

## ARTICLE 9 – MINOR BOYS FASTPITCH

### 9.1. DEFINITIONS

- 9.1.1. **BATS** – Use of official Little League bats will be allowed if they meet the requirements of Softball BC 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.
- 9.1.2. **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 play is being made from foul ball territory.
- 9.1.3. **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.
- 9.1.4. **MALE PLAYER** – A minor male player may play in the girls program up to and including U13C. Two male players may play at U15C on a girl's team.
- 9.1.5. **HELMETS BATTING** – an approved helmet shall be one that is fully enclosed, with two ear flaps, a foam liner, and a peak.
- 9.1.6. **HELMETS & MASKS (CATCHER)** – Minor catchers must wear a regulation helmet and mask and/or approved equipment.
- 9.1.7. **HOME PLATE** – the distance from the plate to the backstop shall be a minimum of 17 feet to a maximum of 25 feet.
- 9.1.8. **ON DECK CIRCLE** – the on deck batter has the right to go to either on deck batting circle as he/she chooses.
- 9.1.9. **BATTING POSITION** – Softball Canada Rule 7-3(d) will apply to U13 and below categories, and the ball will be dead.
- 9.1.10. **UNIFORMS** – all District, Provincial and sanctioned events must meet uniform regulations detailed in Article 13.
- 9.1.11. **CHARGED CONFERENCE (DEFENSIVE AND OFFENSIVE)** – the defensive conference rule with regard to pitchers and the offensive conference rule are both waived for the U13C and below categories.
- 9.1.12. **DESIGNATED PLAYER** – the designated player rule (Softball Canada Rule 4) is in effect for U15 and above categories.
- 9.1.13. **DROPPED THIRD STRIKE** – in U13 Rep & U13C and below categories the batter is out on the third strike, whether or not and the ball is caught. The ball remains alive.

- 9.1.14. INFIELD FLY – the Infield Fly rule shall not apply to U9 and U11. Does apply to U13 and older.
- 9.1.15. LEAGUE – three teams of the same classification ('A', 'B', or 'C').
- 9.1.16. OVERTHROWS – applicable to Minor categories: A play in which a ball is thrown from one fielder to another, resulting in the ball going beyond the boundary lines of the playing field or becoming blocked. Softball Canada Rule 8-7(g) EFFECT.
- 9.1.17. PHONES: and ELECTRONIC DEVICES – electronic devices (e.g. smartphones, tablets) are permitted on the field of play as long as they are not used for communication (i.e. scorekeeping apps may be used)
- 9.1.18. PROHIBITION – in all minor categories, 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. Violators will be ejected from the game.
- 9.1.19. RE-ENTRY – when all substitutions have been entered by a team in a game, the Re-Entry rule is waived in the event of injury in all Provincial Championship play. The injured player may not return to the game.
- 9.1.20. REPLACEMENT RUNNER: A replacement runner is a player who may run for the catcher of record from the previous defensive inning and who is now on base with two out.
- 9.1.20.1. The replacement runner must be:
- currently in the batting order;
  - the person in the batting order who is furthest from coming to bat and who is not on base.
- 9.1.21. FEMALE PLAYERS – a minor female player may play in the boys program at all levels.
- 9.1.22. 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 9.2.2.3
- 9.1.23. RETURNING PLAYER: players registered on a team in the previous year and pick-ups used by the team in Provincial, Western Canadian Championships and Canadian Championships in the prior year.
- 9.1.24. 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.

## 9.2. REGISTRATION

### 9.2.1. Definitions:

- 9.2.1.1. Recognized Minor Association: Shall include an association that had teams registered with Softball BC in the immediate previous year. To receive consideration for becoming a Recognized Minor Association, a new association shall submit an application to the respective Minor Coordinator outlining the new association structure, the number of teams the new association anticipates registering and the long range plans of the new association. The Minor Coordinator shall assemble the ruling executives of all Recognized Associations in the District who shall deliberate the application. A simple majority of those Recognized Association representatives in attendance at such a meeting is required to approve the application of the new association. The District Minor Coordinator shall not cast a vote unless required to decide the outcome. Any new association clearly demonstrating an intended registration of over 100 players shall make application to the District Minor Coordinator, who alone will be responsible for the approval of that new association.
- 9.2.1.2. Minor Player Registration: Minor player registration is complete once a player has committed to the team, has had their name placed as a player on the Softball BC Team Registration Form, no earlier than January 1st of the current playing year. Such commitment is concluded when the team and teams in their category/classification have completed competition at the Provincial, Western Canadian or Canadian Championship level.
- 9.2.1.3. 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, payed 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.

9.2.1.4. Minor Team Registration: Minor team registration is complete on the date when the coach or a representative of a Recognized Association has submitted a completed Softball BC Team Registration Form on or before the Final Registration Deadline date to the District Minor Coordinator or representative of Softball BC. When received, the District Minor Coordinator or Softball BC shall immediately forward the form to the Softball BC office. Registration is fifteen (15) players and five (5) coaches except for U19 and U20 teams. Plus one Approved Minor Apprentice Coach paired with the rostered Mentor Coach. Apprentice Coach is a minor rostered player that will help to Coach in ages below their own and in classifications lateral to or below their own. Apprentice Coaches are approved prior to the start of the season through an application process so they may fully participate in the processes of the team for the season's entirety.

9.2.1.5. A team that plays in two affiliated leagues or has two home parks will establish their District of registration by considering:

- a) Where most home games are played;
- b) Where most of the players reside;
- c) Whether there is a historical precedent to associate the team with a particular District.

- 9.2.1.6. MINOR REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
- a) '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.
  - b) 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.
  - c) 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.
- 9.2.1.7. Minors Playing with or against Men's and Women's Teams: Shall include:
- a) a minor aged player registered on a Men's or Women's team;
  - b) a team of minor players registered on a minor team playing against an Men's or Women's team, or;
  - c) a minor player registered on a minor team being picked up to play with an Men's or Women's team.
- 9.2.1.8. Transfer: The movement of any minor player from one Softball BC Team Registration form to another at any time after a player has committed to an approved Softball BC Team Registration Form in the current year.
- 9.2.1.9. 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

9.2.1.10. Returning players: shall include any players registered on a team in the previous year and any pick-ups used by the team in Provincial, Western Canadian Championships and National Championships in the previous year.

9.2.1.11. Registration Forms & Applicable Fees: Teams that are registered 'A' are required to submit Provincial entry fees along with their Registration Forms on or before the Minor Final Registration Deadline.

9.2.1.12. Female players. A male classified team is not to have more than 4 female players and no fewer than 6 male players.

9.2.2. PLAYER – to be eligible:

9.2.2.1. Minor players, managers, and coaches are to be registered on a Softball BC Team Registration Form;

9.2.2.2. Pursuant to Article 2 Residence Rule, Minor players must be a resident in the Province of BC, or when attending school out of Province, their parents(s) or legal guardian must be a resident in the Province of BC on May 1st in the year of registration;

9.2.3. Minor players may register with two different teams in a current playing year. A team may be formed in a higher classification (example: players from 'C' teams combine to form a 'B' team) if there is not a team registered in that classification already in the District. This team must be made up of players from at least 3 teams of a lower classification. Regular Softball BC Registration Fees will apply.

- 9.2.4. Coaches and managers may be subject to disciplinary action including suspension if a player works out, practices or plays with or against a Men's or Women's team without first obtaining consent signed by their District's Minor and Men's and Women's Coordinator. Where a minor aged player is registered on a Men's or Women's team, the consent form must be presented at District playdowns and Provincial Championships.
- 9.2.5. A minor player who completes registration with more than one team in a current playing year, and whose name is listed on multiple Softball BC Minor Registration forms confirmed by the Minor Coordinator, is considered ineligible for either team, and is ineligible to participate on any team in District, Provincial or extra-Provincial events.
- 9.2.6. Adult coaches or non-playing coaches may register on and participate with multiple Minor teams in a given year.
- 9.2.7. Following the completion of a team's registration with Softball BC, but prior to that team's participation in District playoffs, a Minor player may, under exceptional circumstances apply to the District Minor Coordinator and Minor Director for a release from the team he/she is initially registered with and a transfer to another team within the District. Application must be made seven (7) clear days before either team is scheduled to compete in District playdowns.
- 9.2.8. In addition to the penalties outlined in Article 10.1, any coach who allows participation of an ineligible player in District, Provincial or extra-Provincial events may be subject to disciplinary action.
- 9.2.9. Any Minor player considered ineligible pursuant to these rules may be subject to disciplinary action.
- 9.2.10. TEAM
- 9.2.10.1. Maximum Players:  
For teams U17 and under, maximum of 15 players.  
For U19/U20 teams, maximum of 17 players.  
Exceptions may be granted under extraordinary circumstances with the approval of the District Minor Coordinator and the Minor Director.
- 9.2.10.2. Coaches:  
Five (5) coaches plus one Approved Minor Apprentice Coach paired with the rostered Mentor Coach.
- 9.2.10.3. Minimum nine players in U13 or above.

- 9.2.10.4. If a recognized league or association registers one team with Softball BC, all other teams registered with or playing under the authority and supervision of that league or association must register with Softball BC. Failure to do so may result in all teams in the league or association being ruled ineligible for District, or Provincial play.
- 9.2.10.5. A team that plays in two leagues or has two home parks will establish their District of registration by considering the following criteria:
- Where the majority of home games are played;
  - Where the majority of the players reside;
  - Whether there is a historical precedent to associate the team with a particular District.
- 9.2.10.6. At the time Softball BC Team Registration Forms are submitted to the Minor Coordinator or Softball BC Representative, coaches or associations must indicate classification ('A', 'B', or 'C') of the team except U13, where there are no classifications, and U15, where there will be 'Rep' and 'C' classifications. A team that has established its category and classification cannot move to a higher or lower category unless reclassified by the District Minor Coordinator. Teams that lose their district playoff are ineligible to be reclassified.
- 9.2.10.7. 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 Playoffs or a Provincial must have a minimum of two (2) coaches registered with the team. Only one (1) needs to be certified.
- 9.2.10.8. Any District having sixty (60) or fewer players registered in an age category shall be allowed to form a combined 'C' classification team to compete at District and Provincial Championships with the requirement that such a combined team will not be allowed to select any pick-up players from other registered teams.



- 9.2.10.9. For competition in the U15 "Rep" and "C" Provincial Championship classifications, an association shall be permitted to form a combined team(s) from "C" classification U13 and U15 teams registered with the particular association in the current playing year. Combined teams from within an association shall be pursuant to the following chart. Once a combined team has been formed, any pickup player must come from within the appropriate association.

Number of players Registered in the category	Number of "A" and/or "B" classification teams that must be formed before combining players to form a combined "C" classification team	Number of combined "C" classification teams that may be formed.
9 - 24	0 "A" teams &/or 0 "B" teams	1 "C" team
25 - 54	1 "A" team &/or 1 "B" team	1 "C" team
54+	1 "A" team and 1 "B" team	1 "C" team

- 9.2.10.10. Any team choosing to advance beyond league activities must enter the District and Provincial Championship at the category and classification in which it is registered in the current year with a properly NCCP certified coach.
- 9.2.10.11. Where a league or the appropriate category and classification exists in the geographical area in which any minor team is registered, and that team elects to participate in a league of a higher category and classification, and such team participates in four (4) 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, and may be subject to re-classification by the District Minor Coordinator. Where two teams or less exist, the District Minor Coordinator may rule an exception, or in any association where there are insufficient number of teams to form an 'A', 'B' or 'C' classification league, that association may form a combined classification league, without prejudice against any teams registered in that league.

- 9.2.10.12. Where there is a Minor league available with three or more teams in a particular category and classification, and a team elects to participate in a Men's or Women's league, whether or not they participate in a Minor league within the appropriate category or not, such a team shall not be eligible to register in the 'C' classification.
- 9.2.10.13. The District Minor Coordinator has the obligation and responsibility to ensure that teams are properly classified within his or her District.
- 9.2.10.14. The District Minor Coordinator after conducting their own investigation or review of any circumstances provided shall inform the Minor Director who will conduct a thorough investigation of the team and make a decision to reclassify or not reclassify the team in question. The Minor Director shall inform the team and the District Minor Coordinator of their decision. Reclassification can be done any time up to but not including the date of the team's participation in a Provincial Championship.

#### 9.2.11. FEE STRUCTURE – MINOR

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

#### 9.2.12. MINOR PLAY IN ADULT

- 9.2.12.1. A minor player other than a second or third year U20 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.

- 9.2.12.2. 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.
- 9.2.12.3. A second or third year U20 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.
- 9.2.12.4. 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.
- 9.2.12.5. 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.

**9.3. MINOR-DISTRICT, PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS & PICK-UPS**

*(To be read in conjunction with Article 2) For eligibility of players to participate in District and Provincial play please refer to Annex 'E'.*

**9.3.1. District & Provincials**

9.3.1.1. District playoffs will be a modified Round Robin or Knockout Championship Draw as determined by the District Minor Coordinator.

9.3.1.2. Pick-up players are not allowed or eligible to participate in District playoffs.

9.3.1.3. To be eligible to participate in any District playdown to identify a District team for participation in a Provincial Championship, all teams registered in the particular category/classification in the District may:

- a) where all associations in the District are in agreement with a mutually acceptable format and the District Minor Coordinator agrees, participate in association or inter association qualifier competitions to identify teams for competition in the District playdown, or;
- b) where all associations in the District cannot come to agreement with an acceptable format, or agree otherwise, participate in the District playdown.

9.3.1.4. To be eligible to participate in any District playdown and/or Provincial Championship, teams will be required to:

- a) Provide a copy of the Softball BC Team Registration Form, signed by the District Minor Coordinator, to the Softball BC Representative. For Provincial Championships, a copy of the Softball BC Team Registration Form for each pick-up must be provided. Provincial Pick-up Approval form is to be submitted to the District Coordinator to verify player eligibility. This form is to be submitted with the team roster at the pre-provincial coaches meeting. Failure to do so will make the player ineligible.
- b) Carry proof of age in the form of a birth certificate, baptismal certificate or other recognized government identification. Photocopies of proof of age documents are sufficient to meet this requirement. For Provincial Championships, proof of age must also be presented for each pick-up player in order for them to participate. Failure to do so will deem the player ineligible, until such time as proof of age is supplied.

- c) Prove participation in a minimum of three (3) games with the team on which they are registered. Participation shall include league, exhibition and tournament games. Players will be required to provide documentation demonstrating a history of playing together throughout the season. Such documentation shall include game score sheets. For Provincial Championships game sheets may also be required for each pick-up. Failure to provide such documentation at District or Provincial Championships upon request of a Softball BC representative may result in the disqualification of a player or team from further participation in the applicable event following a review by the appointed protest committee. Players unable to fulfill the 3 game minimum requirement due to their commitment to the National Team program will be exempt from participating in the 3 game minimum with the team on which they are registered.
  - d) Teams attending districts, and place 1st or are prorated for Provincials, and do not attend Provincials will be disqualified from attending districts or provincials for the next season, having six (6) or more returning players to the team in the following year. Coach or team name change will not be cause for an exemption.
- 9.3.15. Any team placing 1st in a provincial championship moves up one 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.
- 9.3.16. EXCEPT AT U20C any combined teams that finish first, second or third in the 'A' pool and have 6 or more players returning to the association, in the same division, from those teams, must have an 'A' team the following year regardless of the number of players in the division. This applies even if the association returns to a non-combined team program, for the next year only.

- 9.3.1.7. 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.
- 9.3.1.8. 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.
- 9.3.2. PICK-UPS (REFER TO ANNEX 'E')
- 9.3.2.1. 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.
- 9.3.2.2. "A" teams may pick up from any District, no priority is given to teams within a given District.
- 9.3.2.3. The following apply to "B" and "C" teams picking up players for Provincial Championships:
- a) Within a given District, teams will be permitted to pick up in the following order:
    - i. The team that places first at District Championships;
    - ii. The team that is hosting the Provincial Championships;
    - iii. 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.
  - b) In-District pickups must be approved in writing by the District Minor Coordinator.

- c) 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).
- d) 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.

e) 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 pick 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.

- f) A player that declines an invitation to be a pickup for a team within their District may subsequently accept an offer to be a pickup for another team within their District but may not be a pickup for any team outside their District for any Provincial Championship that season.
- g) A player who is requested to be a pickup and whose team is participating in a Western or Canadian 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.

9.3.2.4. 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.

9.3.2.5. 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.

#### 9.4. **COACHING REQUIREMENTS** (see Article 1 – NCCP)

9.4.1. U13C and Rep,U15C, U17C AND U20C – minimum NCCP Community – Sport On-Going Participation with completion of Making Ethical Decisions.

New Coaches only – FOCS Part 1

U19A & B, U17 A&B, U15 A&B – minimum NCCP Introduction to Competition training (i.e. attended clinic 1 & 2) with completion of Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation.

New Coaches Only – FOCS Part 1 and Part 2

National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) –

Initiation/U11 Clinic: 6 hours

Community Coach Clinic: 16 hours

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

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

Make Ethical Decisions: online

9.4.2. An NCCP softball certified coach must be on the field of play at the Championship with the team that they are registered with. Failure to have such a coach will make the team ineligible, and the game would be forfeited. (See Article 10.6 a) and c) EXCEPTION: Medical Emergencies or any unforeseen circumstances deemed so by the Softball BC Board Rep)

The Director of Coaching may provide an exemption to any coach who, for any unusual or exigent circumstance, may not have achieved the appropriate level prior to competition at a Provincial Championship.

#### 9.5. **ELIGIBILITY OF TEAMS TO COMPETE IN A PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

9.5.1. In order for a team to compete in a Provincial Championship, the Softball BC Team Registration form must be uploaded and approved by the District Coordinator by the registration date.

9.5.2. The Softball BC Minor Director shall provide the District Minor Coordinators with a set of standard tournament draws and rules for all District playoffs.

9.5.3. Minor teams not intending to participate in a particular Provincial Championship will not be permitted to participate in the District playoff leading to the Championship.

9.5.4. A form will be provided for all District Coordinators to notify the Softball BC office of his / her District's intent to participate in each of the categories of Provincial Championships. Failure to make prior notification with Softball BC office will result in disqualification of that District in further Provincial play.



- 9.5.5. Any team intending to participate in a Provincial Championship must notify the Softball BC office and the appropriate Tournament Director 15 days prior to the Provincial Championship.
- 9.5.6. All teams must submit an entrance fee to be eligible to compete in a Provincial Championship. All entry fees are to be submitted to the Softball BC office 10 days prior to the tournament. (NOTE: See Article 11.2)
- 9.5.7. Each team participating in a Provincial Championship shall submit a copy of their roster form including any player(s) picked up to the Softball BC Board Representative or designate assigned to any given Championship. (A release form is not necessary.)

9.6. **PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*(to be read in conjunction with Article 11.)*

- 9.6.1. All play leading to Provincial Championships including District Playoffs, must be played according to Softball BC rules.

9.6.2. **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.

- 9.6.3. In Minor categories, any Provincial 'A' Championship having 8 or more participating teams shall be a three day event.
- 9.6.4. All Minor 'A' Provincial Championships shall be open to all teams registered in that classification. All Minor 'B' and 'C' Championships shall be open to a maximum of sixteen (16) teams. If each District is not represented, the pro-rata system will be implemented.

9.7. **PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT**

(Exception: U13C, U13 REP, U15C) Minor Provincial Championships will include a Modified Round Robin, a Knockout Championship Draw (Elimination Round) with a single knockout final.

- 9.7.1. **ROUND ROBIN FORMAT AND Knockout Championship Draw WITH A SINGLE KNOCKOUT FINAL** – the following criteria shall be followed.

Definition – the final game will be game 6 in a 4 team double knockout, game 10 in a 6-team double knockout, game 12 in a 7-team double knockout, and game 14 in an eight-team double knockout.

- 9.7.1.1. All U20A, U20B, U17A, U17B games to have no time limits.
- 9.7.1.2. U13 REP, U15A, and all 'B' category games are to have a limit of 1 ½ hours, with no new inning to start after 1 ½ hours has expired. U13 REP to have a five (5) run limit per inning for the first three (3) innings. The 5 run rule limit shall be suspended in the 4th inning. Exception U15C, U17C and U20C. A five run maximum rule shall apply in half innings up to and including the 5th inning. 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. In these categories, no time limit will be in effect for the final game.
- 9.7.1.3. Games in the Knockout Championship Draw round (or special playoff games that may be necessary) that determine which of the two teams will advance to a Canadian or Western Canadian Championship will have no time limit. (Note: The time limit is waived when only one team of the two will advance to either a Canadian or Western.) Exception: U15.
- 9.7.1.4. Minor 'C': All Minor 'C' Championship games are to have a limit of 1½ hours, regardless of the inning, with no new inning to start after 1 ½ hours has expired. 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.
- 9.7.1.5. In the event 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 (i.e. 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.)

- 9.7.1.6. A Run Ahead Rule shall result in the conclusion of the game when:
- 1) 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 U13 REP and C Boys a 10 run mercy rule will be in effect.
  - 2) After 3 ½ or 4 complete innings of play there is a difference of 10 or more runs.
  - 3) After 4 ½, 5, 5 ½, or 6 complete innings of play there is a difference of 7 or more runs.

9.7.1.7. Ties are permitted in round robin play. No ties in playoff rounds. Ties in playoff games are to be broken by extra innings. The Tie Breaking Rule shall start at the top of the 8th inning or when time has expired. The Tie Break Rule shall be applied in all games except the final game.

- 9.7.1.8. Modifications – U13C, U15C:
- a) All teams players names handed in at the coaches meeting on the Minor Provincial Championship Roster form, to a minimum of nine (9), shall be listed on the lineup card and shall bat accordingly to the lineup on a rotational basis throughout the game. Lineup cards to be handed in 30 minutes before game may or may not contain all of the players on the official players list handed in at the coaches meetings and the sequence may vary per coach's discretion.
    - i. where due to illness or injury a player listed on the rotational batting order is removed from the game, no penalty shall apply, and the next player listed shall take the batting position and that new rotation shall carry on throughout the game; the player who proceeds them in the batting order and not already on base shall replace a player, who is injured while running the bases and is unable to continue in the game. The player who has left the game due to injury may not return to the lineup

- ii. if for any other reason a listed rotational player fails to show up for a game, leaves the game, or is removed by the coach from the game, an out will be recorded each time that rotational player is scheduled to bat;
    - iii. in either case, when a listed rotation player fails to show, leaves, or is removed from the game, under no circumstances shall the player be allowed to re-enter or participate during the remainder of the game;
    - iv. 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.
  - b) unlimited and multiple defensive substitutions may be made at any time during the game and need not be announced to the umpire EXCEPT for U13 categories changes to the pitcher should be announced to the umpire;
  - c) the Minor "C" time limit shall apply;
    - i. in the 6th inning, or when tied in all subsequent innings, the five run maximum rule is suspended and the game shall continue with no maximum run limit.
- 9.7.2. In the U13 REP, U13C and U15C categories, pitchers will be limited to 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.
- 9.7.3. KNOCKOUT CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW
- 9.7.3.1. If the Championship started with 7 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.

- 9.7.3.2. If the Championship started with 8 to 11 teams, the top 6 teams advance to the Knockout Championship Draw Final as per Annex 'B' Knockout Championship Draw. Games 1 & 2 should be completed Saturday night.
- If the Championship started with 12 or more the top 8 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 4 games cannot be completed the format will be a single knockout starting Sunday morning.
  - If 2 or more rounds (the same number of games for each team) is complete the top 8 teams will then play a single round robin based upon their standings. If teams are tied in points, run differential and bases touched if a head to head game was played, it will determine standings or if no head to head game played a coin flip will break the tie.
  - And any teams that have a record equal to or better than a 3 wins & 1 loss will 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 games cannot be completed, the format will be a single knockout starting Sunday morning.
  - 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.

9.7.4. KNOCKOUT CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL – At the end of the qualifying round the top four or six teams advance to the Knockout Championship Draw final and will be determined as follows:

9.7.4.1. Win/loss/tied record: (2 points for win, 0 for a loss, 1 point for tie), if still tied then,

9.7.4.2. 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.

9.7.4.3. Total runs scored for or against (score differential limit or +7 runs or -7 per game).  
 i.e. Team A = 10 Team B = 6 Results (10-6)  
 Team A credited with +4  
 Team B credited with -4  
 If still tied, then,

- 9.7.4.4. Total bases touched for or against (score differential limit of +30 or -30 per game)  
i.e. Team A = 30 Team B = 20 Results (30-20)  
Team A credited with +10  
Team B credited with -10  
If still tied, then,
- 9.7.4.5. Play a tie breaking game only if a spot in seeding for the Championship final shall result in one team being eliminated. Otherwise ties will be broken by a coin toss.  
NOTE: In case of forfeited game, winning team is credited with maximums of 7 runs and 30 bases touched and losing team is credited with maximum of -7 runs and -30 bases touched.
- 9.7.5. 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.
- 9.7.6. COMBINED CLASSIFICATION FOR U13, U15 AND U17:
- 9.7.6.1. where there are 4 or less teams attending a Provincial, those teams will be combined with the next classification to form a combined Provincial.
- 9.7.6.2. if the classification with 4 or less teams is 'A' those classifications will be combined to form a combined Provincial Championship on the 'B' weekend.
- 9.7.6.3. if the classification with 4 or less teams is 'B' or 'C', those classifications will be combined to form a combined Provincial Championship on the 'B' weekend.
- 9.7.6.4. in a combined Provincial Championship, the teams will be seeded by the Softball BC Minor Director.
- 9.7.6.5. the top 6 teams in the modified round robin will advance to the Knockout Championship Draw in the higher classification
- 9.7.6.6. the next highest playing teams (to a maximum of 6 teams) in the modified round robin will advance to the Knockout Championship Draw final in the lower classification.
- 9.7.6.7. in a combined championship of 11 or less teams the Minor Director will determine by the coaches meeting the number of teams placed in the higher classification.
- 9.7.6.8. the difference in provincial fees between A and B classification will be paid to the Softball BC office by August 1st.

## 9.8. COACH & PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

- 9.8.1. ALCOHOL/TOBACCO: Minor players and coaches are forbidden to smoke, chew tobacco or have alcoholic products in the dugouts, on player's benches or any part of the playing field. EFFECT: ejection.
- 9.8.2. 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.

## 9.9. INTERPROVINCIAL EVENTS

- a. Canadian Championships: U20A  
U17A  
U15A
- b. Western Canadian Championships: U20 Male  
U13 Boys  
U15 Boys  
U17 Boys

NOTE: To be eligible, all "B" teams must be made up of no fewer than seven (7) players who have not participated on any "A" classification team in the two preceding years.