

## **Revised Article 9 Minor Boys Fastpitch**

### **9.1 MINOR BOYS - DEFINITIONS**

- 9.1.1. 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.
- 9.1.2. 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.
- 9.1.3. 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.
- 9.1.4. CHARGED CONFERENCE (DEFENSIVE AND OFFENSIVE) – The defensive conference rule with regard to pitchers and the offensive conference rule are both waived for the U13 and below categories.
- 9.1.5. DESIGNATED PLAYER – The designated player rule is in effect for U15 and above categories.
- 9.1.6. DOUBLE BASE – Minor Only: The offensive player must use the orange portion of the bag if a play is made at first base, and the defensive player must use the white portion. Exception: On any live ball play from first base side foul territory, the defensive and offensive players may use either portion of the base.
- 9.1.7. DROPPED THIRD STRIKE – In U13 and below categories, the batter is out on the third strike, whether or not the ball is caught. The ball remains alive.
- 9.1.8. 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:
  - a. By or under the supervision of a coach for purposes of stats, scorekeeping, and music.
  - b. By a coach for purposes of tracking time.
  - c. In no circumstances may electronic devices be used for purposes of communication amongst participants or between participants and spectators or others outside the game.
- 9.1.9. FOOTWEAR - Metal cleats are not allowed except for Westerns and Canadians.
- 9.1.10. HELMETS (BATTING) – An approved helmet shall be one that is fully enclosed, with two ear flaps, a foam liner, and a peak.
- 9.1.11. HELMETS & MASKS (CATCHER) – Minor catchers must wear a regulation helmet and

mask and/or approved equipment.

9.1.12. HOME PLATE – The distance from the plate to the backstop shall be between 17 feet and 25 feet.

9.1.13. INFIELD FLY – The Infield Fly rule shall not apply to U9 and U11. Does apply to U13 and older.

9.1.14. LEAGUE – three teams of the same classification.

9.1.15. REPLACEMENT RUNNER: A replacement runner is a player who may run for the catcher and/or pitcher of record from the previous defensive inning and who is now on base with two out.

9.1.1.1. The replacement runner must be:

- a. currently in the batting order;
- b. the person in the batting order who is furthest from coming to bat and who is not on base.

9.1.16. 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.

9.1.17. 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.

9.1.18. START TIME – The 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.

- a. U20, U17: no new inning after 90 minutes. No time limit will be in effect for all medal games.
- b. 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.

9.1.19. 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.

9.1.20. ON DECK CIRCLE – the on-deck batter has the right to go to either on-deck batting circle as he/she chooses.

9.1.21. UNIFORMS – all District, Provincial and sanctioned events must meet uniform regulations detailed in Article 13.

9.1.22. 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.

- 9.1.23. PROHIBITION – In all minor categories, players and coaches are forbidden to smoke, chew tobacco or have alcoholic products in dugouts, on players' benches or any part of the playing field. Violators will be ejected from the game.
- 9.1.24. 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.
- 9.1.25. FEMALE PLAYERS on a boys team must not exceed 50%, however, this can be reviewed by the Minor Coordinator and Programs & Championship Director on a case-by-case basis.

## **9.2. REGISTRATION**

- 9.2.1. 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.
- 9.2.2. 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.
- 9.2.3. 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.
- 9.2.4. 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 no 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.
- 9.2.5. Any coach who allows participation of an ineligible player in Provincial or extra-Provincial events may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Softball BC Discipline Policy.

- 9.2.6. 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 player's 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 & Championship 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.
- 9.2.7. 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 & Championship Director mutually agree that, under exceptional circumstance,s a release and/or transfer is in the best interest of the player and the programs of Softball BC
- 9.2.8. Any Minor player considered ineligible pursuant to these rules may be subject to disciplinary action.
- 9.2.9. 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 U20 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 the online application (see Article 18).

**9.3. MINOR REGISTRATION DEADLINE:**

- 9.3.1. All 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.
- 9.3.2. 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.

- 9.3.3. Team registrations received after the deadlines will be assessed a late registration fee of \$100 per team.
- 9.3.4. 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.
- 9.3.5. PLAYER – to be eligible:
  - a. Minor players, managers, and coaches are to be registered on a Softball BC Team Registration Form;
  - b. Pursuant to Article 2 Residence Rule, Minor players must be a resident in the Province of BC, or when attending school out of Province, their parents(s) or legal guardian must be a resident in the Province of BC on May 1st in the year of registration.
- 9.3.6. TEAM
  - 9.3.6.1. Maximum Players:  
For teams U17 and under, a maximum of 15 players. For U19/U20 teams, a maximum of 17 players.  
Exceptions may be granted under extraordinary circumstances with the approval of the District Minor Coordinator and the Programs & Championship Director.
  - 9.3.6.2. 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).
  - 9.3.6.3. Minimum nine players in U13 or above.
  - 9.3.6.4. Adult coaches or non-playing coaches may register on and participate with multiple Minor teams in a given year
  - 9.3.6.5. 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.
  - 9.3.6.6. 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.

#### **9.4. MINOR PLAY IN MEN'S**

9.4.1. 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.

9.4.2. 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.

9.4.3. 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.

9.4.4. 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 the Men's and Women's Coordinators.

9.4.5. 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.

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

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

9.5.3.1. Teams may use up to three player pickups and one coach pickup for Provincial Championships, provided that the 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. The following applies to teams picking up players for Provincial Championships:

a. Teams can start the pick-up process as of June 15th.

- b. Teams must pick up from within their District where there are players available in the same category or one lower category.
- c. In-District pickups must be approved in writing by the District Minor Coordinator.
- d. 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.
- 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.
- f. 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 & Championship Director may authorize out of district pickups under extreme and unusual circumstances.
- e. 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.

9.5.3.2. In 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.

## **9.6. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT**

(Exception: U13, U15) 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. Games will have a five run maximum rule shall apply in half innings up to and including the 5th inning. Time will start on the 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. 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 4½ or 5½ innings after time has expired, or 6½ innings whether time has expired or not, all runs scored and bases touched in the play which results in the winning run will be counted in the scoring (i.e. Tie game with only one runner on base at third, the batter hits a ground ball to the outfield and makes it to second base safely as the ball is returned to the infield preventing any further advance beyond that base. The runner on third base will be credited with a base touched and the winning run after crossing home plate on the play. The batter will be credited with two bases touched.)

9.6.1.4. A Run Ahead Rule shall result in the conclusion of the game when:

- a. After 2 ½ or 3 complete innings of play there is a difference of 15 runs or more. EXCEPTION: after 2 ½, 3, 3 ½, or 4 complete innings of play for U13 a 10 run mercy rule will be in effect.
- b. After 3 ½ or 4 complete innings of play there is a difference of 10 runs or more runs.
- c. After 4 ½, 5, 5 ½, 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 in all playoff games.

9.6.2. To be eligible to participate in any Provincial Championship, teams will be required to:

- a. Provide a copy of the Softball BC Team Registration Form, signed by the District Minor Coordinator, to the Softball BC Representative. For Provincial Championships, a copy of the Softball BC Team Registration Form for each pick-up must be provided. Provincial Pick-up Approval form is to be submitted to the District Coordinator to verify player eligibility. This form is to be submitted with the team roster at the pre-provincial coaches meeting. Failure to do so will make the player ineligible.
- b. Carry proof of age in the form of a birth certificate, baptismal certificate or other recognized government identification. Photocopies of proof of age documents are sufficient to meet this requirement. For Provincial Championships, proof of age must also be presented for each pick-up player in order for them to participate. Failure to do so will deem the player ineligible, until such time as proof of age is supplied.
- c. Prove participation in a minimum of three (3) games with the team on which they are registered. Participation shall include league, exhibition and tournament games. Players will be required to provide documentation demonstrating a history of playing together throughout the season. Such documentation shall include game score sheets. For Provincial Championships game sheets may also be required for each pick-up. Failure to provide such documentation at District or Provincial Championships upon request of a



Softball BC representative may result in the disqualification of a player or team from further participation in the applicable event following a review by the appointed protest committee. Players unable to fulfill the 3 game minimum requirement due to their commitment to the National Team program will be exempt from participating in the 3 game minimum with the team on which they are registered.

- d. 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.
- e. The Softball BC Programs & Championship Director shall provide the District Minor Coordinators with a set of standard tournament draws and rules for all District playoffs.
- f. 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.
- g. 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 the Softball BC office will result in disqualification of that District in further Provincial play.
- h. 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.
- i. 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.
- j. 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.)

#### **9.7. MODIFICATION FOR U13 & U15:**

- 9.7.1. 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;
- 9.7.2. 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;
- 9.7.3. 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;
- 9.7.4. 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;

- 9.7.5. 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;
- 9.7.6. unlimited and multiple defensive substitutions may be made at any time during the game and need not be announced to the umpire EXCEPTION for U13 categories changes to the pitcher should be announced to the umpire;
- 9.7.7. the Minor 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;
- 9.7.8. 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.

#### **9.8. KNOCKOUT CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW**

- 9.8.1. 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.
- 9.8.2. 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.
- 9.8.3. 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.
- 9.8.4. 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.
- 9.8.5. 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.
- 9.8.6. 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.

#### **9.9. KNOCKOUT CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL**

- 9.9.1. 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.

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

#### **9.10. COACH & PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 9.10.1. 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.
- 9.10.2. The head coach, or in their absence, another coach shall be responsible for the conduct of the team's attendees. If after a warning from an umpire, Softball BC Board Representative, or Tournament UIC, concerning the behaviour of the team's attendees, they may choose to eject the coach from the game and the game will be forfeited. Note the coach is responsible for the conduct of the attendees before and post-game.

#### **9.11. INTERPROVINCIAL EVENTS**

- a. Canadian Championships: U15, U17, U20
- b. Western Canadian Championships: U13, U15, U17, U20

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.