



# SOFTBALL MANITOBA

## Division Operating Rules Motion Form



### NOTICE OF MOTION #7

#### Division Operating Rules

**Submitted by:** Jeremy Lough - President, St. James Softball

**Division Affiliation:** Minor Division

**Date:** October 22, 2024

#### **REFERENCE:** (Section, article, number, page, etc.)

Minor Division Operating Rules - Page M2 - 1. Registration, F. Fill Rule

#### **WHEREAS** (Article as currently written.)

##### 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.



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**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** (Motion. State whether revision, addition, deletion)

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**Athletes who do not make their home regions rosters are eligible to utilize the fill rule without receiving a release from their home region. MPSL approval is still required.**

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**RATIONALE**

“AAA” calibre athletes should have the opportunity to compete for spots once they have been cut from their home region. Athletes are cut for many reasons other than ability – positional need, major/minor split, personality issues and sometimes just favouritism. Athletes that demonstrate not only the talent, but the commitment and financial ability to play “AAA” should be able to compete for a spot if the opportunity exists. Athletes would still have to be cut before trying out for an organization in need of players, would still require approval from both the MPSL and Softball Manitoba and would still be required to return to their home organizations the following year. Allowing regions who have already cut the kid the ability to block a fill opportunity only creates anxiety and stress for these kids. The “AA” category is not an appropriate substitute for kids who want to play competitive ball and should not be used as an excuse to not let kids play where they should. “AAA” athletes should have every opportunity to play at their level, period.

**FINAL IMPLICATIONS:**    \_\_\_\_ Carried \_\_\_\_ Amended \_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_ Defeated