

# SOFTBALL MANITOBA

## 2023 Minor Division Operating Rules

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1. Registration	M 2
A. Age Categories & Classification .....	M 2 – M 3
B. Individual Teams.....	M 4
C. Player Registration .....	M 4
D. Late Registration.....	M 4
E. Additions.....	M 5
F. Fill Rule .....	M 5
G. Residence Rule .....	M 6
2. Representation to Canadian/WCS/Provincial Competition .....	M 6 – M 7
3. Provincial Competition .....	M 7
A. Entry .....	M 7
B. Championship Team Roster .....	M 7 – M 8
C. Coaching Certification.....	M 8 – M 9
D. Uniforms .....	M 9
E. Equipment .....	M 9
F. Pickups .....	M 9 – M 10
G. Draws .....	M 10
H. Pre-Tournament Meeting.....	M 10
I. Eligibility Check .....	M 10
J. Penalties imposed for Eligibility Violations .....	M 11
K. Scorekeepers/Line-up cards .....	M 11
L. Game Play.....	M 11
M. Provincial Competition - Rescheduling.....	M 12
N. Special Playing Rules .....	M 12 – M 20
O. Awards .....	M 20
4. Information for Teams Entering Provincial Championships .....	M 20
5. Travel to Canadian/WCS Championships .....	M 20
6. Minor Provincial Championship Information .....	M 21
7. Minor Division Coaching Certification Requirements.....	M 22

## **MINOR DIVISION OPERATING RULES**

### **1. REGISTRATION:**

#### **A. Age Categories & Classification**

1. The Minor Division will accept application for membership from leagues and teams who are willing to comply with and abide by all rules and regulations as adopted by the Association. All teams must register according to how they play in their leagues. Categories and classifications recognized by the Division are listed below:

##### **Female Categories/Classification**

- U11 Female Age Category register under the 'A' Classification only.
- U13 Female Age Categories include the 'A', 'AA' & 'AAA' Classifications.
- U15 Female Age Categories include the 'A', 'AA' & 'AAA' Classifications.
- U17 Female Age Categories include the 'A', 'AA' & 'AAA' Classifications.
- U19 Female Age Categories include the 'A', 'AA' & 'AAA' Classifications.

##### **RAMP Female Registration.**

- 'AAA' Regional Players Identified by their 'AAA' Organizations will be Classified as 'AAA'.
- 'A' All other players registering through 'A' Leagues will be Classified as 'A'.
- 'AA' The 'AA' Classification is a program for 'A' athletes seeking added competition and development following their 'A' Club program. (non-conflicting schedule – August Provincials). A drop down box ('AA') in RAMP is available for those 'A' athletes seeking additional participation as per the 'AA' Program Plan.

##### **RAMP Male Categories/Classifications and Registration**

- ALL Male Classifications are 'OPEN'. Athletes are recorded as 'AAA'.

##### **TIMBITS**

- ALL TIMBITS athletes (Female/Male/Co-ed) will register Timbits with the choice of Level I (ages 5-6) and Level II (ages 7-9). These athletes are recorded as 'A'.
2. Classification - Boundaries:
    - i) The boundaries for Softball Manitoba's Minor "AAA" Rural Regional Organizations shall be those recognized by Softball Manitoba (as per Sport Manitoba's 2016 Rural Map/Boundaries). Players representing their Rural Regional Organizations must reside within these boundaries. The boundary for Softball Manitoba's 4 Minor "AAA" Urban Regional Organizations **the City of Winnipeg is divided into 4 quadrants with each quarter representing the 4 current AAA softball organizations. The following organizations would exist in the areas below:**  
**Manitoba Angels - west of the Red River, north of the Assiniboine River, as per the electoral boundaries of the City of Winnipeg. Adding athletes residing in the Westdale Community Club catchment.**  
**Manitoba Thunder - East of the Red River, north of Provencher/Dugald Rd, as per the electoral boundaries of the City of Winnipeg. Adding athletes residing in the South Transcona Community Club catchment.**  
**Smitty's Terminators - west of the Red River, south of the Assiniboine River, as per the electoral boundaries of the City of Winnipeg.**  
**Winnipeg Lightning - East of the Red River, south of Provencher/Dugald Rd, as per the electoral boundaries of the City of Winnipeg**
      - In U13 AAA category if a particular region does not have a team in the player's category/classification, in which event the player may at their option to play for a team in a different region in the player's age category/classification.
      - In U13 AAA category, a player is released from a team in the region in which they resides, in which case the player may play for a team in another region at their option, and the team from which the player is released shall complete a consent form with a copy going to the league, the transferred regional team and Softball Manitoba.
    - ii) Boundary for the A teams shall be the "Province of Manitoba". For these Purposes, the Community/Community Centre boundaries shall be those recognized by the rural Community Centers as their particular boundaries. A player shall play on the Community/Community Center team entered in the Softball Manitoba recognized Minor League from the particular area in which he or she resides, unless:

- That particular Community/Community Center does not have a team in the player's category, in which event the player may at their option play for any other team in the League in the player's age category.
- That League does not have a team in the player's category in which event the player at their option may play for any team in another League in the player's age category with proper approvals from both leagues.
- The player is released from the team in the League from the Community Center in the particular area in which they resides, in which case the player may play for any team in the League at their option from which the player is released shall complete a consent form with a copy going to the League, the transferred team and Softball Manitoba. The player is released from the Community Center team and the League in which case the player may play for any team in another League. Both the releasing team and the League shall complete a consent form with a copy going to the transferred team and the League and to Softball Manitoba for approval.

Coaches and Managers will be held responsible to ensure only eligible players are registered on team rosters. In the event of any discrepancies, a player's eligibility to play on a particular team, the Executive of the League will rule. Any coach who knowingly signs an ineligible player, the coach and the ineligible player may be subject to suspension.

iii) **'AA'** – Players registering 'A' are eligible to play 'AA' as well following their 'A' Club season – check RAMP 'AA' dropbox. 'AA' may include up to 3 teams per Age Category per Region. (as per the 8 regions defined within 'AAA').

AA Provincials to be scheduled in August and play will be restricted to specific nights and/or specific weekends so that A programs are not hampered. (Determined by Softball Manitoba Minor Committee). The program will initially be implemented for a two-year period.

### 3. U13, U15, U17 and U19 'AAA' Categories

- a. The U13, U15, U17 and U19 'AAA' Categories will be run under the auspices of the four (4) Winnipeg based "A" Organizations, Manitoba Angels, Manitoba Thunder, Smitty's Terminators and Winnipeg Lightning and the six (6) Rural Regions, Central Energy, Eastman Wildcats, Interlake Phillies, Norman, Parkland and Westman Magic. No 'AAA' for Norman and Parkland in 2023.
- b. The number of 'AAA' teams in the U13, U15, U17 and U19 categories will be restricted to one team from each of the four (4) Winnipeg based "AAA" Organizations and one team from each of the four (4) existing Rural Regional Organizations.
- c. In the U13AAA, U15AAA, U17AAA and U19AAA category players must attend an evaluation camp within their home region. Players who are not invited to be rostered on their AAA regional team are eligible to play with one of their regional AA team(s). Players will not be released from their region to play for another AAA organization.
- d. For the U13, U15, U17 and U19 'AAA' category teams are permitted no new out of region players. Returning players can remain within their current organization, if released they must return to the region in which they reside first.
- e. Under extenuating circumstances only, a region may be exempt from the boundary rules, in order to form a team, subject to the approval of the Softball MB Minor Committee.
- f. Team Registration – all 'AAA' teams (9 player minimum) must complete Softball Manitoba RAMP registration signed by all players, coaches and manager by January 31st for the upcoming season.

## **B. Individual Teams**

1. Any team participating in a league must apply for membership through their League. However - In order to foster and develop minor softball, individual minor team registrations will be considered from teams outside the City of Winnipeg. They will be accepted provided there is only one team within a category within the Community and may register as 'A' (Female) or 'Open' (Male).

## **C. Player Registration**

1. Each Minor team shall have no less than nine (9) and no more than seventeen (17) players registered with Softball Manitoba. A player may not register with more than one (1) team. Registered Players are all those listed as in #6.
2. Any player who registers with more than one team in the same group during the current season, will be automatically suspended from all competitions for the balance of the season.
3. Further to the above, a player may only participate in that specific Provincial Championships within which the player has registered.
4. Minor players may participate as a player in only one Minor Provincial unless rural double rostered. Rural double roster players can play in two classifications (AAA & A), providing the A team meet these parameters:
  - a. The 'A' team has 12 or less registered players (not including double roster players)
  - b. A maximum of two double rostered players may be on any one 'A' team
  - c. Communities with 18 or more registered players (i.e. 18 or more spread over 2 or more teams) will not be allowed to Double Roster players for Provincials.
  - d. Double roster players may not play the pitching or catching positions at the 'A' Provincials.
  - e. If any players from the rural regions are playing 'AAA' in the four Winnipeg organizations they cannot go back to their rural region and play 'A'. 'A' teams wanting to double roster an 'AAA' player must submit a request in writing to the Minor Committee for approval by June 1st.
  - f. Any U11 players granted a release from a rural region to be age advanced to play in the U13 'AAA' category of an out of region team MUST return to their home region the following year to attend an evaluation camp in their home region. If the player is released from their home region they may attend the evaluation camp of an out of region team.
5. All Minor Division Teams are allowed to have a maximum of four (4) players who are eligible to participate from a younger age category. If a team would like to have more players who are eligible from a younger age category, they will have to get approval from the Minor Committee.
6. Minor Open Male and Female 'A' players are not required to sign Team Registration Forms, however they must be listed complete with Name, Date of Birth, Address, Phone and e-mail.

## **D. Late Registration**

1. Registered softball leagues/associations are members with Softball Manitoba for the current year only (May 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year). Application for Minor membership must be in the Office no later than June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Any deadline day will be the first working day.
2. Team applications received after the deadline must be reviewed and approved or denied by the Softball Manitoba Executive Committee. Team registrations received after the Minor Division's deadline that are denied will be accepted for insurance purposes only. Late registrants are ineligible to participate in any Softball Manitoba sanctioned events. (Provincial Championships, Western Canadian Championships, Canadian Championships, National Team events, etc.).
3. All late registration forms must be submitted by the League to the Softball Manitoba office.
4. Any late registrations accepted by the Softball Manitoba Executive Committee will be accessed a late registration fee of \$100.00.

## **E. Additions**

1. A team has until June 22<sup>nd</sup> to make any changes (additions only) to its playing roster for the current season (teams north of the 53<sup>rd</sup> parallel have until June 30<sup>th</sup>).

Note: No Minor player may be deleted from one team and added to another team during the current season.

2. Written requests to Softball Manitoba for deletion from a roster by any player before March 15<sup>th</sup> will be honored. The player would then be free to sign any other roster. The Minor Committee will deal with request for deletion after March 15<sup>th</sup> on an individual basis.
3. Additions (players / coaches) can register on the respective Leagues RAMP website up to June 22. Changes will need to be approved by the League and Softball Manitoba.
4. When a player or coach is being added to a team roster, the respective League must inform Softball Manitoba in order to get approval.
5. The onus is on the individual team manager/coach 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.

## **F. Fill Rule:**

1. **The purpose of the Fill Rule is to sustain a full capacity of teams at the AAA level** and to ensure that each region is able to field a viable team. Effort must be made to recruit players within home regions. Special consideration will be given to areas that have adequate number of players but do not have pitchers or catchers.
2. The Fill athlete must be a fully eligible player as defined by Softball Manitoba and have attended tryouts in their home catchment area, but not have been selected to their home region's team.
3. **Fill athletes cannot displace a regional athlete who has demonstrated the capacity to compete or develop to a competitive AAA level of play.**
4. All Fill players are to return to their home regional for tryouts in the following year.
5. **Fill players released from the team in their catchment area for three (3) consecutive years are no longer considered property of their home catchment. These players will be grandfathered with the team they rostered with in 2022 and the rule and any further grandfathering will be dropped in 2023.**

Maximum Fill Players per Team:

Organizations/Teams applying through the Fill Rule may add a maximum of **FOUR (4) fill players to bring its roster up to twelve (12) players.**

### **Decision Making Authority:**

**Decisions to release AAA players from a home region/catchment is the responsibility of the AAA Organization President. It is their responsibility to take into consideration how the release of an athlete impacts the programs and development of the teams in their region.**

### **Fill Rule Tracking Information Required:**

**Organizations requesting player(s) through the Fill Rule must provide the following information to Softball Manitoba:**

- **Completed release form signed by the League/Organization President requesting the release of the player and the League/Organization President releasing the player.**

The Player Release Form can be found on our website under FORMS.

**Fill Rule information required by Softball MB for processing requests is the direct responsibility of the Organization applying. Data received will be recorded and applied to decisions regarding Player Movement Requests. This information also provides the Association with a history on Player Movement (Registering Out of Region) plus overall aspects of Regional and Organizational Stability.**

## **G. Residence Rule**

1. A player registering with Softball Manitoba must be a bona fide resident of the Province by June 15<sup>th</sup> (June 30<sup>th</sup> north of the 53<sup>rd</sup> parallel).
2. Any request for membership by non-residents after June 15<sup>th</sup> (June 30<sup>th</sup> north of the 53<sup>rd</sup> parallel) must be presented by the league and/or team in writing to the Division Executive for consideration and approval where warranted.

## **2. REPRESENTATION TO CANADIANS, WESTERN CANADIANS OR PROVINCIALS**

1. Provincial Representation – The following outlines how Softball Manitoba will determine which registered teams will advance from Minor Provincial Championships on to Canadian Championships and Western Canadian Championships. On the Provincial Entry Form - Teams must indicate whether or not that they are prepared to represent the Province at the Championships. Once indicated, failure to represent the Province at these Championships will result in suspension, fine or further action.
  - a. **U13, U15, U17 and U19 Open Boys** - The top **two** finishing teams at each respective Provincial Championship that indicate that they are prepared to represent the Province on their Provincial Entry Form will represent MB at the upcoming Canadian and Western Canadian Championships. In most years MB is eligible to have three teams represented at WCSCs per category. Canadian Championships are open to a maximum of four MB teams per category.
  - b. **U15, U17 and U19 Girls**. Softball Canada has determined that the Canadian Championships for the U15, 17 and 19 categories will be Open Entry Championships however teams will need to qualify to participate. Therefore:
    - i. All teams wishing to compete to a Canadian Championship or WCSC must participate in the 'AAA' Provincial Championships.
    - ii. All teams entering the Provincial Championship must be prepared to represent the Province at the Canadian or WCSC. Should a team fail to attend a Canadian or WCSC that they qualify for, the team will be faced with a minimum fine of \$1,500 together with any other further action imposed by the Board of Directors of Softball Manitoba. The additional fines and or penalties will depend on the facts of the individual situation, as adjudicated by the Directors, and may include where warranted, the suspension of the coaches of the team.
    - iii. The **two** highest ranking teams in the Provincial Championship will represent the Province at the Canadian Championships. The next two highest ranking teams in the Provincial Championship will represent the Province in the WCSC. EXCEPTION – Event Hosts. In special circumstances where the host of the Canadian Championships and/or Western Canadians are looking for more teams, there may be the possibility that another Manitoba team may attend these championships. This will be decided on an event basis by the Minor Committee.
    - iv. In the event that one of the **top two** highest ranking teams in the Provincial Championship is also the host of Canadians then the **third** ranking team will attend Canadians. In the event that one of the **top two** highest ranking teams in the Provincial Championship is also the host of the WCSC's they will not be obligated to attend Canadians and the fourth ranking team will assume that responsibility.
    - v. The number of Manitoba teams attending each Championship (Canadians or Westerns) will be a ruling made by the Minor Committee. Based on Provincial Championship standings - Teams that do not attend the Championship they qualify for (CCs or WCSCs) will not be eligible to participate in the other.
2. Host teams for WCSC and Canadian Championships must have participated in the Provincial Championship for the category/classification being hosted in the current year.
3. Teams representing Manitoba must have any and all changes to its Official Players List approved by the Softball Manitoba Office 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 17 players.
  - b. The order of the pickups will be as follows.

- i. The Highest ranking team at Provincials attending Canadians.
  - ii. The 2nd highest ranked team at Provincials attending Canadians.
  - iii. Any other subsequent teams attending Canadians as per order of finish.
  - iv. The Highest ranking team attending WCSCs.
  - v. The 2nd highest ranking team attending WCSCs.
  - vi. The 3rd highest ranking team attending WCSCs.
- c. The first team selecting pickups will have 24 hours following the Championships to make their pickups and notify the Softball Manitoba Office of the names of the pickups. The second and all subsequent teams will have 24 hours to make their pickups and notify the Office of the names of their pickups.
  - d. Once a player has refused the first team to ask them to play in a Canadian/WCSC, the player forfeits their right to play with another team in either a Canadian or Western Championship.
  - e. Once a player has refused their own club team in writing to play in a Canadian/ WCSC, the player forfeits the right to play with another team in either a Canadian Championship or WCSC.
4. The initial pick-up contact should be informing the coach or manager of the team with which the player is registered. Once the coach has been informed the player can be approached. All changes to a team roster must be submitted to the Office for approval. Teams will be allowed to contact a maximum of three players.
  5. Should a team or player decide not to participate in their respective Provincial Championship competition they will not be eligible to be picked up to attend a Canadian Championship or a Western Canadian Championship.
  6. Minor players may only participate in one (1) Western Canadian Softball Championship.
  7. Players playing in a Canadian Championship cannot be picked up by a team going to a WCSC.
  8. Any team representing Manitoba in a Canadian Championship/WCSC competition that wishes to add players to its roster from a category other than its own registered category must receive approval permission from the Minor Committee to do so.
  9. When a host site and group has been selected and approved by Softball Manitoba to host any Canadian Championship or WCSC, that hosting body has the right to choose a host team(s) to compete in the competition. If the Association hosts an event the Committee involved will decide on the host team. Host Team to be determined by June 1<sup>st</sup> – Year of Competition.

### **3. PROVINCIAL COMPETITION**

#### **A. Entry**

1. All Softball Manitoba Provincial Championships are 'Open' events for those teams registered within those Age Categories & Classifications. Any team registered with Softball Manitoba that wishes to enter an Open Provincial competition for which it is eligible must complete an entry form and pay an entry fee by the entry deadline date established by Softball Manitoba.
2. Team entries received in the Office after the deadline will be accepted by Softball Manitoba up until June 15th and any team entering late will be assessed an additional \$100.00.
3. Any team withdrawing from the competition after June 15<sup>th</sup> or failing to meet its commitments will be considered a no show and will automatically default its entry fee.

#### **B. Championship Team Rosters**

1. Unless indicated differently prior to registration deadlines, the first seventeen (17) players properly registered and signed on the Softball Manitoba team registration form will be considered to be the players registered with Softball Manitoba for Provincial Championship play.
  - a. Each team shall have no less than nine (9) no more than seventeen (17) registered with Softball Manitoba at any one time.
  - b. A certified coach must be the coach that signs the line-up card for all games.

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 coaches 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 coach or manager does not officially sign the Championship Team Roster, the individual will not be allowed to participate in any Softball Manitoba sanctioned competition with that team.
  - 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.
  - d. A coach or manager cannot qualify as the certified coach or manager for more than one team in any Provincial Championship where the winner represents the Province in National or WCSC competition. (within the same Category/Classification).

### **C. Coaching Certification**

Leagues/teams are responsible for ensuring that all of their teams/coaches have met the Coaching Certification Requirements

**Note:** Please refer to the chart on page M 19 for the coach certification requirements to attend Minor Provincials, Westerns and Canadians.

Requirement for all coaches and managers attending Minor Provincial Championships:

In addition to the Coaching Certification Requirements listed below, coaches and managers must complete the Respect in Sport course to be eligible to participate in any of the Softball Manitoba Minor Provincial Championships. Information to complete this 3-hour on-line course can be found by visiting the Softball Manitoba Website.

All teams attending Canadian Championships/WCSC - One of the registered coaches/managers must be Competition Introduction - Certified.

1. Teams participating in a Provincial Championships not leading to a Western Canadian or a Canadian Championship require a registered Community Softball Ongoing Participation - Trained level coach.
2. Teams participating in a Provincial Championship leading to a Western Canadian or a Canadian Championship are required to follow Softball Canada's Coaching Certification Requirements as follows;

In Effect for 2022 Championships – See Page M19

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

- i. They are signed to the current Softball Canada or Provincial/Territorial Team Registration Certificate of their team.
  - ii. 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.
  - iii. 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.
  - iv. A province/territory sending a team to a Canadian Championship without the Head Coach Competition - Introduction Certified will be fined \$2,500.
  - v. Managers and Coaches may not participate as players unless they are so registered.
3. 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 22<sup>nd</sup> (June 30<sup>th</sup> north of the 53<sup>rd</sup> parallel) and approved for the Championship they are participating at least ten (10) days prior.

4. 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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. (\$1500 fine).

5. The certified coach must sign the line-up card at the pre-game meeting for all games.

#### **D. Uniforms**

1. In Provincial Championships, not leading to a WCSC/Canadian Championships, the required uniform is matching tops with numbers, as outlined in the Softball Canada Rulebook. However, teams are encouraged to wear full uniforms whenever possible.
2. Any team participating in a Provincial Championship, leading to a WCSC/Canadian Championships must be in full uniform (including matching ball caps and/or visors) as outlined in the Softball Canada rulebook. Teams representing the Province in Canadian/Western Competition must meet the uniform requirement of Softball Canada and the Western Canada Softball Association.
3. Coaches and managers must be in coordinating team colors.
4. Pants/sliding pants or pads. (Minor players' pants may be either long or 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 prior to at bat and removed after the player is put out or scores.

5. Pickup players may wear their own or the competing teams uniform, but not a combination of both.

#### **E. Equipment**

1. Cleats - For all levels of minor play, no metal cleats or shoes with detachable cleats are allowed in any division. Hard plastic, nylon or polyurethane spikes similar to a metal sole and heel plate or shoes with detachable cleats that could leave an exposed fastener are NOT allowed. Exception – U15 'AAA' and ALL U17 and U19 Players are allowed to wear metal cleats.
2. Face Guards- All Minor players will be required to wear a batting helmet complete with approved mask when batting and/or running. Exception – U19 Boys Category
3. Pitchers Masks - Mandatory for U11, U13 and U15 pitchers to wear face protector. Players wearing a protective face mask can wear their hat / cap backwards.

#### **F. Provincial Competition - Pickups**

1. All Minor teams must compete in Provincial Championship with its registered players.
2. If a team entered in the Provincial Championship may add a maximum of **four (4)** pickup players to bring its roster up to **twelve (12)** players.
3. Pickup players must come from a team:
  - a. Registered with Softball Manitoba.
  - b. Within the same Community/Community Club.
  - c. 'A' Classification pickup players may only come from the same classification ('A').
  - d. All 'A' Classification pickup players must come from 'A' classification in the same or lower Age category. Clarification: 'AAA' Classification players may not be picked up.

4. If no pickup players are available that meet the criteria, the team may request permission to pick up players meeting the criteria from the nearest community club, community, League or Region at the discretion of the Minor Committee. .
5. All pickups must have approval prior to the Provincial. Teams must notify the Softball Manitoba office of their approved pick-ups prior to the Provincial.
6. Players may only participate in one Minor provincial/year. Exception – Rural double-rostered players can play in two classifications (AAA & A) and only with the teams they are registered with.

#### **G. Provincial Competition - Draws**

1. All 'AAA' Provincial Championships U13-U19 to be a full round robin playoff format which includes a page playoff system. The page playoff system consists of the first place team playing the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team with the winner advancing to the final and the loser advancing to the semi final. The 3<sup>rd</sup> place team will play the 4<sup>th</sup> place team with the winner advancing to the semi-final and the loser being eliminated. Any ties after the completion of the round robin portion of the Championship will be broken by criteria with the exception of a tie for 4<sup>th</sup> place. All 'AAA' Championships should include a playoff round in which Gold, Silver and Bronze will be determined. These Provincial Championships will be played over four (4) days.

#### **H. Provincial Competition - Pre-Tournament Meeting**

1. At all Provincial Championships, all teams must have a team rep 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 Delegate. All team participants, including coaches/managers are to be listed. The Championship Team Roster should be returned to the delegate 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. Each coach/manager must sign the Championship Team Roster.
  - d. Identify the team's certified coach, if applicable for the championship.
  - e. Ensure all team participants arriving late, sign the form (or line-up card in plate official's possession) before playing. This is the team's responsibility.
3. A Protest Committee will be available for all games. A properly registered and accepted protest, as defined in the official rulebook, 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 once they have the information from the umpires and the team.

#### **I. Provincial Competition - Eligibility Check**

1. Player's names can be checked to ensure eligibility.
2. Only players listed on the Championship Team Roster will be eligible to participate in the Championship. Time may not permit the Supervisor 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.
3. If a player is not entered on the Championship Team Roster before it is turned in to the Supervisor the team manager should request the plate umpire to allow any late arriving player(s) to sign the game card as proof of eligibility. The umpire should then turn in the game card to the Supervisor following the game. The team manager should also inform the delegate that the player had signed the game card as proof of eligibility.
4. Official line-up cards are to be completed and submitted to the official scorer and umpire at the start of each game. The plate umpire retains the card for the duration of the game.
  - a. A player's name shall not be in the starting line-up unless the player is present in the team area and in uniform.
  - b. All available substitutes should be listed in the designated place by their last name, first name and uniform number.
  - c. Eligible roster members may be added to the substitute list at any time during the game.
  - d. The name of the head coach/manager must be listed on the line-up card.

**J. 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 Supervisor in consultation with the Protest Committee).
2. It is the responsibility of a competing League to inform Softball Manitoba in writing in advance of the Provincial Championships about any player, coach, manager or team official who is under suspension by the league.  
Note: Any team affiliated with a league is representing the league in Provincial Competition so the onus is on the league to ensure that all participants are in good standing.

**K. Provincial Competition - Scorekeepers/Line-Up Cards**

1. The home team will be the official scorekeeper in each game. It is up to both 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 Softball Manitoba 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 line-up 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. Line-up cards must be turned over to the plate umpire before each game.
  - d. If a substitute player is missed from the lineup card, the Softball Canada rule will then apply.

**L. Provincial Competition - Game Play**

1. The Draw shall determine the "home" team for each game and if not done, the toss shall be done at the Pre-Championship meeting.
  - a. The toss shall be made by the Event UIC, Supervisor or plate umpire.
  - b. Home team, as determined, must occupy the third base bench.
  - c. In an "if necessary" game, the home team shall be the top seeded team entering the "if" game or a coin toss.
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 Softball Manitoba.
3. 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. The officials 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 (3, 5, 6 or 7 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.

### **M. Provincial Competition – Rescheduling**

1. If for any reason the competition is not completed on the dates scheduled and is rescheduled:
  - 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:
    - i. They sign the new list of eligible players.
    - ii. They are listed on the game card before any rescheduled game begins or continues.
  - 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 Minor Committee.

### **N. Provincial Competition – Special Playing Rules: U11 U13 U15 U17 U19 ‘A’ ‘AA’ ‘AAA’**

#### **➤ U11-A Special Playing Rules**

1. **Length of Game:** Teams play games of no more than five (5) innings or ninety (90) minutes, whichever occurs first. Time limits begin with “Play Ball” (1<sup>st</sup> pitch). At the 90-minute mark, the plate umpire notifies teams and the inning is then completed. There will be no time limit in any Provincial Championship Medal games.
2. **Run Ahead Rule:** In a five (5) inning-controlled game if one team is up by thirteen (13) runs after 2 ½ or 3 innings or up by seven (7) runs after 3 ½ or 4 innings, the “Run Ahead Rule” is in effect.
3. **Tie Breaking:** The International Tiebreaker Rule shall be used in all games at the completion of regulation play. This will be continued for each subsequent inning until a winner is determined.
4. **Suspended Play:** If for any reason, the game is stopped, it shall resume from the exact point it left off (unless listed otherwise below). This applies to all games during the scheduled championship dates.
  - a. Restart of such games must be made with the same line-up as existed when the game was called.
  - b. Subsequent play will follow the rules for substitute players as defined in the official rulebook.
  - c. Any games in progress at the time of suspension will be considered as:
    - i. Where games have completed 3 innings (2½ if home team is ahead) of a scheduled 5 inning game then the game shall be considered complete and will not be resumed or restarted.
    - ii. If the game has not completed the required number of innings to be considered a complete game, then play will be rescheduled to a later date and restarted.
5. The “conference rule” (in regard to pitchers) is waived.
6. The “Designated Player rule” is not permitted.
7. Teams may use “Little Leaguer” or “Play grounder” bats in all sanctioned Softball Manitoba competitions.
8. Minor catchers must wear the protective helmet and mask with attached throat protector. In addition, all catchers in all categories of the Minor Division are required to wear a glove, chest protector, shin guards and athletic support (boys and girls). All of this equipment is to fit properly.
9. The dropped third strike rule shall not apply. The batter is out. Base runners may advance at their own risk with liability to be put out.
10. The infield fly rule is waived.
11. The offensive team shall have a max. of 6 runs per inning or three (3) outs, whichever comes first.
12. The substitution rule does not apply. Players may be substituted freely without penalty. All eligible players shall be listed on the line-up card and shall bat in the order shown.
13. Pitchers can't pitch more than three (3) innings in a game. One pitch (legal or illegal) thrown in an inning shall count as an inning pitched.
14. **Orthodox Pitching Rule –** For orthodox pitchers to transition into windmill pitchers (if they so desire) hip and shoulder turn will be allowed, for example, a right-hand pitcher will be allowed to turn their left hip and left shoulder and point them towards home plate during the delivery. The straight arm in the delivery (no elbow bend) is still expected.
  - a. In the event a player is injured during the game and is unable to take their turn at bat, the player will be removed from the batting order and out for the balance of the game, unless the player's coach announces that the player will be able to continue to play prior to the team's next at bat.
15. Once a batter reaches four (4) balls in the count, the batter will receive the number of soft toss pitches to continue the strike count when four (4) balls are reached. (Example: the count was 4 balls, 1 strike, the batter would receive 2 soft tosses). Every soft toss thrown will be considered a strike.

On a soft toss hit, the hitter may advance to 2<sup>nd</sup> base as able, but will not advance past 2<sup>nd</sup> base. Runners on base may advance a maximum of two (2) bases on a soft toss hit.

16. Stealing bases (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>) is always allowed when the ball is alive. Stealing Home is prohibited. Runners may advance Home only on a hit ball.
17. U11 will use a larger home plate: (21" inches).
18. The Official Ball will be the Rawlings 11" Red Dot PX11RYLC.
19. When playing in a game with a run-limit per inning, a catcher may be substituted out when the offensive team has two out OR one run less than the run limit in that inning.

➤ **U11-AA Special Playing Rules – New for 2023**

1. **Length of Game:** Teams play games of no more than five (5) innings or ninety (90) minutes, whichever occurs first. Time limits begin with "Play Ball" (1<sup>st</sup> pitch). At the 90-minute mark, the plate umpire notifies teams and the inning is then completed. There will be no time limit in any Provincial Championship Medal games.
2. **Inning Ending Game Flow:** **There will be a 2 minute turnaround when switching from offense to defense and vice versa. Teams not following this rule will be penalized for stalling the game and will be charged a conference. (See #6 – Conference Rule).**
3. **Run Ahead Rule:** In a five (5) inning-controlled game if one team is up by thirteen (13) runs after 2 ½ or 3 innings or up by seven (7) runs after 3 ½ or 4 innings, the "Run Ahead Rule" is in effect.
4. **Tie Breaking:** The International Tiebreaker Rule shall be used in all games at the completion of regulation play. This will be continued for each subsequent inning until a winner is determined.
5. **Suspended Play:** If for any reason, the game is stopped, it shall resume from the exact point it left off (unless listed otherwise below). This applies to all games during the scheduled championship dates.
  - a. Restart of such games must be made with the same line-up as existed when the game was called.
  - b. Subsequent play will follow the rules for substitute players as defined in the official rulebook.
  - c. Any games in progress at the time of suspension will be considered as:
    - i. Where games have completed 3 innings (2½ if home team is ahead) of a scheduled 5 inning game then the game shall be considered complete and will not be resumed or restarted.
    - ii. If the game has not completed the required number of innings to be considered a complete game, then play will be rescheduled to a later date and restarted.
6. **The "conference rule" is in effect. A maximum of three conferences are allowed in a game. The fourth conference will result in a pitching change. Each subsequent conference will result in another pitching change.**
7. The "Designated Player rule" is not permitted.
8. Teams may use "Little Leaguer" or "Play grounder" bats in all sanctioned Softball Manitoba competitions.
9. Minor catchers must wear the protective helmet and mask with attached throat protector. In addition, all catchers in all categories of the Minor Division are required to wear a glove, chest protector, shin guards and athletic support (boys and girls). All of this equipment is to fit properly.
10. The dropped third strike rule shall not apply. The batter is out. Base runners may advance at their own risk with liability to be put out.
11. The infield fly rule is waived.
12. **The offensive team shall have a max. of 6 runs per inning or three (3) outs, whichever comes first.**
13. The substitution rule does not apply. Players may be substituted freely without penalty. All eligible players shall be listed on the line-up card and shall bat in the order shown.
14. **A pitcher may only pitch two (2) innings maximum per game. One pitch (legal or illegal) thrown in an inning shall count as an inning pitched.**
15. Orthodox Pitching Rule – For orthodox pitchers to transition into windmill pitchers (if they so desire) hip and shoulder turn will be allowed, for example, a right-hand pitcher will be allowed to turn their left hip and left shoulder and point them towards home plate during the delivery. The straight arm in the delivery (no elbow bend) is still expected.
16. In the event a player is injured during the game and is unable to take their turn at bat, the player will be removed from the batting order and out for the balance of the game, unless the player's coach announces that the player will be able to continue to play prior to the team's next at bat.
17. Once a batter reaches four (4) balls in the count, the batter will receive the number of soft toss pitches to continue the strike count when four (4) balls are reached.

(Example: the count was 4 balls, 1 strike, the batter would receive 2 soft tosses). Every soft toss thrown will be considered a strike. On a soft toss hit, the hitter may advance to 2<sup>nd</sup> base as able, but will not advance past 2<sup>nd</sup> base. Runners on base may advance a maximum of two (2) bases on a soft toss hit.

18. Stealing bases (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>) is always allowed when the ball is alive. Stealing Home is prohibited. Runners may advance Home only on a hit ball.
19. U11 will use a larger home plate: (21" inches).
20. The Official Ball will be the Rawlings 11" Red Dot PX11RYLC.
21. When playing in a game with a run-limit per inning, a catcher may be substituted out when the offensive team has two out OR one run less than the run limit in that inning.

➤ **U13-A Special Playing Rules**

1. Length of Game: Teams play games of no more than five (5) innings or ninety (90) minutes, whichever occurs first. Time limits begin with "Play Ball" (1<sup>st</sup> pitch). At the 90-minute mark, the plate umpire notifies teams and the inning is then completed. There will be no time limit in any Provincial Championship Medal games.
2. Run Ahead Rule: In a five (5) inning-controlled game if one team is up by thirteen (13) runs after 2 ½ or 3 innings or up by seven (7) runs after 3 ½ or 4 innings, the "Run Ahead Rule" is in effect.
3. Tie Breaking: The International Tiebreaker Rule shall be used in all games at the completion of regulation play. This will be continued for each subsequent inning until a winner is determined.
4. Suspended Play: If for any reason, the game is stopped, it shall resume from the exact point it left off (unless listed otherwise below). This applies to all games during the scheduled championship dates.
  - a. Restart of such games must be made with the same line-up as existed when the game was called.
  - b. Subsequent play will follow the rules for substitute players as defined in the official rulebook.
  - c. Any games in progress at the time of suspension will be considered as:
    - i. Where games have completed 3 innings (2½ if home team is ahead) of a scheduled 5 inning game then the game shall be considered complete and will not be resumed or restarted.
    - ii. If the game has not completed the required number of innings to be considered a complete game, then play will be rescheduled to a later date and restarted.
5. The "conference rule" (in regard to pitchers) is waived.
6. The "Designated Player rule" is not permitted.
7. Teams may use "Little Leaguer" or "Play grounder" bats in all sanctioned Softball Manitoba competitions.
8. Minor catchers must wear the protective helmet and mask with attached throat protector. In addition all catchers in all categories of the Minor Division are required to wear a glove, chest protector, shin guards and athletic support (boys and girls). All of this equipment is to fit properly.
9. The dropped third strike rule shall not apply. The batter is out. Base runners may advance at their own risk with liability to be put out.
10. The Infield Fly Rule is in effect.
11. The offensive team shall have a max of six runs per inning or three (3) outs, whichever comes first.
12. The substitution rule does not apply. Players may be substituted freely without penalty. All eligible players shall be listed on the line-up card and shall bat in the order shown.
13. The Pitching Distance will be 38 feet.
14. Pitchers can't pitch more than three (3) innings in a game. One pitch (legal or illegal) thrown in an inning shall count as an inning pitched.
15. Orthodox Pitching Rule – For orthodox pitchers to transition into windmill pitchers (if they so desire) hip and shoulder turn will be allowed, for example, a right-hand pitcher will be allowed to turn their left hip and left shoulder and point them towards home plate during the delivery. The straight arm in the delivery (no elbow bend) is still expected.
16. The substitution rule does not apply. Players may be substituted freely without penalty. All eligible players shall be listed on the line-up card and shall bat in the order shown.
17. In the event a player is injured during the game and is unable to take their turn at bat, the player will be removed from the batting order and out for the balance of the game, unless the player's coach announces that the player will be able to continue to play prior to the team's next at bat.
18. When playing in a game with a run-limit per inning, a catcher may be substituted out when the offensive team has two out OR one run less than the run limit that inning.
19. The Official Ball will be the Rawlings 12' Red Dot PX12RYLC.

➤ **U13-AA Special Playing Rules – New for 2023**

1. **Length of Game:** Teams play games of no more than six (6) innings or ninety (90) minutes, whichever occurs first. Time limits begin with “Play Ball” (1<sup>st</sup> pitch). At the 90-minute mark, the plate umpire notifies teams and the inning is then completed. There will be no time limit in any Provincial Championship Medal games.
2. **Inning Ending Game Flow: There will be a 2 minute turnaround when switching from offense to defense and vice versa. Teams not following this rule will be penalized for stalling the game and will be charged a conference. (See #6 – Conference Rule).**
3. **Run Ahead Rule:** In a 6 (six) inning-controlled game if one team is up by thirteen (13) runs after 3 ½ or 4 innings or up by seven (7) runs after 4 ½ or 5 innings the “Run Ahead Rule” is in effect.
4. **Tie Breaking:** The International Tiebreaker Rule shall be used in all games at the completion of regulation play. This will be continued for each subsequent inning until a winner is determined.
5. **Suspended Play:** If for any reason, the game is stopped, it shall resume from the exact point it left off (unless listed otherwise below). This applies to all games during the scheduled championship dates.
  - d. Restart of such games must be made with the same line-up as existed when the game was called.
  - e. Subsequent play will follow the rules for substitute players as defined in the official rulebook.
  - f. Any games in progress at the time of suspension will be considered as:
    - iii. Where games have completed 3 innings (2½ if home team is ahead) of a scheduled 5 inning game then the game shall be considered complete and will not be resumed or restarted.
    - iv. If the game has not completed the required number of innings to be considered a complete game, then play will be rescheduled to a later date and restarted.
6. **The "conference rule" is in effect. A maximum of three conferences are allowed in a game. The fourth conference will result in a pitching change. Each subsequent conference will result in another pitching change.**
7. The “Designated Player rule” is not permitted.
8. Teams may use “Little Leaguer” or “Play grounder” bats in all sanctioned Softball Manitoba competitions.
9. Minor catchers must wear the protective helmet and mask with attached throat protector. In addition all catchers in all categories of the Minor Division are required to wear a glove, chest protector, shin guards and athletic support (boys and girls). All of this equipment is to fit properly.
10. The dropped third strike rule shall not apply. The batter is out. Base runners may advance at their own risk with liability to be put out.
11. The Infield Fly Rule is in effect.
12. **The offensive team shall have a maximum of six runs per inning or three (3) outs, whichever comes first.**
13. The substitution rule does not apply. Players may be substituted freely without penalty. All eligible players shall be listed on the line-up card and shall bat in the order shown.
14. The Pitching Distance will be 38 feet.
15. **A pitcher may only pitch two (2) innings maximum per game. One pitch (legal or illegal) thrown in an inning shall count as an inning pitched.**
16. **Orthodox Pitching Rule –** For orthodox pitchers to transition into windmill pitchers (if they so desire) hip and shoulder turn will be allowed, for example, a right-hand pitcher will be allowed to turn their left hip and left shoulder and point them towards home plate during the delivery. The straight arm in the delivery (no elbow bend) is still expected.
17. In the event a player is injured during the game and is unable to take their turn at bat, the player will be removed from the batting order and out for the balance of the game, unless the player’s coach announces that the player will be able to continue to play prior to the team’s next at bat.
18. When playing in a game with a run-limit per inning, a catcher may be substituted out when the offensive team has two out OR one run less than the run limit that inning.
19. The Official Ball will be the Rawlings 12’ Red Dot PX12RYLC.

➤ **U13-AAA Special Playing Rules**

1. **Length of Game:** Teams play games of no more than six (6) innings with no time limit.
2. **Run Ahead Rule:** In a 6 (six) inning-controlled game if one team is up by thirteen (13) runs after 3 ½ or 4 innings or up by seven (7) runs after 4 ½ or 5 innings the “Run Ahead Rule” is in effect.
3. **Tie Breaking:** The International Tiebreaker Rule shall be used in all games at the completion of regulation play. This will be continued for each subsequent inning until a winner is determined.

4. **Suspended Play:** If for any reason, the game is stopped, it shall resume from the exact point it left off (unless listed otherwise below). This applies to all games during the scheduled championship dates.
  - a. Restart of such games must be made with the same line-up as existed when the game was called.
  - b. Subsequent play will follow the rules for substitute players as defined in the official rulebook.
  - c. Any games in progress at the time of suspension will be considered as:
    - i. Where games have completed 4 innings (3 ½ if the home team is ahead) of a scheduled 6 inning game, then the game shall be considered complete and will not be resumed or restarted.
    - ii. If the game has not completed the required number of innings to be considered a complete game, then play will be rescheduled to a later date and restarted.
5. The “conference rule” (regarding pitchers) is waived.
6. **Innings Pitched.** There is a 3-inning limitation on the number of innings a pitcher may pitch per game. Teams must use 3 pitchers in every game, no more than 3 innings for 1, 2 innings for a second and 1 for a third. This can be split 2-2-2 if so desired. a Run Ahead Rule will negate mandatory innings. With a mid-inning pitcher change it is possible for pitchers to pitch 3, 2 and 2 if the first pitcher is pulled in the 3rd inning.  
**Note** – 1 pitch constitutes an inning. Penalty of use of pitchers beyond innings allowed will be loss/default of that game.
7. Pitching Distance will be 38 feet.
8. Each player must play a minimum of 2 innings. In a “Run Ahead” game, a team will not be penalized if they are not able to play all team members.
9. The Infield Fly Rule is in effect.
10. The dropped third strike rule shall not apply. The batter is out. Base runners may advance at their own risk with liability to be put out.
11. **Mandatory Roster Batting.** All players on the line-up card must bat. In the event a player is injured during the game and is unable to take their turn at bat their name shall be removed from the batting order and they will be ineligible to return under any circumstances for the balance of the game. The team will not record an out in the batting spot formerly occupied by the injured player.
12. The offensive team shall have a maximum of six runs per inning or 3 outs, whichever comes first.
13. When playing in a game with a run-limit per inning, a catcher may be substituted out when the offensive team has two out OR one run less than the run limit that inning.
14. The Official Ball will be the Rawlings 12’ Red Dot PX12RYLC.

➤ **U15-A Special Playing Rules**

1. **Length of Game:** Teams play games of no more than five (5) innings or ninety (90) minutes, whichever occurs first. Time limits begin with “Play Ball” (1<sup>st</sup> pitch). At the 90 minute mark, the plate umpire notifies teams and the inning is then completed. There will be no time limit in any Provincial Championship Medal games.
2. **Run Ahead Rule:** In a five (5) inning controlled game if one team is up by thirteen (13) runs after 2 ½ or 3 innings or up by seven (7) runs after 3 ½ or 4 innings, the “Run Ahead Rule” is in effect
3. **Tie Breaking:** The International Tiebreaker Rule shall be used in all games at the completion of regulation play. This will be continued for each subsequent inning until a winner is determined.
4. **Suspended Play:** If for any reason, the game is stopped, it shall resume from the exact point it left off (unless listed otherwise below). This applies to all games during the scheduled championship dates.
  - a. Restart of such games must be made with the same line-up as existed when the game was called.
  - b. Subsequent play will follow the rules for substitute players as defined in the official rulebook.
  - c. Any games in progress at the time of suspension will be considered as:
    - i. Where games have completed 3 innings (2½ if home team is ahead) of a scheduled 5 inning game; or 5 innings (4 ½ if home team is ahead) of a scheduled 7 inning game, then the game shall be considered complete and will not be resumed or restarted.
    - ii. If the game has not completed the required number of innings to be considered a complete game, then play will be rescheduled to a later date and restarted.
5. The offensive team shall have a max of six runs per inning or three (3) outs, whichever comes first.
6. All players are in the batting line-up and unlimited defensive substitutions are allowed (subject only to the pitching limitations). In the event a player is injured and is unable to bat they will be removed from the batting order without penalty, but will not be eligible to return for the balance of the game.

In the event that the removal of a player reduces the number of players below 9, standard Softball Canada rules will apply.

1. Pitchers may pitch no more than 4 innings for a 7 inning game and 3 innings for a 5 inning game. One pitch thrown in an inning constitutes an inning pitched. In the event that a game goes into extra innings the limitation on innings is waived.
8. When playing in a game with a run-limit per inning, a catcher may be substituted out when the offensive team has two out OR one run less than the run limit that inning.

➤ **U15-AA Special Playing Rules – New for 2023**

1. **Length of Game:** Teams play games of no more than **seven (7) innings** or ninety (90) minutes, whichever occurs first. Time limits begin with “Play Ball” (1<sup>st</sup> pitch). At the 90 minute mark, the plate umpire notifies teams and the inning is then completed. There will be no time limit in any Provincial Championship Medal games.
2. **Inning Ending Game Flow: There will be a 2 minute turnaround when switching from offense to defense and vice versa. Teams not following this rule will be penalized for stalling the game and will be charged a conference. (See #6 – Conference Rule).**
3. **Run Ahead Rule:** In a **seven (7) inning** controlled game if one team is up by thirteen (13) runs after 4 ½ or 5 innings or up by seven (7) runs after 5 ½ or 6 innings, the “Run Ahead Rule” is in effect.
4. **Tie Breaking:** The International Tiebreaker Rule shall be used in all games at the completion of regulation play. This will be continued for each subsequent inning until a winner is determined.
5. **Suspended Play:** If for any reason, the game is stopped, it shall resume from the exact point it left off (unless listed otherwise below). This applies to all games during the scheduled championship dates.
  - d. Restart of such games must be made with same line-up as existed when the game was called.
  - e. Subsequent play will follow the rules for substitute players as defined in the official rulebook.
  - f. Any games in progress at the time of suspension will be considered as:
    - iii. Where games have completed 3 innings (2½ if home team is ahead) of a scheduled 5 inning game; or 5 innings (4 ½ if home team is ahead) of a scheduled 7 inning game, then the game shall be considered complete and will not be resumed or restarted.
    - iv. If the game has not completed the required number of innings to be considered a complete game, then play will be rescheduled to a later date and restarted.
6. **The "conference rule" is in effect. A maximum of three conferences are allowed in a game. The fourth conference will result in a pitching change. Each subsequent conference will result in another pitching change.**
7. **The offensive team shall have a maximum of six runs per inning or three (3) outs, whichever comes first.**
8. **All players are in the batting line-up and unlimited defensive substitutions are allowed (subject only to the pitching limitations).**
9. **In the event a player is injured and is unable to bat they will be removed from the batting order without penalty, but will not be eligible to return for the balance of the game. In the event that the removal of a player reduces the number of players below 9, standard Softball Canada rules will apply.**
10. **A pitcher may only pitch three (3) innings maximum per game.** One pitch thrown in an inning constitutes an inning pitched. In the event that a game goes into extra innings the limitation on innings is waived.
11. When playing in a game with a run-limit per inning, a catcher may be substituted out when the offensive team has two out OR one run less than the run limit that inning.

➤ **U15-AAA Special Playing Rules**

1. **Length of Game:** Teams will play a 7 inning game with no time limit.
2. **Run Ahead Rule:** In all provincials leading to Western or Canadian championships the Run Ahead Rule will be the same as that Western or Canadian Championship Run Ahead Rule. (15) runs after 2 ½ or 3 innings or (10) runs after 3 ½ or 4 innings or (7) runs after 4 ½ or 5 innings the “Run Ahead Rule” is in effect.
3. **Tie Breaking:** The International Tiebreaker Rule shall be used in all games at the completion of regulation play. This will be continued for each subsequent inning until a winner is determined.
4. **Suspended Play:** If for any reason, the game is stopped, it shall resume from the exact point it left off (unless listed otherwise below). This applies to all games during the scheduled championship dates.
  - a. Restart of such games must be made with same line-up as existed when the game was called.

- b. Subsequent play will follow the rules for substitute players as defined in the official rulebook.
- c. Any games in progress at the time of suspension will be considered as:
  - i. Where games have completed 5 innings (4 ½ if the home team is ahead) of a scheduled 7 inning game, then the game shall be considered complete and will not be resumed or restarted.
  - ii. If the game has not completed the required number of innings to be considered a complete game, then play will be rescheduled to a later date and restarted.
5. Orthodox Pitching Rule – For orthodox pitchers to transition into windmill pitchers (if they so desire) hip and shoulder turn will be allowed, for example, a right hand pitcher will be allowed to turn their left hip and left shoulder and point them towards home plate during the delivery. The straight arm in the delivery (no elbow bend) is still expected.
6. Softball Canada Substitution and Lineup Rules are in effect – batting **nine (9)**. DP and Flex cannot be used.

➤ **U17-A Special Playing Rules**

1. Length of Game: Teams play games of no more than seven (7) innings or ninety (90) minutes in length, whichever occurs first. Time limits begin with “Play Ball” (1<sup>st</sup> pitch). At the 90 minute mark, the plate umpire notifies teams and the inning is then completed. There will be no time limit in any Provincial Championship Medal games.
2. Run Ahead Rule: In a seven (7) inning controlled game if one team is up by thirteen (13) runs after 4 ½ or 5 innings or up by seven (7) runs after 5 ½ or 6 innings, the “Run Ahead Rule” is in effect.
3. Tie Breaking: The International Tie Breaker Rule shall be used in all games at the completion of regulation play. This will be continued for each subsequent inning until a winner is determined.
4. Suspended Play: If for any reason, the game is stopped, it shall resume from the exact point it left off (unless listed otherwise below). This applies to all games during the scheduled championship dates.
  - a. Restart of such games must be made with the same line-up as existed when the game was called.
  - b. Subsequent play will follow the rules for substitute players as defined in the official rulebook.
  - c. Any games in progress at the time of suspension will be considered as:
    - i. Where games have completed 5 innings (4½ if home team is ahead) of a scheduled 7 inning game then the game shall be considered complete and will not be resumed.
    - ii. If the game has not completed the required number of innings to be considered a complete game, then play will be rescheduled to a later date and restarted.
5. All players are in the batting line-up and unlimited defensive substitutions are allowed (subject only to the pitching limitations). In the event a player is injured and is unable to bat they will be removed from the batting order without penalty, but will not be eligible to return for the balance of the game. In the event that the removal of a player reduces the number of players below 9, standard Softball Canada rules will apply.

➤ **U17-AA Special Playing Rules – New for 2023**

1. Length of Game: Teams play games of no more than **seven (7) innings** or ninety (90) minutes in length, whichever occurs first. Time limits begin with “Play Ball” (1<sup>st</sup> pitch). At the 90 minute mark, the plate umpire notifies teams and the inning is then completed. There will be no time limit in any Provincial Championship Medal games.
2. **Inning Ending Game Flow: There will be a 2 minute turnaround when switching from offense to defense and vice versa. Teams not following this rule will be penalized for stalling the game and will be charged a conference. (See #6 – Conference Rule).**
3. Run Ahead Rule: In a seven (7) inning controlled game if one team is up by thirteen (13) runs after 4 ½ or 5 innings or up by seven (7) runs after 5 ½ or 6 innings, the “Run Ahead Rule” is in effect.
4. Tie Breaking: The International Tie Breaker Rule shall be used in all games at the completion of regulation play. This will be continued for each subsequent inning until a winner is determined.
5. Suspended Play: If for any reason, the game is stopped, it shall resume from the exact point it left off (unless listed otherwise below). This applies to all games during the scheduled championship dates.
  - d. Restart of such games must be made with the same line-up as existed when the game was called.
  - e. Subsequent play will follow the rules for substitute players as defined in the official rulebook.
  - f. Any games in progress at the time of suspension will be considered as:
    - iii. Where games have completed 5 innings (4½ if home team is ahead) of a scheduled 7 inning game then the game shall be considered complete and will not be resumed.

- iv. If the game has not completed the required number of innings to be considered a complete game, then play will be rescheduled to a later date and restarted.
6. **The "conference rule" is in effect. A maximum of three conferences are allowed in a game. The fourth conference will result in a pitching change. Each subsequent conference will result in another pitching change..**
7. **The offensive team shall have a maximum of 6 runs per inning or 3 outs, whichever comes first.**
8. **A pitcher may only pitch three (3) innings maximum per game.** One pitch thrown in an inning constitutes an inning pitched. In the event that a game goes into extra innings the limitation on innings is waived.
9. **Softball Canada substitution and line-up rules are in effect – batting nine (9). Designated player and flex rules are in effect.**

➤ **U17-AAA Special Playing Rules**

1. Length of Game: Teams will play a 7 inning game with no time limit.
2. Run Ahead Rule: In all provincials leading to Western or Canadian championships the Run Ahead Rule will be the same as that Western or Canadian Championship Run Ahead Rule. (15) runs after 2 ½ or 3 innings or (10) runs after 3 ½ or 4 innings or (7) runs after 4 ½ or 5 innings the "Run Ahead Rule" is in effect.
3. Tie Breaking: The International Tiebreaker Rule shall be used in all games at the completion of regulation play. This will be continued for each subsequent inning until a winner is determined.
4. Suspended Play: If for any reason, the game is stopped, it shall resume from the exact point it left off (unless listed otherwise below). This applies to all games during the scheduled championship dates.
  - a. Restart of such games must be made with the same line-up as existed when the game was called.
  - b. Subsequent play will follow the rules for substitute players as defined in the official rulebook.
  - c. Any games in progress at the time of suspension will be considered as:
    - i. Where games have completed 5 innings (4½ if home team is ahead) of a scheduled 7 inning game then the game shall be considered complete and will not be resumed.
    - ii. If the game has not completed the required number of innings to be considered a complete game, then play will be rescheduled to a later date and restarted.
5. Softball Canada substitution and lineup rules are in effect – batting **nine (9)**. Designated player and flex rules are in effect.

➤ **U19-A Special Playing Rules**

1. Length of Game: Teams play games of no more than seven (7) innings or 90 minutes in length, whichever occurs first. Time limits begin with "Play Ball" (1<sup>st</sup> pitch). At the 90 minute mark, the plate umpire notifies teams and the inning is then completed. There will be no time limit in any Provincial Championship Medal games.
2. Run Ahead Rule: In a seven (7) inning controlled game if one team is up by fifteen (15) runs after 2 ½ or 3 innings or up by 10 (10) runs after 3 ½ or 4 innings or up by seven (7) runs after 4 ½ or 5 innings the "Run Ahead Rule" is in effect.
3. Tie Breaking: The International Tiebreaker Rule shall be used in all games at the completion of regulation play. This will be continued for each subsequent inning until a winner is determined.
4. Suspended Play: If for any reason, the game is stopped, it shall resume from the exact point it left off (unless listed otherwise below). This applies to all games during the scheduled championship dates.
  - a. Restart of such games must be made with the same line-up as existed when the game was called.
  - b. Subsequent play will follow the rules for substitute players as defined in the official rulebook.
  - c. Any games in progress at the time of suspension will be considered as:
    - i. Where games have completed 5 innings (4½ if home team is ahead) of a scheduled 7 inning game then the game shall be considered complete and will not be resumed.
    - ii. If the game has not completed the required number of innings to be considered a complete game, then play will be rescheduled to a later date and restarted.
5. All players are in the batting line-up and unlimited defensive substitutions are allowed (subject only to the pitching limitations). In the event a player is injured and is unable to bat they will be removed from the batting order without penalty but will not be eligible to return for the balance of the game. In the event that the removal of a player reduces the number of players below 9, standard Softball Canada rules will apply.

➤ **U19-AAA Special Playing Rules**

1. **Length of Game:** Teams will play a 7 inning game with no time limit.
2. **Run Ahead Rule:** a. In all provincials leading to Western or Canadian championships the Run Ahead Rule will be the same as that Western or Canadian Championship Run Ahead Rule. (15) runs after 2 ½ or 3 innings or (10) runs after 3 ½ or 4 innings or (7) runs after 4 ½ or 5 innings the “Run Ahead Rule” is in effect.
3. **Tie Breaking:** The International Tiebreaker Rule shall be used in all games at the completion of regulation play. This will be continued for each subsequent inning until a winner is determined.
4. **Suspended Play:** If for any reason, the game is stopped, it shall resume from the exact point it left off (unless listed otherwise below). This applies to all games during the scheduled championship dates.
  - a. Restart of such games must be made with the same line-up as existed when the game was called.
  - b. Subsequent play will follow the rules for substitute players as defined in the official rulebook.
  - c. Any games in progress at the time of suspension will be considered as:
    - i. Where games have completed 5 innings (4½ if home team is ahead) of a scheduled 7 inning game then the game shall be considered complete and will not be resumed.
    - ii. If the game has not completed the required number of innings to be considered a complete game, then play will be rescheduled to a later date and restarted.
5. Softball Canada substitution and line-up rules are in effect – batting **nine (9)**. Designated player and flex rules are in effect.

**O. Provincial Competition - Awards**

The Association will provide appropriate awards for all Provincial Championships:

- a. A plaque and medals for the Provincial Champions.
- b. Medals for second and third place teams.

**4. 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, the Association By-Laws and General Operating Rules and the Division Operating Rules.

**B. Team Participation**

1. Ensure your team meets all necessary requirements for entry into the Provincial competition.
  - a. Team/Players are registered and entered as per Softball Manitoba deadlines.
  - b. Proper equipment. (Uniform requirements / Bat list / Equipment / etc.)

**C. Coaching Certification**

1. Ensure coaching staff is properly certified as is written in Division Operating Rules.

**D. Notification of Game Times/Pre-Tournament Meeting**

1. Softball Manitoba will post the Provincial Championship Draws at the earliest possible date.
2. 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 Delegate - the opposing team will have the option of being Home or Away throughout the entire Round Robin portion of the draw.

**E. Travel and Accommodation:**

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

**5. TRAVEL TO CANADIAN/WESTERN CANADIAN SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Funding:**

Teams representing the Province at Canadian/WCS Championships must be prepared to finance their trip. Any funds allocated by Softball Manitoba will be based on the number of teams traveling; the distance traveled, competition length and team participation in Association fundraising events (i.e. Goldeyes).

## **6. MINOR PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION**

**The entry fee for all Minor Division Provincial Championships is due on June 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**NOTE:** Coaches must be certified & signed on roster by June 22<sup>nd</sup> to ENTER any of the above listed Provincial Championships.

Individual team entries will be accepted from Softball Manitoba affiliated teams for Provincial Championships as listed on the Competition Calendar on the inside back cover of the Information Handbook and the website.

1. Teams are eligible for "Open" Provincials in the categories for which they are registered.
2. All teams including host teams entering Open Provincials must complete the online registration and submit their fees by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. Any team withdrawing from the competition after June 15<sup>th</sup> or failing to meet its commitments will be considered a no show and it will automatically default its entry fee and further action may be taken against the team as a unit or its individual participants.
5. Coaching Certification Requirements - Refer to Chart and Section 3 C - Coaching Certifications.
6. Full uniforms as outlined in the Softball Canada Rulebook are required for all Provincials leading to a National/WCSC. Matching tops with numbers are required for all others.
7. The maximum playing roster is 17 for all categories in Provincials (Maximum roster for Canadians/WCSC is also 17).
8. All teams must have a Team Representative at the Pre-Tournament meeting. Any team not represented will be subject to penalty.
9. 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.
10. Draws will be posted as soon as possible after the entry deadline.
11. 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.
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](mailto:softball@softball.mb.ca) (password: softball). The e-transfer should include a note as to what team the fee is covering (example: U13 A Girls Provincials – Bonivital East). 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**

## 7. MINOR DIVISION COACHING CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

MALE				FEMALE			
AGE	PROVINCIALS	W.C.S.C.	CANADIANS	AGE	PROVINCIALS	W.C.S.C.	CANADIANS
U11	Community Softball FOCS Part 1 MED + Evaluation			U11 A/AA	Community Softball FOCS Part 1 MED + Evaluation		
U13	Community Softball FOCS Part 1 MED + Evaluation	Competition Intro. FOCS Part 1 & 2 MED + Evaluation		U13 AAA	Community Softball FOCS Part 1 MED + Evaluation		
U15	Community Softball FOCS Part 1 MED + Evaluation	Competition Intro. FOCS Part 1 & 2 MED + Evaluation	Competition Intro. FOCS Part 1 & 2 MED + Evaluation	U13 A/AA	Community Softball FOCS Part 1 MED + Evaluation		
U17	Community Softball FOCS Part 1 MED + Evaluation	Competition Intro. FOCS Part 1 & 2 MED + Evaluation	Competition Intro. FOCS Part 1 & 2 MED + Evaluation	U15 AAA	Head Coach: Competition Intro – Certified Assistant Coaches: Competition Intro – Trained All Coaches: FOCS Part 1 & 2 and MED + Evaluation		
U19	Community Softball FOCS Part 1 MED + Evaluation	Competition Intro. FOCS Part 1 & 2 MED + Evaluation	Competition Intro. FOCS Part 1 & 2 MED + Evaluation	U15 A/AA	Community Softball FOCS Part 1 MED + Evaluation		
				U17 AAA	Head Coach: Competition Intro – Certified Assistant Coaches: Competition Intro – Trained All Coaches: FOCS Part 1 & 2 and MED + Evaluation		
				U17 A/AA	Community Softball FOCS Part 1 MED + Evaluation		
				U19 AAA	Head Coach: Competition Intro – Certified Assistant Coaches: Competition Intro – Trained All Coaches: FOCS Part 1 & 2 and MED + Evaluation		
				U19 A	Community Softball FOCS Part 1 MED + Evaluation		

FOCS = Foundations of Coaching Softball  
MED = Making Ethical Decisions

All registered Minor Division softball coaches and managers are required to complete the 3-hour online training “Respect in Sport Program”. See Below. Coaches who certified prior to 2018 must re-certify in 2023 (RIS certification renewal requirements every 5 years).

### Sport Manitoba – Respect in Sport Program

Sport Manitoba believes in being proactive in ensuring sport in our province is safe and welcoming for all participants. Respect in Sport helps us promote those values through a simple and convenient online training course for coaches and sport leaders. It is designed as a tool to assist coaches in identifying and dealing with abuse, neglect, harassment, and bullying in sport. Respect in Sport is a required online training program for all coaches and managers registered with a Provincial Sport Organization in Manitoba.

<https://sportmanitoba.respectgroupinc.com/>

### Softball Manitoba – Coach Screening

All registered Softball Manitoba coaches and managers (Minor & Adult) are required to complete a Criminal Record Check every 5 years as part of their registration. For more information, review Softball Manitoba’s Screening Policy in the Policy section of the Information Handbook.