with single knockout final. EXCEPTION: U13C, Article 8.8

8.7.1. ROUND ROBIN DRAW format is provided in Annex 'A'

8.7.2. DRAW DATE All Minor Provincial Championship Draws may be conducted up to one week in advance of the start of championship and may be virtual or in person at the pre-Provincial Championship coaches meeting as preferred by the host and the Softball BC Representative. The Host Team may choose to be the highest number in the draw in or can be part of the draw.

8.7.3. HOME TEAM for round robin games will be determined by a coin toss at the coaches meeting. Knockout Championship Draw home team will be determined by the higher seeded team's choice at least 30 minutes prior to the start of those games. EXCEPTION: In the Championship final game, the undefeated team in the championship round will have the choice of home team at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the final game.

8.7.4. TIME LIMITS:

8.7.4.1. U19A, U17A, U19B, U17B: none

8.7.4.2. U20C, U17C, U15A, U15B: no new inning after 90minutes. Time will start on the first pitch, and a new inning is deemed to start on the umpire's "out" call of the third out on the home team. No time limit will be in effect for all medal games.

8.7.4.3. All other classifications/categories: no new inning after 90minutes. Time will start on the first pitch, and a new inning is deemed to start on the umpire's "out" call of the third out on the home team. No time limit will be in effect for the final game.

8.7.5. Ties are permitted in round robin play. No ties permitted in the playoff games. TIE BREAKING in the playoff games shall start at the top of the 8th inning or when time has expired, except the final game.

8.7.6. GAMES WILL END and scores will be:

8.7.6.1. If the time limit has not been reached after 4½ or 5½ innings, runs and bases touched will count until the time limit is reached, (e.g., home team leading 2-1 in the bottom of the 6th inning with 5 minutes remaining. During those 5 minutes the home team scores 5 runs and leave runners on base when the time limit expires. The final score would be 7-1 and bases touched including the runners left on base would be counted).

- 8.7.6.2. If the home team is losing after 4½ or 5½ innings after time has expired, or 6½ innings whether time has expired or not, all runs scored and bases touched in the play which results in the winning run will be counted in the scoring (e.g., Tie game with only one runner on base at third, the batter hits a ground ball to the outfield and makes it to second base safely as the ball is returned to the infield preventing any further advance beyond that base. The runner on third base will be credited with a base touched and the winning run after crossing home plate on the play. The batter will be credited with two bases touched.)
- 8.7.6.3. A Run Ahead Rule shall result in the conclusion of the game when:
- After 2 ½ or 3 complete innings of play there is a difference of 15 runs or more. EXCEPTION: after 2 ½, 3, 3 ½, or 4 complete innings of play for U13A and U13B a 10 run mercy rule will be in effect.
 - After 3 ½ or 4 complete innings of play there is a difference of 10 runs or more runs.
 - After 4 ½, 5, 5 ½, or 6 complete innings of play there is a difference of 7 or more runs.
- 8.7.6.4. A seven run mercy rule will apply in both the round robin and Knockout Championship Draw finals after 4 ½, 5, 5 ½ or 6 innings.
- 8.7.7. MODIFICATIONS FOR U13A, U13B, U15C, U17C and U20C.
- 8.7.7.1. All players listed on the entry roster shall be on the games rotational batting order unless ill, injured or absent. INTENT: All available players to participate in the game.
- No penalty applies where a player listed on the rotational batting order becomes ill or injured after the batting order is submitted and cannot play. The next player listed shall take the batting position and that new rotation shall carry on throughout the game. A player who is injured while running the bases and is unable to continue in the game can be replaced by last out player preceding them in the batting order.
 - an out will be recorded each time a rotational player scheduled to bat is missing for any other reason;

- c) Once a player has missed one turn at bat, they may not re-enter the game.
- d) where a player has permanent medical issues or disabilities, which may cause intermittent inability to participate in their regular rotation, there will be no penalty, and that player may be skipped in the batting lineup. Unlimited substitutions may be made if the player bats and requires a substitute runner. If the player is removed from the batting lineup the player may not return to the batting lineup; notification of the possibility of this must be made at the Coaches meeting and at the plate meeting. Medical Certificate is required to outline permanent medical condition.
- e) Ties are allowed during round robin play.

8.7.7.2. unlimited and multiple defensive substitutions may be made at any time and need not be announced to the umpire; EXCEPTION for U13 categories changes to the pitcher should be announced to the umpire;

8.7.7.3. a five run maximum rule shall apply in half innings up to and including the 5th inning. Subsequent innings shall be open.

8.7.7.4. In the U13A, U13B and U15C categories, pitchers may pitch a maximum of 4 innings per game (one pitch is considered an inning). The pitching limit rule is suspended in extra-inning games when the time limit has been reached or in the top of the 8th inning. Disciplinary actions/suspensions will be applied to coaches who do not follow the above rule at the discretion of the Softball BC Board Representative.

8.7.8. **KNOCKOUT CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL QUALIFICATION:**
Teams advancing to the Knockout Championship Draw will be determined and seeded as follows:

8.7.8.1. Seven teams or less, the top four teams advance to the Knockout Championship Draw as per Annex 'B' Knockout Championship Draw. Games 1 & 2 should be completed Saturday night.

8.7.8.2. Eight to 11 teams, the top six teams advance to the Knockout Championship Draw Final as per Annex 'B' Knockout Championship Draw. Games 1 & 2 should be completed Saturday night.

8.7.8.3. 12 or more teams, the top eight teams advance to the Knockout Championship Draw Final as per Annex 'B' Knockout Championship Draw. Games 1 to 4 must be completed Saturday night. If these four games cannot be completed, the format will be a single knockout starting Sunday morning.

8.7.8.4. SEEDING will be based on win/tie/loss record (2 points for a win, 0 for a loss, 1 point for a tie)

- a) To break a tie: Winner of head-to-head against all teams they are tied with;
 - In order to use this criterion, all subject tied teams must have played each other and one team must have defeated all the remaining teams they are tied with to be ranked higher.
 - If more than two teams are tied for any seeding position based on win/loss/tie record the head to head criteria (a) shall be applied repeatedly before proceeding to b)
- b) If still tied: Run differential totals (score differential limit up to +7 runs or -7 per game).

8.7.8.5. U13A, U13B, U15B, U15C, U17B, U17C, U19B and U20C: Teams will be seeded after round robin as per 8.7.8.4. Top 8 will play in the Gold Division, with the bottom 8 (or less if less than 16 teams), playing in the Silver Division. Gold Division playoffs shall be double knockout (Annex 'B'). Silver Division playoffs shall be single knockout (Annex 'J'). Each division will be awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place medals. Four diamonds will be needed to complete championship playoffs

8.7.9. If two teams who have put in their Letters of Intent for a Western or Canadian Championship are knocked out at a provincial at the same point in the championship (for example, tied for 6th or tied for 8th) and one or the other team will attend the Championship in the last available spot, the two teams will have a playoff game to determine which team will attend the Championship.

8.8. **U13 REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP** The U13 Regional Championship is meant to be all-inclusive, fun, and meet the competition requirements for Long Term Player Development.

8.8.1. REGIONS:

- #1 District 1, 2, 3
- #2 District 4, 5 6, and 15
- #3 Districts 7, 8, and 14
- #4 Districts 9, 10 and 11
- #5 Districts 12 and 13

In the years where Region #5 does not host its own Regional Championship, Region 5 teams may register for and attend the Region 4 event.

8.8.2. FEES Entry Fee: \$305 +GST per team (payable to Softball BC)

8.8.3. MODIFIED PLAYING RULES:

8.8.3.1. Pitching limit of four innings per game.

8.8.3.2. A five run maximum rule shall apply in all half innings.

8.8.3.3. No new inning after 90 minutes. Time will start at the first pitch and a new inning is deemed to start on the umpire's "out" call for the third out on the home team.

8.8.3.4. Players must play at least two innings on defense per game.

8.8.3.5. All players on roster to be in batting line-up.

8.8.3.6. Teams must start games with nine players, but may play with eight due to injury.

8.8.3.7. No protests.

8.8.3.8. Two umpires per game will be paid by Softball BC.

8.8.3.9. All other Softball BC rules will apply.

8.8.4. FORMAT:

8.8.4.1. Round Robin: Three games, all teams seeded into single knockout playoffs in groups of eight seeded per 8.6 (h) iv) except that one point will be allocated for tied games.

Playoffs: Blue Pool – Top 8 teams.
Red Pool – Next 8 teams.
White Pool – Next 8 teams
Yellow Pool – Next 8 teams.

8.8.4.2. Skills and Team Building component.
Participation in all components of the tournament is mandatory.

8.9. U11 CELEBRATION OF SOFTBALL

The intent is to create a fun, year-end participation event for U11 players and teams that will engage both parents and players to continue playing softball. Events are recommended to be mid to late June (prior to the end of the school year). Fun activities such as face painting, dragon races, balloon toss, etc. are encouraged.

- 8.9.1. Celebration events will include neighbouring districts. Suggested groupings of districts are Districts 1,2,3, Districts 4, 5, 6, 15 Districts 7, 8, 14, Districts 9, 10, 11 and Districts 12, 13.
- 8.9.2. Format will be 3 game round robin and single knock out playoffs. Teams seeded into groups of 8 for playoffs based on round robin results.
- 8.9.3. Registration fee \$310 plus tax per team
- 8.9.4. Modified Playing Rules
 - 8.9.4.1. Pitching limit of 2 innings per game
 - 8.9.4.2. All players must play at least 2 innings on defence
 - 8.9.4.3. All players on roster are to be in batting line-up
 - 8.9.4.4. Maximum 4 runs per inning
 - 8.9.4.5. Teams must start with 9 players
 - 8.9.4.6. Teams without 9 players may pick up or combine with another U11 team to a maximum of 12 players from their own district
 - 8.9.4.7. One umpire per game will be paid by Softball BC
 - 8.9.4.8. T-shirts for all players and medals for top 3 teams in each group of 8 will be paid for by Softball BC.
 - 8.9.4.9. No protests
 - 8.9.4.10. All other Softball BC rules apply

8.10. **COACH & PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES**

8.10.1. **ALCOHOL/TOBACCO:** minor players and coaches are forbidden to smoke, chew tobacco or have alcoholic products in dugouts, on player's benches or any part of the playing field.
EFFECT: ejection.

8.10.2. The head coach, or in their absence, another coach shall be responsible for the conduct of the team's attendees. If after a warning from an umpire, Softball BC Board Representative, or Tournament UIC, concerning the behaviour of the team's attendees, they may choose to eject the coach from the game and the game will be forfeited. Note the coach is responsible for the conduct of the attendees before and post-game.

8.11. **INTERPROVINCIAL EVENTS**

CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS:	U19A Female
	U17A
	U15A

WESTERN CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS:	U19B Female
	U17B
	U15B

NOTE: To be eligible, all 'B' teams must be made up of no fewer than eleven (11) players who have not participated on any 'A' classification team in the preceding year. For the purposes of this, players from teams reclassified from 'A' to 'B' by the Minor Director pursuant to Article 8.2(f) vi) shall be considered 'B" players,