

ARTICLE 13 – PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

13.1. ELIGIBILITY

13.1.1. **INELIGIBLE PLAYER:** Upon the discovery of the use of an ineligible player or players in any Softball BC District Zone, Regional or Provincial Championship play, the game shall be forfeited either to the team being played, or the last defeated team, and the team so forfeiting the game shall immediately be reviewed by the Protest Committee to determine whether the team shall be disqualified from the Tournament.

13.2. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY FEES:

ALL MINOR CATEGORIES	\$500.00 plus GST
A WOMEN	\$500.00 plus GST
INTERMEDIATE A WOMEN	\$500.00 plus GST
B/C/D WOMEN FP	\$500.00 plus GST
MEN FP	\$500.00 plus GST
MIXED ORTHO	\$500.00 plus GST
SLO PITCH	\$500.00 plus GST

13.2.1. **NON-REFUNDABLE** All Provincial Championship Entry Fees are non-refundable.

EXCEPTION: Men's and Women's Fastpitch. A team unable to participate 21 days before the tournament may apply for a refund of their entry fee less the umpire fees and the expense money.

13.2.2. **ALLOCATION OF FEES** At all Women's Fastpitch Provincial Championships, \$50.00 per team from entry fees is allocated to the host association to offset costs relating to the championship. No expense money is disbursed to teams.

13.2.3. **COST OF OFFICIALS** Provincial entry fees for Men's and Women's Fastpitch will have \$200.00 per team allocated to the host association to cover the cost of officials.

13.2.3.1. Tournament UIC's of Men's and Women's Fastpitch Provincials, at the end of the Provincial Tournament, are to provide the Host Association an accounting of all monies given to them by the Host Association (or Softball BC) to cover the officiating fees of officials.

13.2.3.2. Tournament UIC's of Men's and Women's Fastpitch Provincials, at the end of the Provincial tournament, are to return all unused funds to the Host Association.

- 13.2.4. MINOR ENTRY FEES: \$60.00 per game will be allocated to the Minor Championship District or Tournament U.I.C. to cover all Round Robin and up to two 6-team Knockout Championship Draw rounds in the case of a Minor Combined Provincial Championship.
- 13.2.5. Tournament UIC's of Minor Provincial Championships, at the end of the tournament, are to provide the Softball BC Board Representative an accounting of monies from the Host Association (or Softball BC) to cover the cost of officials.
- 13.2.6. Tournament UIC's of Minor Fastpitch Provincial Championships, at the end of the Provincial tournament, are to return unused funds to the Softball BC Board Representative.
- 13.2.7. DEADLINES Entry fees for Minor categories are to be submitted to the Softball BC office 10 days prior to the championship. Failure to do so will result in a \$25 late fee. Entry fees for Men & Women's categories are to be submitted to the Softball BC office by June 30th. Failure to do so and your team will be ineligible to participate.
- 13.2.8. FORM OF FEES All entry fees are to be in the form of cash, certified cheque or money order made payable to Softball BC Entry Fees not received on time, as stated, will automatically eliminate the team from the Provincial Championship.
- 13.2.9. REQUIRED INFORMATION The entry fee be accompanied by the following information: team name, category, male or female, coach's name and phone number and the appropriate cheque.

13.3. **PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW – General**

- 13.3.1. NO CHAMPIONSHIP if there is only one team registered in that category.
- 13.3.2. TWO TEAMS Two teams will play a best of three series.
- 13.3.3. DRAW The tournament draw format and actual draw shall be conducted by the Board of Director (or his or her designate) assigned to that tournament. Once the draw and schedule of game times has been made known to the teams and the host association, any changes to the game times shall only be made after consultation with the host association.
- 13.3.4. APPROVAL BY BOARD REP The starting times for the draw of all games, time, use of park(s) and all items in the Tournament Kit deemed necessary for the success of all parties connected to the tournament must be approved by the Softball BC Board Member in charge of the Provincial Tournament. This must be done prior to any announcements, publications or phone calls to anyone associated with the tournament.

13.4. INCOMPLETE CHAMPIONSHIP PROCEDURE

- 13.4.1. **MUST PLAY ONE GAME** All teams must play at least one game. If this is not possible, all team names will be put into a lottery and a winner (only) will be drawn by the Softball BC Representative (or designate) unless the participating teams unanimously agree to play the tournament at a later date at their own expense. Championships leading to a Western Canadian or a Canadian would have to be rescheduled so as to be able to declare a winner at least 7 days prior to the scheduled departure date to those competitions.
- 13.4.2. **INCOMPLETE GAMES** that are discontinued shall be resumed at the break-off point that same day or night. If games cannot be completed on the same day or night the following shall apply the next day before the scheduled games:
- 13.4.2.1. Less than 4½ or 5 Innings Played: resume at breakoff point
 - 13.4.2.2. Winner after 4½ or 5 Innings: legal game
 - 13.4.2.3. After 5 Tied: resume at breakoff point
- 13.4.3. **REVERT TO SINGLE KNOCKOUT** If no games are played until the last day or is otherwise delayed to the point that insufficient time is available for a modified round robin or double knockout, the tournament format shall revert to a single knock-out using as many parks as possible. If 6 or fewer teams are entered, the Knockout Championship Draw shall be played on one day if there are 2 parks available; or single knockout if only one park available. The order of the draw shall remain the same except for modified round robin formats would now apply their original draw order to a single knockout format. The same number of teams originally slated for the Knockout Championship Draw will use that draw. In the case of a modified round robin format, they will revert back to the last point at which all teams had played an equal number of games
- 13.4.4. **UNDEFEATED RESUME OR LOTTERY** If board rep and Host are unable to work (c), and there is time and place available, subject to the conditions in (a) above, the undefeated teams shall try to agree to resume the championship at a later date (at their own expense), and declare a winner. Otherwise, winner shall be determined by lottery of undefeated teams. There will be no second or third place awards

- 13.4.5. **TOURNAMENTS USING MODIFIED ROUND ROBIN FORMAT** If the board rep and Host are unable to work (c) or (d) above, and there is time and place available, subject to the conditions in (a) above, then the teams can agree to resume the championship at a later date (at their own expense), and declare a winner. If the tournament has not progressed past the round robin portion then play would revert back to the point where all teams played an equal number of games and then determine the elimination round qualifiers based on the criteria outlined in Article 7.7 h) Minor Female/8.7 C) Minor Male/9.6 i) Men & Women. Those elimination round qualifiers would be the teams eligible to agree to move the tournament. If the agreement is not forthcoming then a winner (and second and third) will be declared based on the round robin record. If the tournament has passed the round robin portion and has progressed so that all of the elimination round qualifiers have played at least one game then you would revert back to the last point in the elimination round where the teams have played an equal number of games and select the undefeated teams (in the elimination round) and attempt to reach a mutual agreement regarding moving the tournament. Teams entering the elimination round with only "one life" shall be considered to have one loss in their record. If agreement is not forthcoming then those undefeated teams' names shall be entered in a lottery and a winner drawn and declared. There will be no drawing of second and third.
- 13.4.6. **PLAYING CONDITIONS** Prior to the start of the tournament and prior to the start of any game the decision as to the suitability of play (weather conditions or otherwise) shall be made by the Softball BC Representative or their appointed designate. Once a game has started, the Umpires, in consultation with the Softball BC Representative, shall decide if it shall continue.
- 13.4.7. **UNDEFEATED TEAM** If the Championship game has an undefeated elimination round team and a one loss elimination round team, and is unable to continue, the undefeated team shall be declared champion if the game has not progressed 4½ or 5 complete innings. If it has progressed past 4½ or 5 complete innings and the game has been declared legal, but a necessary final (if game) is unable to be played, then the two teams' names will be put in a lottery and drawn for the winner unless those two teams agree upon a resumption of play at another time and place (at their own expense) and subject to the conditions in (a) above.
- 13.4.8. **DEADLINE** The Softball BC Representative shall be required to wait until the final schedule day of the tournament at 12p.m. (for Minor only) or 2p.m. (on an unlit park) or 4p.m. (on a lit park) (Fast Pitch) before cancelling the tournament and resorting to drawing for or declaring champions or to moving the championship time and place as per other provisions of this article.

13.4.9. **POST PROVINCIAL PLAY** In any event where the champion was declared by lottery, and where these are championships that lead to a Western Canadian or Canadian, the Softball BC Representative shall continue the draw to determine the order of finish as a contingency against the first place winner choosing not to compete further.

13.4.10. **BOARD REP DISCRETION** If there are situations that arise that are not covered by this Incomplete Championship Procedure or by other Articles under the Special Operating Rules or Constitution of Softball BC, the Softball BC Representative shall have the sole authority to rule on those situations.

13.5. **UNIFORMS ON THE FIELD OF PLAY**

13.5.1. **Uniforms, team names, logos and mascots** cannot be of a discriminatory or harassing nature.

13.5.2. **SHORTS AND PANTS** Women have the option of wearing a combination of shorts and pants as long as the shorts and pants are identical in style and colour.

13.5.3. **NOT EXPOSED** An acceptable softball uniform for females shall be of such design that the bra areas not be exposed, and the top must be long enough to be tucked in at the waist.

13.5.4. **JEWELLERY** Casts, exposed jewellery, such as wrist watches, bracelets, earrings, and neck chains, or any other item judged dangerous by the umpire may not be worn during the game.

13.5.5. **MINOR C** In Minor 'C' Championships full team uniforms are encouraged but proper dress may be shirts which have 6 inch numbers on the back, and caps for boys are mandatory.

13.5.6. **METAL CLEATS** Metal cleats are not allowed in the game of Slo Pitch, Orthodox, Mixed Fast Pitch or any Minor category unless there is a specific exception.

13.5.7. **NO JEANS** At District and Provincial Championships coaches may not wear jeans of any colour.

13.5.8. **LOST HELMET** When a batter receives a walk or delivers a hit, he/she must proceed directly to first base and may not enter the team area or dugout. If a batter or runner loses the helmet while proceeding to first base or running the bases and the act is unintentional, there is no penalty if there is interference.

If a batter or runner deliberately removes the helmet and causes interference then this is an act or interference by the offensive player and the appropriate interference rule applies. If a player bats or runs bases without wearing a helmet and the act is not detected by the umpire, there is no penalty; the player is simply made to wear a helmet.

13.6. FORFEIT

- 13.6.1. **PROTEST COMMITTEE** Any team which loses a game as a result of forfeit, default or failure to complete a scheduled game during a District, Zone or Provincial Championship, shall immediately be reviewed by the Protest Committee to determine whether that team shall be disqualified from the Tournament.
- 13.6.2. **INJURY** In the case of a forfeit because of injury, the Softball BC Rep will allow that team to compete in any further games, and retain their points from any previous games.
- 13.6.3. **RUNS CREDITED** In case of a forfeited game, the winning team is credited with the maximum of ten runs in Slo Pitch and seven runs in Fastpitch.

13.7. UMPIRES (Provincial Championships)

- 13.7.1. **CURRENT TICKET** Umpires shall not be permitted to umpire in any District or Provincial playoffs without a current Softball BC ticket, which must be obtained on or before June 15th of the current year.
- 13.7.2. **UIC** In Provincial Championships, the Provincial Umpire-in-Chief or his appointed representative shall oversee all officiating.
- 13.7.3. **ALLOCATION** of game officials will be the Tournament Umpire-in-Chief's responsibility and their decision is final.
- 13.7.4. **DESIGNATE** If a District Umpire-in-Chief is unable to supervise a Provincial Championship in his/ her District, then his/ her designate must be appointed by the Provincial Umpire-in-Chief.
- 13.7.5. **NUMBER OF UMPIRES:**
 - 13.7.5.1. 'A' (Fastpitch) men and women will use three umpires, subject to availability, per game in all Semi-Final and Final Provincial Championship games.
 - 13.7.5.2. All Slo Pitch categories shall use 1 umpire per game in the Round Robin games and 2 umpires per game in the Elimination games. (Note: Host has the option to supply 2 or 3 umpires.)
 - 13.7.5.3. All Minor categories shall use 2 umpires per game (Host, Umpire-in-Chief has the option of using 3 umpires per game.)
 - 13.7.5.4. All Provincial Championships that lead to a National Championship shall use the three-umpire system for the Championship round where sufficient umpires are available.

- 13.7.6. FEES Provincial Championship Umpire Fees:
- a. Men's and Women's A Fast Pitch \$35.00 per game per umpire.
 - b. Men's and Women's Fast Pitch – other \$35.00 per game per umpire; 3 umpires used for final game.
 - c. Men's and Women's Slo Pitch \$35.00 per game per umpire; minimum 2 umpires used for all Elimination games.
 - d. MINORS: Softball BC is to allocate enough funds, as per the present chart, to cover all games played at a Provincial Championship, minimum 2 umpires for all games. In the event any extra games are required due to a 7 or 8 team Knockout Championship Draw, the Tournament Director will submit a request to Softball BC, at the conclusion of the Championship to be reimbursed for all extra games played at \$50.00 per game.

13.8. PROTESTS – PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 13.8.1. PROTEST COMMITTEE will be made up of the Tournament Umpire-in-Chief, Tournament Director and the Softball BC Board of Director in charge, or their assigned designate.
- 13.8.2. ELIGIBILITY Softball BC Board of Director (or their appointee) shall make the final decision on an eligibility protest of a player in a Provincial Championship.
- 13.8.3. CASH FEE In Provincial Championships, before the Protest Committee hears the protest, the protesting manager/head coach must put forward a protest fee of \$50.00 cash. Should the protest be upheld the fee will be returned. Should the protest be denied, the fee will be retained by Softball BC.
- 13.8.4. SCHEDULE NOT APPEALABLE There can be no protest on the rescheduling of any games at a Provincial Championship. Failure of a team to appear in any Provincial Championship game shall immediately be reviewed by the Protest Committee to determine whether that team shall be disqualified from the Championship and disciplinary action will be considered by the Board of Directors of Softball BC
- 13.8.5. RULEBOOKS The Protest Committee must have a copy of the current Softball BC Handbook and a current Softball Canada Rule Book.
- 13.8.6. BOARD REP ROLE The Softball BC Board Representative shall have the power to act and be in complete charge of all Provincial Championship games.
- 13.8.7. PAUSE TIME In the event of a protest during a game where a time limit is used the game clock will be paused until the protest has been resolved.

13.8.8. **DISCIPLINE** Any player or team official that has been ejected from a game before, during or after a Provincial Tournament may be subject to further disciplinary action, to be decided by the Protest Committee or submitted to Softball BC for further investigation.

13.9. **TOURNAMENT OBLIGATIONS - PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

13.9.1. **LEGAL AGREEMENT** Leagues or Associations having been awarded the Provincial Championship Tournament must fulfill all obligations as specified in the bid and in the signed legal agreement between Softball BC and the organizing League(s) or Association(s).

13.9.2. **NO LIABILITY FOR DEBT** Softball BC shall not be liable for any claims or indebtedness incurred in the conduct of any Provincial Championship.

13.9.3. **BALLS** Softballs to be used at Minor, Men's and Women's Fast Pitch and Slo Pitch (male and female) Provincial Championships are as follows:

Men and Women Fastpitch	
Jr. /Women/Master Women	Cor 47 12" Optic Raised Seam
Jr./Men's and Women's/Master Men	Cor 47 12" Optic Rolled Seam Orthodox
	Cor 47 12" Optic Rolled Seam
Mixed Fastpitch	Cor 47 12" Optic Rolled Seam
Minor Fastpitch Boys	
U20 'A', 'B' & C boys	12" Optic Rolled Seam
U17 'A', 'B' & 'C' boys	12" Optic Rolled Seam
U15 'A', 'B' & 'C' boys	12" Optic Rolled Seam
U13 'A', 'B' & 'C' boys	11" Optic Rolled Seam
Minor Fastpitch Girls	
U19A, U19B and U20C Girls	12" Optic Rolled Seam
U17 'A', 'B' & 'C' Girls	12" Optic Rolled Seam
U15 'A', 'B' & 'C' Girls	12" Optic Rolled Seam
U13 'A', 'B' & 'C' Girls	11" Optic Rolled Seam

Slo Pitch (all categories – Open/C/D)	
Women's Slo Pitch	ZN 1147SP 11"
Men's Slo Pitch	ZN 1247SP 12"
Mixed Slo Pitch – Men	ZN 1247SP 12"
Mixed Slo Pitch – Women	ZN 1147SP 11"

- 13.9.5. **PASS ALLOCATION** All teams competing in a Provincial Championship will be entitled to no more than five passes for all games, over and above the official player's roster submitted.
- 13.9.6. **ACCOMMODATION** Leagues or Associations hosting Provincial Championships will advise participating teams upon registration with the Championship Director of the accommodations closest to the ball park being used in the Championships.
- 13.9.7. **COACH MEETING** Host Associations are required to have a Coaches and Managers meeting prior to the start of the Provincial Championship. The Softball BC Board Representative and the Tournament Umpire-in-Chief must be in attendance.
- 13.9.8. **DOUBLE BASE** The Official Double Base is mandatory in all District, Zone and Provincial Playoffs for all categories.

13.10. **AWARDS**

Softball BC medals will be awarded: Gold to the winning team, Silver to the second place team and Bronze to the third place team.

13.11. **COACH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTENDEES**

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.

- 13.12. Softball BC Board Representative can and may stop the game if grossly mismatched and consent is given by coaches from both teams. The game will scored as +7 runs and +30 bases touched for the winning team.