

ARTICLE 10 – WOMEN'S FASTPITCH

10.1. WOMEN'S FASTPITCH CATEGORIES & POST SEASON:

Women's A	Leads to a Canadian Championship
Intermediate A	Leads to a Canadian Championship
Women's B	Leads to a Western Championship
Women's C	Provincial Championship only
Women's D	Provincial Championship only
U23 Women	Leads to a Western or a Canadian Championship

10.2. DEFINITIONS

- 10.2.1. FOOTWEAR – metal cleats are permitted.
- 10.2.2. HELMETS BATTING – an approved helmet shall be one that is fully enclosed, with two ear flaps, a foam liner and a peak.
- 10.2.3. HELMETS & MASKS (CATCHER) – Catcher must wear a regulation helmet and mask and/or approved equipment.
- 10.2.4. PITCHING – Softball Canada Rule 4.3 Legal Pitch Requirements for all divisions.
- 10.2.5. ON DECK CIRCLE – the on-deck batter has the right to go to either on-deck batting circle as they choose.
- 10.2.6. UNIFORMS – all Provincial and post-Provincial sanctioned events are to meet uniform requirements as per Article 11.5.
- 10.2.7. ELECTRONIC DEVICES – electronic devices (e.g. smartphone, tablet) are not permitted on the field of play.
- 10.2.8. PROHIBITION – players and coaches are forbidden to smoke, chew tobacco, and have alcoholic or legal recreational drugs in the dugout or on any part of the playing field. Consequence – violators will be ejected from the game.

10.3. TEAM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 10.3.1. Players, managers and coaches are to be registered through Softball BC electronic registration
- 10.3.2. Each team shall be entitled to carry a maximum of twenty (20) players and five (5) coaches/managers.
- 10.3.3. A player identifying as male shall not be permitted to register on a female team.
- 10.3.4. A player identifying as a female may be permitted to register with either a male team or a female team.
- 10.3.5. Team registration shall be considered final when the team roster has been confirmed and approved by the Men's and Women's Coordinator, or the Men's and Women's Director.
- 10.3.6. A team that plays in multiple leagues, or has multiple home parks will establish their district of registration by considering the following criteria:
- 10.3.7. Where they play a majority of their games
- 10.3.8. Where the majority of the players reside
- 10.3.9. Team registration to Softball BC through the online process is to be complete and confirmed for women's teams by June 15th.
- 10.3.10. The Softball BC team roster is to be approved by the Men's and Women's Coordinator or Director by June 30th of the current playing year.
- 10.3.11. The addition/deletion form shall be in effect up to and including the day of the Provincial coaches' meeting. Only additions for documented medical reasons, or moved out of the province will be considered for approval by the Men's and Women's Coordinator. After July 1st, approval is to come from the Men's and Women's Director.
- 10.3.12. The Men's and Women's Coordinator may reclassify teams to a higher or lower category as they deem necessary. The coordinator must notify the affected team in writing within seven (7) days of their reclassification. Teams may appeal this reclassification within seven (7) days by notifying their coordinator in writing. Appeals will not be considered after July 7th of the current playing season.
- 10.3.13. Women's FEE STRUCTURE for ALL participants:

Team Fee	N/A
Annual Dues (players, coaches, managers)	\$175.00/team
Annual Dues (Executive or Board Member)	\$30.00 per person/yearly

10.4. TEAM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 10.4.1. Manager/coach shall not be eligible to play unless currently registered as an active player, in the proper manner, on the team's Softball BC roster form.
- 10.4.2. Any team placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd in a Provincial Championship in the previous year, and having eight (8) or more players returning to the team, will move up one (1) classification. The definition of eight (8) or more returning players shall include all players registered on the team, and any pick-ups used by the team at the previous Provincial Championship. **Exception-Intermediate A will move up one classification after placing 1st at their Provincial Championship with at least 8 (eight) returning players including pick-ups and roster players.
- 10.4.3. A team may return to a lower classification after competing for at least two (2) years at the higher classification with their Men's & Women's Coordinator approval.
- 10.4.4. Teams graduating from minor categories shall use the following chart based on their previous year's registration and/or participation at their Provincial Championship.
- U19A to Women's Intermediate A or Women's A
 - U19B to Women's B
 - U20C to Women's C
- 10.4.5. Each player must have played a minimum of four (4) games with one team in order to participate at the Provincial Championship as a rostered player with that team. Proof of participation will be required at the Pre-Provincial coaches meeting if requested. Exceptions may be made should a regular member of a given team sustain, or be recovering from an injury which prevented them from playing the minimum number of games. The Men's or Women's Director shall have sole authority in this decision.

10.5. ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION OF TEAMS FOR PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 10.5.1. Teams must submit their provincial entry fee to the Softball BC office no later than 1 month before the championship unless there is the ability of the host to accommodate a late registration.
- 10.5.2. Every team participating in a Provincial Championship shall submit a copy of their Softball BC roster form, duly authorized by the Men's and Women's Coordinator, and the same for any player or coach pick-up, to the Board Member or designate assigned to that Provincial Championship.
- 10.5.3. Teams intending to participate in their Provincial Championship are required to notify their Men's and Women's Coordinator of their intent no later than one month before the Provincial Championship. Failure to do so could result in the team not being eligible to attend the championship if space is not available due to venue restrictions.

10.6. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

10.6.1. DRAW

- 10.6.1.1. Teams must register for their provincial championships no later than 1 month before the championship begins.
- 10.6.1.2. Draw will take place fourteen (14) days before the Championship is to begin.
- 10.6.1.3. When drawing for the tournament, first team drawn will be marked as Team #1 and so on until all team names have been drawn.

10.6.2. FORMAT

- 10.6.2.1. All teams will play a two (2) game seeding round, with all teams advancing into a modified double knockout elimination round (championship game will be a single knockout final). Host will try to have games start no earlier than 4:00 PM on the Friday of the event and the final game will be scheduled for no later than 4:00 PM on the Sunday of the event.
- 10.6.2.2. Games are to be scheduled a minimum of two (2) hour time slots.
- 10.6.2.3. Run difference: In all men's and women's fastpitch categories, the game will end after:
 - a) 2 ½, 3, complete innings of play if there is a difference of fifteen (15) or more runs
 - b) 3 ½, 4, 4 ½ complete innings of play there is a difference of ten (10) or more runs
 - c) 5, 5 ½ or 6 complete innings of play if there is a difference of seven (7) or more runs

10.6.3. QUALIFYING ROUND

- 10.6.3.1. Home team decided by coin toss at the coaches meeting.
- 10.6.3.2. Game time starts with the first pitch to the first batter.
- 10.6.3.3. Time limit of one hour thirty minutes, or seven (7) innings, with no new inning to start after time has expired. (Exception: A game is constituted by 4 ½ or 5 innings. Games must be played out regardless of the time limit to 4 ½ or 5 innings unless the Run Ahead Rule is in effect.) The home team will not bat if they are leading after 6½ innings.
- 10.6.3.4. A tied game shall be broken by extra innings regardless of the time limit.
- 10.6.3.5. When there is a stoppage in play due to an injury, the blood rule, or concussion protocol, the game clock shall be stopped.
- 10.6.3.6. In the event the Home team is losing after 4 ½ or 5 ½ innings, and after time has expired, the game will end with either the final out of the inning, or the play which results in the Home team scoring the winning run.
- 10.6.3.7. In the event the game is tied at the end of seven (7) innings, or after 4 ½ -6 completed innings, and the time has expired, the tie shall be broken by extra innings. (Tie Breaker rule is to be used)

10.6.4. ELIMINATION ROUND

- 10.6.4.1. Higher seeded team from qualifying round shall have the option of home or visitor **Exception – If Article 10.6.4.6 comes into effect, which takes priority
- 10.6.4.2. Game time starts with the first pitch to the first batter of the game
- 10.6.4.3. A time limit of one hour forty minutes will be in effect for all games in the Elimination round, with the exception of the final game, which shall have no time limit.
- 10.6.4.4. When there is a stoppage in play due to an injury, the blood rule, or concussion protocol, the game clock shall be stopped.
- 10.6.4.5. All ties are to be broken by extra innings with no exception. (Note: with the exception of the final game, Tie Breaker rule is to be used in Elimination round)
- 10.6.4.6. In Women's provincials using the modified double knockout format, the undefeated team in the final is given the choice of Home or Visitor

- 10.6.4.7. Tie Breaker- The final seeding shall be determined as follows:
- a) Won-Loss record. If still tied, then repeat
 - b) When only two (2) teams are tied, the winner of the game between the tied teams. When three or more teams are tied, or when two teams are tied, but have not played each other in the qualifying round, only criteria (c), (d), (e) and (f) in that order will apply
 - c) Combined Run Differential (Total runs for minus total runs against). Note: Run differential limit is +7 or -7 runs per game.
 - d) Least runs scored against during entire qualifying round. (Note: full team records from the qualifying round shall be used) If still tied, then:
 - e) Most runs scored for during entire qualifying round (Note full team records from the qualifying round shall be used) If still tied then:
 - f) If time and facilities permit, play a tie breaker game. If time and facilities do not permit, the final seeding will be determined by a coin toss by the Softball BC representative or designate.

10.7. DESIGNATED RUNNER

- 10.7.1. The team may designate one player as a runner. The player shall be called the Designated Runner (DR) and the following shall apply:
- a. The DR must be listed in the starting line up.
 - b. The DR must be listed in the last spot of the starting line up (10th with no DP or 11th with a DP).
 - c. The DR may run for only one player per inning and may do so each time that player becomes a runner in the inning.
 - d. The DR may run for a different player each inning.
 - e. The DR may not bat or play defence.
 - f. An eligible player not in the game may substitute for DR.
 - g. The DR may not re- enter the game.
 - h. A team is not obligated to use the DR the entire game.

10.8. MASTERS FASTPITCH

- 10.8.1. Players of Masters Fastpitch age are allowed to register and play on both a Masters and a Women's Fastpitch team roster. Each team may play in a league with the Men's or Women's team roster taking priority in the event both Provincial Championships are being played on the same weekend.
- 10.8.2. Masters Fastpitch Age: Celebrate their 35th birthday by or in the current playing year.
- 10.8.3. Legends Masters Fastpitch Age: Celebrate their 45th birthday by or in the current playing year.
NOTE: Each team MUST present to the Softball BC representative, proof of age for all participants at the Provincial Championship.
- 10.8.4. The representative Masters team from BC participating in a Western Canadian Championship will be allowed to roster up to a maximum of twenty (20) players.

10.9. COACHING NCCP QUALIFICATIONS AND CERTIFICATION

- 10.9.1. Women's C and D – recommended minimum OGP or Competition Introduction In Training and MED.
- 10.9.2. Women's A and B – recommended minimum Competition Introduction Trained and MED.
- 10.9.3. Western Canadian Championship – required minimum OGP and MED.
- 10.9.4. Canadian Championship – required minimum Competition Introduction Certified and MED.

10.10. NATIONAL TEAM MEMBER

Any team which has a player or coach not available for a Provincial Championship due to that player's commitment to a Canadian National or a Provincial team, shall be permitted, with written approval of the Men's and Women's Director, a substitute on their roster for that Provincial Championship on the following basis: (this will not count as a pick-up player).

- i. Pitcher for Pitcher
- ii. Non-Pitcher for Non-Pitcher
- iii. Coach for Coach

10.11. PICK-UPS

10.11.1. To be read in conjunction with Articles 14 (Provincial Championships) for eligibility of players to participate in Provincial play, please refer to Annex "F" Men's and Women's Pick-up chart. (Women's teams may pick up from outside their home district)

10.11.2. Teams attending Provincial Championships may pick up a maximum of 3 players

10.11.3. A player may play in more than one Men's and Women's Provincial Championship, as long as they:

- 10.11.3.1. Have fulfilled all obligations to their registered team, and
- 10.11.3.2. Have the permission of their team's head coach. This is granted by providing a signed approval on the Softball BC approved roster
- 10.11.3.3. Any team using a pick-up player who is ruled ineligible will be subject to forfeiture at any time during a Championship upon receipt of a formal protest.