



— 2025 HANDBOOK —

Constitution, By-Laws, Special Operating Rules
and General Information





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2025 HANDBOOK

Constitution, By-Laws, and Operating Rules

*Softball BC gratefully acknowledges
the financial assistance of*



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SPORT BC

ALLIED MEMBER:

AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
WORLD BASEBALL SOFTBALL CONFEDERATION

The Softball BC Handbook is produced and published by Softball BC

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www.softball.bc.ca

*Softball BC is grateful to play our sport in facilities located in many
traditional and unceded territories, covering all regions of British Columbia.*

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Constitution and By-Laws of the British Columbia Amateur Softball Association (Operating as Softball BC) are incorporated under the "Society Act" and registered with the office of the Registrar of Companies in Victoria, BC.

The 2025 Softball BC Special Operating Rules include a specific articles for Minor Softball, Men's and Women's Fastpitch Softball, Men's and Women's Slo-pitch Softball and Umpires. This format will assist coaches in locating the specific Operating Rules that pertain to their team.

However, all coaches must make a point of reading all of the GENERAL Articles of the Handbook, to achieve a full understanding of our regulations.

Changes to rules are enclosed in a box. Areas shaded indicate a change to a rule on a one-year trial basis.

The work of re-writing and re-editing this digital booklet was completed March 2025.

While all efforts are taken to ensure the accuracy of the content, any omissions or errors will be posted on the Softball BC website.

www.softball.bc.ca

Modified: March 31, 2025

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VISION STATEMENT

Softball for Everyone Softball for Life

MISSION STATEMENT

Provide a fun, fair, safe and inclusive environment for participants to enjoy the game at all levels.

VALUE STATEMENTS

Softball BC seeks to build a fun, fair and safe environment for all participants to enjoy the game at any level.

President's Message



As we approach the 2025 season, I am feeling optimistic about the current state and future direction of Softball BC. After a couple of years marked by uncertainty and transition, I believe our organization is well-positioned to advance the game. In April, we welcomed Diane St-Denis, an experienced sport manager, as our new Executive Director. Diane has wholeheartedly embraced her role, diving in with enthusiasm.

Last fall, we implemented much-anticipated governance changes to modernize and enhance our organizational structure. During this transition, we have also focused on documenting our extensive organizational knowledge. This ensures that our current board and staff possess all the essential information, experience, and history of our game, and that this knowledge will be preserved for future generations.

Looking ahead, we are diligently working on our next strategic plan. I encourage everyone to seize the opportunity to be involved in shaping this. It is crucial for us to collectively identify our priorities moving forward, whether it's supporting softball in underserved communities and remote areas, revitalizing the male side of the game, addressing culture—especially in terms of the treatment of our officials—or other initiatives that will help strengthen our sport for the future.

To this end, Softball BC was among the first provincial sport organizations to participate in Sport BC's Operational Enhancement Initiative. This initiative is already in progress, and its emphasis on strengthening governance and operational systems aligns perfectly with our recent governance changes and the efforts that Diane and her staff have undertaken to improve our processes.

On the field, British Columbia has enjoyed considerable success at inter-provincial events in recent years. We aim to continue building on that success. However, it is essential to remember that our focus should not be solely on championships and medals. For players, coaches, parents, and volunteers, sport is, first and foremost, about fun. The adults involved in youth sports must understand that children who aspire to compete at high levels do so not because they are pressured by their parents or coaches, but because they genuinely want it for themselves and are willing to put in the necessary effort.

In the meantime, kids will cherish the wonderful experiences they have at tournaments with their friends and teammates. They rarely remember whether they won or lost. Therefore, let's ensure that we, as adults who are meant to support their needs in the game, prioritize the right aspects of their experience.

Lisa Parkes President

Softball BC Past Presidents

March 2022- Present	Lisa Parkes
2020 - 2022	Graeme Duncan
2013 - 2020	Jake Dewitt
2012 - 2013	Jackie Dugger
2007 - 2012	Dennis Bidin
2000 - 2006	Tom Taylor
1992 - 2000	Jean Martens
1990 - 1992	Gerry Martin
1986 - 1990	Dale McMann
1979 - 1986	Al Buchanan
1977 - 1979	Shirley Randall
1971 - 1976	Al Beasly
1970 - 1971	Bill Gibson
1964 - 1970	Ward Lloyd
1958 - 1964	William Hallinan
1956 - 1958	Jack Stevens
1948 - 1956	Don Fraser

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WE ARE MOVING EFFECTIVE APRIL 18, 2025

Our new mailing address will be:

Softball BC
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Port Coquitlam, BC
V3B 7H5

Our shipping address will be:

Softball BC
C/O MVP Athletics
20215 97 Ave #2,
Langley Twp, BC V1M 4B9

Our phone number remains unchanged:
(604) 371-0302

Softball BC Districts

DISTRICT #1 (Zone 6: Vancouver Island – Central Coast)

MAJOR CENTRES: Victoria, Saanich, Oak Bay, the Western Communities, View Royal, Duncan, Sooke, the Saanich Peninsula, and the Southern Gulf Islands.

DISTRICT #2 (Zone 6: Vancouver Island – Central Coast)

MAJOR CENTRES: Nanaimo, Parksville, Port Alberni, Ladysmith, Ucluelet, Nanoose, Cedar, Tofino, Bowser, Errington, Lantzville, and Qualicum.

DISTRICT #3 (Zone 6: Vancouver Island – Central Coast)

MAJOR CENTRES: Campbell River, Comox, Cumberland, Courtenay, Quadra, Merville, Powell River, San Josef, Port Hardy, Coal Harbour, Gold River, Woss, Lazo, Tahsis, Texada, Sayward, Port McNeil, Holberg, Sointula, Port Alice, Bella Bella, and Ocean Falls.

DISTRICT #4 (Zone 5: Vancouver Coastal)

The Regional Districts of Squamish-Lillooet (excluding Electoral Areas A & B), Sunshine Coast. The Corporations of the Districts of North and West Vancouver, and the Village of Lions Bay.

MAJOR CENTRES: North Vancouver, Squamish, Garibaldi Highlands, Britannia, Whistler, Pemberton, Gibsons, West Vancouver, Shalath, Seton Portage, Brackendale, and Bowen Island.

DISTRICT #5 (Zone 5: Vancouver Coastal)

MAJOR CENTRES: Vancouver and Richmond.

DISTRICT #6 (Zone 4: Fraser River)

The Corporation of District of Burnaby and the Corporation of the City of New Westminster.

MAJOR CENTRES: Burnaby, New Westminster, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, and Port Moody.

DISTRICT #7 (Zone 4: Fraser River)

The City of Surrey, The Corporation of the City of White Rock.

MAJOR CENTRES: Surrey (including White Rock, Fleetwood, Cloverdale, Guildford, Newton and Whalley).

DISTRICT #8 (Zone 3: Fraser Valley)

Regional Districts of Central Fraser Valley and Fraser-Cheam.

MAJOR CENTRES: Aldergrove, Abbotsford, Clearbrook, Chilliwack, Bradner, Yarrow, Hope, Agassiz, Sardis, Vedder Crossing, and Langley.

DISTRICT #9 (Zone 2: Thompson – Okanagan)

Regional Districts of Central Okanagan and North Okanagan.

MAJOR CENTRES: Kelowna, Penticton, Salmon Arm, Vernon, Rutland, Sicamous, Winfield, Armstrong, Sorrento, Chase, Celista, Princeton, Revelstoke, Westbank, Peachland, Oliver, Cawston, Keremeos, Summerland, Lumby, Pritchard, Enderby, and Osoyoos.

DISTRICT #10 (Zone 1: Kootenays)

Regional Districts of Central Kootenay, East Kootenay, Kootenay Boundary and Electoral Area 'A' of Columbia-Shuswap Regional District.

MAJOR CENTRES: Cranbrook, Castlegar, Trail, Blueberry Creek, Salmo, Montrose, Robson, Yahk, Creston, Marysville, Invermere, Nelson, Fernie, Grand Forks, Winlaw, Windermere, Fruitvale, Sparwood, Golden, Edgewater, Kimberley, Radium, Nakusp, Burton, Kaslo, and Jaffrey.

DISTRICT #11 (Zone 2: Thompson – Okanagan)

Regional Districts of Thompson-Nicola and Electoral Area A & B of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District.

MAJOR CENTRES: Kamloops, Barriere, Merritt, Lone Butte, Darfield, McLure, Logan Lake, Louis Creek, Vavenby, Clearwater, Birch Island, Ashcroft, Cache Creek, Lytton, Clinton, and Lillooet.

DISTRICT #12 (Zone 8: Cariboo – Northeast)

The Regional Districts of Cariboo, Fraser-Fort George, Peace River-Liard and Central Coast Electoral Areas C,D,E.

MAJOR CENTRES: Prince George, Taylor, Willow River, Lac La Hache, Quesnel, Pouce Coupe, Chetwynd, Williams Lake, Fort St. John, Mackenzie, Hixon, Dawson Creek, Valemount, McBride, 100 Mile House, Fort Nelson, and Bella Coola.

DISTRICT #13 (Zone 7: North West)

The Regional Districts of Bulkley – Nechako, Kitimat-Stikine, Skeena-Queen Charlotte and the unorganized Stikine Area.

MAJOR CENTRES: Prince Rupert, Terrace, Kitimat, Queen Charlotte Island, Houston, Thornhill, Port Clements, Masset, Hazelton, Telkwa, Fraser Lake, Smithers, Fort St. James, Sandspit, Vanderhoof, Kitwanga, Fort Fraser, Burns Lake, and Port Edward.

DISTRICT #14 (Zone 3: Fraser Valley)

Regional District of Dewdney-Alouette.

MAJOR CENTRES: Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, Whonnock, Mission, and Deroche.

DISTRICT #15 (Zone 5: Vancouver Coastal)

The Corporation of Delta.

MAJOR CENTRES: Ladner, Delta, and Tsawwassen.

Softball BC District Representatives

MINOR COORDINATORS

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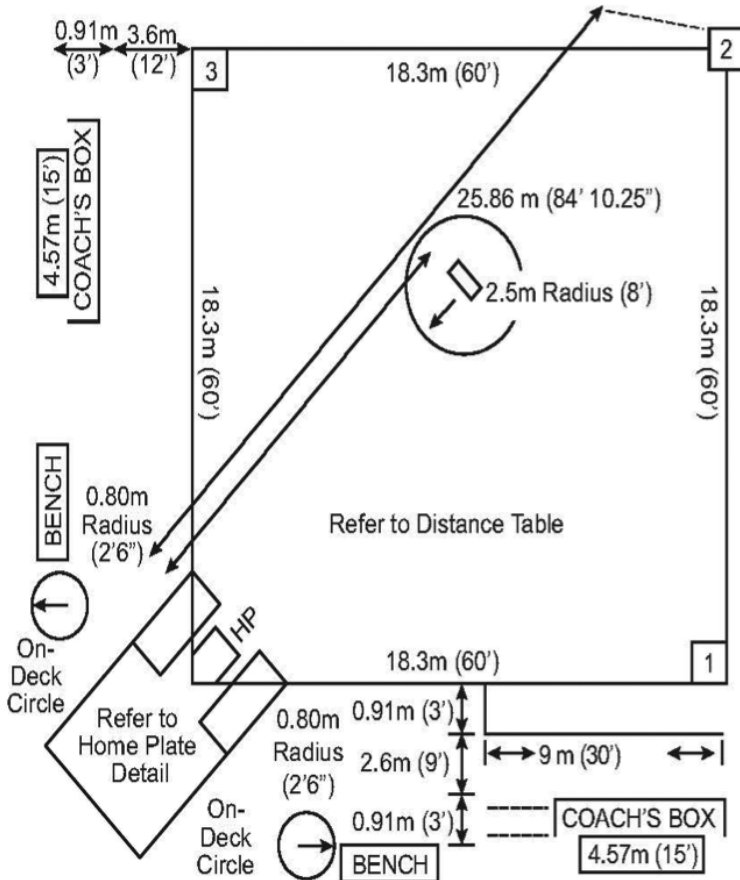
For complete contact information please visit www.softball.bc.ca.

UMPIRES-IN-CHIEF

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PODC	VACANT	District 1,4,8,10,13	provincialuic@softball.bc.ca
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For complete contact information please visit www.softball.bc.ca.

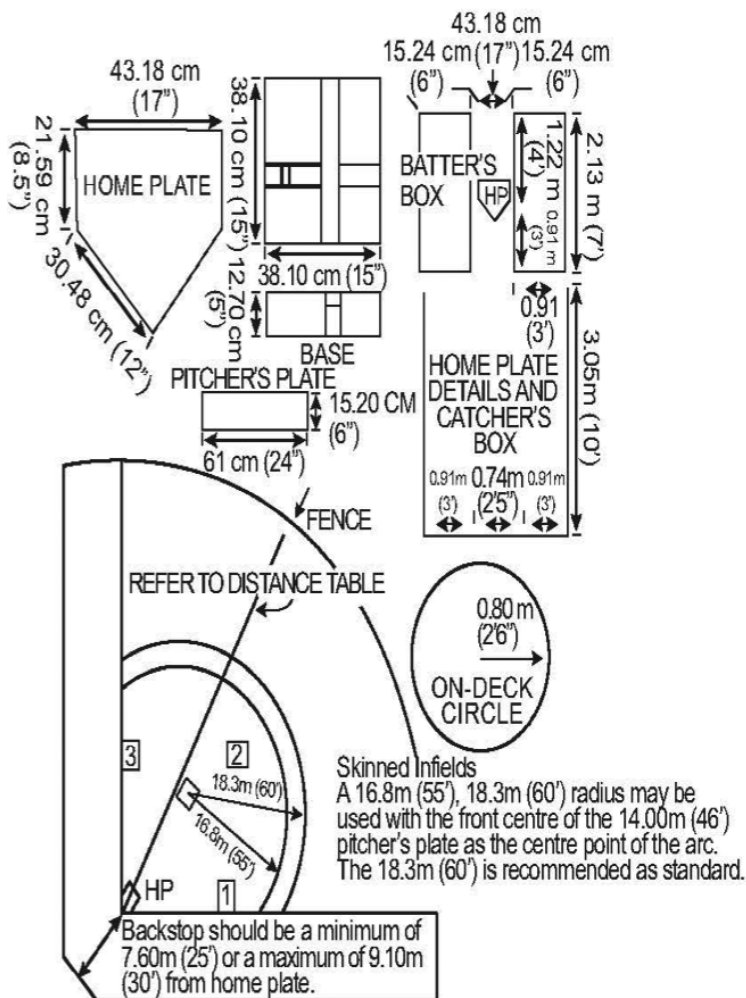
Official Dimensions for Fastpitch Softball Diamonds



DIAGONALS

BASEPATH	DIAGONAL
13.72m (45')	19.29m (63' 8'')
16.76m (55')	23.57m (77' 9.25'')
18.29m (60')	25.86m (84' 10.25'')

Official Dimensions for Fastpitch Softball Diamonds



BC Summer Games Zones

ZONE NUMBER	DISTRICTS IN ZONES
ZONE 1 Kootenays	District 10
ZONE 2 Thompson – Okanagan	Districts 9 and 11
ZONE 3 Fraser Valley	Districts 8 and 14
ZONE 4 Fraser River	Districts 6 and 7
ZONE 5 Vancouver –Coastal	Districts 4, 5 and 15
ZONE 6 Vancouver Island-Central Coast	Districts 1, 2, and 3
ZONE 7 North West	District 13
ZONE 8 Cariboo – North East	District 12

2026 BC SUMMER GAMES:

Kelowna
July 23-26, 2026

2025 Age and Distance Chart

CATEGORY	AGE (PRIOR TO JANUARY 1ST OF THE CURRENT YEAR)	YEAR	BALL	PITCHING	BASELINES	FENCES (MIN-MAX)
MALE						
MASTERS*	40+	X	12"	46'	60'	225'-265'
MASTERS	55+	X	12"	46'	60'	225'-265'
*In Master Men's Slo-pitch, the minimum age limit will be 40 years of age, in the year of the event.						
MEN'S FP	X	X	12"	46'	60'	225'-265'
U23	23 AND UNDER	2002 / 2003 / 2004	12"	46'	60'	225'-265'
U20	20 AND UNDER	2005 / 2006 / 2007	12"	46'	60'	225'-265'
U17	17 AND UNDER	2008 / 2009	12"	46'	60'	225'-265'
U15	15 AND UNDER	2010 / 2011	12"	42'	60'	210'-250'
U13	13 AND UNDER	2012 / 2013	11"	38'	55'	170'-225'
U11	11 AND UNDER	2014 / 2015	11"	35'	45'	160'-225'
U9	9 AND UNDER	2016 / 2017	11"	30'	45'	160'-225'
U7	7 AND UNDER	2018 / 2019	11"	30'	45'	160'-225'

FEMALE									
MASTERS*	35+		X	12"	43'	60'	210'-225'		
MASTERS	45+		X	12"	43'	60'	210'-225'		
*in Master Women's Fastpitch the minimum age will be 35 years of age in the year of the event.									
WOMEN A, B & C	X		X	12"	43'	60'	220'-235'		
INTERMEDIATE A	X		X	12"	43'	60'	220'-235'		
WOMEN D	X		X	12"	43'	60'	200'-210'		
U20C	20 AND UNDER		2005 / 2006 / 2007	12"	43'	60'	200'-210'		
U19 A & B	19 AND UNDER		2006 / 2007	12"	43'	60'	200'-210'		
U17	17 AND UNDER		2008 / 2009	12"	43'	60'	180'-210'		
U15	15 AND UNDER		2010 / 2011	12"	40'	60'	170'-210'		
U13	13 AND UNDER		2012 / 2013	11"	38'	55'	160'-210'		
U11	11 AND UNDER		2014 / 2015	11"	35'	45'	150'-210'		
U9	9 AND UNDER		2016 / 2017	11"	30'	45'	150'-210'		
U7	7 AND UNDER		2018 / 2019 / 2020	11"	30'	45'	150'-210'		

SLO-PITCH								
MEN		X		X	12"	50'	70'	300'-375'
WOMEN		X		X	11"	50'	65'	225'-275'
CO-ED		X		X	12"	50'	65'	275'-325'



Softball BC Constitution & By-Laws

are available under the
resources tab at www.softball.bc.ca.



Special Operating Rules

The Special Operating Rules of Softball BC describe how Softball BC operates as an amateur sports association, and governs softball in BC. It also identifies exceptions to Softball Canada Rules that apply to softball in BC.

ARTICLE 1 – DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. **ASSOCIATION & LEAGUE** – Associations register teams with Softball BC, and Leagues are three or more teams of the same category/classification that play scheduled games. Some entities are one and not the other, and some are both. A league that includes Softball BC Registered teams is considered affiliated with Softball BC and subject to these SOR. Any Association that registers one team with Softball BC must register all teams with Softball BC for any team in that Association to be eligible for Provincial Championships.
- 1.2. **CATEGORY** – i.e. U13, U17, U20, Men and Women etc.
- 1.3. **CLASSIFICATION** – i.e. A, B, C, D, R, etc.
- 1.4. **HANDBOOK** – Softball BC Constitution and Operating Rules Handbook.
- 1.5. **ROSTER FORM** – The approved Team Roster from Softball BC’s Registration system.
- 1.6. **RULE CHANGE** – All Softball BC Rule Changes resulting from a Softball Canada rule change being used for a one year trial, subject to permanent approval of the Softball BC Board of Directors.
- 1.7. **SOFTBALL BC** – The BC Amateur Softball Association (BCASA)
- 1.8. **SOFTBALL CANADA** – The Canadian Amateur Softball Association (CASA)

ARTICLE 2 – RESIDENCE RULE

- 2.1. **RESIDENCY:** To participate in a Provincial Championship, a player, coach or manager on May 1 of the current year must be a BC resident and:
- 2.1.1. CANADIAN CITIZEN, or
 - 2.1.2. CANADIAN LANDED IMMIGRANT or
 - 2.1.3. RESIDENT OF CANADA for one calendar year.
 - 2.1.4. EXCEPTIONS:

2.1.4.1. MINOR PLAYERS - Minor players, coaches or managers who are:

- ii. In BC on a work or study visa, or
- iii. attending school out of province whose parents are BC Residents on May 1.

2.1.4.2. NON-BC COMPETITION - Canadian citizens participating in American college softball competition or in a professional sport competition (other than softball or baseball) are exempted from the May 1st residency requirement if they return to Canada immediately after the event.

2.1.4.3. MEN'S AND WOMEN'S A FASTPITCH ONLY - Up to two (2) players who are Canadian citizens living outside of BC and/or Canada who return to BC and/or Canada after the official residence date and register for softball participation by the Provincial roster deadline date. NOTE: Only one of these two players can be a pitcher.

ARTICLE 3 – AMATEUR

- 3.1. **AMATEUR:** An amateur softball player is one who engages in softball solely for the pleasure and physical, mental or social benefits they derives, as defined by Softball Canada. Notwithstanding, a player may, without jeopardy to their amateur status receive recompense for bona fide expenses actually incurred because of their SOFTBALL participation for travel, meals, accommodation and/or income lost due to absence from employment (substantiated by genuine receipts – to be produced on demand when requested by duly responsible and authorized Softball Canada or Softball BC officers having deemed necessary by the officials concerned.)

NOTE: Show teams (i.e. King and His Court) are not considered as a professional team.

3.2. REINSTATEMENT TO AMATEUR STATUS

- 3.2.1. **ELIGIBILITY** - A professional softball/baseball player, regardless of age, may apply for reinstatement as an amateur in the following year from the last game of the league schedule in which they participated.
- 3.2.2. **APPLY TO SOFTBALL BC** - A player must apply to the Softball BC office in writing for approval.
- 3.2.3. **EFFECTIVE DATE** - The amateur reinstatement request must be made by May 15th of the current year.
- 3.2.4. **INELIGIBLE** - A player who is reinstated as an amateur and then returns to a known, established professional softball/baseball team/league in the current playing year will not be eligible for amateur status in the following two years from the date of application.

ARTICLE 4 - DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- 4.1. **DISCIPLINARY ACTION** shall be to further the interests of softball.
- 4.1.1. **AUTHORITY** - Disciplinary action may be taken against any member by:
- a. an affiliated Association/League
 - i) This will only affect a member's eligibility to participate in games against other teams belonging to the Association/League.
 - ii) Suspensions issued by Association/Leagues shall not exceed one year. A detailed written or electronic report of any suspension exceeding 30 days must be submitted to the Softball BC office.
 - b. any member of the Board of Directors.
- 4.1.2. **GROUNDINGS** - Conduct of a member that might reasonably lead to disciplinary action includes (the list is not exhaustive):
- 4.1.2.1. Verbally and/or physically abusing an umpire or other member;
 - 4.1.2.2. Knowingly playing with or against a suspended coach, player or team;
 - 4.1.2.3. Knowingly playing an ineligible player;
 - 4.1.2.4. Misconduct in hotels, restaurants, and/or drinking establishments while attending exhibition, league, playoff, tournament, Provincial Championship and extra-Provincial Championship events;
 - 4.1.2.5. Not returning uniforms or equipment to teams, Associations or leagues within a reasonable time after being requested to do so;
 - 4.1.2.6. Competing under an assumed name;
 - 4.1.2.7. Committing fraud involving the game of softball; or
 - 4.1.2.8. Violating the Constitution, By-Laws and/or Operating Rules of an affiliated Association, League or Softball BC.
- 4.1.3. **NOTIFICATION** - of disciplinary action shall be delivered to the member and copied to the member's team and Association/League in writing or electronic form.

- 4.1.4. PRO TEM (interim) suspensions of less than 31 days may be issued, in writing by electronic mail, priority courier, or in person in exceptional circumstances (i.e. flagrant abuse (verbal or physical) of an umpire, player, fan or official; criminal or civil misbehaviour; gross misconduct relating to, and/or defiance of, established Special Operating Rules):
- a. Upon agreement between the appropriate District Umpire-in-Chief and District Coordinator;
 - b. In the case of Provincial Championship, by the Board of Directors Representative, or their designate in charge of the Championship.
- 4.1.5. EXPIRY - Disciplinary actions, including Pro tem suspensions, shall be deemed to have expired 31 days after they have been issued at 2400H, however further disciplinary action could be imposed in accordance with Article 4.1.
- 4.1.6. INVESTIGATION barring exceptional circumstances, a full investigation, in adherence with the principles of "Natural Justice", shall be undertaken before any disciplinary action is taken. Where a Pro tem suspension is issued, such an investigation shall be commenced as soon as possible and ratified, revoked or revised where the investigation results deem it appropriate.
- 4.1.7. SUBJECT TO APPEAL - Disciplinary action may be appealed as provided in Article 5.
- 4.1.8. NOT IN GOOD STANDING - When a member is suspended according to Article 4.1, they shall be considered a member not in good standing with Softball BC and lose all rights granted to a member in good standing. If they are found to have had contact with any member of their team or executive, they may be subject to further disciplinary action.
- 4.1.9. POSTING - When a member is suspended, they will have their name posted on the Softball BC website until the conclusion of the suspension. The information will include the reason for suspension and the length of the suspension. The notice of suspension, if not for bad debt, will also be forwarded to Softball Canada with a request that it be forwarded to the ASA and its affiliates, as well as all Provincial/Territorial associations.

ARTICLE 5 – APPEALS

5.1. SUBJECT TO APPEAL

- 5.1.1. DISCIPLINARY action issued pursuant to Article 4.
- 5.1.2. NON-DISCIPLINARY ACTION - The appellant feels an unjust decision was set down by their ruling executive, District Coordinator, or a member of the Board of Directors of Softball BC.
- 5.1.3. PLAY-RELATED Rulings related to play will be appealed per Softball Canada Rules.

5.2. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS

- 5.2.1. Both DISCIPLINARY and NON-DISCIPLINARY appeals to the Softball BC Appeal Committee must be:
 - a. initiated by verbal notice that must reach the Softball BC office within 72 hours of the date of decision; and
 - b. followed by written or electronic notice of appeal, postmarked or delivered to the Softball BC office within 14 days of notification of the applicable action. A \$250.00 cash deposit or alternative in a form acceptable to the Softball BC office, must accompany the notice (Note: Start of the appeal period is the date when the decision being appealed is delivered formally).

5.2.2. NON-DISCIPLINARY

- 5.2.2.1. Before a non-disciplinary appeal will be considered by the Softball BC Appeal Committee, an appeal must first be submitted in writing or electronic form to the appropriate level as outlined below and dealt with at that level, and where necessary, each succedent level.
 - a. ASSOCIATION LEVEL - where the Association or League has rendered the decision to the District Coordinator or District UIC.
 - b. DISTRICT LEVEL - where the District Coordinator or District UIC has rendered the decision, to the Programs & Championships Director or Provincial UIC.
 - c. SOFTBALL BC LEVEL - where a Softball BC Board Representative or Staff or Provincial UIC has rendered the decision, to Appeal to a Softball BC Appeal Committee.
 - d. CONFLICT - The President of Softball BC may direct it to the next appropriate level or directly to an Appeal Committee where there is a level conflict.

5.2.3. CONTENT OF APPEAL NOTICE:

- a. Name, address, phone number of appellant and, if applicable, electronic address;
- b. Names of parent Association and/or League and team to which appellant is affiliated;
- c. Grounds for appeal;
- d. A detailed outline of the circumstances in question which shall contain detailed supporting documentation and witness statements, if available, and may contain character references.

5.3. APPEAL OF PRO TEM

A suspension shall be reviewed by the President of Softball BC to determine if the correct protocol has been followed in issuance of the pro tem suspension. The President, or the vice president if the president issued the pro tem suspension, shall direct or conduct an investigation and shall issue a timely and reasonable ruling on the appeal.

5.4. APPEAL COMMITTEE

Any member of Softball BC in good standing may be appointed to an Appeal Committee. The Chair of the Committee shall be a Director appointed by the President, and the other members of the committee shall be appointed by or on behalf of the President through the Chair of the Committee and shall reflect the make-up of the membership. It is recommended, but not compulsory, that each appointed Committee have five members, but must have at least three members.

5.4.1. CONFLICT OF INTEREST - No persons shall participate in adjudicating an appeal where they were:

- a. **PARTICIPANT** - A significant participant in the decision being appealed; or
- b. **WITNESS** - A potential witness in the matter under consideration.

5.4.2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST RESOLUTION - Should a conflict become evident, the President of Softball BC may designate a replacement to ensure that a fair and impartial appellate decision will be made.

5.5. APPEALS INVESTIGATION

An appeal investigation procedure shall be determined by the President guided by this section.

5.5.1. PRELIMINARY RULING - When an appeal has been received by Softball BC, the President or the Chair of the Appeal Committee shall, within 5 days, advise the appellant that:

- a. further elaboration is necessary before consideration can be given to the Notice of Appeal where the material provided is insufficient or lacking;
- b. the basis of the appeal is vexatious or without foundation, and will not be considered by Softball BC; or
- c. the Notice of Appeal is approved for investigation and deliberation by the President.

5.5.2. PROCESS - The appeal process may involve:

- a. An inquiry through a collaboration of witness statements, reports and other evidence, which may or may not include an interview of the appellant by one or more Appeal Committee members;
- b. an oral hearing pursuant to Article 5.6 where witnesses and/or the appellant shall appear in person or video conference call before the Appeal Committee, or:
- c. both an inquiry and an oral hearing.

5.6. HEARING

Hearing procedure shall be determined by the Appeal Committee Chair, or in the case of a Pro tem Suspension appeal, by the President.

5.6.1. OPEN OR CLOSED - The procedure may involve an open session where all parties may be present during the hearing, or may involve a closed session where each witness, appellant or respondent may come before the committee independently.

5.6.2. NOTIFICATION - The Appeal Committee shall ensure that the appellant, respondent and witnesses are notified in writing or electronic form of the date, time and place of the hearing. Normally two clear days prior to the hearing will constitute sufficient notice.

5.6.3. SUPPORT - In addition to witnesses summoned by the Appeal Committee, the appellant and the respondent shall be entitled to include one supporting person per party who may speak at the hearing.

5.6.4. INTERESTED PERSONS - Any other interested person wishing to attend may do so, bearing in mind that the hearing process may include a closed session pursuant to Article 5.6.1. Any person so attending may, at the discretion of the Chair, address the Appeal Committee.

5.6.5. **FAILURE TO APPEAR** - Failure of an appellant, respondent or witness to appear for a hearing when it is confirmed they have been properly notified, shall not prevent the Appeal Committee from proceeding to adjudicate the issue.

5.7. **ONUS ON APPELLANT**

The onus shall rest with the appellant to convince the Appeal Committee that a wrong or unjust decision was set down by their ruling executive, District Coordinator or members of the Board of Directors. After completion of an investigation and deliberation, an appeal shall only be considered successful, in whole or in part, where a majority of the Appeal Committee finds for the appellant.

5.8. **DECISION**

5.8.1. Following completion of the investigation and/or oral hearing process, the Appeal Committee shall deliberate the issue and render a decision. The Appeal Committee may:

- i. Vacate the decision, or
- ii. Uphold the decision, or
- iii. Vary the decision.

5.8.2. A **WRITTEN DECISION** shall be rendered by the Appeal Committee, or in the case of a pro tem suspension appeal, by the President, and shall be mailed or sent electronically to the appellant and aggrieved parties postmarked within 5 days of the conclusion of the hearing, or delivered electronically, if applicable.

5.8.3. **SUCCESSFUL APPEAL** - Where an appeal is successful in whole or in part, the \$250 deposit shall be returned to the appellant.

5.8.4. **FINAL** - Decisions of the Appeal Committee, or the President in the case of a pro tem suspension appeal, shall be conclusive and not subject to further appeal.

5.8.5. **APPLICATION TO THE COURTS** - Any member who fails to exhaust the appeal procedures provided herein prior to resorting to external legal remedies shall be subject to further disciplinary action at the discretion of the majority of the Appeal Committee.

5.8.6. **JURISDICTION** - Softball Canada may be requested to enforce any disciplinary action taken by Softball BC throughout Softball Canada's jurisdiction.

5.9. **FORFEIT RIGHT TO APPEAL**

Any member who does not follow these procedures, and contacts multiple members of the Board of Directors directly, shall forfeit their right to an appeal.

ARTICLE 6 – TRAVEL PERMITS

- 6.1. Travel permits for BC teams or officials attending competitions outside the Province of BC, are available upon request from the Softball BC Office.
- 6.2. **INSURANCE:** A travel permit does not provide members, including officials, with insurance coverage when attending competitions outside of the Province of BC. Members should consult with the Softball BC Office on insurance coverage.

ARTICLE 7 - MINOR FASTPITCH RULES U9, U11C, U11R, U13C (BOYS AND GIRLS)

Softball Canada has a plan to systematically develop players once they enter the sport up until they reach their full potential. This process is called Long-Term Player Development (LTPD). The LTPD guidelines are an important step in aligning player development and program development across the country and our province, at all levels and for all ages. Softball BC's minor softball rules follow the guidelines of the LTPD model and the Athlete Development Matrix set out by Softball Canada.

- These rules are guidelines for U9 programs.
- U11C, U11R and U13C rules will be enforced at all Softball BC Celebrations, Showcases and Regional Events.
- Softball BC rules shall apply in all cases not covered below.

RULE	U9	U11C	U11R	U13C
Rule 1 – The Playing Field				
Base Path Distance				
45' (Softball Canada Standard)	✓	✓	✓	
55' (Softball Canada Standard)				✓
Pitching Distance				
30' (Softball Canada Standard)	✓			
35' (Softball Canada Standard)		✓	✓	
38' (Softball Canada Standard)				✓
Note: If coach pitcher, the defensive pitcher should stand at the minimum pitching distance listed above and no closer.				
Rule 2 – Equipment				
Ball				
11" indoor ball	✓			
11" ball (COR .47)		✓	✓	✓
Helmet				
All batters and base runners must wear helmets with straps done up from dugout to dugout unless compression helmets are used.	✓	✓	✓	✓

RULE	U9	U11C	U11R	U13C
Defensive Face Mask				
Mandatory for all defensive pitchers.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rule 3 – Coaches, Players and Substitutes				
Coaches				
Offensive and defensive coaches are permitted on the playing field.	✓			
Players - Number of Players				
Maximum of 8-9 players on a team.	✓			
Recommended 6-7 players on the field:	✓			
Must start the game with 9 players but may go down to 8 players due to injury.		✓	✓	✓
When playing with less than the maximum number of players, there are no automatic outs. A player who leaves the game for any reason may not re-enter that game. Note: Leaving the game means that if the player is not available to bat in the batting order that was submitted at the start of the game, they will not be eligible to rejoin the game.		✓	✓	✓
If a player arrives late, they may be added to the bottom of the lineup.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Substitutes				
Unlimited defensive substitutions.	✓	✓	✓	✓

RULE	U9	U11C	U11R	U13C
Replacement Runner				
A coach may use a courtesy runner for the catcher or pitcher of record to prepare for the next inning when there are two out.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Playing Time				
No player is to sit more than one (1) consecutive inning ²	✓	✓		✓
Rule 4 – The Game				
Regulation Game				
A new inning will not start after 1 hour 15 minutes after the scheduled start time.	✓			
A new inning will not start after 1 hour 30 minutes after the scheduled start time.		✓	✓	✓
Run Ahead Rule				
If any team is ahead by 10 runs after 4 innings or 7 runs after 5 complete innings, the game will be called.		✓	✓	✓
Run Limit Per Inning				
Maximum of 3 runs per half inning for all innings of the game.	✓			
Maximum of 4 runs per half inning for all innings of the game.		✓	✓	
Maximum of 5 runs per half inning and open after 5 innings.				✓

RULE	U9	U11C	U11R	U13C
Rule 5 – Pitching Regulations				
Pitching				
Coach pitcher – 5 pitches. If they haven't hit after 5 pitches, they hit off a tee.	✓			
First half of the season: Player pitching to opposing team until the batter receives a 4th ball, which would normally result in a walk. This is where the game changes. After the 4th ball, the batter will have a count against them. It will either be 4 balls (0 strikes 4-0), 4-1 or 4-2. The hitter's coach or designate from offensive team, will now come in and pitch to their own batter and carry out the count. Now a 5th ball will be a walk and 3rd strike is still an out.		✓		
When a coach comes into pitch, the maximum hit a batter can earn is a double.		✓		
Last half of season: Player pitch – normal count. After 3 strikes, batter out. After 4 balls, batter walks.		✓		
Player pitch – normal count. After 3 strikes, batter out. After 4 balls, batter walks.			✓	✓
Pitching Limitations				
A pitcher is allowed to pitch a maximum of two innings. One pitch equals one inning.		✓		
A pitcher is allowed to pitch a maximum of three innings. One pitch equals one inning.			✓	
A pitcher is allowed to pitch a maximum of four innings. One pitch equals one inning.				✓
Pitching limitation rule is suspended in extra innings or international rule.		✓	✓	✓

RULE	U9	U11C	U11R	U13C
Hit Batters				
If the same pitcher hits two batters in an inning, the coach should consider removing the pitcher for the remainder of that inning.		✓		
Walks				
Walks are allowed.		✓	✓	✓
Intentional Walks				
There are no intentional walks.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rule 6 – Batting				
Number of Batters				
All players bat. All eligible players will appear on the batting order (whether they are in the field defensively or not).	✓	✓	✓	✓
Late Players				
Players who arrive after the start of the game will be placed last in the batting order and bat their turn.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bunting				
Bunting is permitted.		✓	✓	✓
Slapping is not permitted.	✓	✓	✓	

RULE	U9	U11C	U11R	U13C
Rule 7 – Batter-Runner & Runner				
Third Strike Rule				
Third strike rule is not in effect.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Infield Fly Rule				
Infield fly rule is not in effect.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stealing				
Base runner cannot steal bases; runner can only run when the batter makes contact (no stealing). Base runners can practice taking jumps off the bases but cannot steal a base.	✓			
Base runners may steal on any legally pitched ball when it has left the pitcher's hand.		✓	✓	✓
A player can only advance one base on a steal attempt.		✓		
A player can advance two bases on a steal attempt.			✓	✓
A player cannot advance to home on a steal, passed ball, or wild pitch. The player must be batted in or forced home by a walk.		✓		
A player can not advance to home on a steal, passed ball, or wild pitch. The player must be batted in or forced home by a walk or is part of a continuation of a play (i.e. overthrow).			✓	
Lead Offs				
Runners may leave the base when the ball has left the pitcher's hand. Runner will be called out for leaving early.		✓	✓	✓
Sliding				
Sliding is allowed.	✓	✓	✓	✓

RULE	U9	U11C	U11R	U13C
Base Runner Advancement				
Following a fair hit ball, runners may only advance a maximum of two bases.	✓			
Following a fair hit ball, the advancing of runners is considered 'over' when the ball is returned to a player in the infield (inside the base paths or on a base). Runners may continue to the base they are heading to but the fielders may attempt to throw/tag the runner out.		✓		
Wild Throw³				
Runners do not advance on a wild throw.	✓			
Runners may advance one base on a wild throw and do so at the risk of being thrown/tagged out. Runner cannot advance an additional base if two consecutive wild throws are made in the same play.		✓		
Runner may advance one base on a wild throw and do so at the risk of being thrown/tagged out. Runner may try to advance one base per wild throw if consecutive wild throws are made in the same play to a maximum of two ⁴ .			✓	✓
Players may not advance to any base on a catcher wild throw to the pitcher after a pitch.		✓	✓	

RULE	U9	U11C	U11R	U13C
Rule 8 – Dead Ball-Ball in Play				
First base will not be awarded for being hit by a pitch from a coach-pitcher.	✓			
First base is awarded for being hit by a pitch from a player-pitcher.		✓	✓	✓
Rule 9 – Protests				
There are no protests or appeals.	✓			
There are no protests but appeals are allowed.		✓	✓	✓
Rule 10 – Scoring				
Scores & Standings				
Score and standing will not be kept as emphasis is on player and team skill development.	✓			
Score and standings can be kept.		✓	✓	✓

BEST PRACTICES:

¹ Number of players on the field could depend on several factors. Teams may choose not to have a player in the catching position or in the outfield. Instead, extra players can be on the side lines participating in one or two skill stations while their team is on defense. Teams may also choose to have extra players on the side lines practicing pitching with a parent or coach while their team is on defense. Coaches with larger teams are encouraged to find creative ways to engage their players in additional skill practice instead of placing additional players in the outfield at this level.

² Coaches should try to ensure that every player sits out one inning before any player sits out two innings.

CLARIFICATIONS:

³ Wild throw (defined in Softball Canada rule book 5.1.52) a throw in which the ball thrown from one fielder to another cannot be caught or controlled and remains in play. In contrast with 'overthrow' which is defined as when a ball is thrown from one fielder to another, and the ball goes beyond the boundary lines of the playing field or becomes a blocked ball (defined in Softball Canada rule book 5.1.36 and Effect in 5.11b).

⁴ For example: A player cannot get a homerun on a bunt. If a batter bunts a ball and an overthrow occurs at first, the batter may try to advance to second at their own risk. If there is then an overthrow at second base, the batter-runner may try to advance to third base at their own risk. If there is a subsequent overthrow at third base, the batter-runner will hold at third base.

RESOURCES:

U7 Softball

- more information about softball can be found at softball.ca/programs/timbitssoftball

Long-Term Player Development (LTPD)

- more information about the LTPD can be found at softball.bc.ca/content/long-term-player-development and softball.ca/ltpd

Athlete Development Matrix (ADM)

- more information about the ADM can be found at softball.bc.ca/content/long-term-player-development and softball.ca/ltpd/adm

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 8.3.2.1 and Article 8.3.6.7.
- 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 – A player may touch the lines of the batter’s box, but no part of the feet may be outside of the lines prior to the pitch.
- 8.1.4. CHARGED CONFERENCE (Defensive and Offensive) – The defensive conference rule regarding’ 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 is in effect for U15 and above categories.
- 8.1.6. DOUBLE BASE
- a. The Batter-running is subject to the following:
- A batted ball hitting the fair portion is declared fair and a batted ball hitting the foul portion only is declared foul.
 - A defensive player must use only the fair portion of the base at all times, except on any live ball play made from first base foul territory. The batter-runner and the defensive player may use either portion of the double base. When the defensive player uses the foul portion of the double base, the batter-runner can run in fair territory, and if hit by a throw from the foul side of first base it would not be interference. If intentional interference is ruled, the batter-runner would be out. The one-meter line is duplicated on either side of the foul line on throws from foul territory.
- 8.1.7. DROPPED THIRD STRIKE – in U13 or under categories, the batter is out on the third strike regardless of whether the ball is caught. The ball remains live.

- 8.1.8. **ELECTRONIC DEVICES** including mobile phones, tablets, earpieces, smart watches and cameras may not be used on the field of play except in the following circumstances:
- By or under the supervision of a coach for purposes of stats, scorekeeping, and music.
 - By a coach for purposes of tracking time.
 - In no circumstances may electronic devices be used for purposes of communication amongst participants or between participants and spectators or others outside the game.
- 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. Five (5) coaches plus one Approved Minor Apprentice Coach paired with the rostered Mentor Coach. Apprentice Coaches are approved before Rosters are submitted, through an online application (see Article 18).
- 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; or
 - 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 girls 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 girls team.

- 8.1.20. **START TIME** – Time will start after the first warm up pitch, and a new inning is deemed to start on the umpire’s “out” call of the third out on the home team.
- U19A, U17A, U19B, U17B: none
 - U20C, U17C, U15A, U15B: no new inning after 90 minutes. No time limit will be in effect for all medal games.
 - All other classifications/categories: no new inning after 90 minutes. No time limit will be in effect for the Gold Pool, Gold Medal Game only.
- 8.1.21. **PICK-UP PLAYER** – The temporary addition of a player rostered on another team. Any coach picking up a player from another team must first obtain permission in writing (including electronic communications) from the player’s coach.
- 8.1.22. **MAXIMUM 20 GAMES** – A team may not pick up the same player for more than 20 combined games as a pick-up player where that SBBC team registers at a higher classification and/or category. Playing in more than 20 combined games will result in the player being ineligible to participate in a SBBC District Playdown tournament, a SBBC Provincial Championship and a Canadian Championship. A waiver may be applied for by the player contacting the Programs & Championships Director in writing to request permission. The waiver will be determined at the Programs & Championships Director’s sole discretion in consultation with the Minor District Coordinator(s). Number of games calculation will be from March 1st to June 15th of the playing season. It will include all tournament, exhibition and regular season games, both in and out of province.
- 8.1.23. **PARTICIPATION** – This definition applies to games played using the batting order modification described in Section 8.6.9.1. All players on the entry roster shall receive a minimum of 2 defensive innings in the first 4 innings of the games unless injured or unavailable.
- 8.1.24. **FIELD OF PLAY** – The field of play includes all of: the area on the playing field side of the backstop fence bounded by the backstop fence, side fences, extended to the outfield fence of the Playing Field, including the Dugouts.
- Playing Field: The playing field is defined as the fair territory within which the ball may be played and fielded.
 - Dugout: The dugout is dead ball territory for those who are registered on the Softball BC approved roster only.

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 District. For any team in question, the District Minor Coordinator shall provide the Programs & Championships Director with the results of a thorough investigation and a recommendation to reclassify or not. The Programs & Championships Director, in consultation with the Minor District Coordinator, 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:

- a. 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.
- b. See article 8.3.6.7.
A Softball BC registration fee of \$200 per team will apply in both scenarios.

8.3.2.2. Any coach who allows participation of an ineligible player in District, Provincial or extra-Provincial events may be disciplined in accordance to Softball BC Discipline Policy.

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 Programs & Championships 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 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;
 - The coach mutually agrees to strike the player's name from the team's Softball BC Team Registration form, and;
 - 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;
 - The District Minor Coordinator and Programs & Championships 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 is 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 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 Programs & Championships 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 Programs & Championships Director may authorize additions/deletions to an approved roster.

8.3.4.3. Team registrations received after the deadlines will be assessed a late registration fee of \$100 per team.

8.3.5. TRANSFER - The transfer of a Registered Minor Player from one Softball BC Roster Form to another. Only considered if:

- a. A written request is received from a player, approved by the player's coach and the District Minor Coordinator at least seven (7) days prior to District playdown affecting either team; and
- b. The coach agrees; and
- c. 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
- d. The District Minor Coordinator(s) and Programs & Championships Director that due to exceptional circumstances, 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 Programs & Championships Director.

8.3.6.2. Coaches:
Five (5) coaches plus one Approved Minor Apprentice Coach paired with the rostered Mentor Coach. Apprentice coaches are approved, before Rosters are submitted, through an online application (see Article 18).

- 8.3.6.3. Minimum nine players in U13 or above.
- 8.3.6.4. Adult coaches or non-playing coaches may register on and participate with multiple Minor teams in a given year.
- 8.3.6.5. When Roster Forms are submitted, they must be classified ('A', 'B', or 'C'). Teams may not change category or classification unless reclassified by the Programs & Championships Director, in consultation with the District Minor Coordinator.

8.3.6.6. 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. The team must submit an appropriate roster for approval prior to attending the District Playdown or Provincial Championship. A Softball BC registration fee of \$200 will apply.

The team must submit an appropriate roster for approval prior to attending the Provincial Championship.

- 8.3.6.7. 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.
- 8.3.6.8. 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 or 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'.

- 8.3.6.9. 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.
- 8.3.6.10. 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.

8.4. **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 Appropriate Minor and Men’s & Women’s Coordinators.
- 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 this section may be subject to discipline.

8.5. DISTRICT AND PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

see also Article 13

- 8.5.1. RULES: Softball BC rules apply to all play leading to Provincial Championships including District playdowns.
- 8.5.2. 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.
- 8.5.3. 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.
- 8.5.4. 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.
- 8.5.5. DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE – Will be:
 - a. 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.
 - b. Otherwise will be, the winner of a playdown open to qualified district teams.
- 8.5.6. 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 shall be allocated by weighted lottery with each District receiving one opportunity for each team placing second or lower for the Pro rata spot. This determination process will repeat in multiple rounds until all Provincial Championship sports are filled.
- 8.5.7. 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.

8.5.8. DISTRICT PLAYDOWNS

- 8.5.8.1. District playdowns will be a modified Round Robin or Knockout Championship Draw, as determined by the District Minor Coordinator.
- 8.5.8.2. The Softball BC Programs & Championships Director shall provide the District Minor Coordinators with standard draws for District playdowns.
- 8.5.8.3. Teams not intending to participate in a Provincial Championship may not participate in the related District playdown.
- 8.5.8.4. The Roster Form must be approved by the District Coordinator by the registration date, and available at District playdown.
- 8.5.8.5. Pick ups are not allowed at District playdowns.
- 8.5.8.6. District playdown winners must be declared by the dates set by Softball BC

8.5.9. HOST TEAM - The Host Association of a Provincial Championship shall be allocated a place in the round robin. The Host Team shall be:

- a. 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.
- b. Where the Host Team chooses to play in the playdown and places first, the team placing second will be the District representative.
- c. 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.

8.5.10. 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.

8.5.11. MULTIPLE PROVINCIALS - Players, coaches, and pick-ups may participate in more than one Minor Provincial in the same year.

- 8.5.12. COACHES MEETING - At the pre-Provincial Championships coaches meeting, coaches must be able to provide:
- a. 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.
 - b. Proof of age in the form of a photocopy 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.
 - c. 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

8.5.13. 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.

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.

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

- 8.5.14.1. 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.
- 8.5.14.2. "A" teams may pick up from any District, no priority is given to teams within a given District.
- 8.5.14.3. 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.
 - b. Each team will be given 48 hours to select their pickups before the next team is given their turn.
 - c. In-District pickups must be approved in writing by the District Minor Coordinator.
 - d. 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).
 - e. 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.
- 8.5.14.4. 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 pickup and not just a specific position before a team can go out of district). The Programs & Championships Director may authorize out of district pickups under extreme and unusual circumstances.

- 8.5.14.5. 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.
 - 8.5.14.6. 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.
 - 8.6.14.7. 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.
- 8.6. **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
- 8.6.1. ROUND ROBIN DRAW format is provided in Annex 'A'.
 - 8.6.2. 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 Board Representative. The Host Team may choose to be the highest number in the draw in or can be part of the draw.
 - 8.6.3. 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.

- 8.6.4. TIME LIMITS:
- U19A, U17A, U19B, U17B: none
 - U20C, U17C, U15A, U15B: no new inning after 90 minutes. Time will start after the first warm up 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.
 - All other classifications/categories: no new inning after 90 minutes. No time limit will be in effect for the Gold Pool, Gold Medal Game only.
- 8.6.5. 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. The Tie Break Rule will apply in all playoff games.
- 8.6.6. GAMES WILL END and scores will be:
- If the time limit has not been reached after $4\frac{1}{2}$ or $5\frac{1}{2}$ 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).
 - If the home team is losing after $4\frac{1}{2}$ or $5\frac{1}{2}$ innings after time has expired, or $6\frac{1}{2}$ 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.)
- 8.6.7. A Run Ahead Rule shall result in the conclusion of the game when:
- After $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 complete innings of play there is a difference of 15 runs or more. EXCEPTION: after $2\frac{1}{2}$, 3, $3\frac{1}{2}$, or 4 complete innings of play for U13A and U13B a 10 run mercy rule will be in effect.
 - After $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 complete innings of play there is a difference of 10 runs or more runs.
 - After $4\frac{1}{2}$, 5, $5\frac{1}{2}$, or 6 complete innings of play there is a difference of 7 or more runs.
- 8.6.8. A seven run mercy rule will apply in both the round robin and Knockout Championship Draw finals after $4\frac{1}{2}$, 5, $5\frac{1}{2}$ or 6 innings.

- 8.6.9. MODIFICATIONS FOR U13A, U13B, U15C, U17C and U20C.
- 8.6.9.1. 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.
 - 8.6.9.2. 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.
 - 8.6.9.3. An out will be recorded each time a rotational player scheduled to bat is missing for any other reason.
 - 8.6.9.4. Once a player has missed one turn at bat, they may not re-enter the game.
 - 8.6.9.5. 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.
 - 8.6.9.6. Ties are allowed during round robin play.
 - 8.6.9.7. 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.
 - 8.6.9.8. A five run maximum rule shall apply in half innings up to and including the 5th inning. Subsequent innings shall be open.
 - 8.6.9.9. 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.

8.6.10. KNOCKOUT CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL QUALIFICATION:

Teams advancing to the Knockout Championship Draw will be determined and seeded as follows:

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.

8.6.11. 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).
- c. If still tied: use total bases touched for or against (score differential limit limit up to +30 or -30)
- d. If still tied: Least runs scored against during round robin.
- e. If still tied: use total bases touched of all games played.
- f. If still tied, a tie breaking game will apply if a spot in seeding for the knockout shall result in one team being eliminated. Otherwise broken by coin toss.

8.6.12. U13A, U13B, U15B, U15C, U17B, U17C, U19B and U20C: Teams will be seeded after round robin as per 8.7.11 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

8.6.13. 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.

8.7. **U13C CHAMPIONSHIP** The U13C Regional Championship is meant to be all-inclusive, fun, and meet the competition requirements for Long Term Player Development.

8.7.1. 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.

8.7.2. MODIFIED PLAYING RULES:

- 8.7.2.1. Pitching limit of four innings per game.
- 8.7.2.2. A five run maximum rule shall apply in all half innings.
- 8.7.2.3. No new inning after 90 minutes. Time will start at the first warm up pitch and a new inning is deemed to start on the umpire's "out" call for the third out on the home team.
- 8.7.2.4. Replacement players are allowed from U13C and U11C.
- 8.7.2.5. Players must play at least two innings on defense per game.
- 8.7.2.6. All players on roster to be in batting line-up.
- 8.7.2.7. Teams must start games with nine players, but may play with eight due to injury.
- 8.7.2.8. No protests.
- 8.7.2.9. Two umpires per game will be paid by Softball BC.
- 8.7.2.10. All other Softball BC rules will apply.

8.7.3. FORMAT:

8.7.3.1. Round Robin: Three games, all teams seeded into single knockout playoffs in groups of eight seeded per 8.6.11.

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

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

8.8. **U11C CELEBRATION OF SOFTBALL**

The intent is to create a fun, year-end participation event for U11C 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.

8.8.1. 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.

8.8.2. 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.

8.8.3. Modified Playing Rules

- a. Pitching limit of 2 innings per game
- b. All players must play at least 2 innings on defense
- c. All players on roster are to be in batting line-up
- d. Maximum 4 runs per inning
- e. Teams must start with 9 players
- f. Teams without 9 players may pick up or combine with another U11C team to a maximum of 12 players from their own district
- g. One umpire per game will be paid by Softball BC
- h. Medals for top 3 teams in each group of 8 will be paid for by Softball BC.
- i. No protests
- j. All other Softball BC rules apply

8.9. COACH & PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

- 8.9.1. 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.
- 8.9.2. 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.

8.10. INTERPROVINCIAL EVENTS

CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS:	U19A Female U17A U15A
WESTERN CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS:	U19B Female U17B U15B U13B

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 Programs & Championships Director pursuant to Article 8.2.2.d. shall be considered 'B' players.

ARTICLE 9 – MINOR BOYS FASTPITCH

Softball BC is currently re-writing Article 9 to eliminate references to B and A, thereby categorizing all teams as C (community ball) effective this 2025 season. As a result, tryouts are not allowed.

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 any live ball play from first base side foul territory the defensive and offensive players may use either portion of the base.
- 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 girls 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** – A player may touch the lines of the batter’s box, but no part of the feet may be outside of the lines prior to the pitch.
- 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 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.
- 9.1.17. PHONES and ELECTRONIC DEVICES including mobile phones, tablets, earpieces, smart watches and cameras may not be used on the field of play except in the following circumstances:
- By or under the supervision of a coach for purposes of stats, scorekeeping, and music.
 - By a coach for purposes of tracking time.
 - In no circumstances may electronic devices be used for purposes of communication amongst participants or between participants and spectators or others outside the game.
- 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 warm up pitch and a new inning is deemed to start on the umpire’s “out” call of the third out on the home team.
- U19A, U17A, U19B, U17B: none
 - U20C, U17C, U15A, U15B: no new inning after 90 minutes. No time limit will be in effect for all medal games.
 - All other classifications/categories: no new inning after 90 minutes. No time limit will be in effect for the Gold Pool, Gold Medal Game only.

- 9.1.25. FIELD OF PLAY – The field of play includes all of: the area on the playing field side of the backstop fence bounded by the backstop fence, side fences, extended to the outfield fence of the Playing Field, including the Dugouts.
- Playing Field: The playing field is defined as the fair territory within which the ball may be played and fielded.
 - Dugout: The dugout is dead ball territory for those who are registered on the Softball BC approved roster only.

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, 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 Programs & Championships 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 is uploaded to the registration site on or before the Final Registration Deadline. Registration is fifteen (15) players and five (5) coaches except for U19 A & B and U20C teams which is 17 players). Plus, one Approved Minor Apprentice Coach paired with the rostered Mentor Coach. Apprentice Coaches are approved before Rosters are submitted, through an online application (see Article 18).
- 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 Programs & Championships 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 Programs & Championships Director may authorize additions/deletions to an approved roster.
 - c. Changes after the deadline must be approved by the Programs & Championships Director. Such changes shall be processed by the Softball BC office once per week. Changes will be considered for extreme circumstances only.
 - d. Team registrations received after the deadlines will be assessed a late registration fee of \$100 per team.
- 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 Programs & Championships 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:
- a. Minor players, managers, and coaches are to be registered on a Softball BC Team Registration Form; and
 - b. Comply with Article 2 Residence Rule.
- 9.2.3. Minor players may register with two different teams in the 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 the Programs & Championships 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. Any coach who allows participation of an ineligible player in District, Provincial or extra-Provincial events may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance to Softball BC Discipline Policy.
- 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 Programs & Championships Director.
- 9.2.10.2. Coaches:
Five (5) coaches plus one Approved Minor Apprentice Coach paired with the rostered Mentor Coach. Apprentice Coaches are approved before Rosters are submitted, through an online application (see Article 18).
- 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. 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.
- 9.2.10.7. 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.
- 9.2.10.8. 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.

9.2.10.9. The District Minor Coordinator has the obligation and responsibility to ensure that teams are properly classified within his or her District.

9.2.10.10. The District Minor Coordinator has the obligation and responsibility to ensure that teams are properly classified within his or her District. For any team in question, the District Minor Coordinator shall provide the Programs & Championships Director with the results of a thorough investigation and a recommendation to reclassify or not. Programs & Championships Director in consultation with the District Minor Coordinator shall decide and inform the team. Reclassification can be done up to but not including the date of the team's participation in a Provincial Championship.

9.2.11. MINOR PLAY IN ADULT

9.2.11.1. 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.

9.2.11.2. 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.

9.2.11.3. 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.

9.2.11.4. Teams of minor players wishing to play league or exhibition games against Men's or Women's teams must have written consent from the appropriate District Minor and Men's & Women's Coordinators.

9.2.11.5. 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 Board 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 Board 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.
- 9.3.1.5. 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.

- 9.3.1.6. 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 Programs & Championships Director may authorize out of district pickups under extreme and unusual circumstances.
 - f. 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. **ELIGIBILITY OF TEAMS TO COMPETE IN A PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

- 9.4.1. 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.
- 9.4.2. The Softball BC Programs & Championships Director shall provide the District Minor Coordinators with a set of standard tournament draws and rules for all District playoffs.
- 9.4.3. 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.
- 9.4.4. 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.
- 9.4.5. 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.
- 9.4.6. 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.
- 9.4.7. 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.)

9.5. **PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

(to be read in conjunction with Article 13.)

- 9.5.1. All play leading to Provincial Championships including District Playoffs, must be played according to Softball BC rules.
- 9.5.2. DRAW DATE All Minor Provincial Championship Draws may be conducted 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 Board Representative. The Host Team may choose to be the highest number in the draw in or can be part of the draw
- 9.5.3. In Minor categories, any Provincial 'A' Championship having 8 or more participating teams shall be a three day event.
- 9.5.4. 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.

9.6. **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.

- 9.6.1. 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.

- 9.6.1.1. 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.

- 9.6.1.2. 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.
- 9.6.1.3. In the event the home team is losing after $4\frac{1}{2}$ or $5\frac{1}{2}$ innings after time has expired, or $6\frac{1}{2}$ 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.)
- 9.6.1.4. A Run Ahead Rule shall result in the conclusion of the game when:
- After $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 complete innings of play there is a difference of 15 runs or more. EXCEPTION: after $2\frac{1}{2}$, 3, $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 complete innings of play for U13 REP and C Boys a 10 run mercy rule will be in effect.
 - After $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 complete innings of play there is a difference of 10 or more runs.
 - After $4\frac{1}{2}$, 5, $5\frac{1}{2}$, or 6 complete innings of play there is a difference of 7 or more runs.
- 9.6.1.5. 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. The Tie Break Rule shall be applied in all playoff games.

9.6.1.6. 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;
- b. 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;
- c. 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;
- d. 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;
- e. 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;

- f. 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;
- g. the Minor "C" time limit shall apply in the 6th inning, or when tied in all subsequent innings, the five run maximum rule is suspended and the game shall rule is suspended with no maximum run limit;

9.6.2. 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.

9.6.3. KNOCKOUT CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW

9.6.3.1. 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.

9.6.3.2. 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.

9.6.3.3. 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.

9.6.3.4. 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.

9.6.3.5. 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.

- 9.6.3.6. 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.
- 9.6.4. 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:
- a. Win/loss/tied record: (2 points for win, 0 for a loss, 1 point for tie), if still tied then,
 - b. 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)
 - c. If still tied: Run differential totals (score differential limit up to +7 runs or -7 per game).
 - d. If still tied: use total bases touched for or against (score differential limit up to +30 or -30)
 - e. If still tied: Least runs scored against during round robin.
 - f. If still tied: use total bases touched of all games played.
 - g. If still tied, a tie breaking game will apply if a spot in seeding for the knockout shall result in one team being eliminated. Otherwise broken by a coin toss.
- 9.6.5. 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.

9.6.6. COMBINED CLASSIFICATION FOR U13, U15 AND U17:

- 9.6.6.1. where there are 4 or less teams attending a Provincial, those teams will be combined with the next classification to form a combined Provincial.
- 9.6.6.2. 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.
- 9.6.6.3. 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.
- 9.6.6.4. in a combined Provincial Championship, the teams will be seeded by the Softball BC Programs & Championships Director.
- 9.6.6.5. the top 6 teams in the modified round robin will advance to the Knockout Championship Draw in the higher classification.
- 9.6.6.6. 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.
- 9.6.6.7. in a combined championship of 11 or less teams the Programs & Championships Director will determine by the coaches meeting the number of teams placed in the higher classification.
- 9.6.6.8. the difference in provincial fees between A and B classification will be paid to the Softball BC office by August 1st.

9.7. **COACH & PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 9.7.1. **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.
- 9.7.2. 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.

9.8. 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.

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 – Reference Softball Canada rule 2.5.
- 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.
- 10.2.9. PREVIOUSLY ROSTERED PLAYER – A player who was listed on the official roster of a team registered with Softball BC during the season in which their medical condition occurred and/or the immediately preceding season. Proof that the player participated with that registered team prior to their medical condition is required to meet the current season criteria.

10.3. TEAM AND PLAYER CLASSIFICATION

- 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 District Coordinator, or in the absence of a District Coordinator, the Programs & Championships 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:
 - 10.3.6.1. Where they play a majority of their games;
 - 10.3.6.2. Where the majority of the players reside; and
 - 10.3.6.3. Team registration to Softball BC through the online process is to be complete and confirmed for women's teams by June 15th.

10.3.7. The Softball BC team roster is to be approved by the Men's and Women's District Coordinator or in the absence of a District Coordinator, the Programs & Championships Director by June 30th of the current playing year. Team registrations received after the deadline will be assessed a late registration fee of \$100 per team.

10.3.8. Changes to rosters will be permitted using the addition / deletion form as long as there is signoff by both the player and the player's team coach. Changes to rosters must be made by the affected player and the coach signing the addition/deletion form and submitting it to the District Men's and Women's Coordinator, who shall sign the form and submit it to the office. No changes to rosters may be made after the Tuesday prior to the team's Provincial Championship.

10.3.9. 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.

10.4. 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 for a previously rostered player recovering from an injury or other medical condition which prevented them from playing the minimum number of games. The Softball BC Board Representative will accept medical clearance for the rostered player in lieu of number of games played.

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 warm up pitch.

10.6.3.3. Time limit of one hour forty 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 6 ½ 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 All ties are to be broken by extra innings (Note: With the exception of the final game, the 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 Board 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. Exception: In the event where an injury would result in a forfeit, the DR may 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 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 Board 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. 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 Programs & Championships Director, a substitute on their roster for that Provincial Championship on the following basis: (this will not count as a pick-up player).

- a. Pitcher for Pitcher
- b. Non-Pitcher for Non-Pitcher
- c. Coach for Coach

10.10. PICK-UPS

- 10.10.1. To be read in conjunction with Articles 13 (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).
- 10.10.2. Teams attending Provincial Championships may pick up a maximum of 3 players.
- 10.10.3. A player may play in more than one Men's and Women's Provincial Championship, as long as they:
 - a. Have fulfilled all obligations to their registered team, and
 - b. Have the permission of their team's head coach. This is granted by providing a signed approval on the Softball BC approved roster.
- 10.10.4. 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.

ARTICLE 11 – MEN'S FASTPITCH

11.1. MEN'S FASTPITCH CATEGORIES & POST SEASON:

Men's A	Leads to a Canadian Championship
Men's B	Leads to a Western Championship
Men's Intermediate A	Provincial Championship only
Men's Intermediate B	Provincial Championship only
U23 Men	Leads to a Western or a Canadian Championship

11.2. DEFINITIONS

- 11.2.1. FOOTWEAR – Metal cleats are permitted.
- 11.2.2. HELMETS BATTING – An approved helmet shall be one that is fully enclosed, with two ear flaps, a foam liner and a peak.
- 11.2.3. HELMETS & MASKS (CATCHER) – Catcher must wear a regulation helmet and mask and/or approved equipment.
- 11.2.4. PITCHING – Softball Canada Rule 4.3 Legal Pitch Requirements for all divisions.
- 11.2.5. ON DECK CIRCLE – The on-deck batter has the right to go to either on-deck batting circle as they choose.
- 11.2.6. UNIFORMS – Reference Softball Canada rule 2.5.
- 11.2.7. ELECTRONIC DEVICES – Electronic devices (e.g. smartphone, tablet) are not permitted on the field of play.
- 11.2.8. 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.

11.3. TEAM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 11.3.1. Players, managers and coaches are to be registered through Softball BC electronic registration.
- 11.3.2. Each team shall be entitled to carry a maximum of twenty (20) players and five (5) coaches/managers.
- 11.3.3. A player identifying as male shall not be permitted to register on a female team.
- 11.3.4. A player identifying as a female may be permitted to register with either a male team or a female team.

- 11.3.5. Team registration shall be considered final when the team roster has been confirmed and approved by the Men's and Women's District Coordinator in the absence of a District Coordinator, the Programs & Championships Director.
- 11.3.6. A team that plays in multiple leagues, or has multiple home parks will establish their district of registration by considering the following criteria:
 - a. Where they play a majority of their games, and
 - b. Where the majority of the players reside.
- 11.3.7. Team rosters are to be submitted for approval through the Softball BC registration process no later than June 30th of the current playing year. Registrations received after the deadline will be assessed a late registration fee of \$100 per team.
- 11.3.8. The Softball BC team roster is to be approved by the Men's and Women's District Coordinator or in the absence of a District Coordinator, the Programs & Championships Director by July 15th of the current playing year.

11.3.9. The addition/deletion form shall be in effect up to and including the day of the Provincials 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 District Coordinator. After July 1st, approval is to come from the Programs & Championships Director.

- 11.3.10. 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 and Softball BC in writing. Appeals will not be considered after July 7th of the current playing season.
- 11.3.11. U23 Male team registration – turning 23 the year of the current playing season.

11.4. TEAM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 11.4.1. 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 registration form.
- 11.4.2. 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.
- 11.4.3. 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.
- 11.4.4. 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 Men's B or Intermediate A (Men's U20A to Men's U23A)
 - U19B to Men's Intermediate B (Men's U20B to Men's U23B)
- 11.4.5. 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 coach's 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 Programs & Championships Director shall have sole authority in this decision.

11.5. ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION OF TEAMS FOR PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 11.5.1. Men's 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.
- 11.5.2. 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.

11.5.3. 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 start date. 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.

11.6. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

11.6.1. DRAW

- 11.6.1.1. Teams must register for their Provincial Championships one month prior to the Provincial Championship start date.
- 11.6.1.2. Draw will take place fourteen (14) days before the Championship is to begin.
- 11.6.1.3. When drawing for the tournament, first team drawn will be marked as Team #1 and so on until all team names have been drawn.

11.6.2. FORMAT

- 11.6.2.1. Four game guarantee with format dependent on the number of teams registered in the Championship.
- 11.6.2.2. Games are to be scheduled a minimum of two (2) hour time slots.
- 11.6.2.3. Run difference: In all men'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.
- 11.6.2.4. MEN'S MASTER PROVINCIAL FORMAT
Four game guarantee with format dependent on the number of teams registered in the Championship.

11.6.3. QUALIFYING ROUND

- 11.6.3.1. Home team decided by coin toss at the coaches meeting.
- 11.6.3.2. Game time starts with the first pitch to the first batter.

- 11.6.3.3. 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. With NO EXCEPTION will the home team bat if they are leading after 6 ½ innings.
 - 11.6.3.4. A tied game shall be broken by extra innings regardless of the time limit.
 - 11.6.3.5. When there is a stoppage in play due to an injury, the blood rule, or concussion protocol, the game clock shall be stopped.
 - 11.6.3.6. 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.
 - 11.6.3.7. 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).
- 11.6.4. ELIMINATION ROUND
- 11.6.4.1. Higher seeded team from qualifying round shall have the option of home or visitor **Exception – If Article 11.6.4.6 comes into effect, which takes priority.
 - 11.6.4.2. Game time starts with the first pitch to the first batter of the game.
 - 11.6.4.3. 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.
 - 11.6.4.4. When there is a stoppage in play due to an injury, the blood rule, or concussion protocol, the game clock shall be stopped.
 - 11.6.4.5. All ties are to be broken by extra innings with no exception. (Note: With the exception of the final game, International, the Tie Breaker rule is to be used in Elimination round).
 - 11.6.4.6. In all Men's and Women's provincials using the modified double knockout format, the undefeated team in the final is given the choice of Home or Visitor.

- 11.6.4.7. Tie Breaker – The final seeding shall be determined as follows:
- a. Won-Loss record. If still tied, then
 - 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 Board Representative or designate.

11.7. DESIGNATED RUNNER

For Men's Master's categories only.

- 11.7.1. 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 last spot of the starting line up (10th with no DP or 11th with a DP).
 - b. The DR may run for only one player per inning and may do so each time that player becomes a runner in the inning.
 - c. The DR may run for a different player each inning.
 - d. The DR may not bat or play defence.
 - e. An eligible player not in the game may substitute for DR.
 - f. The DR may not re- enter the game. Exception: In the event where an injury would result in a forfeit, the DR may enter the game.
 - g. A team is not obligated to use the DR the entire game.

11.8. MASTERS FASTPITCH

- 11.8.1. Players of Masters Fastpitch age are allowed to register and play on both a Masters and a Men's or Fastpitch team roster. Each team may play in a league with the Men's team roster taking priority in the event both Provincial Championships are being played on the same weekend.
- 11.8.2. Masters Fastpitch Age: Celebrate their 40th birthday by or in the current playing year.
- 11.8.3. Legends Masters Fastpitch Age: Celebrate their 55th birthday by or in the current playing year
NOTE: Each team MUST present to the Softball BC Board Representative, proof of age for all participants at the Provincial Championship.
- 11.8.4. 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.

11.9. 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 Programs & Championships Director, a substitute on their roster for that Provincial Championship on the following basis: (this will not count as a pick-up player).

- a. Pitcher for Pitcher
- b. Non-Pitcher for Non-Pitcher
- c. Coach for Coach

11.10. PICK-UPS

- 11.10.1. To be read in conjunction with Articles 13 (Provincial Championships). For eligibility of players to participate in Provincial play, please refer to Annex "F" Men's and Women's Pick-up chart (Men's and teams may pick up from outside their home district).
- 11.10.2. Men's teams attending Provincial Championships do not have a limit for pick-ups.
- 11.10.3. A player may play in more than one Men's Provincial Championship, as long as they have fulfilled all obligations to their registered team, and have the permission of their team's head coach. This is granted by providing a signed approval on the Softball BC approved roster.
- 11.10.4. Pick-ups must have written permission from their Head coach in the form of a copy of the Softball BC approved roster form, which must also be signed by the head coach or a designate. 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.

ARTICLE 12 – MEN’S, WOMEN’S AND CO-ED SLO-PITCH

12.1. SLO-PITCH

12.1.1. MEN’S AND WOMEN’S SLO-PITCH CATEGORIES

Canadian Championships	Western Canadian Championships	Provincial Championship
Men’s Open A	B Men & Women	Intermediate A and B
Women’s Open A	Co-Ed B	Recreational A and B
Co-Ed Open A	Master Men’s 40+	
Master Men’s Open	Master Women’s 30+	
	55+ & 60+	

12.1.2. CANADIAN MEN’S AND WOMEN’S OPEN A

Teams wishing to participate in the Softball Canada Men’s or Women’s Open Canadian Championship must express their intent to participate, with a formal letter of intent online submission by May 1st of the previous tournament year. Teams that do not comply with these dates will be considered for participation on a space available basis only. The Programs & Championships Director will determine if the team will be accepted for registration.

The criteria for ranking teams wishing to participate, in order, will be as follows:

- a. Order of finish at the most recent Softball Canada Championship. Teams entering in this tournament years Canadian Championship would be ranked by the previous years Provincial Qualifier.
- b. Host team as determined by Softball Canada Article 1.2 a) team representation slo-pitch.
- c. If there are two teams to be ranked, a two out of three playoff will be arranged in the championship year.
- d. If there are more than two teams to be ranked, a ranking tournament between the teams who have submitted their letter of intent, along with all payments and deposits will be arranged in the championship year.

- 12.1.3 Any teams that participate in a ranking tournament that do not qualify to attend the Canadian Championship will not be invoiced for Canadian Championship entrance fee.

12.1.4. EQUIPMENT

12.1.4.1 Footwear – No metal cleats allowed in all categories of slo-pitch.

12.1.4.2. Helmets:

- i. Helmets are mandatory for:
 - Batters
 - On Deck Batters
 - Batter-Runners
 - Pitchers (Helmet with Mask)
 - Runners

Effect: Players shall be called out immediately when ordered by the umpire to wear a helmet and fail to do so.

12.1.5. ELIGIBILITY OF TEAMS – CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP AND WESTERN CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

12.1.5.1 In order for a team to be eligible to compete in a Canadian Championship or Western Canadian Championship, the team registration form must be processed through the Softball BC electronic registration system by the registration deadline without exception. Note: Slo-pitch registration deadline – May 1st.

12.1.5.2 Each Men's and Women's Coordinator must notify the Softball BC office of team(s) from their District which intend to participate in a Canadian Championship by May 1st of the current year and for Western Canadian Championships by June 1st of the current year.

12.1.5.3 To be eligible to compete in a Canadian Championship or Western Canadian Championship, all teams must submit a Letter of Intent and an entrance fee to Softball BC. All entry fees are non-refundable unless the championship has been cancelled.

12.1.5.4 Any team continuing on to a Canadian Championship or Western Canadian Championship must notify the Softball BC office. Where vacancies occur, the Programs & Championships Director shall offer available spots to other teams.

12.1.5.5 Every team competing in a Canadian Championship or Western Canadian Championship must submit a roster form under the full membership plan.

12.1.6. REGISTRATION

- 12.1.6.1 Players, managers and coaches in membership are to be registered using the online registration system.
- 12.1.6.2 Each team shall be entitled to carry a maximum of seventeen (17) properly registered players. Exception: Women's, Masters and Mixed categories (20).
- 12.1.6.3 Females may register on a male team, but males are not allowed to register on female teams except as manager or coach.
- 12.1.6.4 A team that plays in two leagues or has two home parks will establish their District of registration by considering the following criteria:
- Where do they play a majority of their home games?
 - Where do a majority of the players reside?
 - Is there a historical precedent to associate the team with a particular District?

The registration date for Slo-pitch is August 1st. Team registrations received after the deadline will be assessed a late registration fee of \$100 per team.

MINOR AGED PLAYERS:

Any minor aged (under 19 years) player or team, shall not sign or play with a Men's or Women's team until a written consent form from a parent(s) or guardian(s), is received by the District Minor Coordinator, who with the District Men's and Women's Coordinator shall forward their decision in writing to the Softball BC office by April 15 of that playing year and a copy sent to the parent or guardian.

12.1.7. MASTERS SLO-PITCH

- 12.1.7.1. The representative Masters team from BC participating in a Canadian or Western Canadian Championship will comply with the Canadian roster size rule (maximum 20 players).
- 12.1.7.2. Masters Slo-pitch age:
 Men: (+35): Celebrate their 35th birthday by or in the current playing year.
 Men: (+40): Celebrate their 40th birthday by or in the current playing year.
 Women: Celebrate their 30th birthday by or in the current playing year.
- 12.1.7.3. Masters Slo-pitch player may coach in any other category.
- 12.1.7.4. Mixed Masters age:
 Men: 35th birthday by or in the current playing year.
 Women: 30th birthday by or in the current playing year.

Softball Canada Rules will be adhered with the exception of the following:

12.2. RUN AHEAD RULE

- 12.2.1. A run ahead rule shall result in the conclusion of the game when:
- After 3 complete innings of play if there is a difference of 25 or more runs.
 - After 4 complete innings of play if there is a difference of 20 or more runs.
 - After 5 complete innings of play if there is a difference of 15 or more runs.

12.3. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- 12.3.1. FACE MASKS. All pitchers must wear a mask with helmet. Any defensive or offensive player may wear an approved plastic face mask/guard. Face masks/guards that are cracked or deformed, or if padding has deteriorated or is missing, are prohibited from use and must be removed from the game. Masks are recommended in Adult Slo-pitch.

12.4. PLAYERS

- 12.4.1. Co-ed: 10 players – (six males and four females) The batting order must not have more than 3 males in a row.
- 12.4.2. Co-ed with Extra Players (EPs): Twelve players – seven males and 5 females. The batting order must not have more than 3 males in a row.

12.5. ENTERING THE GAME (SUBSTITUTIONS)

12.5.1. Temporary Runner (may be used for the pitcher who gets on base, the following provisions apply:

- a. Optional before two outs – mandatory after two outs.
- b. may be any player on the line-up card who is not on base at the time of application (even if they have previously been in the game and cannot legally re-enter the game) but cannot be a player who has been ejected or removed from the game for violation of the rules.
- c. The player who finishes the previous inning in pitching position (or is designated as the pitcher in the line-up card for Home team's first inning at bat) is the only person eligible to have a temporary runner.
- d. Re-entry and substitution rules are waived for temporary runner.
- e. If the temporary runner is on base and due to bat, they shall be replaced by another eligible player without penalty.
- f. Co-Ed only – Temporary Runner will be gender for gender.

12.5.2. Courtesy runner – is legal for a batter who gets on base. No courtesy runner for open divisions, three courtesy runners for intermediate divisions per game, unlimited courtesy runners for recreational division. The following apply to a courtesy runner:

- a. may be any player on the line-up card who is not on base at the time of application (even if they have previously been in the game and cannot legally re-enter the game) but cannot be a player who has been ejected or removed from the game for violation of the rules.
- b. If the courtesy runner is on base and due to bat, the batter shall be declared automatically out for the at bat. Vi. Co-Ed only – Courtesy Runner will be gender for gender.

12.6. BATTING ORDER

12.6.1. In Co-Ed Games, the batting order shall consist of six males and four females, no more than three males in a row (Co-ed).

12.6.2. If a team bats out of order, any player skipped in the order shall be declared automatically out.

12.7. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

All teams will play a two (2) game seeding round, with all teams advancing into a double knockout elimination round, including the championship game (a second final will be scheduled if the undefeated team loses the first game). When possible, the 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.

APPENDIX – PLAYING FIELD AND DIAMOND LAYOUT**QUICK REFERENCE TABLE****SAFE LINE**

(Co-ed, Intermediate and Recreational Divisions Only)

Is a line drawn in foul territory starting at the front corner of home plate closest to third base and perpendicular to the third base line. It shall extend 1.22 m (4ft.) from the third base line in foul territory

APPENDIX – BAT SPECIFICATIONS**OFFICIAL BAT**

For open divisions only use 240 compression stem/thumb print on bats. Intermediate divisions same as above plus bats manufactured with 220 compression. These grandfathered bats need to pass a 240 compression test.

APPENDIX – SCORING

- a. **MAXIMUM HOMERUNS SCORED PER GAME**
For Co-ed, women who hit home runs do not count towards total homeruns for the team. Each team is responsible for recovering the ball.
- b. Open divisions – five homeruns, match plus one.
- c. Intermediate divisions – 3 homeruns, match plus one.
- d. Recreational division – 1 homerun, match plus one.

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:

13.2.1. See Article 20 for provincial championship entry fee list.

13.2.2. 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.

13.2.3. Tournament UICs 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 and return unused funds to the Softball BC Board Representative who shall in turn return the funds to the Softball BC office.

13.2.4. DEADLINES Entry fees for Men & Women's categories are to be submitted to the Softball BC office by June 30th. Notwithstanding the foregoing, for 2025, the entry fee deadline for slo-pitch is August 25. Failure to submit the entry fee by the deadline will make the team ineligible to participate.

13.2.5. FORM OF FEES - All entry fees are to be are to be paid by credit card. Entry Fees not received on time, as stated, will automatically eliminate the team from the Provincial Championship.

13.2.6. REQUIRED INFORMATION - The entry fee be accompanied by the following information: team name, category, male or female, coach's name and phone number.

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 SOFTBALL BC BOARD REPRESENTATIVE - 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 Representative 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 Board 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:
 - a. Less than 4½ or 5 Innings Played: resume at breakoff point.
 - b. Winner after 4½ or 5 Innings: legal game.
 - c. 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 the Softball BC Board Representative and Host are unable to work 13.4.3, and there is time and place available, subject to the conditions in 13.4.1 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 Softball BC Board Representative and Host are unable to work 13.4.3 or 13.4.4 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 8.7.11 Minor Female and 9.7.4. Minor Male. 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 Board Representative or their appointed designate, in consultation with the UIC. Once a game has started, the Umpires, in consultation with the Softball BC Board 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 Board 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) (Fastpitch) 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 Board 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. SOFTBALL BC BOARD REPRESENTATIVE 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 Board 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 - Shorts and pants are allowable styles of uniform bottoms. An individual player is allowed to wear the allowable style of uniform bottom of their choice. Regardless of the mix of styles of uniform bottoms on a team, all uniform bottoms of the team must be identical in colour and pattern.

13.5.3. All players on a team must wear their uniforms as intended alike in colour, trim, and style.

13.5.4. 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.

13.5.5. Metal cleats are allowed in Rep ball at U15 and above. Metal cleats are not allowed in the game of Slo-pitch, Orthodox, Mixed Fastpitch

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

13.6. FORFEIT

13.6.1. PROTEST COMMITTEE - Any team which loses a game because 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 will be disqualified from the Tournament.

13.6.2. INJURY - In the case of a forfeit because of injury, the Softball BC Board Rep will allow that team to compete in any further games and retain their points from any previous games. The Designated Runner may be subbed in if a team is going to otherwise forfeit the game due to injury causing fewer than 9 players. That player is no longer a DR.

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 their 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 their District, then their 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. AUTOMATIC one (1) game suspension when ejected in or after the 5th Inning - Participants who are ejected in the 5th inning or later at Districts or Provincials will automatically receive a one (1) game suspension for the following 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 Representative in charge, or their assigned designate. The Board Representative shall be the Protest Committee Chair.

- 13.8.2. **ELIGIBILITY** - Softball BC Board Representative (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 submit to the Protest Committee Chair 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 further disciplinary action 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. **SOFTBALL BC BOARD REPRESENTATIVE 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 Fastpitch 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"

13.9.4. ENTRY PASS ALLOCATION - For ticketed events, teams competing in a Provincial Championship will be entitled to no more than five entry passes for all games, over and above the official player's roster submitted at the coaches meeting.

13.9.5. ACCOMMODATION - Leagues Association, hosting Provincial Championships will advise participating teams upon registration of the accommodations closest to the ballpark being used for this championship.

13.9.6. 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.

13.9.7. 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. The 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.

ARTICLE 14 – REGIONAL & PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP BIDS

- 14.1. **BIDS:** All bids for Softball U11C Celebrations, U13C Regionals, U11Rep Showcases & Provincial Championships must follow Provincial requirements:
- 14.1.1. **DEADLINE** - Bid deadline is the Saturday of the Annual General Meeting in October (5:00 p.m.). A schedule will be set prior to the bid period. Championships that have not been bid on by March 1st will be cancelled for the current season. (Exception: Minor).
NOTE: Application forms to submit bids for Championships can be found on the Softball BC website.
 - 14.1.2. **CONTENT** - Bids must include a description of the available facilities and a proposed budget for the event.
 - 14.1.3. **ELIGIBILITY** - Only recognized leagues or associations will be accepted as bidders for Provincial Championships.
 - 14.1.4. **FEE** - A hosting agreement fee of \$200.00 will be billed to the successful applicants upon notification of acceptance.
 - 14.1.5. **TIMING**
 - 14.1.6.1. Minor category Provincial 'A' Tournaments will begin on the third weekend after the long weekend in July.
EXCEPTION: U15 in Summer Games years.
 - 14.1.6.2. Minor category Provincial 'B' Tournaments will be held on the second weekend after the long weekend in July.
 - 14.1.6.3. Minor category Provincial 'C' Tournaments will be held on the first weekend after the long weekend in July.
 - 14.1.6.4. All Provincial Championships leading to a Canadian or Western Canadian be scheduled at least two weeks prior to the Inter-Provincial Championship.
 - 14.1.6. **RIGHT TO CHANGE** - Softball BC has the right to withdraw, reassign or reschedule any Provincial Championship for reasons including but not limited to:
 - a. The hosting fee has not been received.
 - b. The Provincial Championship Host Agreement has not been returned to the Softball BC office duly signed by the Coordinator and District Umpire-in-Chief.
 - c. Playing conditions are not acceptable.
 - d. Planning is not acceptable.
 - e. In taking such action the tournament dates will be varied only after every possible effort has been exhausted to find a suitable location for the Championship on the originally scheduled date.

- 14.1.7. **SOFTBALL BC ROLE** - Softball BC shall conduct and control Provincial Championships. They shall scrutinize the bids to confirm the best possible site for the Championships.
- 14.1.8. **MAY COMBINE** - The Board of Directors of Softball BC has the authority to combine two or more Provincial Championships into one site with the approval of the host association(s), providing that the number of teams does not exceed 20 teams.

ARTICLE 15 – WESTERN CANADIAN OR CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

15.1. **LETTER OF INTENT** - To represent BC at a Western Canadian or Canadian Championship, teams must complete and submit a Letter of Intent to Softball BC. Deadline for submission is as follows:

- Minor (U13-U19) - May 1st of the current playing season
- Adult (fastpitch only) - June 1st of the current playing season
- Adult (slo-pitch only) - June 1st of the year PRECEDING the championship

FOR 2025 ONLY - Deadline is April 15th for U19 Women's and Slo-Pitch.

15.2. **MUST ATTEND** - Teams that have submitted a Letter of Intent to participate in a Western Canadian or a Canadian Championship, and have qualified for that championship are obligated to attend. Teams failing to attend upon their commitment to do so may be liable for costs and further disciplinary action if a replacement team is not found to take that spot. Consequences may include:

- a. The club/association to pay all costs including but not limited to entry fees, administrative fees and penalty assessments made by the Western Canadian Softball Association or Softball Canada due to failure by the team to appear at said championship.
- b. DISQUALIFIED from attending Districts or Provincials and ineligible for Western Canadian or Canadian Championships for the following season when the team has six or more returning players.

15.3. **REPRESENTATIVE TEAM** - The team representing British Columbia at Canadian ('A' Classification) or Western Canadian ('B' Classification) Championships shall be as follows:

- a. BC1: The highest placing team at the qualifying Provincial Championship team to have completed a "Letter of Intent" by the due date.
- b. DEFENDING CHAMPION: Where the defending champion from the previous year's championship is eligible to attend in the same category, and has submitted a "Letter of Intent by the due date, that team shall be designated as DC.
- c. PRO RATA TEAM - where Softball Canada or Western Canada Softball Association has allocated additional spots to Softball BC, those teams shall be designated as BC2, BC3, BC4, etc. based on their place of finish at the qualifying Provincial Championship.

- 15.4. **FOLLOW UP** - Within 48 hours of winning a Provincial Championship, the team must contact the Softball BC office to confirm their participation and receive further information.

15.5. **TRAVEL ASSISTANCE** - See Article 20.

- 15.6. **PRIOR YEAR CHAMPION** - Prior year's Provincial Champion (Slopitch and Mixed Orthodox only).

- 15.7. **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY** - To be eligible to participate in any Minor Western or Canadian Championship all players must have participated in three games in an affiliated league with the team on which they are registered.

- 15.8. **CLASSIFICATION OF MINOR PLAYERS** - To be eligible for Western Canadian Championships, all minor 'B' teams must be made up of no fewer than 11 players who have not registered on any 'A' classification team in the preceding year. For the purposes of this, players from teams reclassified from 'A' to 'B' by the Programs & Championships Director pursuant Articles 8.2.2 d), 8.6.1, 9.2.1.6 and 9.2.10.6 shall be considered 'B' players.

NOTE: Softball BC is currently rewriting Article 9 - Minor Boys Fastpitch to eliminate references to B and A, categorizing all teams as C (community ball), effective for the 2025 season. The rule rewrite will also outline how teams will be identified for Western and/or Canadian Championships.

- 15.9. **HOST TEAM:**

The host team will be selected by the host association and submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.

- a. Association
- b. District
- c. City

Men and Women - If a team from the host association, city and/ or District wins the Provincial Championship, then the second place team in the Provincial Championship would also go to the Canadian or Western Canadian Championship.

MINOR - If a host association/district/city does not compete in Provincials, the host team will be based on the decision of the host, declared prior to the Provincials.

ARTICLE 16 - WESTERN/CANADIAN BIDS

- 16.1. **BID SELECTION** Where two or more organizations bid for the same Western Canadian or Canadian Championships, bids must be presented to the Board of Directors at its October Meeting for review and vote. Bids must include a detailed budget.
- 16.2. **FEE** The host association for WCSA submits their \$250 for Men's and Women's FP and SP and \$100 for Minor tournament fees when they submit the WCSA contract.
- 16.3. **LOSS** Softball BC will, upon receipt of a financial statement from the host, supply up to \$2,500.00 should the host report a loss. The grant will be prorated based on the amount of loss, as determined by the Softball BC Executive Director.
- 16.4. **UMPIRE PENALTY** - Each Province/Territory must send an umpire to each Western Canadian Championship they send a team to and when a P/T does not send an umpire they are assessed a \$500.00 penalty. The full \$500.00 penalty will be sent to the host association to cover costs associated with officials.
- 16.5. **FINE** - When a Province or Territory withdraws a team after June 15th of the current year they are assessed a \$1000.00 fine. The full penalty received by Softball BC from the Western Canadian Softball Association will be forwarded to the host association to cover costs.

ARTICLE 17 – TOURNAMENTS, EXHIBITION GAMES & LEAGUE GAMES

This article applies to all Minor and Men's & Women's Tournaments, Exhibition and League Games. Softball BC's Sport Liability and Participant Accident Insurance does not cover Softball BC members participating in unsanctioned tournaments and exhibition games.

17.1. TOURNAMENTS HOSTED BY A SOFTBALL BC MEMBER

All softball tournaments hosted by Softball BC teams and/or associations and held within the Province of BC, must be sanctioned by Softball BC for membership benefits to stand.

17.1.1. APPLYING FOR A SANCTION

- a. Sanction applications are completed online. Team/ Association applying for a sanction must be a member in good standing with Softball BC.
- b. RULES All rules, regulations and policies of Softball BC are to be adhered to.
- c. Tournament Sanctions should be obtained at least three (3) weeks prior to the date of the tournament. ANY applications received less than three (3) weeks prior to the tournament may be assessed a late fee of \$50.00. A sanction application MUST be accompanied by the signed / approved by the District UIC - "Online Sanction Request Form".
- d. Tournaments must use Provincial classification when inviting teams to participate in their event. (Senior A, Intermediate B, U23, etc., NOT Division 1, Division 3,... etc.)
- e. The tournament sanction, if granted, will be issued by the Softball BC office with the tournament details being posted to the website.
- f. NO sanctions will be issued in conflict with scheduled District Qualifier or Regional/Provincial Championships in the area.
- g. To avoid unnecessary confusion and turmoil at the tournament in the event of inclement weather, it is recommended that all tournament organizers adopt some form of rainout rules. Teams should be advised of these rules before they participate in a tournament.
- h. Umpires MUST BE registered with Softball BC or other Softball Governing Body if out of province. Registered umpires must be in an official uniform.
- i. The tournament host must secure and forward to Softball BC proof of insurance (CGL – Commercial General Liability) from all non-Softball BC Affiliated teams participating in the tournament. Non-Softball BC Affiliated teams are not allowed to participate in the tournament without proof of insurance.

- j. Softball BC's Injury and Liability Insurance covers teams in good standing with Softball BC when participating in tournaments hosted by a Softball BC Member in good standing. Proof of membership can be verified with the Softball BC Office.

17.1.2. **RESULTS**

- a. Any irregularities, problems, conflicts, etc. must be reported to Softball BC within 72 hours after the completion of the tournament.
- b. For Minor Tournaments Only
 - i. The results of all minor tournaments, together with any recommendations as to team classification, shall be forwarded by the tournament hosts to the Softball BC office immediately upon conclusion of the tournament for the use by Association administrators and Minor Coordinators to properly assess and classify teams in their respective Association/District.
 - ii. Failure to submit tournament results may result in having future sanction requests denied.

17.2. **TOURNAMENTS HOSTED BY A NON-SOFTBALL BC MEMBER**

17.2.1. The Softball BC's Sport Liability and Participant Accident Insurance does not cover Softball BC members when playing in a tournament hosted by a non-Softball BC Affiliated team

17.2.2. The Softball BC members are responsible for securing their own liability and medical insurance.

17.3. **IN PROVINCE EXHIBITION / LEAGUE GAMES**

17.3.1. Between members in good standing - Softball BC's Injury and Liability Insurance does cover both teams when the game is between two Softball BC teams in good standing.

17.3.2. Against a non-Softball BC affiliated team - The Softball BC's Sport Liability and Participant Accident Insurance does not cover the Softball BC team participating in a game against a non-Softball BC affiliated team. Teams are responsible for securing their own liability and medical insurance.

17.4. **PARTICIPATION IN OUT OF PROVINCE EXHIBITION / LEAGUE GAME OR TOURNAMENTS**

17.4.1. In accordance with Softball BC rules, members who wish to play or officiate softball outside of BC must advise Softball BC by completing the Softball BC Travel Advisory Form.

17.4.2. The Softball BC's Sport Liability (CGL) and Participant Accident (PA) Insurance does cover members in good standing with Softball BC when participating in out-of-province exhibition games or tournaments as long as the team has the following terms met:

- a. The member(s) has advised Softball BC Office of their travel by submitting a Softball BC Travel Advisory Form and;
- b. The Softball Canada affiliated Provincial or Territorial Softball Association has sanctioned the exhibition game or tournament.

17.4.2.1. Members are responsible for having their own travel medical insurance when traveling out of province to ensure you are covered for out-of-pocket expenses e.g., hospitalization, medication, ambulance, and treatment fees for injuries sustained off the field of play. Please note: The British Columbia Medical Services Plan (BCMSP) does NOT provide medical coverage to you in another province.

17.4.3. In cases where the exhibition game or tournament is not sanctioned by a Softball Canada affiliated Provincial or Territorial Softball Association, members are responsible for securing their own insurance which would include:

- a. Commercial General Liability (CGL) Insurance
- b. And adequate travel medical insurance to ensure you are covered for out-of-pocket expenses e.g., hospitalization, medication, ambulance, and treatment fees for injuries and illness.

Teams can apply to Softball BC for assistance in securing a quote from our insurance broker, SBC Insurance or use another broker of their choice. Please note, a separate form (NOT the Softball BC Travel Advisory Form) will be sent to you to collect the details necessary to provide a CGL and/or travel medical insurance quote.

17.5. **PARTICIPATION IN OUT OF COUNTRY EXHIBITION / LEAGUE GAMES OR TOURNAMENTS**

17.5.1. In accordance with Softball BC rules, members who wish to play or officiate softball outside of BC must advise Softball BC by completing the Softball BC Travel Advisory Form.

17.5.2. The Softball BC's Sport Liability (CGL) and Participant Accident (PA) Insurance does not cover Softball BC members travelling to tournaments or exhibition games outside of Canada.

17.5.3. 17.5.3 Teams are responsible for securing their own insurance which should include:

- a. Commercial General Liability (CGL) Insurance
- b. And adequate travel medical insurance to ensure you are covered for out-of-pocket expenses e.g., hospitalization, medication, ambulance, and treatment fees for injuries and illness.

Teams can apply to Softball BC for assistance in securing a quote from our insurance broker, SBC Insurance or use another broker of their choice. Please note, a separate form (NOT the Softball BC Travel Advisory Form) will be sent to you to collect the details necessary to provide a CGL and/or travel medical insurance quote.

ARTICLE 18 – COACHING REQUIREMENTS

18.1. COACHING QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

18.1.1. Girls & Boys Fastpitch

This article applies to teams attending District Playdowns, Regional Championship, Celebrations of Softball, Showcases or Provincial Championships

- i. Coach Registration - 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, U11C Celebration of Softball, U11 Rep Showcase or a Provincial must have a minimum of two (2) coaches registered with the team. Only one (1) needs to be qualified at the minimum NCCP level as per Article 18.2 (chart) below.

- ii. Minimum Coaching Qualifications - Girls
 - U13A, U13B, U15C, U17C and U20C – minimum: NCCP Community Sport - Ongoing Participation and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation.
 - U15A, U15B, U17A, U17B, U19A, U19B – minimum: NCCP Competition Introduction (i.e., attended Clinic #1 & #2) and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation.
- iii. Minimum Coaching Qualifications - Boys
 - U13C and Rep,U15C, U17C AND U20C – minimum NCCP Community Sport - Ongoing Participation with completion of Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation.
 - New Coaches only – Foundations Of Coaching Softball 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 – Foundations Of Coaching Softball Part 1 and Part

Note:

- Community Sport Ongoing Participation: 16 hours
- Competition – Introduction – Clinic #1 (In Training) – 16 hours
- Competition – Introduction – Clinic #2 (In Training) – 16 hours
- Completion of the Making Ethical Decisions module includes the successful completion of the evaluation.

iv. Coach on Field

A qualified NCCP coach must be on the field of play at the Softball BC Celebrations, Showcases, Regionals, District Playdowns and Provincial Championship with the team they are registered with.

EFFECT: the team is ineligible without a qualified coach, and the game would be forfeited.

EXCEPTIONS:

a. Softball BC may exempt any coach who, for any unusual or exigent circumstance, may not have achieved the appropriate level prior to a Provincial Championship. See article 18.3.

b. Medical emergencies or any unforeseen circumstances deemed so by the onsite Softball BC Board Representative.

18.1.2. Women's Fastpitch

i. Coaching Qualifications - Provincials

RECOMMENDED

- Women's C and D – recommended minimum OGP or Competition Introduction In Training and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation.
- Women's A and B – recommended minimum Competition Introduction Trained and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation.

Note:

- Introduction to Competition trained (i.e., attended Clinic #1 & #2)
- Competition – Introduction – Clinic #1 (In Training) - 16 hours
- Competition – Introduction – Clinic #2 (In Training) - 16 hours
- Completion of the Making Ethical Decisions module includes the successful completion of the evaluation.

ii. Coaching Qualifications – Western and Canadian Championship

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION

- Western Canadian Championship – required minimum OGP and and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation.
- Canadian Championship – required minimum Competition Introduction Certified and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation.

18.1.3. Men's Fastpitch

i. Coaching Qualifications - Provincials

RECOMMENDED

- Men's Intermediate A, B and C – recommended minimum OGP or Competition Introduction In Training and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation.
- Men's A and B – recommended minimum Competition Introduction Trained and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation.

Note:

- Introduction to Competition trained (i.e., attended Clinic #1 & #2)
- Competition – Introduction – Clinic #1 (In Training) - 16 hours
- Competition – Introduction – Clinic #2 (In Training) - 16 hours
- Completion of the Making Ethical Decisions module includes the successful completion of the evaluation.

ii. Coaching Qualifications - Western and Canadian Championship

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION

- Western Canadian Championship – required minimum OGP and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation.
- Canadian Championship – required minimum Competition Introduction Certified and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation.

18.1.4. Men's & Women's Slo-pitch

There are currently no minimum qualifications.

18.2. SUMMARY CHART

CATEGORY	REQUIREMENT: For all events leading up to and including Provincial Championships	REQUIREMENT: Western Canadian Championships	REQUIREMENT: Canadian Championship (Head Coach)
U7/U9	Recommended - Community Sport Ongoing Participation and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	N/A	N/A
Girls & Boys - U11 Community and Rep	Recommended - Community Sport Ongoing Participation and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	N/A	N/A
Girls - U13A	Community Sport Ongoing Participation and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	N/A	N/A
Girls - U13B	Community Sport Ongoing Participation and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	Competition Introduction Certified	N/A
Girls U13C (recommended)	Community Sport Ongoing Participation and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	N/A	N/A

Boys U13C, B & A	Community Sport Ongoing Participation and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation * New Coaches only require Foundations Of Coaching Softball Part 1	N/A	N/A
Girls U15A	Competition Introduction (i.e., attended Clinic #1 & #2) and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	N/A	Competition Introduction Certified *
Boys U15A	Introduction to Competition training (i.e. attended clinic 1 & 2) with completion of Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation. * New Coaches Only – Foundations Of Coaching Softball Part 1 and Part 2	N/A	Competition Introduction Certified *
Girls U15B	Competition Introduction (i.e., attended Clinic #1 & #2) and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	Competition Introduction Certified	N/A

Boys U15B	Introduction to Competition training (i.e. attended clinic 1 & 2) with completion of Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation. * New Coaches Only – Foundations Of Coaching Softball Part 1 and Part 2	Competition Introduction Certified	N/A
Girls U15C	Community Sport Ongoing Participation and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	N/A	N/A
Boys U15C	Community Sport Ongoing Participation and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation * New Coaches only require Foundations Of Coaching Softball Part 1	N/A	N/A
Girls U17A	Competition Introduction (i.e., attended Clinic #1 & #2) and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	N/A	Competition Introduction Certified *

Boys U17A	Introduction to Competition training (i.e. attended clinic 1 & 2) with completion of Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation. * New Coaches Only – Foundations Of Coaching Softball Part 1 and Part 2	N/A	Competition Introduction Certified *
Girls U17B	Competition Introduction (i.e., attended Clinic #1 & #2) and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	Competition Introduction Certified	N/A
Boys U17B	Introduction to Competition training (i.e. attended clinic 1 & 2) with completion of Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation. * New Coaches Only – Foundations Of Coaching Softball Part 1 and Part 2	Competition Introduction Certified	N/A
Girls U17C	Community Sport Ongoing Participation and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	N/A	N/A

Boys U17C	Community Sport Ongoing Participation and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation * New Coaches only require Foundations Of Coaching Softball Part 1	N/A	N/A
Girls U19A	Competition Introduction (i.e., attended Clinic #1 & #2) and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	N/A	Competition Introduction Certified *
Boys U19A	Community Sport Ongoing Participation and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation * New Coaches only require Foundations Of Coaching Softball Part 1	N/A	Competition Introduction Certified *
Girls U19B	Competition Introduction (i.e., attended Clinic #1 & #2) and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	Competition Introduction Certified	N/A
Boys U19B	Community Sport Ongoing Participation and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation * New Coaches only require Foundations Of Coaching Softball Part 1	Competition Introduction Certified	N/A

Girls U20C	Community Sport Ongoing Participation and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	N/A	N/A
Boys U20C	Community Sport Ongoing Participation and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation * New Coaches only require Foundations Of Coaching Softball Part 1	N/A	N/A
Men's & Women's A	Recommended - Competition Introduction Trained and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	N/A	Required - Competition Introduction Certified and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation *
Women's Intermediate A	Recommended - Competition Introduction Trained and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	N/A	Required - Competition Introduction Certified and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation *
Men's & Women's B	Recommended - Competition Introduction Trained and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	Required - Community Sport Ongoing Participation and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	N/A

Men's Intermediate A & B	Recommended - Community Sport Ongoing Participation OR Competition Introduction in Training AND Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	N/A	N/A
Women's C & D	Recommended - Community Sport Ongoing Participation OR Competition Introduction in Training AND Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	N/A	N/A
U23 Men & Women	Recommended - Competition Introduction Trained and Making	Required - Community Sport Ongoing Participation and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation	Required - Competition Introduction Certified and Making Ethical Decisions Evaluation *

* Assistant Coaches must be Competition Introduction Trained.

18.3. COACHING QUALIFICATION EXEMPTIONS

Softball BC may exempt any coach who, for any unusual or exigent circumstance, may not have achieved the appropriate coaching qualifications for participation in District Playdowns, Regional Championship, Celebrations of Softball, Showcases or Provincial Championships.

Coaches requesting an exemption must:

- i. Have completed the Safe Sport and Making Ethical Decisions online modules, and
- ii. Be in a position to demonstrated that all opportunities to obtain required qualifications were exhausted

A request for an exemption must be submitted online via the Softball BC Website.

NOTE: Softball BC cannot grant exemptions from Western Canadian or Canadian Coaching Qualifications requirements.

18.4. APPRENTICE COACH PROGRAM

18.4.1. Definitions

- i. Minor Apprentice Coach – A registered minor player who wishes to gain coaching skills under an experienced coach. The player must be 14 years of age and up and must have completed the Foundations of Coaching 1 and 2 at the time of application.
The apprentice coach may only be approved for a team in the same or lower classification as they are registered and only in a younger age category than their birth year category. For example, a U15 aged player registered in U17 is still considered to be a U17 aged player and can only coach in age group U13 and younger.
- ii. Mentor Coach – A rostered coach who is NCCP certified to the level they are currently coaching and have completed the online MED Evaluation (Making Ethical Decisions) at the time of the application.

18.4.2. Application Procedure

The application must be submitted online, via the Softball BC Website, by the mentor coach.

18.5. COACH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTENDEES

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

The responsibilities of a coach relative to the team's attendees is in effect prior to the game, during the game, and post-game.

18.6. WHEELCHAIR COACHES

Criteria for on field (coach's box) participation

- a. The wheelchair must be manually propelled. Motorized wheelchairs are not acceptable.
- b. Hazardous areas or protrusions of the wheelchair, as determined by the Softball BC Board Representative, in consultation with the Tournament Umpire-in-Chief and the Tournament Director, will be removed or padded.
- c. In reference to Softball Canada Rule 10.1 should a question pertaining to the safety of any participants, due to the mobility of the wheelchair coach, the plate umpire must consult with the Softball BC Board Representative, the Tournament Director and the Tournament Umpire-in-Chief before any action is taken.

ARTICLE 19 – UMPIRES

19.1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- 19.1.1. Only umpires currently registered and in good standing with Softball BC, may vote on their respective District Umpire-in-Chief position.
- 19.1.2. The designated Umpire-in-Chief of all Minor ‘A’ Provincial Championships shall not umpire in the Tournament.
- 19.1.3. The designated Softball BC Board Representative shall not umpire in the Provincial tournament.
- 19.1.4. The designated Tournament Umpire-in-Chief of all Men’s and Women’s, Fastpitch and Slo-pitch Provincial Championships, shall not umpire in the Tournament, except under unusual circumstances.
- 19.1.5. Umpire procedures and duties shall confirm to Rule 3.6 Umpire of the Softball Canada Rulebook.
- 19.1.6. In all Softball BC Championships, Western Canadian Championships (hosted in BC), international tournaments or international tours hosted in BC, requiring Softball BC and / or Softball Canada sanction, the Softball BC Provincial Umpire-in-Chief or his appointed representative, shall select and oversee the assignment of all game officials. International tournaments or international tours shall be defined as “A tournament or tour which has teams from outside North America or national teams from North American countries.” All World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) sanctioned events held in BC will be administered by the Softball Canada National Director of Umpires (NDU). The Softball Canada NDU may appoint the Softball BC UIC or his designate to UIC these events.
- 19.1.7. Softball BC shall recognize only one Amateur Umpire Association in BC, that to be the Association that is presently affiliated with BC.A.S.A.
- 19.1.8. No District Umpire-in-Chief and/or designate shall receive remuneration for allocating District or BC Championship umpires.
- 19.1.9. All District Umpires-in-Chief must make the Provincial Championship(s) in their District their first priority over invitational tournaments.

19.2. UMPIRE CERTIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION

Softball BC shall follow the Umpire certification criteria for Softball Canada with the certification levels and Provincial/National responsibilities as outlined below.

Level 1	This certification is for a new umpire and allows individuals to officiate local Minor and Men's and Women's recreational softball. To maintain Level I status, a Certification clinic or Refresher Clinic must be taken every year and successfully pass the National Umpire Exam (70%).
Level 2	This certification is for an umpire who has been a Level II for at least two years. This certification allows umpires to officiate local and provincial/territorial Minor level and/or local Men's and Women's softball and consideration for selection as a secondary selection to a U15 or U17 Canadian Championship. To maintain Level II status, a Certification clinic must be taken every 2 years and successfully pass the National Umpire Exam (70%).
Level 3	This certification is for Umpires who has been a Level II for at least 2 years and allows them to Officiate Provincial/Territorial Minor and Men's and Women's softball and qualifies Umpires to officiate U19, U23, Women's, and Masters National tournaments. Individuals must be at least 18 years old. To obtain this certification an Umpire must be invited to a Level III clinic and be evaluated at a U19A or Women's tournament with recommendation from the Championship UIC. To maintain Level III status, a Certification clinic must be taken every year and successfully pass the National Umpire Exam (80%).
Level 4	To obtain this certification, umpires must be a Level III at least 2 years, be recommended by the Provincial UIC, complete a Level IV national clinic, and have recommendations from the U19 Women's.
Level 5	To obtain this certification, umpires must be a Level IV for at least 2 years, attend 2 FP or 1 SP Canadian Championships with successful evaluations and get a recommendation from the National Director of Umpires (NDU) and approved by the Softball Canada Board of Directors.
Emeritus	For the umpire who has retired from on field-work and is working in an administrative role such instructing clinics or evaluating.

- 19.3. **SOFTBALL BC UMPIRE REGISTRATION** must be completed online by May 31st of the current year.
- 19.4. **UMPIRE MEMBERSHIP/REGISTRATION** shall be granted by the District UIC and approved by the Provincial UIC.
- 19.5. **THE PROVINCIAL UIC** may refuse a Softball BC umpire registration for reasons deemed to be characteristic of a member not in good standing. This refusal must be ratified by the Board of Directors of Softball BC.
- 19.6. **THE TERM OF MEMBERSHIP** shall begin upon affiliation and payment of set fees, and exist until the next affiliation date of January 1st.
- 19.7. **SOFTBALL BC UMPIRES REGISTRATION / MEMBERSHIP** shall be granted after January 1st for the current season.
- 19.8. **SOFTBALL BC UMPIRES** are required each year to complete the Softball Canada National Umpires Exam on-line for the certification level they hold as of January 1st of that year.
- 19.9. **EACH DISTRICT UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF** will be responsible to schedule all appropriate clinics to be held in their district, notify the office of the dates to be publicized on the Softball BC website and schedule instructors for each clinic working with the PODC Education Officer.
- 19.10. **DRESS AND EQUIPMENT**
- 19.10.1. Softball BC registered umpires must comply with the required Softball BC approved dress code for umpires when umpiring in the province. There will be no exceptions. Umpires assigned to Western and Canadian Championships must comply with the Softball Canada dress code. Umpires traveling out of province will be required to follow the Softball Canada dress code. Failure to comply with the above dress code requirements may result in disciplinary action.
- 19.10.2. A registered umpire will be expected to comply with all the required protective safety equipment as spelled out in the Softball Canada Umpires Certification Manuals.
- 19.11. **EXPENSES - UMPIRES**
- All umpires expenditures must be submitted in writing, complete with receipts, directly to the Softball BC office. All expenditures will be subject to the approval of the Provincial Umpire-in-Chief. If the expense claim is approved, the expenditure will be submitted for payment.

19.12. UMPIRE TRAVEL PERMITS

19.12.1. All umpires who are requested to officiate out-of-province must have permission from the Provincial UIC; actions contrary to this may lead to immediate suspension.

19.13. EVALUATIONS AND INTER-PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL TRANSFERS

19.13.1. An incoming umpire shall hold their former Softball Canada level in BC if coming from another Provincial or Territory within Canada. Baseball certified Umpires may join Softball BC at one level below their Baseball certification pending an evaluation by the Provincial Umpire in Chief or their designate.

ARTICLE 20 - FEES AND FINANCIAL ITEMS

20.1. MINOR REGISTRATION FEES

Annual dues coaches and managers U7 to U9	\$23.00
Annual dues players U7 to U9	\$33.00
Annual dues players, coaches and managers U11	\$23.00
Annual dues players, coaches and managers U13-U20	\$25.00
Team Fee for U7 to U9	No Team Fee
Team Fee for U11	\$150.00
Team Fee for U13 A & B	\$250.00
Team Fee for U13 C to U20 C	\$235.00
Team Fee for U15 B to U19 B	\$475.00
Team Fee for U15 A to U19 A	\$550.00
League/Association Executive	\$23.00

NOTE: \$2.00 from each U13 through U20 registration is redirected to the Minor Development Fund.

20.2. ADULT REGISTRATION FEES

Player Fee (A, B, C, D, Intermediate, Masters, Masters 40+ or Masters 55+, Mixed Orthodox)	N/A
Team Fee (Fastpitch A, B, C, D, Intermediate, Masters, Masters 40+ or Masters 55+, Mixed Orthodox and Slo-Pitch)	\$300.00 / per team
Annual Membership Dues (Association/Club Executives not on a team roster)	\$23.00 / person

20.3. **SOFTBALL BC LIFETIME NUMBER** - (One time only) applies to players, coaches, managers, umpires and association executives. \$10.00

20.4. UMPIRE REGISTRATION FEES

Level 1 & 2	Certification	\$110.00*
	Certification	\$120.00**
Level 3	Certification	\$145.00*
	No Clinic	\$95.00
Level 4	No Clinic	\$110.00
Level 5	No Clinic	\$120.00
Emeritus		\$30.00

*price includes clinic, but no rulebook **price includes clinic and rulebook

NOTE: \$3 from each umpire registration is directed to the Gordon McDonald/Margo & Dorene Thoms Bursary Fund. An additional portion of the registration fee is directed to the Umpire Development Fund - \$5 for Level 1 and Level 2, \$10 for Level 3, \$15 for Level 4 and \$20 for Level 5.

20.5. CHAMPIONSHIP FEES

U11C CELEBRATION OF SOFTBALL ENTRY FEE	\$400 + GST
U11REP SHOWCASE ENTRY FEE	\$450 + GST
U13C REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY FEE	\$400 + GST
ALL MINOR CATEGORIES	\$600 + GST
A WOMEN FASTPITCH	\$600 + GST
INTERMEDIATE A WOMEN FASTPITCH	\$600 + GST
B/C/D WOMEN FASTPITCH	\$600 + GST
MEN'S FASTPITCH	\$600 + GST
MIXED ORTHO	\$600 + GST
MEN'S, WOMEN'S & MIXED SLO-PITCH	\$600 + GST

20.6. TEAM TRAVEL FUND

20.6.1 Where Softball BC has designated funds to assist teams in travel costs to their respective championship, the funds will be paid to the club/association directly. Travel assistance is provided only to the team designated as BC1 (unless the defending champion team finishes higher at the appropriate Provincial Championship and had submitted a Letter of Intent before the deadline, in which case the DC will receive the travel assistance). Funding is based on a formula of number of teams and distance to the championship destination.

20.6.2 RECIPIENTS - The recipients of the team travel fund will be as follows:

1. Teams must participate in a Provincial Championship providing a championship is held to qualify.
2. Softball BC will determine the funding allocated to teams travelling to Western Canadian and Canadian Championships
3. The amount of payout to teams is based on how far they travel and other travel funding available
4. The highest finishing team from the Provincial Championship travelling to a Western Canadian or Canadian Championship is eligible to receive the travel funding. The amount of travel one way must be equal to or greater than 400 kilometres to be eligible. (Ferry travel to and from Vancouver Island is considered to be applied as a 400 km trip).



Annexes and Links

Annexes

Available for download on softball.bc.ca

ANNEX 'A'

Minor Provincial Championship Draws – Round Robin – online and in handbook

ANNEX 'B'

Knockout Championship Draw – online and in handbook

ANNEX 'C'

Women C – Modified Round Robin – online

ANNEX 'D'

Women D – Championship Draw – online

ANNEX 'E'

Minor Pickup Chart – online and in book

ANNEX 'F'

Men's & Women's Pick-Up Chart – online and in book

ANNEX 'G'

U13B Championship Round – Single Knockout – online

Also Available Online:

Tournament Brackets - (Double Knockout)

5-16 Team DKO

Annex 'A' Minor Provincial Championship Draws - Round Robin

3 Teams

G1	1-2
G2	2-3
G3	3-1

4 Teams

G1	1-2
G2	3-4

G3	1-3
G4	2-4

G5	2-3
G6	1-4

5 Teams

G1	1-2
G2	3-4
G3	1-5
G4	2-3

G5	4-5
G6	1-3
G7	2-4
G8	3-5

G9	1-4
G10	2-5

6 Teams

G1	1-2
G2	3-4
G3	5-6
G4	1-3

G5	4-6
G6	2-5
G7	1-4
G8	2-6

G9	3-5
G10	1-6
G11	3-2
G12	4-5

7 Teams

G1	1-2
G2	3-4
G3	5-6
G4	7-2
G5	1-3

G6	4-6
G7	2-5
G8	6-7
G9	1-4
G10	5-7

G11	2-3
G12	1-6
G13	5-3
G14	4-7

8 Teams

(2 Diamonds required)

DAY 1

G1	1-2
G2	3-4
G3	5-6
G4	7-8
G5	1-4
G6	2-3
G7	5-7
G8	6-8

DAY 2

G9	3-8
G10	4-7
G11	2-5
G12	1-6
G13	4-8
G14	3-7
G15	2-6
G16	1-5

9 Teams

(2 Diamonds required)

DAY 1

G1	1-2
G2	3-4
G3	5-6
G4	7-8
G5	9-2
G6	1-3
G7	4-5
G8	6-7
G9	8-9

DAY 2

G10	7-9
G11	6-8
G12	3-5
G13	2-4
G14	8-1
G15	6-9
G16	5-7
G17	2-3
G18	1-4

10 Teams

(2 Diamonds required)

DAY 1

G1	1-2
G2	3-5
G3	4-6
G4	7-8
G5	9-10
G6	1-3
G7	2-4
G8	5-6
G9	7-9
G10	8-10

DAY 2

G11	7-10
G12	8-9
G13	4-5
G14	3-6
G15	10-2
G16	9-1
G17	6-8
G18	5-7
G19	2-3
G20	1-4

11 Teams

(3 Diamonds required)

DAY 1

G1	1-2
G2	3-4
G3	5-6
G4	7-8
G5	9-10
G6	11-1
G7	2-3
G8	4-5
G9	6-7
G10	8-9
G11	10-11

DAY 2

G12	8-11
G13	7-10
G14	3-9
G15	4-6
G16	2-5
G17	10-1
G18	9-11
G19	6-8
G20	5-7
G21	2-4
G22	1-3

12 Teams

(3 Diamonds required)

DAY 1

G1	1-2
G2	3-4
G3	5-6
G4	7-8
G5	9-10
G6	11-12
G7	1-3
G8	2-5
G9	4-6
G10	7-10
G11	8-12
G12	9-11

DAY 2

G13	10-12
G14	8-9
G15	5-11
G16	3-6
G17	2-4
G18	1-7
G19	10-11
G20	9-12
G21	5-8
G22	6-7
G23	2-3
G24	1-4

13 Teams

(3 Diamonds required)

DAY 1

G1	1-2
G2	3-4
G3	5-6
G4	7-8
G5	9-10
G6	11-12
G7	13-1
G8	2-3
G9	4-5
G10	6-7
G11	8-9
G12	10-11
G13	12-13

DAY 2

G14	11-13
G15	8-10
G16	7-12
G17	6-9
G18	3-5
G19	1-4
G20	13-2
G21	9-11
G22	10-12
G23	6-8
G24	5-7
G25	2-4
G26	1-3

14 Teams

(3 Diamonds required)

DAY 1

G1	1-2
G2	3-4
G3	5-6
G4	7-8
G5	9-10
G6	11-12
G7	13-14
G8	1-3
G9	2-5
G10	4-6
G11	7-9
G12	8-10
G13	11-13
G14	12-14

DAY 2

G15	10-14
G16	12-13
G17	8-9
G18	7-11
G19	3-5
G20	2-4
G21	1-6
G22	10-13
G23	11-14
G24	9-12
G25	5-7
G26	6-8
G27	2-3
G28	1-4

15 Teams

(3 Diamonds required)

DAY 1

G1	1-2
G2	3-4
G3	5-6
G4	7-8
G5	9-10
G6	11-12
G7	13-14
G8	15-1
G9	2-3
G10	4-5
G11	6-7
G12	8-9
G13	10-11
G14	12-13
G15	14-15

DAY 2

G16	13-15
G17	12-14
G18	9-11
G19	8-10
G20	4-7
G21	3-6
G22	2-5
G23	14-1
G24	13-11
G25	10-15
G26	9-12
G27	6-8
G28	5-7
G29	2-4
G30	1-3

16 Teams

(4 Diamonds required)

DAY 1

G1	1-2
G2	3-4
G3	5-6
G4	7-8
G5	9-10
G6	11-12
G7	13-14
G8	15-16
G9	1-3
G10	2-5
G11	4-6
G12	7-9
G13	8-10
G14	11-13
G15	12-15
G16	14-16

DAY 2

G17	13-15
G18	12-16
G19	10-14
G20	8-11
G21	6-9
G22	3-7
G23	2-4
G24	1-5
G25	14-15
G26	13-16
G27	10-11
G28	9-12
G29	5-8
G30	6-7
G31	2-3
G32	1-4

All Knockout Championship finals to start at 7:00 pm on second day.

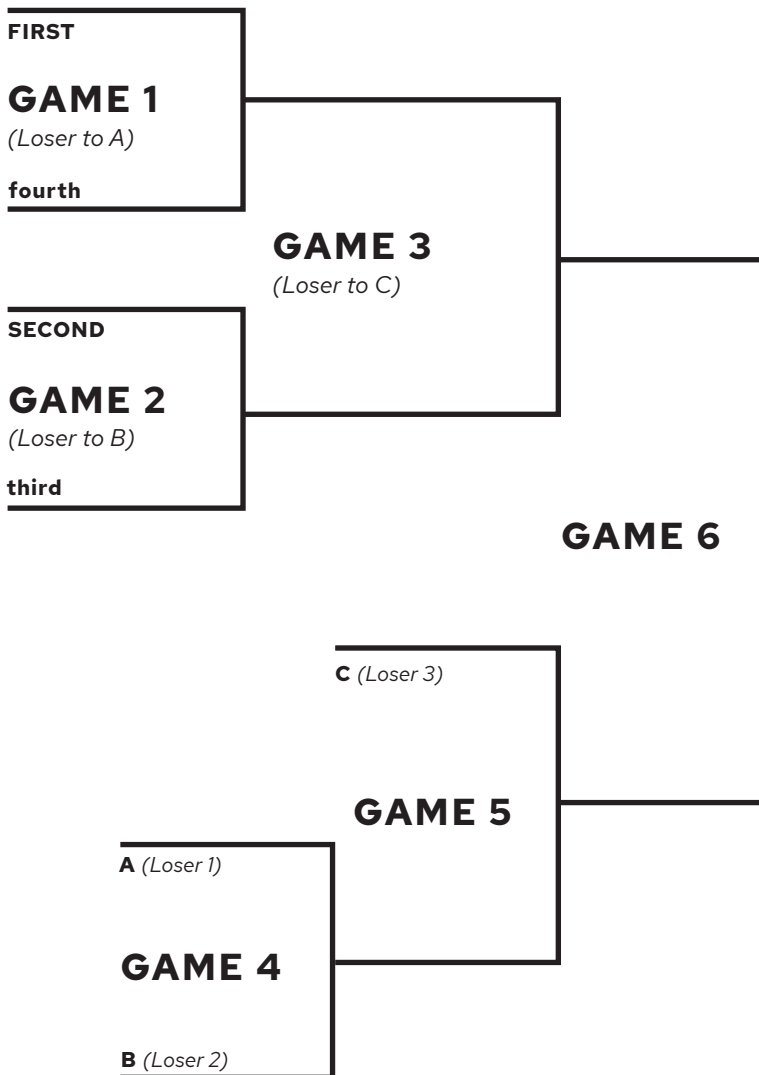
Annex 'B' Knockout Championship Draw

MINOR - CHAMPIONSHIP DRAWS (3-8 TEAMS) 3 TEAM FORMAT



Annex 'B' Provincial Championship Draws

4 TEAM FORMAT



5 TEAM FORMAT



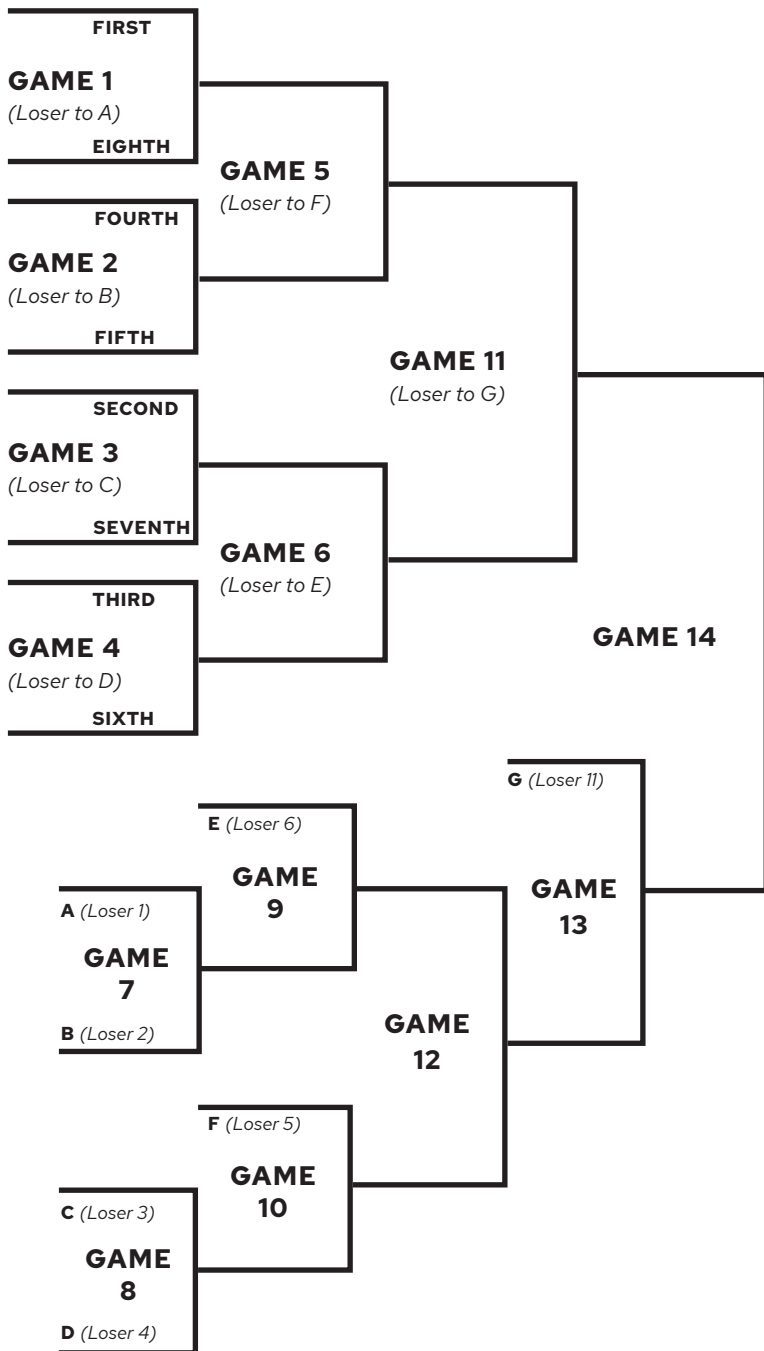
6 TEAM FORMAT



7 TEAM FORMAT



8 TEAM FORMAT



Annex 'E' Minor Pickup Chart

To be read top to bottom, not right to left.

YOUR TEAM	U19			U20			U17			U15			U13		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
	U19			U20			U17			U15			U13		
MAY PICK UP FROM															
A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ Yes, you may pick up from that category/classification

✗ No, you may not pick up from that category/classification

Annex 'F' Men & Women Pickup Chart

YOUR TEAM		M/W A	INTERMEDIATE A	M/W B	M/W C	M/W D	U23A	U23B	U23C	U23D	MASTER
M/W A		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
INTERMEDIATE A		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MASTER		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
M/W B		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
M/W C		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
M/W D		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U23A		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U23B		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U23C		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U23D		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U19A		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U19B		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U20C		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MAY PICK UP FROM											

M/F = Men and Women

✓ **Yes**, you may pick up from that category/classification

✗ **No**, you may not pick up from that category/classification





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