

SOFTBALL MANITOBA

2022 Fast Pitch Division Operating Rules

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Fast Pitch Division Operating Rules

1. REGISTRATION

A. Classification

1. The Fast Pitch Division will accept application for membership from leagues, teams or associations who are willing to comply with and abide by all rules and regulations as adopted by the Association. For Classification purposes, categories and classifications recognized by the Association are listed below:

CATEGORY	CLASSIFICATION		GENDER		CO-ED
	AAA	A	M	F	
Masters	X		X	X	
Senior	X	X	X	X	X
Intermediate		X		X	
U23	X	X	X	X	
Orthodox		X	X	X	X

2. Maximum Roster Size:
 - o Teams entering Provincials = 17 players. (Exception - Masters = 20)
 - o Teams not entering Provincials = 20 players.

B. Individual Teams

1. Individual applications from Fast Pitch teams in the following classifications shall be accepted:
 - a. For Men's and Women's Senior **AAA** - All registered players must be permanent residents of a Manitoba community by June 15th of the current season.
 - b. For Men's and Women's Masters - To qualify for registration in this classification, and, further to that, for any Association sanctioned Competition, players must meet the following age requirements:
 - i. Women's Fast Pitch (Masters) - all registered players on a team must have reached their 35th birthday during the calendar year of registration.
 - ii. Men's Fast Pitch (Masters) - all registered players on a team must have reached their 40th birthday during the calendar year of registration.

C. Player Registration

1. A player may register with more than one (1) team providing they do not sign on more than one team in each of the following groupings:
 - Group 1: One (1) of Senior Women's Fast Pitch, U23 Women, Intermediate Women's Fast Pitch.
 - Group 2: One (1) of Senior, Minor, Men's and Women's SP
 - Group 3: One (1) of Co-Ed Fast Pitch
 - Group 4: One (1) of Co-Ed Slo-Pitch
 - Group 5: One (1) of U23 Men
 - Group 6: One (1) of Masters Fast Pitch
2. Any player who registers with more than one (1) team in the same group during the current season, will automatically be suspended from all softball competition for the balance of the season. Should a minor and adult (Senior, U23) Fast Pitch team require a player or players to sign a roster for both teams in order to have both teams have sufficient players to field a team they may apply to the Minor & Fast Pitch Directors for an exception to this rule. Such an exception must be requested and obtained BEFORE the team registration forms with the dual signed players are submitted to the Softball Manitoba office, or the request will not be considered, and the exception will not be granted.
3. Further to the above, a player may only participate in that specific Provincial sanctioned competitions within which the player has registered. Registered Players are all those listed as per #4 below.
4. Fast Pitch players must be listed (as in the past) complete with Name, Date of Birth, Address, Phone and e-mail (if possible). All teams must be fully registered through RAMP by the Division Registration Deadline dates.

D. Late Registration

1. Softball leagues/associations must apply annually for membership in Softball Manitoba membership for the current year only, from May 1st to April 30th of the following year. Application for Fast Pitch membership must be in the hands of the Association Registrar not later than June 15th of each year. Any deadline day will be the first working day following the deadline if it falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday.
2. Team applications received after the Divisions' deadlines will not be reviewed by the Division or Association Registrar. **No Exceptions.** All late registration applications **Must** be reviewed and approved or denied by the Softball Manitoba Executive Committee. Team registrations received after the Divisions' deadlines that are denied can be accepted for insurance purposes only. All individuals will be ineligible to participate in any Softball Manitoba or Softball Canada sanctioned events. (Provincial Championships, Western Canadian Championships, Canadian Championships, National Team events, etc.).

E. Re-Classification

1. If any league/team wishes to register any of its team(s) in a lower category or classification than the previous year, the following conditions must be met:
 - a. Complete Softball Manitoba team registration form.
 - b. Submit, in writing, to the Division a request for re-classification at the time of application (separate from league/team contact sheets and/or team registration form).
2. Re-classification of a league and/or team can be approved by the Division.
3. The Division has the right to re-classify any league or team from the category or classification in which it is registered to another category or classification, if the re-classification is considered to be in the best interest of softball.
4. Re-classification can take place at any time during the year.

F. Additions and Deletions

1. A team has until the Addition/Deletion deadline of **July 30th**, to make any changes to its team registration form for the current season.
2. Any player, coach or manager who has not complied with the above procedures by the addition/deletion deadline (**July 30**) will be automatically deleted from the online registration and will be considered as not registered with the team for the current season. The individual(s) will not be allowed to participate in any Softball Manitoba sanctioned competition.
3. The onus is on the individual team manager and the league in which the team plays to ensure that all registration procedures are performed correctly with Softball Manitoba by the late registration deadline.

G. Player Transfer/Movement

1. A player is considered to be registered with Softball Manitoba once a league has assigned that player to their respective team on RAMP. No player should assume that he/she has been deleted from the original team's roster before the registration deadline.
 - a. Any request for transfer from one team to another must come from the player concerned and must be accompanied by an online release from the team holding the original registration.
 - b. Any request for registration or transfer, after the final registration date, must be submitted to the Division Executive for consideration and approval and should be accompanied by approval in writing from the league(s) involved.
 - c. Under extenuating circumstances, a player has the right to plea to the **Executive** for transfer without a signed release.
 - d. The onus is on the player to obtain an online release from the team holding his original registration before he/she registers with another team.

H. Residence Rule

1. In the U23, Senior Open, and Masters categories all but one player on any team registering with Softball Manitoba must be a bona fide resident of the area served by Softball Manitoba by June 15th (June 30th north of the 53rd parallel).

2. In the Senior 'AAA' Men's and Senior 'AAA' Women's categories all but three (3) players on any team registering with Softball Manitoba must be a bona fide resident of the area served by Softball Manitoba by June 15th (June 30th north of the 53rd parallel). Only one (1) of these three (3) players will be allowed to be a pitcher.
3. Non-Canadian Citizens - Players, Coaches and Managers that are not Canadian citizens or landed immigrants may participate in a Canadian Championship provided that they have been continuous residents of Canada for one calendar year prior to the dates of the championship in which they wish to participate and meet all other residency requirements. Each team in the U23 and Senior categories at a Canadian Championship will be allowed one player exception subject to all of the following requirements.
 - a. They meet Softball Canada official residency date of May 1st
 - b. They have full time residency in the Province/Territory where they are registered
 - c. They represent the Province/Territory in which they were registered by the official residency date.

Note: These players would be considered imports and be subject to and part of the numbers of the import rules under DOR 1H2
4. Any request for membership by non-residents after June 15th (June 30th north of the 53rd parallel) must be presented by the league and/or team in writing to the Division Executive for consideration and approval where warranted.

2. CANADIAN/WCSC/PROVINCIAL COMPETITION (AAA/AA/A)

1. An Open **Fast Pitch** Provincial Championship will be held for the following categories who qualify under existing Softball Manitoba General & Divisional Operating Rules. **Minimum 3 teams per category/Classification to hold event.**
 - a. Adult "AAA" Men's Categories (leading to Canadian Championships)
 - b. Adult "AAA" Women's Category (leading to Canadian Championships)
 - c. Adult U23 "AAA" Men's Category (leading to Canadian Championships)
 - d. Senior "AA" Men's Categories (WCSCs)
 - e. Senior "AA" Women's Categories (WCSCs)
 - f. Masters "AA" Men's and Women's Categories (WCSCs)
 - g. Recreation "A" Men's Categories
 - h. Recreation "A" Women's Categories
 - i. Recreation "A" Orthodox Co-Ed / Mens / Womens
2. Teams entering Provincial competition leading to a Canadian or WCSC must confirm their intent to represent the Province by June 1st. If the Championship team forgoes the opportunity to represent the Province the second place team will then have the opportunity to represent the Province (3rd, 4th, etc.).
3. In a year when Manitoba has the right to send two representatives to a WCSC, the Provincial Championship team and the second place team will have the opportunity to represent Manitoba (then the 3rd, 4th, etc.).
4. Membership in Softball Manitoba does not guarantee any league or team automatic entry into a Provincial Championship competition.
5. Any Fast Pitch team that has earned the right to represent Manitoba in a Canadian/WCSC Championship will no longer be eligible to participate in any other Provincial Championship competition during the same year.
6. Host teams for WCSC must have participated in the Provincial Championship for the category/classification being hosted in the current year. **(if held)**
7. A registered team representing Manitoba must have any and all changes to its Championship Team Roster approved by its Division and must abide by the following:
 - a. The team may add as many players as the rules of the Championship permits, but the playing roster may not exceed seventeen (17); twenty (20) for Masters.
 - b. Where a host team and a Provincial Championship team are competing in the same Canadian/WCSC competition, the Championship team will have the right to choose its pick-up players first.
 - c. Should the host team win the Provincial Championship, they will have the right to choose their pick-up players first.

- d. If a Defending Champion does not enter the Provincial Championship, the order of pickups for Canadian Championships will be Provincial Champions, Defending Champions, Host. This also applies to Defending Champions in WCSC.
- e. The Provincial Champion in all Fast Pitch categories, is to notify the Board within forty-eight (48) hours following the Championship with the names of intended pick-ups. The host may contact players other than the intended pick-ups of the Provincial Champions after the initial forty-eight (48) hours. If more than one Provincial championship leading to a Canadian Championship or a WCSC are held on the same weekend, priority for pick-ups shall be as follows: a) Senior "AAA" Champion gets 1st priority of players eligible on other Senior "AAA" registered teams; b) Senior "AA" Champion gets 1st priority of players eligible on other Senior "AA" registered teams.
- f. The initial pick-up contact should be made with the coach or manager of the team with which the player is registered. Players are not to be approached directly to see if they are willing to be picked up. All changes to a Championship Team Roster which has been approved by the Division must be submitted to the Office.
8. Any player picked up for a Canadian/WCSC Championship may also participate with his own team in Provincial Championship competition but cannot be picked up by any other team in Provincial Championship competition.
9. Players playing in a Canadian Championship cannot be picked up by a team going to a Western Canadian Championship.
10. Players will be allowed to participate in more than one fast pitch championships and more than one slow-pitch championship provided they are not held concurrently, with their province/territory's approval.
11. When a host site and group has been selected and approved by Softball Manitoba to host any WCSC/Canadian Championship, that hosting body has the right to choose a host team(s) to compete in the competition. If the Association hosts an event the Division involved will decide on the host team. Host Team to be determined by June 1st – Year of Competition.

3. PROVINCIAL COMPETITION - HOSTING

1. All bids to host Provincial Championships must be submitted to the Fast Pitch Division before the Fast Pitch Annual General Meeting and the year prior to the actual competition.

4. PROVINCIAL COMPETITION - ENTRY

1. Any team registered with Softball Manitoba that wishes to enter a Provincial Championship for which it is eligible must complete an entry form and pay an entry fee by the deadline date (June 15th). Fast Pitch Teams wanting to travel - Teams entering Provincial Championships leading to Canadian or Western Canadian Championships - must complete a Provincial Entry form including their intent that they are prepared to represent the Province at these Championships by June 1st.
2. Team entries received by Softball Manitoba after the deadline will be accepted up until the time the draw has been made for the competition, but any team entering late will be assessed an additional late entry fee of \$100.00.
3. Any team entry received after the draw is made cannot be accepted by the office and can only be approved by the Division.
4. Any team withdrawing from the competition after the draw is made or failing to meet its commitments at the competition or further commitments as a result of its standings in the competition will automatically default its entry fee and further action may be taken against the team as a unit or its individual participants.

5. PROVINCIAL COMPETITION – CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM ROSTERS

1. At Provincial Championships, coaches will be provided with a Championship Team Roster. Players will be requested to sign the Team Roster prior to competing in the provincial competition. The maximum playing roster is 17 for all categories in Provincials except Masters (20). Maximum roster for Canadians/WCSC is 17 with the exception of WCSCA Masters (20).
 - a. Teams shall have no less than nine (9) and no more than seventeen (17) players registered at any one time (Masters – 20).
 - b. Co-Ed Orthodox teams must have no less than five (5) male players and five (5) female players registered with the Association at any one time.

2. A team must also register at least one (1) coach or manager and **may register as many as five (5)**.
3. A coach or manager not registered as a player will not be allowed to participate as a player in any Softball Manitoba sanctioned competition.
4. All players, coaches and managers must sign the Championship Team Roster.
 - a. Any player, coach or manager or other person who falsifies the Championship Team Roster in any manner will be automatically suspended from the current season and further action may be taken against the individuals and teams concerned.
 - b. If any player, coach or manager does not officially sign the Championship Team Roster, the individual will not be allowed to participate in that Provincial Championship.
 - c. A coach or manager may be registered as the coach or manager of more than one registered team, provided the teams are not of the same classification within the same Category.

6. PROVINCIAL COMPETITION - COACHING CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Any team participating in any Provincial Championship leading to a Canadian Championship are required to follow Softball Canada's Coaching Certification Requirements as follows:

Managers and Coaches are eligible to participate in Canadian Championships under the following provisions:

- **They are signed to the current Softball Canada or Provincial/Territorial Team Registration Certificate of their team.**
- **The Head Coach is Competition Introduction: Certified in the National Coaching Certification Program and is in attendance at all games and on the team's bench. All Assistant Coaches are Competition Introduction: Trained.**
- **If the Head Coach is not fully Certified and in attendance at all games and on the team's bench, then all coaching staff will not be allowed on the field or in the coaches box at a Canadian Championship. If the Head Coach is Certified and in attendance at all games and on the team's bench then the coaching staff (coach, assistant coaches, and manager) may go on the field. If an Assistant Coach is not Trained they will not be allowed on the field or in the coaches box.**
- **A province/territory sending a team to a Canadian Championship without the Head Coach Competition - Introduction Certified will be fined \$2,500. (Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars).**
- **Managers and Coaches may not participate as players unless they are so registered.**

If, for any justifiable reason, the certified coach or manager registered with a team is unable to meet the coaching commitments necessary for the team to compete at any of the above mentioned championships, the team may replace its certified coach with another certified coach who can meet all further coaching requirements. The pick-up coaches must be properly registered no later than June 22nd (June 30th north of the 53rd parallel) and approved for the Championship they are participating at least ten (10) days prior.

The certified coach or manager substitute must be with the team in the dugout or on the field when it participates in a Provincial Championship. (Teams that do not meet the proper coach certification requirements by June 22nd are ineligible for an approved substitute.) Any team, which earns the right to represent the Province in WCSC/Canadian competition through a Provincial Championship, will forfeit this right if the team did not meet the above requirements.

Note: A team forfeiting its right to represent the Province in a WCSC/Canadian competition because it did not meet the above coaching requirements will be replaced as Provincial representative by the next highest team in the Provincial Championship standings, which did meet the coaching requirements. If no other team indicated intent to represent the Province at a WCSC/Canadian, the team forfeiting will face further action. (\$2000 fine).

The certified coach must be the coach that signs the line-up card at the pre-game meeting for all games.

Competition Introduction: TRAINED Requirements:

- Foundations of Coaching Softball: Part 1
- Foundations of Coaching Softball: Part 2
- Softball Competition Introduction Clinics (Weekend #1 & Weekend #2)
- Multi-Sport Module: Making Ethical Decisions + Online Evaluation

Competition Introduction: CERTIFIED Requirements:

- Foundations of Coaching Softball: Part 1
- Foundations of Coaching Softball: Part 2
- Softball Competition Introduction Clinics (Weekend #1 & Weekend #2)
- Multi-Sport Module: Making Ethical Decisions + Online Evaluation
- Coach Portfolio Submitted
- On-Field Evaluation

Any team participating in a Provincial Championship leading to a Western Canadian Championship competition:

One of the registered coaches/managers must be fully certified as an NCCP Softball coach. This coach/manager must be in attendance at all games and on the team's bench.

- **Require one of the registered coaches/managers to be fully certified in NCCP 'Community Softball' or NCCP Level 1 (Softball).**

EFFECT: If a Province/Territory sends a team that participates in a Western Canadian Championship without the required Level Coach/Manager, the Province/Territory will be assessed a \$250.00 penalty by the WCSA and the team will NOT be allowed to use base coaches during the Championship.

The following criteria will also apply:

- a. The coach or manager must be signed no later than June 30th. Exception: Any championships scheduled prior to June 30th, coaches must be signed 10 days prior to the Championship.
- b. The certified coach or manager or approved substitute must be with the team in the dugout or on the field when it participates in a Provincial Championship. Any team which earns the right to represent the Province in WCSC/Canadian competition through a Provincial Championship will forfeit this right if the team did not meet the above requirements.

Note: A team forfeiting its right to represent the Province in a WCSC/Canadian competition because it did not meet the above coaching requirements will be replaced as Provincial representative by the next highest team in the Provincial Championship standings which did meet the coaching requirements.

2. Any team representing the Province in WCSC/Canadian competition must be accompanied to the competition by the certified coach or manager registered through Softball Manitoba's online registration, or by an approved substitute certified coach.
3. A certified coach or manager must be registered on the team's roster by June 30th if that team wishes to host or to qualify as host team for any Canadian or Western Canadian competition.
4. If, for any justifiable reason, the certified coach or manager registered with a team is unable to meet the coaching commitments necessary for the team to compete at any of the above mentioned championships, the team may appeal in writing to the Association for permission to replace its certified coach or manager with another certified coach or manager who can meet all further coaching requirements.
5. A certified coach or manager may be registered as the certified coach or manager of one team and be registered as a player with another team but that individual cannot be registered with two teams in any competition in which both teams potentially play each other.

7. PROVINCIAL COMPETITION - UNIFORMS

1. All teams participating in Provincial Championships leading to Canadian Championships or Western Canadian Championships must be in full uniforms as outlined in the WCSC Handbook and Softball Canada rulebook.

2. All team participants must be dressed appropriately. This includes managers, coaches, etc. Only participants in uniform will be allowed on the field or on the players' benches and dugout area.
3. Coaches/Managers must be in coordinating team colors.
4. In Co-Ed Orthodox the minimum acceptable uniform is matching tops with numbers as out lined in the Softball Canada rulebook. However, teams are encouraged to wear full uniforms whenever possible.
5. Pick-up players may wear their own or the competing team uniform, but not a combination of both.
6. Pants/sliding pants or pads. All players pants shall be either all long or all short in style. Players may wear a uniform solid color pair of sliding pants or pads. It is not mandatory that all players wear sliding pants or pads, but if more than one player wears them, they must be alike in color and style. No player may wear ragged, frayed, or slit legs on exposed sliding pants or pads. Clarification: This rule also applies to spandex and any other shorts worn underneath the uniform but partially exposed. The "color" rule does not apply to temporary sliding pants or pads which are typically put on just before the player bats and removed after the player is put out or scores.
7. Teams are encouraged to wear full uniforms whenever possible.

8. PROVINCIAL COMPETITION - SENIOR CO-ED SPECIAL PLAYING RULES

1. A team shall consist of 5 males and 5 females. A team may field 8 - 10 players during the game. At any time where there are not at least 8 players, with no more than 5 of one gender, then the game will be considered a default.
2. A team may have one female and/or one male as the designated player(s) (DP).
3. The batting order shall be 5 consecutive males and 5 consecutive females, with either rotation starting the order.
4. Substitutions shall be male for male, female for female.
5. Male pitchers pitch to the male rotation. Female pitchers pitch to the female rotation.
6. Upon exchange of pitchers, the pitcher being relieved assumes a fielding position.
7. Pitching distances shall be 40 feet - female and 46 feet for male. Both pitching plates are set up on the diamond and remain on the diamond for the entire game.
8. 3 warm up pitches are allowed at the beginning of an inning and upon the exchange of male and female pitchers.
9. Pitching delivery guidelines as per Softball Canada rulebook.

9. PROVINCIAL COMPETITION - CO-ED ORTHODOX

1. Field dimensions shall be 60' base paths and 43' pitching distance.
2. There shall be no more than six (6) players of either gender on the field and in the batting order at any time, nor no fewer than three. The offensive and defensive components when using a DP shall count as one player and must be of the same gender. They may play in any position including pitching.
3. Substitutions shall be male for male, female for female, unless substituting to replace a gender in excess of the minimum three.
4. Pitching delivery guidelines as per Softball Canada rulebook.
5. Metal Cleats are not allowed.

10. PROVINCIAL COMPETITION - PRE TOURNAMENT MEETING

1. At all Provincial Championships, all teams must have a team representative at the pre-tournament meeting. Any team not represented at the meeting - at the discretion of the **Supervisor** - the opposing team will have the option of being Home or Away throughout the entire Round Robin portion of the draw.
2. Each team coach/manager shall complete the Championship Team Roster provided by the **Supervisor**. All team participants, including coaches/managers are to be listed and signed. The Championship Team Roster must be returned to the **Supervisor** before the team begins its first game or at the pre-tournament meeting.
 - a. Include any authorized pickup players with their home team affiliation shown.
 - b. Players names shall be printed in full, both first and last names.
 - c. Identify the team's certified coach, if applicable for the tournament/playoff.

11. PROVINCIAL COMPETITION - ELIGIBILITY CHECK

1. Player's names will be checked against the official registration filed with Softball Manitoba to ensure eligibility.
2. Only players listed on the Championship Team Roster at the Championship will be eligible to participate. Time may not permit the delegate to check all forms before the beginning of the tournament or before a team's first game, so teams are urged to check the eligibility of all players and pickups before play begins.

12. PROVINCIAL COMPETITION - PENALTIES IMPOSED FOR ELIGIBILITY VIOLATIONS

1. Use of an ineligible player in any game(s) will result in:
 - a. The offending team automatically losing the game(s).
 - b. The ineligible player(s) will be suspended until end of the competition.
 - c. The automatic suspension for the balance of the competition of any coach or manager who knowingly uses an ineligible player.
 - d. Softball Manitoba taking possible further action against a coach or manager who knowingly uses an ineligible player.
 - e. The possible suspension of the offending team for the balance of the competition (Determined by the delegate in consultation with the Protest Committee).
 - f. Possible additional action against the offending team may also be taken at a later date.
2. It is the responsibility of a competing league to inform Softball Manitoba in writing in advance of the Provincial Championship about any player, coach, manager or team official who is under suspension by the league.

13. PROVINCIAL COMPETITION - SCOREKEEPERS/LINE-UP CARDS

1. An official scorekeeper shall be assigned for each game by the Host Championship Committee. If no scorekeeper is provided, the home team will be designated as the official scorekeeper. It is up to the teams to check the score with the official scorekeeper at the end of each inning.
 - a. The score sheet maintained by the official scorekeeper is to be signed by the plate umpire after each game.
 - b. The official score sheet is the only one that will be considered by the Association as being a record of the game. All score sheets with the final score clearly marked are to be turned over to the **Supervisor** following each game.
2. The team manager or coach must provide the official scorekeeper with a game line up at least fifteen (15) minutes before game time.
 - a. The lineup card must show the first and last names of all possible substitute players.
 - b. The home team has the right to request that the away team provide its line up first, but the plate umpire will make final decision in this regard.
 - c. If a substitute player is missed from the lineup card, the Softball Canada rule will then apply.

14. PROVINCIAL COMPETITION - GAME PLAY

1. Softball Manitoba shall determine the "home" team for each game and if not done, the toss shall be done at the Pre-tournament meeting.
 - a. The toss shall be made by a designated playoff official or plate umpire.
 - b. Home team, as determined, must occupy the third base bench. This playoff regulation may be changed by the Delegate to ensure that a team playing another team more than once does not always have the benefit of the final at bat.
 - c. In an "if necessary" game, the selection of being the home team or visiting team shall be that of the team that lost the coin toss in the scheduled final.
2. Games are to be started at the times posted on the official draw.
 - a. A team not ready to play at the posted time will lose that game by default.
 - b. If a team in a Provincial Championship defaults two of its scheduled games, the team will be defaulted out of the tournament.

- c. A team and/or league failing to meet its Provincial Championship obligations may be subject to further disciplinary action by the Association.
3. The managers and coaches will be held responsible for the conduct of their teams and players at all times.
 - a. Managers, coaches and team captains are to be identified to the umpires prior to each game and will be the only people authorized to discuss the game or decisions with the umpires or officials once the game is underway.
 - b. Provincial Championship officials and umpires will have the full support of Softball Manitoba in controlling and discouraging displays of poor sportsmanship or unacceptable conduct.
 - c. Player or team suspensions will be considered in enforcing proper participation.
4. A five (5) minute infield practice will be allowed each team before its first game of the Championship.
 - a. The "away" team is to take its infield practice first and the "home" team second.
 - b. The plate umpire and/or the delegate will notify each team to take its infield practice, and the five (5) minute allowance starts once notification is given.
5. The length of all playoff games (three, five or seven innings) will be determined before the start of the competition.
 - a. Under extenuating circumstances, the delegate has the right to change the length of the game.
6. In all Fast Pitch Championships the following will occur:
 - a. Length of Games. The length of each game is seven (7) innings.
 - b. Run Ahead Rule.
 - i. In any games where runs for and against have no bearing on the standings, a team losing may concede defeat after two and a half (2 ½) innings in a seven (7) inning game. The losing coach/manager must inform the plate umpire of the decision to concede.
 - ii. In all categories, games will end after 2½, 3, 3 ½ or 4 complete innings of play if there is a difference of fifteen (15) runs.
 - iii. In a seven (7) inning controlled game if the home team is winning by 10 or more runs the game will end after 3½ of play. A game will end after 4 complete innings of play if the visiting team is winning by 10 or more runs.
 - c. Tie Breaking. Tie Breaker Rule shall be used in all Fast Pitch Championship games after seven (7) full innings have been played. This will be continued for each subsequent inning until a winner is determined. If for any reason, the game is stopped, it shall resume from the exact point it left off.
 - d. Suspended Play. If for any reason, the game is stopped, it shall resume from the exact point it left off. This applies to all games during the scheduled championship dates. Games suspended to following days or weekend shall be restarted.
7. Incomplete games, which are called will be rescheduled from the point where the game is called:
 - a. Restart of such games must be made with the same lineup as existed when the game was called.
 - b. Subsequent play will follow the rules for substitute players as defined in the official rule book.
 - c. However, if the competition cannot be completed by the scheduled dates, any games in progress at the time of suspension will be considered as no contest and will not be resumed at the point of suspension when the competition is rescheduled.
8. If for any reason the competition is not completed on the dates scheduled and is rescheduled at another time:
 - a. Each team continuing to compete will be required to complete a new list of eligible players and meet all other eligibility requirements of the competition.
 - b. Eligible players who did not participate in the first stage of the competition may participate in the rescheduled competition providing their names appear on a new list of eligible players.
 - c. Any pickup players approved for the original competition will not be eligible for the re-scheduled event unless they have been approved by the Division.
9. A Protest Committee will be available for all games. A properly registered and accepted protest, as defined in the official rule book, will be ruled on immediately. The game is to proceed from that point once the decision of the Protest Committee has been given to the participants. The Protest Committee must meet off the diamond once they have the information from the umpires and the team.

15. EQUIPMENT SPECIFICS

1. Refer to Softball Canada Rulebook for Equipment Specifics.
2. Shoes with metal cleats or spikes are illegal for all Softball Manitoba sanctioned Co-Ed/Orthodox competitions.

16. PROVINCIAL COMPETITION - AWARDS

Softball Manitoba will provide appropriate awards for all Provincial Championships that will be presented at the completion of the tournament:

1. A keeper plaque for the Provincial Champions.
2. Individual awards for participants of the Provincial Championship team.

17. CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP/WCSC COMPETITION PICKUPS

1. The following is the ranking of categories and classifications listed from highest (1) to lowest (3):
 1. Adult "AAA"
 2. U23 "AAA"
 3. Adult "AA"

NOTE: Teams are allowed to select players within their own age categories first (and not according to the rankings above).

18. REVIEW OF INFORMATION FOR TEAMS ENTERING PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. Information

1. Playing Rules
 - a. All Provincial Championship will be conducted in accordance with the Softball Canada rulebook, **WCSA Handbook**, Softball Manitoba By-Laws, General Operating Rules and Division Operating Rules.

B. Team Participation

1. Ensure your team meets all necessary requirements for entry into the Provincial competition.
 - a. Make-up of team. Refer to Division Operating Rules – Championship Team Rosters for Provincial Play.
 - b. Pick-ups (if applicable). Refer to Divisional Operating Rules.
 - c. Proper Uniform and Equipment. Refer to Divisional Operating Rules.
 - d. Know and meet appropriate deadlines.

C. Coaching Certification

1. Ensure Coach is properly certified as is written in DORs Coaching Certification Requirements.

D. Notification of Game Times/Pre-Tournament Meeting

1. Softball Manitoba will post the Draw at the earliest possible date.
2. A team representative must attend pre-tournament meeting.

E. Travel and Accommodation

1. Teams are responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses.

19. TRAVEL TO CANADIAN/WESTERN CANADIAN SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

A. Funding:

Teams representing the Province at Canadian/Western Canadian Championships must be prepared to finance their trip. Any funds allocated by the Fast Pitch Division will be based on the number of teams traveling; the distance traveled and team participation in Association fundraising events.

20. FAST PITCH “OPEN” PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

CLASSIFICATION	ENTRY FEE	ENTRY DEADLINE
Adult ‘AAA’ / ‘AA’ Men / Women	\$350.00	JUNE 1 *
Adult ‘A’ Men / Women /Coed	\$350.00	JUNE 15 *

IMPORTANT NOTE: Teams with the intent to travel to Western Canadian or Canadian Championships are required to submit an entry form and fees to Softball Manitoba by June 1st.

Teams not interested in advancing to Canadians and Western Canadians have until June 15th to enter Provincial Championships.

NOTE: Coaches must be certified and registered on roster by June 30th to ENTER any of the above listed Provincial Championships.

21. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY INFORMATION

1. Please refer to the 2022 General/Division Operating Rules for detailed information.
2. Teams are eligible for “Open” Provincials in the categories for which they are registered.
3. Coaching Certification Requirements - **Refer to page FP 6 – FP 7.**
4. Full uniforms as outlined in the Softball Canada Rulebook are required for all Provincials, except Senior/Co-ed/Orthodox. This rule will be strictly enforced. Failure to meet the uniform requirements will result in the forfeiture of the team provincial championship bond
5. Provincial Championship Player Registration - Players will be requested to sign the Championship Team Roster prior to competing in the provincial competition. The maximum playing roster is 17 for all categories in Provincials (maximum 17 registered on the Softball Canada Team Registration Certificate). Maximum roster for Canadians/WCSC is 17 with the exception of Masters for Provincials and WCSA - 20. Maximum Roster Size for teams not entering Provincials is 20.
6. All teams must have a Team Representative at the Pre-Tournament meeting. Any team not represented may be subject to penalty.
7. The type of draw(s) will depend on the number of entries in each category. Each team is guaranteed a minimum of two games, but Softball Manitoba will make every effort to develop a draw that will give teams more games. No championships will be held for categories with less than three (3) entries.
8. Draws will be posted as soon as possible after the entry deadline.
9. If for any reason the Tournaments are not played or completed on the scheduled dates, teams must be prepared to play whenever games are scheduled.
10. Teams entering Provincials without the intent to attend WCSCs or CCs are required to submit a Provincial Entry Form and Fees by June 15th. Any team withdrawing from the competition after the draw is made or failing to meet its commitments at the competition or further commitments as a result of its standings in the competition will automatically default its entry fee and further action may be taken against the team as a unit or its individual participants.
11. Fast Pitch Teams wanting to Travel. Teams entering Provincial Championships leading to Canadian or Western Canadian Championships must complete a Provincial Entry Form and check off their intent that they are prepared to represent the Province at these Championships by June 1st.
12. After a team has registration for Provincials online, they must send in their entry fee (non-refundable). This can be done by e-transfer sent to softball@softball.mb.ca (password: softball). The e-transfer should include a note as to what team the fee is covering (example: Ladies FP League Provincials – Team Name). If needed, a cheque can be used to pay the entry fee and should be mailed to:

**Softball Manitoba
321-145 Pacific Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3B 2Z6**