

**SANCTIONING POLICY – MINOR SOFTBALL**

The following policy provides information for individuals, organizations and Associations regarding activities and events that are recognized by Softball Saskatchewan as being sanctioned or non-sanctioned. It is the role of Softball Saskatchewan to support every Minor Softball Association (MSA) and its players, coaches and programs. Softball Saskatchewan annually invests significant human and financial resources into player and coach development programs to further develop and enhance our programs and services for all members.

Softball Saskatchewan respects the rights of individuals to consider programming outside their local MSA, however if that outside programming focuses on recruitment of players, formation of teams, competition and playing games outside Softball Saskatchewan sanctioned activities, we must protect those MSA’s and their members.

**Summer Softball Season**

April 1st until August 31st.

**Players**

All minor aged players must be affiliated (member) with a local MSA. Any player who wishes to participate in any activity or event outside their local MSA between April 1st and August 31st of the current year must have a written release from their local MSA. The Softball Saskatchewan Player Release Form is available on our website under forms. Players who do not obtain this release will have no insurance coverage from Softball Saskatchewan and may be suspended.

**Teams**

Any member minor team that participates in tournaments or games organized by non-sanctioned Leagues or Associations will not have insurance coverage through Softball Saskatchewan. Please note that member teams attending tournaments outside the Province of Saskatchewan must obtain a Travel Permit. Softball Saskatchewan publishes a list of all member Associations and Leagues on our website.

**Fall/Winter Season Activities**

September 1st – March 31st

Softball Saskatchewan supports fall/winter programs and activities sanctioned by member MSA’s. However, any minor player wishing to participate in any non-sanctioned activity or event outside their local MSA will not be insured by Softball Saskatchewan. There are several private individuals and organizations who offer programs that are not sanctioned by Softball Saskatchewan and players or coaches who choose to participate in these activities and events are not insured by Softball Saskatchewan.

**Softball Saskatchewan Programs**

Softball Saskatchewan provides the following programs for members of Softball Saskatchewan: High-Performance Program, Canada Games Program and Saskatchewan Summer Games Program. Softball Saskatchewan will only allow affiliated players and coaches to register and participate in these programs. Access to these programs is a privilege that is offered to and reserved for the proud members of Softball Saskatchewan.

**Umpires**

Any umpire participating in a non-sanctioned activity or event as determined by Softball Saskatchewan may be suspended.

**Definition of Non-Sanctioned Softball Activity or Event**

Please note the definition of a “non-sanctioned softball activity or event” is at the absolute discretion of the Softball Saskatchewan Board of Directors or Staff.

## ****Frequently Asked Questions****

**Can my son or daughter play both Softball Saskatchewan Sanctioned and non-sanctioned softball at the same time during the summer softball season?**

* No. They must choose which program they wish to participate within.

**If my son or daughter plays an entire softball season of non-sanctioned softball, can they return to Softball Saskatchewan sanctioned softball the following softball season?**

* Yes, provided they register with a local Minor Softball Association.

**If I am coaching a non-sanctioned team can I coach a team in Softball Saskatchewan Sanctioned programming during the summer season?**

* No. As an adult you are making the decision to coach in a program outside of the Softball Saskatchewan jurisdiction during the softball season and therefore are ineligible to coach within Softball Saskatchewan Sanctioned programming. Softball Saskatchewan supplements the cost of training coaches throughout the province annually to ensure players receive the instruction from competent coaches to assist in their development as a player. Therefore, Softball Saskatchewan will not allow those same coaches to participate in non-sanctioned programming during the summer softball season which is competing with Minor Softball Associations programming.

**If my minor athlete participates in a Non-Sanctioned softball activity or event or I coach/manage a team within a non-sanctioned softball activity, can I access softball Saskatchewan insurance?**

* No. The Softball Saskatchewan insurance program only covers members while participating in sanctioned activities and events.

**For information on becoming a member of Softball Saskatchewan please contact our office at (306) 780-9235 or email our Executive Director at** **guy@softball.sk.ca**

**November 2020**