

Fastpitch Operating Rules

(Changes from the 2021 Handbook are in bold)

Article I. General

- A. Softball Saskatchewan uses the Softball Canada Official Guide and Rule Book for its interpretation in playing the game of Softball. Modifications to the official rules as stated herein take precedence over those in the Softball Canada Rule Book. Specific League rulings take precedent for League play in regards to:
 - a. Game variances, the use of batting, running, pitching, etc.
- B. All affiliated Leagues, Associations and teams will have complete charge over their own operations and business, except
 - a. In the case of a dispute, where any affiliated League, Association or team shall have the privilege of appealing to Softball Saskatchewan in writing through their respective League or Association following the Softball Sask Appeal Policy.
- C. In the case of Provincial Championships, which are governed by Softball Saskatchewan.

Article II. Definitions

- A. **Association:** A group of volunteers, whether incorporated as a Non-Profit Corporation or not, organized to administer the operation of softball within the Province of Saskatchewan and in accordance with the Bylaws and Operating Rules of Softball Saskatchewan. The group will be administering softball within a center or a District. Associations that apply for membership will have all rights allotted by Softball Saskatchewan. **A softball association may have players registered with it in one or more recognized divisions or categories and may operate one or more teams.** Softball Associations must pay the annual \$50 Association/League Membership Fee to be recognized as an Association. All teams in an Association must have common signing officers for the purpose of registration and releases and provide this information to the Executive Director of Softball Saskatchewan. Any changes in the officers of an Association set up must be forwarded to the Executive Director of Softball Saskatchewan as they occur. **Softball Saskatchewan will only recognize one (1) Minor Softball Association for each city, town, or village.**
- B. **League:** A combination of teams affiliated with Softball Saskatchewan through their respective Associations or with another Province that is a member of Softball Canada who compete among themselves based on a regular schedule of games established by an elected or appointed group of individuals affiliated with Softball Saskatchewan. Leagues that apply for membership will have all rights allotted by Softball Saskatchewan and pay the \$50 Association/League Membership Fee. Leagues must also have at least four (4) teams and a league Executive to be eligible for membership.
- C. **Teams:** All Minor teams must be affiliated with a local Minor Association. Individual Adult Teams must demonstrate that no Association or League exists in their center and/or district to be accepted and approved for membership. Teams that are accepted for membership will have all rights allotted by Softball Saskatchewan and the privilege to apply to register for Provincial Championships.
- D. **Center:** For Minor Softball only - any city, town, village incorporated, as defined by the Dept. of Urban Affairs, and listed in the most recent Municipal Directory and which had a Minor Softball Association affiliated with Softball Saskatchewan the previous season.

- E. **Non-Center:** For Minor Softball only, any city, town, or village incorporated, as defined by the Department of Urban Affairs, and listed in the most recent Municipal Directory and which did not have a Minor Softball Association affiliated with Softball Saskatchewan the previous season.
- F. **Divisions:** Masters (40+ male, 35+ female), Men's & Women's (Male & Female), U23 Male (Canadians) and Minor (includes both male and female) in the following age categories: U20 male, U19 Female, U17, U15, U13, U11 and U9/U7/U5 (Timbits Softball).
- G. **Provincial Championship Categories: Minor - A, BW, & B, Adult A & B**
- H. **Umpire Associations:** Will qualify for membership into Softball Saskatchewan if they have five (5) or more registered umpires in their Association.

RULE 1: RESIDENCY

Section 1: General

- A. Players and Coaches registered on a team with the Association must be residents of Saskatchewan as of June 1st of the current playing year. Players and Coaches that are not Canadian citizens may participate in a Provincial Championship if they have been CONTINUOUS residents of Saskatchewan for one (1) calendar year prior to the Provincial Championship registration deadline date (June 1st) and meet all other residency requirements. Players and Coaches registered on teams in categories which lead to a Canadian Championship must adhere to the Softball Canada Residency Rule of May 1st.
- B. An urban player is defined as any player who lives within the corporate limits of any city, town, village, or hamlet. Rural players must use the legal land description of the home quarter. (P.O. box numbers and sites are not acceptable).
- C. For the purpose of determining communities, any urban community with a population of 100 or less will not be counted as one of the communities. We will use the most recent Government Census to define the populations.
- D. For Minor softball registration purposes, the address for players from the center/non-center shall be the address of the player's parent(s) and/or the address of the person who is in loco parentis of the player within the district. Postal Addresses i.e., post box number or sites are not acceptable (Must list the center/non-center they reside nearest to or reside in within the district).
- E. For Minor Softball registration purposes, the address from rural areas shall be the Center/Non-Center closest to the residence of the player's parent(s) and/or the person who is in loco parentis of the player within the district.
- F. For Adult softball registration purposes, the address shall be the player's place of residence.
- G. For Adult softball registration purposes, the address for players from rural areas shall be the Center closest to the player's place of residence.
- H. A player living in the rural area shall determine the closest center/non-center by a straight line between the closest point of the center/non-center city/town/village limits to the closest point to the quarter section or acreage on which the said residence is located.

Section 2: Dual Residency Regulations

- A. It shall be the obligation/responsibility of Softball Saskatchewan, in their sole and unfettered

discretion to implement residency affiliation and registration regulations for the formation of teams.

- B. Minor Players must register in the district where their parent(s)/court appointed guardian(s) reside.
- C. Residence is established by:
 - i. The parents' usual residence when parents live in the same house, or if one of the parents is deceased, the usual residence of the surviving parent.
 - ii. In cases where parents do not live in the same residence, the legal residence is the usual residence of the parent having legal custody of the player; OR, if both parents have legal custody, the usual residence of the parent with whom the player usually lives; OR again, if the player lives equally with both parents, his/her place of residence shall be determined by Softball Saskatchewan.
- D. When legal custody has been granted to a third person, the usual residence shall be determined by Softball Saskatchewan. The term "usual residence" is defined as four (4) out of seven (7) days.

NOTE: In the application of the above, the term "legal custody" and/or "legal guardian" refers to the granting of custody as determined by a Court of Law in one of the following circumstances:

- The application of the Divorce Law
- In the case of legal separation
- Loss of parental authority
- When it is deemed the child's development is compromised
- When both (2) parents are deceased,
- Married, or the equivalent of married

RULE 2: AGE CLASSIFICATIONS (Male &Female)

All ages prior to January 1 of the current playing year

TIMBITS

Under 5- Male/Female	Born in 2017, 2018
Under 7 – Male/Female	Born in 2015, 2016
Under 9 – Male/Female	Born in 2013, 2014

MINOR

Under 11 – Male/Female	Born in 2011, 2012
Under 13 – Male/Female	Born in 2009, 2010
Under 15 – Male/Female	Born in 2007, 2008
Under 17 – Male/Female	Born in 2005, 2006
Under 19 – Female	Born in 2003, 2004
Under 20 – Male	Born in 2002, 2003, 2004

ADULT

Under 23 – Men	Born in 1999, 2001, 2002
Under 23 – Women	Born in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
Master Women's F.P.	35 during current year
Master Men's F.P.	40 during current year

RULE 3: PROOF OF AGE

If not previously registered all the players must submit proof of age in the form of a copy of Birth or Baptismal Certificate, Passport, or a Saskatchewan Health Services Card by the Roster Registration Deadline Date.

RULE 4: AFFILIATION (Membership)

Affiliation with Softball Saskatchewan is done online through our website at www.softball.sk.ca via RAMP Interactive.

Section 1: Application for Affiliation (Membership)

A. Application for Affiliation (membership) will be accepted from Associations, Leagues, Teams (players, coaches, and managers), and Umpire Associations as outlined in Article II Definitions. Approved applicants will receive a membership in the Association by paying the annually set Affiliation fees, submitted to the Softball Saskatchewan office. To be covered by the Softball Saskatchewan Insurance Program, players, coaches, and managers on teams must be affiliated with Softball Saskatchewan on or before May 15. All coaches must also have completed their Respect in Sport (RiS) training by this date as well. Information regarding the RiS is available on our website under the Respect in Sport tab. The program takes about 3 hours to complete and is free of charge.

*** Affiliation (Membership) Deadline Date: May 15 ***

- B. Affiliated teams attending tournaments will be covered by the Insurance Program ONLY if the tournament is SANCTIONED by Softball Saskatchewan.
- C. Teams attending tournaments outside of Saskatchewan must obtain a Travel Permit to be covered by the Insurance Program.
- D. Affiliation/Membership Fee Structure:
- i. \$50.00 (Association/League)
 - ii. \$12.00/Player (U9 Player Fee - Born in 2011 or later)
 - iii. \$17.00/Player (U19 Player Fee – Born 2002 – 2010)
 - iv. \$17.00/Player (Adult Players – Born 2001 or earlier)
 - v. \$12.00/Coach and Manager
 - vi. FSIN Championships: \$175/team (includes all players and coaches)
- E. Slo-Pitch/Orthodox team Affiliation Fee Structure: The fee for all Slo-Pitch and Orthodox teams is a TEAM Fee not a per player fee, the Team Affiliation Fee for all Slo-Pitch/Orthodox teams is \$175.00 per team
- F. **Affiliation Fees are non-transferable from one player to another. (i.e., if a player is deleted from a roster, their affiliation fee is nontransferable to a player being added). Once paid, a player's affiliation fee remains with them the entire season, the player being added must have their affiliation fee paid.**
- G. All Softball teams including players, coaches and managers must be affiliated with Softball Saskatchewan through a league or Association to be covered under our insurance program and to be eligible to register for Provincial Championships. No team, player or coach who is a member of

Softball Saskatchewan is permitted to play in a game with or against a non-member of Softball Saskatchewan without permission of Softball Saskatchewan. In circumstances where an adult team can provide documentation that no league exists the Board of Directors may grant permission to affiliate with Softball Saskatchewan.

- H. Any player wishing to play in more than one affiliated league/Association must receive approval from both league/Associations prior to playing any games. Any player violating this rule may be suspended pending written notification to Softball Saskatchewan.
- I. **Minor softball Associations in all centers shall be under one governing body. This body must affiliate with Softball Sask. on or before the time they affiliate their teams (players, coaches, managers) or any teams governed by this body will not be affiliated. It will be the responsibility of that body for the accuracy of all player affiliation information.**
- J. **All minor players must affiliate and tryout with their local or nearest Minor Softball Association within their district.**
- K. The Association, through the Board of Directors, reserves the right to refuse any application for affiliation (membership) in Softball Saskatchewan.

RULE 5: PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Section 1: General

All teams (players & coaches) registering for Provincial Championships must first be affiliated. All Minor teams (players and coaches/managers) registering for Provincial Championships must be a member of a local Association or League. The Association through the Board of Directors reserves the right to refuse any application for registration in Provincial Championships and has the authority to re-categorize teams.

Section 2: A Centers

Softball Saskatchewan has designated the following Associations as “A” centers:

Regina (2)	All Minor Girls age divisions
Moose Jaw (3)	The U12 & U14 Girls age divisions
Lumsden (5)	The U12, U14 & U16 Girls age divisions
Warman-TC (5)	All Minor Girls age divisions
Saskatoon (6)	All Minor Girls age divisions
Melfort (8)	The U12, U14 & U16 Girls age divisions
Prince Albert (8)	All Minor Girls age divisions

Centers other than Regina and Saskatoon may only register a maximum of one team in each age category.

- A. Minor Associations not designated as an A center may still register an “A” team in Provincial Championships. Note: Softball Saskatchewan supports Associations who are developing programs that register “A” teams in more than one age category.

Section 3: Provincial Championship Entry Fees

Category: Minor Fastpitch	Player Roster	Reg. Fee	Travel Fund	Total Amount
Under 20 A Men’s	15	200.00	315.00	515.00

Under 20 B Men's	15	200.00	315.00	515.00
Under 17 A Boys	15	200.00		200.00
Under 17 B Boys	15	200.00	315.00	515.00
Under 15 A Boys	15	200.00	315.00	515.00
Under 15 B Boys	15	200.00	315.00	515.00
Under 13 A Boys	15	200.00		200.00
Under 13 B Boys	20	200.00		200.00
Under 11 Boys	20	200.00		200.00
Under 19 A Girls	15	200.00	315.00	515.00
Under 19 BW Girls	15	200.00	315.00	515.00
Under 19 B Girls	20	200.00		200.00
Under 17 A Girls	15	200.00	315.00	515.00
Under 17 BW Girls	15	200.00	315.00	515.00
Under 17 B Girls	20	200.00		200.00
Under 15 A Girls	15	200.00		200.00
Under 15 BW Girls	15	200.00	315.00	515.00
Under 15 B Girls	20	200.00		200.00
Under 13 A & B Girls	20	200.00		200.00
Under 11 Girls	20	200.00		200.00
Category: Adult	Player Roster	Reg. Fee	Travel Fund	Total
Fastpitch				Amount
Women's A	15	250.00		250.00
Men's A	15	250.00	315.00	565.00
Men's & Women's B	15	250.00	315.00	565.00
Men's & Women's C	20	250.00		250.00
Under 23 A Men	15	250.00	315.00	565.00
Under 23 A Women	15	250.00	315.00	565.00
Master Men	20	250.00	315.00	565.00
Master Women	20	250.00	315.00	565.00

Section 4: Provincial Championship Registration Deadlines

- A. All teams entering Provincial Championships in categories that lead to a Canadian Championship (All A categories) must submit the completed Provincial Championship Team entry form, **Letter of Intent, and \$5,000 bond** with appropriate Reg. Fees to the Softball Sask. office in Regina by 4:00pm on or before **MAY 15th** (All entry forms must be accompanied with payment of fees).
- B. All teams entering Provincial Championships in categories that lead to a Western Canadian (All Girls BW and Boys B) must submit the completed Provincial Championship Team Entry form, Letter of Intent, and \$1,000 Bond with appropriate Reg. Fee's to the Softball Sask. office by 4:00pm on or before **JUNE 1st**.
- C. All teams entering Provincial Championships that **DO NOT** lead to a Canadian or Western Canadian must submit the completed Provincial Championship Team Entry form and fees to the Softball Sask. office by 4:00pm on or before **JUNE 1st**. (All entry forms must be

accompanied with payment of fees).

- D. Late Provincial Championship team entry forms will be accepted until 4pm one week following the entry deadline with an additional \$100 late entry fee. No exceptions.
- E. **Minor team Provincial Rosters must be received on or before 4:00pm on JUNE 1st.** All Minor team rosters must be approved by the sponsoring League or Association Softball Centre PRIOR to being submitted to Softball Saskatchewan. **NOTE:** Incomplete Provincial entries and Rosters will not be accepted, and entry fees will not be refunded.
- F. **Adult team Provincial Rosters must be received on or before 4:00pm on JUNE 15th.** **NOTE:** Incomplete Provincial entries and rosters will not be accepted, and entry fees will not be refunded.

Section 5: N.C.C.P. Coaching Certification Requirements

1. **ALL coaches and managers MUST be affiliated prior to being listed on a Provincial Roster.**
2. **ALL persons listed on a Provincial Roster (Coach/Manager) MUST have their Respect in Sport (RiS) for Activity Leaders.**
3. **Provincial Rosters allow for up to a maximum of five (5) coach/managers.**
4. **Provincial Rosters must have a minimum of one (1) coach who is of the same gender as the category the team is registering in. (ie: Female teams must have a minimum of one female coach, male teams must have a minimum of one male coach).**

Coach Certification Pathways

CSOP - Community Sport On-Going Participation (Can also be called CSC-Community Softball Coach). Coaches who complete the e-learning (FOCS-Part 1 and MED), online module #1, and the in-person clinic are deemed to be TRAINED (There is no certification at this level)

Comp. Intro. – Competition Introduction

Coaches who complete the e-learning (FOCS-Part 1 & 2 and MED), online modules #1, #2, #3 and the in-person clinic are deemed to be TRAINED. Coaches can become CERTIFIED after completing and passing the on-field evaluation.

Comp. Dev. – Competition Development

This pathway is for coaches who are interested in Canada Games and National team opportunities and is administered by Softball Canada.

Coach E-Learning (Prerequisites to taking above Pathways)

E-Learning	Foundations of Coaching Softball (FOCS)– Part 1
E-Learning	Foundations of Coaching Softball (FOCS)– Part 2
E-Learning	Making Ethical Decisions (MED)-Online Evaluation

Coach Certification Terminology

CSOP Trained – This is coaches who have completed the e-learning (FOCS 1 & MED) online module(s), and in-person clinic. There is no certification in this level.

COMP. Intro. Trained - This is coaches who have completed the e-learning (FOCS 1,2 & MED) online module(s), and in-person clinic.

COMP. Intro. Certified– This is coaches who have completed the Comp. Intro trained requirements and have passed the on-field evaluation.

Certification Requirements for Provincial Championships (In addition to previous #1 and #2)

1. For teams registering in Provincial Championship categories that **DO NOT** lead to a Western or Canadian Championships (U11 boys/girls, U13 B boys, U13 A & B girls, U15 B girls, U17 B girls, U19 B girls, men's and women's C).
 - i. Must have a minimum of one (1) coach on the Provincial Roster who is CSOP TRAINED and on the bench at the championship.
2. For MINOR teams registering in Provincial Championship categories that lead to a Western Canadian (U13 A boys, U15 B boys, U15 BW girls, U17 B boys, U17 BW girls, U19 B boys and U19 BW girls).
 - i. Must have a minimum of one (1) coach who is Comp. Intro CERTIFIED and on the bench at the championship.
3. For ADULT teams registering in Provincial Championship categories that lead to a Western Canadian (U23 B men's and women's, men's & women's, master men's & women's)
 - i. Must have a minimum of one (1) coach who is CSOP TRAINED and on the bench at the championship.
4. For ALL teams registering in Provincial Championship categories that lead to a Canadian Championship (U15 A boys/girls, U17 A boys/girls, U19 A boys/girls, U23 A men's/women's, men's & women's)
 - i. The Head Coach must be identified on the Provincial roster and must be Comp. Intro CERTIFIED and who is in attendance at all games.
 - ii. Any assistant coach who wishes to be on-field and in the coaches box must be Comp. Intro TRAINED.
5. The required Trained or Certified coach must be in attendance and on the bench at all Provincial Championship games. Effect: Absent coach is fined \$100.00 and no base coaches will be allowed on the playing field. The required Trained or Certified coaches not attending Provincial Championships may be suspended. Teams requiring a certified coach for Provincial Championships and who do not have this person on the roster at the registration deadline will be fined \$100. No exceptions. Teams adding a certified coach after the roster registration deadline will still be fined \$100.

NOTE: ALL teams registering for Provincials must have a minimum of one coach on the roster who is of the same gender as the category the team is registering in. (i.e.: Female teams must have a minimum of one female coach, male teams must have a minimum of one male coach).

Section 6: Minor Team Categories/Player Selection

Teams may enter Provincial Championship Categories using the following criteria:

- A. There shall be no population or community limits in any Minor Boys Categories.
- B. Female teams from centers other than Regina and Saskatoon shall be required to adhere to the following rules in determining the category of Provincial Championships they wish to register in. Population and Community Limits for player selection; In the following table the U15 "BW", U17 "BW" and U19 "BW" categories will lead to a Western Canadian Championship. The U15 "B", U17 "B" and U19 B categories will have a Provincial Championship only.

U11 Girls	No population or community limits
U13 Girls	
"A" Category	No population or community limits
"B" Category	Maximum 25,000 population limit, maximum 6 communities
U15 Girls	
"A" Category	No population or community limits
"BW" Category	Maximum 25,000 population limit, maximum 8 communities
"B" Category	Maximum 25,000 population limit, maximum 6 communities
U17 Girls	
"A" Category	No population or community limits
"BW" Category	No population limit, maximum 8 communities
"B" Category	No population limit, maximum 6 communities
U19 Girls	
"A" Category	No population or community limits
"BW" Category	No population or community limits
"B" Category	No population or community limits

- C. For the purpose of determining communities any community with a population of 100 or less will not be counted in the maximum number of communities above.
- D. All teams registering for Minor Provincial Championships must have their rosters filed with their local Minor Association or sponsoring centre for approval before being forwarded to the Softball Saskatchewan Office prior to the Roster Registration Deadline Date.
- E. District 2 (Regina) and District 6 (Saskatoon) must register a minimum of the following teams in Provincial Championships.
 - a. A minimum of 4 teams in the U13 A Girls category
 - b. A minimum of 4 teams in the U15 A Girls category
 - c. A minimum of 2 teams in the U17 A Girls category

d. A minimum of 1 team in the U19 A Girls category

Note: District 2 and District 6 may register teams in the BW and B Categories.

- F. Teams Registering in the U13 A & B, Girls, U13 A & B Boys, U15 A, BW & B Girls, U15 A & B Boys, U17 A, BW & B Girls and U17 A and B Boys from centres other than Regina and Saskatoon must make their player selections from within the Sask. Sport District, of which they reside or attend school six (6) months prior to the Roster Registration Deadline.
- G. Teams registering in the U20 A & B Boys and U19 A, & B Girls categories from centres other than Regina and Saskatoon must make their player selection from within the Sask. Sport District of which they reside, or attend school, six (6) months prior to the Roster Registration Deadline Date.
- H. All minor players must affiliate and tryout with their local or nearest Minor Softball Association within their District or must obtain a release.
- I. Forced Transfer: When a family is transferred within the six (6) month period prior to the roster registration deadline date, players must affiliate and register in the district they are transferred to. (Move to affiliation section)

Section 7: Provincial District Boundaries

- A. The province shall be divided into nine (9) Districts.
 - 1) District 1 - Southeast
 - 2) District 2 - Regina
 - 3) District 3 - Southwest
 - 4) District 4 - East Central
 - 5) District 5 - Central
 - 6) District 6 - Saskatoon
 - 7) District 7 - Northwest
 - 8) District 8 - Northeast
 - 9) District 9 - North
- B. The Softball Saskatchewan Board of Directors shall have the authority to establish Provincial team registration boundaries in all minor divisions; the map showing the Provincial District boundaries is at the back of the Handbook.
- C. For a complete listing of communities by District please refer to the list at the back of the Handbook

Section 8: Provincial Championship Draws

- A. All draws for Provincial Championships shall be made by Softball Saskatchewan and will be a Round Robin format. Teams that enter Provincial Championships do so with the understanding that the round robin format constitutes more games and therefore, teams may expect to begin Provincial Championships as early as FRIDAY MORNING, depending on the category and the number of teams accepted into the Provincial Championship. In all instances, Softball Saskatchewan will try to schedule Friday games based upon practicality and the need for the games to be completed to accommodate the weekend schedule. Every effort will be made to post Provincial draws on the Softball Saskatchewan website www.softball.sk.ca two (2) weeks prior to the championship.

While pairings of the opening round remain a draw situation, the opening games must involve the pairing representing the closest teams to the Provincial Site in their first games. Consideration will

be given to the host team to have prime time for their second game of the day.

Note: There will be Bronze Medal games in all U13, U15 and U17 divisions of Provincial Championships.

B. Please note there will be mandatory coaches' meetings prior to all Provincial Championships. The meetings will be held the week prior to Provincials via Zoom Teleconferencing. Any team not attending this meeting will forfeit their opportunity to take part in the coin toss to determine home/away for all Round Robin Games which will be done at this meeting.

C. Draws for Provincial Championship categories that lead to a Western or Canadian Championship.

There is no more "If Necessary" game. Any double life applies only until you reach the FINAL GAME.

Note: **Upon completion of the Round Robin, criteria will be used to seed teams for the playoff round there will be no tiebreaker game(s).**

- 2 Teams: play a best of five (5). Exception: Masters will be a best of three (3).
- 3 Teams: play a complete RR with all 3 teams advancing to a page playoff.
- 4 Teams: play a complete RR with the top three teams advancing to a page playoff.
- 5 Teams: play a complete RR with the top three teams advancing to the Playoffs where the top team advances to the final and 2nd and 3rd play the bronze game.
- 6 Teams: each team plays four (4) games in a modified RR with top four teams advancing to Playoffs. Top two teams have a double life 3rd and 4th place have a single life.
- 7 Teams: each team plays four (4) games in a modified RR with top four (4) teams advancing to Playoffs. Top two teams have a double life, 3rd and 4th place have single life.
- 8 Teams: Two pools of four (4) teams play a complete RR within their pool. Top team in each pool has double life in playoffs and 2nd place teams have single life.
- 9 Teams: A pool of four (4) teams and a pool of five (5) teams play a complete RR within their pool. Top team in each pool has double life in playoffs and 2nd place teams have single life.
- 10 Teams: two pools of five (5) teams play complete RR within pool. Top team in each pool has double life in playoffs and 2nd place teams have single life.
- 11 Teams: a pool of five (5) teams and a pool of 6 teams play a 4 game RR within their pools. Top team in each pool has double life in playoffs and 2nd place teams have single life.
- 12 Teams: Round Robin pools plus guaranteed double life in playoff round for top team(s).
- 13 Teams or more: Round Robin pools plus guaranteed double life in playoff round for top team(s).

D. Draws for Provincial Championship categories NOT leading to Western Canadian or Canadian Championship:

Note: Upon completion of the Round Robin, criteria will be used to seed teams for the playoff round there will be no tiebreaker game(s).

- 2 Teams: encourage teams to change categories or play a best of three (3)
- 3 Teams: play a complete RR with all 3 teams advancing to a page playoff. A total of 5 games required.
- 4 Teams: play a complete RR with the top three teams advancing to a page playoff.
- 5 Teams: play a complete RR with the top three (3) teams advancing to the playoffs where the top team advances to the final and 2nd and 3rd play the bronze game.
- 6 Teams: each team plays four (4) games in a modified RR with top 4 teams advancing to a single elimination playoff.
- 7 Teams: each team plays four (4) games in a modified RR with top four (4) teams advancing to

a single elimination playoff.

- 8 Teams: Two pools of four (4) teams play a complete RR within their pool. Top two (2) teams in each pool advance to single elimination playoff.
 - 9 Teams: A pool of four (4) and a pool of five (5) teams play a complete RR. Top four (4) teams in each pool advance to single elimination playoff.
 - 10 Teams: two pools of 5 teams play complete RR within their pool. Top four (4) teams in each pool advance to single elimination playoff.
 - 11 Teams: a pool of five (5) teams play a complete RR and a pool of six (6) teams play a 4-game modified RR within their pool. Top four teams in each pool advance to a single elimination playoff.
 - 12 Teams: two pools of six (6) teams play a four (4) game RR. Top four (4) teams in each pool advance to a single elimination playoff.
 - 13 Teams or more: utilize pools and still have single elimination playoff. We will qualify as many teams as possible for the Championship Round.
- E. Undeclared team(s) after the Round Robin will have choice of being home team in the Playoff Round until their first loss (if any) in the Playoff Round. If both teams in the playoff round were undefeated in the Round Robin, then a coin toss will be held.
- F. All Provincial Championship games must be played to completion - NO TIES.
- G. Softball Saskatchewan has the authority to modify Provincial Draws based on the number of teams registered and umpire/diamond availability.

Section 9: Provincial Championship Tiebreaking Procedures

Final Standings in the Qualifying Round (Round Robin) shall use the following criteria to determine the order of finish.

Note 1: No Provincial Championship games will remain a tie.

Note 2: If a game is tied after seven (7) complete innings, the teams will revert to the international tie breaking rule starting in the top of the eighth (8th) inning.

Note 3: The final score of a game is also the score used for tiebreaking purposes. We no longer revert back to the last complete inning.

Note 4: If the home team is ahead after 6 ½ innings of play, they will NOT bat in the seventh (7th) inning. This rule will also be in effect if the mercy rule comes into play after 2 ½, 3 ½, 4 ½ or 5 ½ innings.

Two (2) teams tied

- A. The winner of the round robin game between the tied teams receives the higher placement.
- B. In the event the two teams did not play each other in the qualifying round (round robin)
 - i. The difference of plus and minus of total runs scored, with a limit of seven (7) plus or minus per game for all games played in the Round Robin will be used to determine the higher placement. If still tied, then:
 - ii. Least runs allowed by each team for all games played in the Round Robin will be used to determine the higher placement. If still tied, then:
 - iii. Total runs for each team (with a maximum of 7 runs per game, for all games played in the Round Robin will be used to determine the higher placement

Three (3) teams tied

- A. If all three teams have played each other the winner of the round robin games between the tied teams will receive the higher placement.
- B. If only one team has played all teams they are tied with, and won both games, then they will receive the higher placement. The two remaining teams will revert back to the two teams tied criteria above.
- C. If the teams have or have not played each other, the difference of plus or minus of total runs scored, with a limit of seven (7) plus or minus per game for all games played in the Round Robin will be used to determine the highest placement. If the two teams remaining have played each other, the head-to-head game will be used to determine the 2nd and 3rd position. If the two teams have not played each other, the plus/minus criteria will be used to determine 2nd and 3rd placements. If still tied, then:
 - i. Least runs allowed by each team for all games played in the Round Robin will be used to determine the higher placement. If still tied, then:
 - ii. Total runs for each team (with a maximum of 7 runs per game, for all games played in the Round Robin will be used to determine the higher placement.

Four (4) or more teams tied

- A. If four or more teams are tied, the following criteria will be used:
 - i. The difference of plus or minus of total runs scored, with a limit of seven (7) plus, or minus for all games played in the Round Robin will be used to determine all four placements. If still tied, then:
 - ii. Least runs allowed by each team for all games played in the Round Robin will be used to determine the higher placement. If still tied, then:
 - iii. Total runs for each team (with a maximum of 7 runs per game, for all games played in the Round Robin will be used to determine the higher placement.

Section 10: Provincial Championship Procedures

- A. Provincial Rosters must have a minimum of 11 players listed at the time of Provincial registration. **Teams can list up to five (5) coaches/managers on the Provincial Roster.** All Players and coaches/managers must first be affiliated with Softball Saskatchewan before their name can appear on a Provincial Roster Form.
- B. **Coaches must be familiar with using line-up cards as they will be used at all Championships. Generally, line-up cards are submitted to scorekeepers ½ hour prior to game time and provided to the umpires at the pre-game plate conference. The Line-up cards are provided to all Hosts of Provincial Championships and are usually available from the scorekeeper.**
- C. The **Certified Coach** is responsible and accountable for signing a copy of the Provincial Roster Registration Form prior to the first game of Provincials to verify the accuracy of all information appearing on the Roster Registration Form. Players must be able to produce identification (Birth Certificates or Health Card) at Provincial Championships if requested by the Softball Saskatchewan Representative. Effect: Failure to produce identification may constitute removal from the Provincial Championships.
- D. A player shall be considered registered with a team when his/her name appears on a Roster Registration Form which has been received by the Softball Saskatchewan Office.

- E. Players who have registered with an Association team may be released up to the established registration deadline date. Notification of the release must be in writing to the Executive Director.
- F. Managers and Coaches may NOT participate as players unless they are registered as such.
- G. No player shall be allowed to register with more than one team in Provincial Championships (except Masters). Any player violating this rule shall be automatically suspended from further Softball competition for the current season. Players are encouraged to participate on teams within their own age category. Further, players are not allowed to register in categories two age groups above their actual age in the following categories: U13 may not register in U17, U15 may not register in U19 and U17 may not register in U23. U19 Girls and U20 Boys aged players may register on an adult team provided they have obtained a release from their local Minor Association.
- H. No team may register in an age category where a maximum of six (6) players on the roster are less than the minimum age of said category.

Section 11: Multiple Participation

Adult players shall be allowed to register and participate with one (1) Fast Pitch team (except Masters). Softball Saskatchewan will not allow any other forms of multiple participation in Provincial, Western or Canadian Championships.

Section 12: Inter-Provincial Player Transfer

Any player or coach who is a permanent resident of Saskatchewan and wishes to register on a U17 or U19 "A" team outside the province must apply in writing for an Inter-Provincial Transfer by the February 1st deadline. The deadline for U13 and U15 "A" players and coaches is April 1st. The deadline for "B" players is May 1st. Applicants must demonstrate what efforts were made to register on a team within Saskatchewan. Any player or coach who is not a permanent resident of Saskatchewan and wishes to register on a Saskatchewan team must have a written letter of permission from the Provincial/Territorial Softball Association they reside in. This letter of permission must be received by Softball Saskatchewan by April 1st if registering on an "A" team and by May 1st if registering on a "B" team. The Inter-Provincial Transfer Application Form is available on our web site.

Section 13: Minor Player Releases (Must be obtained every year if necessary)

For the purpose of participation in Provincial Championships, players must follow the following process: **(Note: All minor players must register and if a team is available, tryout with their local or nearest recognized Minor Softball Association within the District.)** Players residing in a community with a recognized Minor Association must obtain a release from this Association. If released this player can register where they choose to within the District.

- A. Players who reside in a non-Center or rural residence where there is no Minor Association must obtain a release from their nearest recognized Minor Association.
- B. Players who are non-residents of Regina and Saskatoon may register in Regina or Saskatoon if they**

attend a softball academy or school in Regina or Saskatoon six months prior to the Roster Registration Deadline Date. These players will still require a release and District Transfer from their home or nearest minor association within their District. Proof of school attendance, signed by the principal must be provided with the teams Provincial Roster. Players will be placed on teams according to Regina or Saskatoon Minor Softball League Rules/Policies.

- C. Players must obtain a release from their local or nearest Minor Association to register on an adult team.
- D. Players who are released to register on an “A” team outside their local or nearest Association and are not successful in making the “A” team must return to their home or closest Association to register on a “B” team. (Please note only one (1) “A” team tryout is allowed per player). **Associations releasing players must notify the Softball Sask Executive Director of the release and the players contact information.**
- E. To determine the nearest center, we will use Google maps and numbered highways. The Player Release Form application is available on our website. Applications must provide rationale as to why there is no opportunity for the player to register on a team within or near their residence within the district.

Section 14: Player Protection Rule

Players who previously registered with a team for Provincial Championships within or outside of their District for two (2) consecutive years (Not including 2020 & 2021 due to the COVID Pandemic), will have the option of registering with that Association again if they wish.

Section 15: Provincial Championship District Transfer

U13, U15, U17 and U19 Girls and U20 Boys players may apply for a District Transfer. Players who wish to register on a U17 “A” or U19 “A” Girls or U20 “A” Boys team must apply by the February 1st deadline. Players who wish to register on a U13 “A” or U15 “A” team must apply by the April 1st deadline. Players who wish to register on a “BW” or “B” team must apply by the April 15th deadline. Players applying for a District Transfer must complete the Application Form available on our website at www.softball.sk.ca. District Transfer Requests must include the Player Release Form, if necessary. Applications must provide rationale why there is no opportunity for the player to register on a team within their District. Final approval of applications will be complete upon review by the Softball Saskatchewan Board of Directors.

Section 16: Team Withdrawal from Provincial Championships

In the event of a team withdrawing from Provincial Championships the team's registration fee will not be refunded. Teams withdrawing within three (3) days of the Provincial Championship will be fined \$200.00 that will be split equally between the Host and Softball Saskatchewan.

Section 17: Injury Replacement for Provincial Playoffs

Teams may be allowed to replace injured players. Injured players and/or legal guardians for minors must submit a signed Doctor's certificate to the Executive Director seven (7) days prior to the first scheduled date of Provincial Championships. The Doctor's certificate must state the following:

- A. That the player sustained an injury or has an illness which will prevent him/her from participating.
- B. The length of time the player will be unable to participate in sport. Injured players will be ineligible from further participation at Provincial, Western Canadian and Canadian Championships. Replacement players must be affiliated as of May 15th and not registered with another team in Provincial Championships. Any false claims will be subject to suspension of offending player, coaches and/or managers.

Section 18: Postponement or Delay of Provincial Championships

- A. If inclement weather or other factors lead to a postponement of a Provincial Championship, it shall be held at the earliest date possible or the following weekend.
- B. Any game that is suspended for any reason shall be continued from the point of suspension at the first opportunity possible within the Current Tournament.
- C. The Softball Saskatchewan Representative shall be empowered to take such steps, as necessary to ensure the completion of a Provincial Championship.
- D. If a Provincial Championship is partially completed during the days that it was officially set for and then rescheduled for a later date the following shall apply:
 - i. All completed games shall stand.
 - ii. Any games suspended prior to five (5) complete innings of play must be resumed from the point of suspension.

Section 19: Provincial Championship Awards

Softball Saskatchewan will provide medals to the top three (3) teams in all Minor age divisions (U11, U13, U15, U17 & U19 Girls, U20 Boys). Adult divisions will receive a prize package for the Provincial Champion and Finalist. When no Provincial Championship is played, no prize package is provided. All players and coaches in the U11, U13, U15 and U17 age divisions will receive a participation t-shirt.

Section 20: Official Softball at Provincial Championships

Hosts of Provincial Championships must use **Rawlings** Softballs. Softball Saskatchewan will supply a portion of balls to be used at Provincial Championships. Host Centres who do not use the Official **Rawlings** Softball will not receive their Provincial Championship Membership Assistance Program (MAP) Grant. The official softballs are:

- A. U11 and U13 Boys and Girls – Rawlings Red Dot - 11' Optic (PX11RYLC)**
- B. All other Female categories – Rawlings Red Dot - 12" Optic (PX2RYLC)
- C. All other Male categories – Rawlings K-Master - 120 12" Optic (C120YCC)

Section 21: Bid to Host Provincial Championships

- A. Provincial Championship Hosting applications will be accepted from the following.

- i. Affiliated Leagues/Associations
- A. 2023 Bid to Host applications must be received by the Softball Saskatchewan Office on or before November 1st, 2022. Host sites will be determined by the Executive Director.
- B. Categories that remain open to bid will be awarded by the Executive Director.
- C. There is a \$50.00 hosting fee for Provincial Championships.

Section 22: Provincial Championship Representative

The Association will have a representative in attendance at all Provincial Championships. This representative shall exercise the authority of the Board of Directors at the championship and submit a written report to the Softball Saskatchewan Office on all rulings. The Provincial Championship Representative shall be empowered to take such steps as necessary to ensure the completion of the Provincial Championship under their authority.

Section 23: Financial Responsibility

- A. Officers of Softball Saskatchewan and participating players, coaches, managers and assigned umpires are not required to pay gate admission at Provincial Championships.
- B. All expenses incurred by the Host in any Provincial Championships are the responsibility of the same; any profits realized at these Championships are to be retained by the Host.

Section 24: Umpires

- A. Provincial Championship Assignments
 - i. The District Umpire-In-Chief will assign umpires to all Provincial Championships. Umpires assigned shall be those who live near the Championship location regardless of which District they live in.
 - ii. The Umpire Development Committee (UDC) MAY assign umpires to Provincial Championships which lead to a National or Western Canadian Championship.
- B. Provincial Championship Umpire Fees shall be paid at a rate of:
 - i. \$40.00 per game for plate umpire (See Note below)
 - ii. \$40.00 per game for base umpire (See Note below)
 - iii. **If a one (1) umpire system must be used the umpire fee is \$60/game**

NOTE: In addition, \$5.00 from every Provincial Championship game will be returned, by the host, to Softball Saskatchewan for future umpire recruitment, retention, and development initiatives upon completion of the Championship.
- C. The following expenses shall also be paid to umpires working Provincial Championships who must travel from outside the Host center:
 - i. Car allowance - .47 per kilometre (both ways)
 - ii. Hotel/Motel allowance - actual costs
- D. All umpire fees and expenses shall be paid for by the host organization and the Association shall not have any responsibilities therein.
- E. In all Provincial Championship games, the two (2) umpire system shall be used, unless the three (3) umpire system is requested by the Hosting Committee. **In all U17A, U17 BW, U19 A & B, U23 A**

and Men's and Women's A Provincial Championship a 3-umpire system must be used in the Championship Final Game ONLY.

Section 25: Protests

- A. No protests shall be considered if they involve a decision by an umpire based solely on the umpire's judgement. Protests that will be received and considered concern matters of the following types:
 - i. misinterpretation of a playing rule,
 - ii. failure of an umpire to apply the correct ruling to a given situation, and/or
 - iii. failure of an umpire to impose the correct penalty for a given violation.
- B. A protest may properly involve a matter of judgement and the interpretation of a rule and in such an instance the finding of fact by the umpire cannot be the subject of the protests but the application of the rule to the facts as found by the umpire may be the subject of a protest.
- C. With respect to any protest regarding the matters referred to in A, i, ii and iii, (hereinafter called game-play protests) notification of intent to protest must be made immediately before the next pitch, and
 - i. the coach/manager of the protesting team shall immediately notify the plate umpire that the game is being continued under protest. The plate umpire shall in turn notify the opposing manager, official scorekeeper, and Provincial Championship Representative
 - ii. all interested parties shall take notice of the conditions surrounding the making of the decision that will aid in the correct determination of the issue. (Note: on appeal plays, the appeal must be made before the next pitch, legal or illegal, or before the defensive team has left the field. For the purpose of this rule the defensive team has "left the field" when all players have left fair territory on the way to the bench or dugout area)
 - iii. in all Provincial Championships protests arising from game-play protests shall be dealt with immediately and before play resumes. The results will be announced by the umpire.

Section 26: Ejections at Provincial Championships

Umpires officiating at any Provincial Championship game must complete and submit to the Softball Saskatchewan office the Game Ejection Report and notify the Provincial Championship Representative of any ejection. The Game Ejection Report is a fillable form available on the Softball Saskatchewan website under the umpire tab.

RULE 6: PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYING RULES

Section 1: General Rules

- A. The Softball rules as outlined in the Softball Canada Rule book will govern in all Provincial Championships, except where superseded by Softball Saskatchewan's Operating Rules. **(Note: We do not use the Minor Softball rules at the back of the Softball Canada Rule Book)**
- B. Teams (including players, coaches, and managers) shall be uniformly dressed at all Provincial Championships, as outlined in the Softball Canada Rule Book.
- C. All Provincial Championship Fast pitch (FP) games (except U11 Round Robin) will end after 2 ½ or 3

innings of play if there is a difference of fifteen (15) runs or will end after 3 ½ or 4 innings of play if there is a difference of ten (10) runs or will end after 4 ½, 5, 5 ½, 6 or 6 ½ innings of play if there is a difference of seven (7) runs.

- D. **No metal spikes or shoes with detachable cleats are allowed in the U11 and U13 age categories of softball.**
- E. Helmets are mandatory for batters, base runners, catchers, on deck batters and minor age players who coach in the first and third base coaches' box. In all categories of minor softball, a protective batting helmet is one that is fully enclosed, with two (2) earflaps, foam liner and a peak.
- F. **All male and female batters, on deck batters and baserunners in the U13, U15 and U17 age divisions must wear an attached face mask. We also recommend that all defensive infield players wear facial protection.**
- G. **Anyone warming up the pitcher on or off the diamond must also wear a mask, helmet and throat protector while receiving warm-up pitches prior to and during the game.**
- H. Minor Catchers must wear a protective helmet and mask with the attached throat protector. In addition, all minor catchers must wear shin guards which offer protection to the kneecap, body protectors, and athletic support with protective cup (male and female).
- I. Batters' Box in all Categories. After entering the batters' box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one (1) foot, between pitches and while taking signals and practice swings.
Exceptions:
 - i. If the ball is hit foul or fair.
 - ii. On the swing, slap or check swing.
 - iii. If forced out of the box by a pitch.
 - iv. On a wild pitch or passed ball.
 - v. If there is an attempted play.
 - vi. If time has been called.
 - vii. If the pitcher leaves the 8ft circle or the catcher leaves the catchers' box.
 - viii. On a three-ball pitch that is a strike, which the batter thinks is a ball.
- J. **Effects:** If the batter leaves the batters' box and delays play, and none of these exceptions apply, the umpire may warn the batter or call a strike. Note: Any number of warnings and called strikes can be made with each batter. No pitch has to be thrown and ball is dead.
- K. In all minor categories, the "Re-Entry Rule" is waived, in case of injury, if all substitutes have been used. The injured player who has been substituted for is ineligible for the remainder of the game. The substitution must occur at the time of injury.
- L. In all Provincial Championship games, seven (7) innings will constitute a legal game with the following **exceptions:**
 - i. **In ALL games in the U11 age categories and in ONLY the Round Robin in the U13 age category.**
 - ii. If a game is tied after seven (7) innings, it shall be played out to completion. Tiebreaker Rule applies starting the top of the eighth inning.

- iii. A game called by the umpire shall be regulation if five (5) or more complete innings have been played or if the team second at bat has scored more runs than the other team has scored in five (5) or more innings. The umpire is empowered to call a game at any time because of darkness, rain, fire, panic, or other cause which puts the patrons or players in peril.

Section 2: U11 Playing Rules

(Note: We do not use the Minor Softball rules at the back of the Softball Canada Rule Book)

A. Time Limit

- i. In the U11 Male and Female Provincial Championships there is a time limit where no new inning will start after 90 minutes in ALL games (Round Robin and Championship Round).
- ii. Time starts when the plate umpire calls, "Play Ball!" to start the game.
- iii. No games end in a tie: The tiebreaker rule will begin immediately after the time limit expires in the Round Robin, if necessary.
- iv. No additional time will be added to games in case of injury or protest.

B. The Game

- i. There will be no Mercy Rule in Round Robin games. (All games will be played to the maximum time limit (90 minutes)).
- ii. Maximum of 5 runs per half inning. Once the fifth (5th) run is scored, all other runners are stranded. They do not start on base the next inning.
- iii. For the Championship Round Only, there will be a mercy rule of +/- 11 runs after 5 innings or +/- 6 runs after 6 innings.
- iv. A coin toss will determine home team for all Round Robin games in Provincial Championships. Undefeated team(s) after the Round Robin will have choice of being home team in the Playoff Round until their first loss (if any) in the Playoff Round. If both teams in the Playoff Round were undefeated in the Round Robin, then a coin toss will be held.
- v. Everyone on the roster and in attendance must bat in all Provincial Championship games. There will be unlimited defensive substitutions. Effect: A coach who does not allow every player on the roster and in attendance to bat shall be removed from the game and suspended from further participation in the championship. Softball Saskatchewan shall review reported instances of coaches who do not follow this rule. Injured player(s) who are unable to bat cannot return to play in that game after being declared injured.
- vi. Each player listed on the line-up card must play a minimum of 2 innings (12 outs) by the end of the 4th inning in each game. In a time-limit situation (Round Robin), a team will not be penalized if not able to play all players. In a mercy situation (Championship Round), a team will not be penalized if not able to play all players. Violations of this rule will result in the Head coach being suspended for one (1) game in the Provincial Championships.
- vii. If a player arrives late, they may be added to the bottom of the line-up card and scorebook.
 - 1. Unlimited defensive substitutions.
 - 2. Coaches must be familiar with using line-up cards as they will be used at all Championships. Generally, line-up cards are submitted to scorekeepers ½ hour prior to game time and provided to the umpires at the pre-game plate conference. The line-up cards are provided to all Hosts of Provincial Championships and are usually available from the scorekeeper.

C. Ranking

- i. At completion of the Qualifying Round, teams are ranked after the Round Robin games based on:
 1. Win/Loss record (there are no tie games in the Qualifying Round)
 2. Games played against each other
 3. Total Plus/Minus of all games (runs for minus against) with a maximum (+/-) per game being 5 runs
 - Least runs allowed in all games by each team
 - Total runs scored in all games by each team
 - Positions settled by a coin toss
- ii. When using criteria 2, if one team has beaten all the other teams who they are tied with, then that team will be ranked highest regardless of whether or not the remaining teams have played one another.
- iii. When using criteria 3, team records are based on all games of the qualifying round, and only 3, 4, 5, 6 etc. full innings in 3½, 4½, 5½, 6½ etc. inning games are used.
- iv. If the game is over and the bottom one-half of the inning is not required, the home team does not bat in the bottom of the inning. Runs for/against will be determined based on full innings.
- v. Teams will be ranked according to this criterion for purpose of determining seeding for playoffs. No tiebreaker game is required.

D. Pitching

- i. Pitchers may pitch a maximum of three (3) innings in ALL games. Should a pitcher throw one (1) pitch this is classified as a complete inning pitched. In the event of extra innings, the pitching rule is not in effect. The penalty for pitcher(s) exceeding the limit of innings pitched is that the coach is ejected, player(s) is removed from the pitching position and all illegal innings will be re-played.
- ii. In the event of a suspension in play resulting in a day(s) delay, at U11 Provincial Championships the Pitching Rule is carried over to the new day and the game resumes from the point of suspension.
- iii. The Conference Rule (regarding pitchers) in U11 will allow one (1) conference per pitcher per inning and the second (2) conference will result in the pitcher being removed from the pitching position but may remain in the game in another position.
- iv. All pitchers must wear a protective face mask.
- v. Walks are allowed.
- vi. There are no intentional walks.
- vii. A team is permitted unlimited offensive conferences per inning.
- viii. A team is permitted two defensive conferences per inning. With the third conference, the pitcher must be removed from the pitcher position for the balance of the inning.

E. Catchers

- i. Catchers may catch a maximum of three (3) innings in Round Robin games and three (3) innings in Championship Round Games.

F. Batting

- i. The batter is out on the third strike, regardless if the ball is caught or not, the ball remains alive.
- ii. All batters, on deck batters and base runners must wear helmets that have an attached face

- mask
- iii. **Bunting is permitted.**
- iv. **Designated Player use is not permitted.**

G. Base Running

- i. **Players cannot advance to home on a steal, passed ball, or wild pitch. The player must be batted in or forced home by a walk.**
- ii. **Runners may leave the base when the ball has crossed the plate. If they leave early, they will be called out.**
- iii. **Sliding is allowed.**

H. Distances & Measurements

- i. **Base Path Distance: 13.70m (50')**
- ii. **Pitching Distance: 10.67m (33')**
- iii. **Softball: Rawlings 27.95cm (11") Red Dot**

Section 3: U13 Playing Rules

A. Time Limit

- i. **All U13 Male and Female divisions of Provincial Championships will utilize a time limit where no new inning will start after 90 minutes in the Round Robin. All Championship Round games are (7) innings, NO time limit**
- ii. **Time starts when the plate umpire calls, "Play Ball!" to start the game.**
- iii. **No games end in a tie: The tiebreaker rule will begin immediately after the time limit expires in the Round Robin, if necessary.**
- iv. **No additional time will be added to games in case of injury or protest.**

B. The Game

- i. **Maximum of 5 runs per half inning. Once the fifth (5th) run is scored, all other runners are stranded. They do not start on base the next inning.**
- ii. **For all categories of U13 Boys and Girls, each player listed on the line-up card must play a minimum of 2 innings (12 outs) by the end of the 4th inning in each game. In a mercy game, a team will not be penalized if not able to play all players. Violations of this rule will result in the Head coach being suspended for one (1) game in the Provincial Championships.**
- iii. **If a player arrives late, they may be added to the bottom of the line-up card and scorebook.**
 - a. **Unlimited defensive substitutions.**

C. Pitching

- i. **Pitchers in all U13 categories may pitch a maximum of (3) innings per game in the Round Robin and (4) innings in the Championship Round.** Should a pitcher throw (1) pitch this is classified as a complete inning pitched. In the event of extra innings, the pitching rule is not in effect. The penalty for pitcher(s) exceeding the limit of innings pitched is that the coach is ejected, player(s) is removed from the pitching position and all illegal innings will be re-played.
- ii. **The "Conference Rule" (regarding pitchers) in U13 will allow one (1) conference per pitcher per inning and the second (2) conference will result in the pitcher being removed from the pitching position but may remain in the game in another position.**
- iii. **In the event of a suspension in play resulting in a day(s) delay at U13 Provincial Championships**

the Pitching Rule is carried over to the new day and the game resumes from the point of suspension.

- iv. All pitchers in the U13 male and female age divisions must wear a protective mask.

D. Catchers

- i. **Catchers may catch a maximum of three (3) innings in Round Robin games and (4) innings in Championship Round Games.**

E. Batting

- F. i. **Everyone on the roster and in attendance must bat in all Provincial Championship games.** There will be unlimited defensive substitutions. (Effect: A coach who does not allow every player on the roster and in attendance to bat shall be removed from the game and suspended from further participation in the championship. Softball Saskatchewan shall review reported instances of coaches who do not follow this rule. Injured player(s) who are unable to bat cannot return to play in that game after being declared injured.
- ii. All male and female batters, on deck batters and baserunners must wear helmets that have an attached face mask in the U13 age division

F. Baserunning

- i. **Runners may leave the base when the ball has crossed the plate. If they leave early, they will be called out.**
- ii. **Sliding is allowed.**
- iii. **Players can steal home.**

G. Distances & Measurements

- i. **Base Path Distance: 13.70m (55')**
- ii. **Pitching Distance: 10.67m (38')**
- iii. **Softball: Rawlings 27.95cm (11") Red Dot**

Section 4: U15 Playing Rules

- A. **All categories of U15 Boys and Girls, Provincial Championship games will have a maximum of seven (7) runs scored per half inning. If in the top of the 7th inning of play a team is up by more than seven (7) runs, then the game is over.**
- B. **Pitchers in all U15 categories may pitch a maximum of (4) innings per game. Should a pitcher throw (1) pitch this is classified as a complete inning pitched. In the event of extra innings, the pitching rule is not in effect. The penalty for pitcher(s) exceeding the limit of innings pitched is that the coach is ejected, player(s) is removed from the pitching position and all illegal innings will be re-played.**
- C. **The "Conference Rule" (in regard to pitchers) in U14 will allow one (1) conference per pitcher per inning and the second (2) conference will result in the pitcher being removed from the pitching position but may remain in the game in another position.**

- D. In the event of a suspension in play resulting in a day(s) delay at U15 Provincial Championships the Pitching Rule is carried over to the new day and the game resumes from the point of suspension.
- E. All male and female batters, on deck batters and baserunners must wear helmets that have an attached face mask in the U15 age division
- F. All pitchers in the U15 male and female age divisions must wear a protective mask.

Section 5: U17 Playing Rules

- A. The "Designated Player Rule" may only be used in U17 "A" and "BW" Girls and "A" and "B" Boys categories.
- B. All male and female batters, on deck batters and baserunners must wear a helmet with an attached face mask in the U17 age division
- C. All Pitchers in the U17 male and female age divisions must wear a protective mask.

RULE 7: CANADIAN/WESTERN CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Section 1: Eligibility

- A. Canadian Championships:
The following Provincial Championship categories lead to a Canadian Championship:
 - I. U15 A Boys & Girls
 - II. U17 A Boys & Girls
 - III. U19 A Women's
 - IV. U20 A Men's
 - V. U23 A Men's & Women's
 - VI. Men's & Women's
 - VII. Master Men's
 - VIII. Provincial Champions in the above categories MUST attend the Canadian Championship. In total a maximum of three (3) teams can attend Out of Province Canadians and a total of four (4) teams to In-Province Canadians which includes a Host team, based on the Letter of Intents received by the May 15th registration deadline. Teams registering in a category that leads to a Canadian Championship must submit a \$5,000 bond with their Provincial Championship Entry Form in addition to the Registration Fee.
 - IX. **All Teams who do not fulfil their obligations to attend Canadian Championships will forfeit their bond of \$5,000.00 and their \$850 Softball Canada Reg. Fee. (Masters \$600 per team)**
 - X. **Teams attending Canadian Championships are responsible to pay a Softball Canada team registration fee of \$850.00 per team (Masters \$600 per team). This registration fee is collected by and paid to Softball Saskatchewan prior to a team attending the Canadian Championships.**
 - XI. For those Canadian Championships that allow import player(s) we will allow them to be added before or after the Provincial Championships. If added after Provincials, they are considered a pick-up(s). Import player(s) must be released from their Province of residence.

B. Western Canadian Championships:

The following Provincial Championship categories lead to a Western Canadian Championship.

- I. **Under 13 A Boys (New Championship in 2022)**
- II. Under 15 B Boys and U15 BW Girls
- III. Under 17 B Boys and U17 BW Girls
- IV. Under 19 B Women's
- V. U20 B Men's
- VI. Under 23 B Women's
- VII. Senior B Men's and Women's
- VIII. Master Men's
- IX. Provincial Champions in the above categories **MUST** attend Western Canadians. A second team or third, if hosting, may attend based on the Letters of Intent received by the June 1st Registration deadline. Teams registering in a category that leads to a Western Canadian Championship must submit a \$1,000 bond with their Provincial Championship Entry Form in addition to the Registration Fee. We are eligible to send two (2) teams to out of Province Westerns.
 - i. For all In-Province Western Canadian Championships we will have three (3) teams participate if there are 3 teams who qualify, one (1) team must be a Host team.
 - ii. Teams who do not fulfil their obligations to attend Western Canadian Championships will be fined \$1,000.00.

C. Host Team:

The highest-ranking team from the Host center participating in Provincial Championships shall have choice to be the Provincial Representative or Host Team **ONLY IF** they win the Provincial Championship. This must be decided in the same time frame as player pick-ups. Should a team from outside the host center win the Provincial Championship they will be designated the Provincial Representative and the highest-ranking team from the Host center will be designated as the Host Team.

D. Defending Champion:

Canadian Championships:

- I. In all Canadian Championship categories, the previous year's champions are eligible to attend their respective Canadian Championship, subject to the following considerations:
- II. They are responsible for all their own expenses.
- III. At least eight (8) players from the Provincial Championship roster are still on the current roster and in attendance, except for the U19 Women's, U20 Men's and U23 levels of competition where it is acceptable for seven (7) players to have been on the Provincial Championship roster.
- IV. They follow Softball Saskatchewan's team and player registration procedures.

E. Western Canadian Softball Championships:

In all Western Canadian Championship categories, the defending Championship team is not guaranteed a berth in the following years Championship.

Section 2: Player Pick-ups for Canadian and Western Canadian Championships

A. Pick-ups are allowed following the Provincial Championships from categories as outlined in the player

pick-up charts below. Teams may add a maximum of three (3) registered players to their roster registration certificate. However, player pick-ups cannot exceed the Softball Canada or Western Canada player roster quota, which is seventeen (17) players. The Master quota is twenty (20) players.

- B. Teams eligible to pick up players will be determined by the order of finish at Provincial Championships. The first-place team at the Provincial Championship gets first choice of pick-ups regardless of whether they are going to a Canadian or Western Canadian Championship. Provincial champions in each category have first choice of all eligible players in that category.
- C. All players will only be eligible to be picked up once. Players cannot be picked up for both Western and Canadian Championships. Players may only participate in one Western Canadian but may participate in two Canadian Championships.
- D. Player pick-ups who refuse to join a team attending a Canadian or Western Canadian Championship may lose the right to participate as a pick-up in all championships. Any dispute regarding refusal to be picked up will be reviewed by a committee consisting of the President (or his/her designate), and two Board Members
- E. U19, U23 Men's and U23 women's players registering on adult teams are eligible to be picked up by U19, U23 Men's & U23 women's teams.
- F. Registered players meeting age requirements but playing in higher categories are allowed to be picked up should their team not advance past the Provincial Championship. However, the category the player is registered in gets first choice of pickup following pickup procedures.
- G. The team with the first choice of pick-ups following a Provincial Championship have 48 hours from the time of winning the Provincial Championship to notify the Executive Director of their pick-ups, if any. The team with second choice of pick-ups have 48 hours from the time of being contacted to notify the Executive Director. The team with third choice of pick-ups have 48 hours from the time of being contacted to notify the Executive Director. (Note: 2nd & 3rd place teams cannot pick up players that were not eligible for pick-up by the first-place team.)
- H. Players that are picked up to go to a Canadian Championship may return to his/her team and be able to participate in a Western Canadian Softball Championship in the same year. Additionally, players that are picked up to go to a Canadian Championship must first complete their commitment to the "B" team prior to playing in a Canadian Championship.
- I. Players registered on an "A" team playing in a Canadian Championship cannot be picked up by a team going to a Western Canadian Championship. (Exception: In male fast pitch only, Senior "B" categories may pick up players from U23 "A" categories.
- J. Teams who do not fulfill their obligation to attend a Western or a Canadian Championship will result in the players on this team not being eligible for pickup by anyone.

Player Pick-Up Charts

MINOR FEMALE CHAMPIONSHIP PICK-UP CHART

ELIGIBLE PICK-UPS		U19 A	U19 B	U17 A	U17 BW	U15 A	U15 BW
	U19 A Women's	X					
	U19 B Women's	X	X				
	U17 A Girls	X	X	X			
	U17 BW Girls	X	X	X	X		
	U15 A Girls			X	X	X	
	U15 BW Girls			X	X	X	X
	U15 B Girls					X	X

MINOR MALE CHAMPIONSHIP PICK-UP CHART

ELIGIBLE PICK-UPS		U20 A	U20 B	U17 A	U17 B	U15 A	U15 B	U13 A
	U20 A Men's	X						
	U20 B Men's	X	X					
	U17 A Boys	X	X	X				
	U17 B Boys	X	X	X	X			
	U15 A Boys			X	X	X		
	U15 B Boys			X	X	X	X	
	U13 A Boys					X	X	X
U13 B Boys							X	

ADULT CHAMPIONSHIP PICK-UP CHART

ELIGIBLE PICK UPS		Men's A & Women's A	Men's B & Women's B	Masters (M & W)	U23 (M & W)
	Men's A & Women's A	X			
	Men's B & Women's B	X	X	X	
	Men's C & Women's C	X	X	X	
	Masters	X	X	X	
	U23 A Men's & U23 A Women's	X	X		X
	U20 A Men's	X	X		X
	U20 B Men's	X	X		X
	U19 A Women's	X	X		X

	U19 B Women's	X	X		X
	U19 C Women's	X	X		X

Section 3: Travel Assistance

- A. Teams participating in an IN Province Canadian or Western Canadian Championship shall do so at their own expense.
- B. Teams participating in an OUT of Province Canadian or Western Canadian Championship shall be funded by the Softball Saskatchewan Travel Fund.
1. **Funds will be distributed and allotted as follows:**
 - Two (2) teams attending out of Province Championship**
 - i. 60% to the highest-ranking team
 - ii. 40% to the 2nd highest ranking team
 - Three (3) Teams attending out of Province Championship:**
 - i. 50% to the highest-ranking team
 - ii. 30% to the 2nd highest ranking team
 - iii. 20% to the 3rd highest ranking team
 2. Funding will be distributed based on ground miles using the following formula: Total Softball Sask. Travel Fund dollars divided by total miles travelled by all teams which will provide a per mile rate to be used for all teams travelling.
- C. Team Travel Fund
1. Money in this fund will be allotted to ALL teams participating in an out-of-province Canadian or Western Canadian Championship. Money in this fund comes from the \$300 Travel Fund fee paid by all teams registering in categories leading to a Canadian or Western Canadian Championship.
 2. Funding will be distributed based on ground miles using the following formula: Total Team Travel Fund dollars divided by total miles travelled by all teams which will provide a per mile rate to be used for all teams travelling.

Section 4: Bid to Host

- A. Associations interested in Hosting a Canadian Championship should contact Softball Canada. Bids will be accepted in the Softball Canada Office beginning October 1st, (2) years prior to the year of the event.
- B. Bids to host a Western Canadian Championship must be submitted in writing to the Softball Saskatchewan Office by October 1st, (1) year. A bid to host package including criteria is available from the Softball Saskatchewan office.

Section 5: Coaches at Canadian and Western Canadian Championships

Certified coaches not in attendance at a Western Canadian Championship will be fined \$250.00. Certified

coaches not in attendance at a Canadian Championship will be fined \$2,500.00 in addition to suspension by Softball Saskatchewan.

Section 6: Injury Replacement for Western and Canadian Championships

- A. Teams may be allowed to replace injured players. Injured players and/or legal guardians for minors must submit a signed Doctor's Certificate to the Executive Director three (3) days prior to the first scheduled date of Western Canadian and Canadian Championships. The Doctor's certificate must state the following:
- i. That the player sustained an injury or has an illness which will prevent him/her from participating.
 - ii. The length of time the player will be unable to participate in the sport.
 - iii. Injured Players will be ineligible from further participation at Western Canadian and Canadian Championships. Replacement players must be listed on a Provincial Roster. Player pickups take precedent over injury replacements. Any false claims will be subject to suspension of offending player, coaches and/or managers.

RULE 8: TRAVEL PERMITS

All affiliated teams, players and umpires that travel outside of Saskatchewan to a competition or tournament must be in possession of a travel permit in order to be cover under the Softball Saskatchewan Insurance program. All travel permits are obtainable by contacting the Softball Saskatchewan Office or on our website at www.softball.sk.ca The deadline to submit Travel Permits is two weeks prior to departure.

RULE 9: TOURNAMENT SANCTIONS

- A. All tournaments must be sanctioned by Softball Saskatchewan through the Executive Director. No tournament will be sanctioned unless the tournament committee or Association is an affiliated member of Softball Saskatchewan.
- B. All Softball Saskatchewan/Softball Canada rules & regulations shall apply.
- C. No sanctioned tournament shall accept entries from any team which is not an affiliated member of Softball Saskatchewan or any other Provincial Softball Association. It will be the responsibility of the tournament organizers to ensure that all teams participating in their tournament are affiliated with Softball Saskatchewan or another Provincial Softball Association.
- D. No team, player or coach who is a member of Softball Saskatchewan is permitted to play in a game with or against a non-member of Softball Saskatchewan without permission of Softball Saskatchewan.
- E. Any team, player, coach, or manager of an affiliated team taking part in an unsanctioned tournament may be suspended.
- F. All games in a sanctioned tournament shall be umpired by registered umpires in Saskatchewan. Umpires who participate in unsanctioned tournaments may be suspended.

- G. Should any team withdraw from a sanctioned tournament after the entry has been accepted, the team shall be reported to Softball Saskatchewan for disciplinary action if deemed necessary.
- H. No tournament sanctions will be issued that conflict with any Provincial Championships scheduled for the same dates.
- I. Tournaments must use provincial team classification when inviting teams to participate in their event. (i.e., U15 or Men's/Women's, etc.)
- J. A list of teams competing in the tournament must be submitted to the Softball Sask. office prior to the first game of the tournament.
- K. All irregularities, problems, conflicts, etc., must be reported to the Softball Saskatchewan Office no later than five (5) days after completion of the tournament.
- L. Application for a tournament sanction must be made at least two (2) weeks prior to the tournament date. Tournament sanctions must always be posted during the tournament.

RULE 10: SUSPENSIONS/APPEALS

Section 1: Suspension of Association Members

- A. Any member violating the Bylaws, Operating Rules and or Policies of the Association or refusing to abide by a decision of the Board of Directors may be expelled or suspended with the right to appeal.
- B. Any member of the Association may be suspended for any of the following:
 - i. Conduct detrimental to the game of softball.
 - ii. Unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - iii. Physical violence, proceeding, during, or following a game.
 - iv. Commission of fraud, such as playing under an assumed name or falsifying any documentation supplied to the Association.
 - v. Participating in a game where a suspended player, umpire, or team is involved.
 - vi. Violation of Association Policies

Section 2: Suspension Procedures

- A. Suspension procedures will follow what is outlined in the Associations Dispute Resolution Policies found on our web site.
- B. A league or Association wishing Softball Saskatchewan to honour their suspension must provide written documentation stating the team or individual(s) whom they are suspending and the reasons for the suspension. The request will then be reviewed by Softball Saskatchewan appointed representatives.

Section 3: Right of Appeal

Any member suspended by the Association may file an appeal as outlined in the Appeal Policy

found on our web site or available from our office.

Section 4: Penalty for Violation

In order that the game of softball, as controlled by Softball Saskatchewan, and its members shall not be affected by financial interest, any appeal to courts of law, or to a lawyer in anticipation of legal action, BEFORE all processes of appeal through Softball Saskatchewan and if applicable, through Softball Canada are exhausted, shall be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct. Individuals who resort to such procedure shall automatically and immediately be suspended from all privileges and affiliations with Softball Saskatchewan and its member Associations.

RULE 11: CONCESSION APPLICATION

- A. Any request for a concession to an Operating Rule must be in writing and submitted to the Softball Sask. Office, attention the Executive Director, and will only be accepted between February 1st and August 31st of each year. All applications must be made by the individual player, coach or Association who desires the concession to the Operating Rule. The Committee appointed by the President reserves the right to entertain blanket concession applications from Associations. Applicants who are denied their concession will not be eligible to apply for the same Concession for a period of two (2) years. The applicant shall have the right to make a brief presentation when the concession is reviewed by the Concession Committee (Conference Call). Each application must be accompanied by a fee of \$157.50 (\$150.00 + \$7.50 GST). If the Concession application is successful, the registration fee will be refunded.
- B. A concession request shall be heard within fourteen (14) days of the date the concession received. The Executive Director will notify the party(s) applying for the concession of the date the concession will be heard. The Executive Director shall supply, in writing, the decision of the Concession Committee within seven (7) days of the date the decision is arrived at to the member(s) making the request for a concession. The decision of the Concession Committee shall be final and binding (No appeals allowed).

RULE 12: FASTPITCH DISTANCE TABLES

FEMALE			
Age	Ball Size	Pitching Distance	Baselines
U5	11" (27.95cm)	30' (9.14m)	45' (13.70m)
U7	11" (27.95cm)	30' (9.14m)	45' (13.70m)
U9	11" (27.95cm)	30' (9.14m)	45' (13.70m)
U11	11" (27.95cm)	33' (10.06m)	50' (15.24m)
U13	11" (27.95cm)	38' (11.58m)	55' (16.76m)
U15	12" (30.50cm)	40' (12.20m)	60' (18.30m)
U17	12" (30.50cm)	43' (13.10m)	60' (18.30m)
U19	12" (30.50cm)	43' (13.10m)	60' (18.30m)
U23	12" (30.50cm)	43' (13.10m)	60' (18.30m)
ADULT	12" (30.50cm)	43' (13.10m)	60' (18.30m)
MASTERS	12" (30.50cm)	43' (13.10m)	60' (18.30m)

MALE			
Age	Ball Size	Pitching Distance	Baselines
U5	11" (27.95cm)	30' (9.14m)	45' (13.70m)
U7	11" (27.95cm)	30' (9.14m)	45' (13.70m)
U9	11" (27.95cm)	30' (9.14m)	45' (13.70m)
U11	11" (27.95cm)	33' (10.06m)	50' (15.24m)
U13	11" (27.95cm)	38' (11.58m)	55' (16.76m)
U15	12" (30.50cm)	42' (12.80m)	60' (18.30m)
U17	12" (30.50cm)	46' (14.00m)	60' (18.30m)
U20	12" (30.50cm)	46' (14.00m)	60' (18.30m)
U23	12" (30.50cm)	46' (14.00m)	60' (18.30m)
ADULT	12" (30.50cm)	46' (14.00m)	60' (18.30m)
MASTERS	12" (30.50cm)	46' (14.00m)	60' (18.30m)

RULE 13: MINOR MALE PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY

Section 1: Provincial Minor Boys Softball League

A Provincial minor boys softball League for U13, U15 and U17 will form the basis for teams being allowed to enter Provincial Championships. Any minor boys team in the above noted age categories must actively participate in the provincial league to be eligible to register for Provincial Championships.