



RULES and REGULATIONS **for Softball Alberta Zone and Provincial Playoffs** *(The Softball Alberta 2015 Official Handbook shall be referenced where discrepancies between this summary and the Handbook exist.)*

1. Teams travelling to Provincial Playoffs are responsible for their own arrangements.
2. All teams **MUST send a delegate** to the Coaches Meeting prior to the commencement of the Zone or Provincial Playoff.
3. Each player, **Certified Coach (CSOG, COMP Intro, Level I/II)** and coaches/managers (*max 4 - in dugout (MINOR – one same gender as team)*) will be required to sign a Signature Sheet from the Softball Alberta Representative, **PRIOR** to the team's first game and (at the Softball Alberta Representative's discretion) for the semi-final and/or final games of the tournament. Any player arriving late must sign the original signature sheet PRIOR to participating.
4. The Softball Alberta Representative in charge shall check all Registration Forms/ Signature Sheets against Line-up cards and shall have the power to ask for a second signature or identification if a question on the validity of a player is present. All teams should carry with them a copy of their approved **SOFTBALL ALBERTA PROVINCIAL TEAM REGISTRATION FORM** and any Player Pickup forms. The Player Pickup forms should be presented at the Coaches meeting and the Registration Form presented in cases of discrepancies arising over registered players for said team. In all cases, the copy of the Registration Form, which is in the possession of the Softball Alberta Representative, as forwarded to the Host by the Softball Alberta office, shall be the binding document.
5. **Pickups for Provincials:** In all divisions NOT advancing to a Western or Canadian Championship, teams are allowed 2 pickups for Zone and/or Provincial playoffs to fill out their roster but **CANNOT DROP** or **RELEASE** players for the purpose of picking up. These pickups may only be selected from affiliated teams (Minor - in their own Zones, and of teams in the same classification or lower. The maximum FastPitch roster size is 17 players (Adult FP is 20 players for Intermediate categories).
 - Pickups are NOT placed on the actual roster form; they should only be **ON Pickup Forms** - available from your District Organizer or the Softball Alberta Office.
 - YOUR Zone District Organizer or the Softball Alberta office MUST sign these forms prior to the Provincial event after verifying the pickup's affiliation. (*Players can ONLY be picked up once.*)
 - These Pickup Forms must be presented to the Softball Alberta Rep at the Coaches Meeting **PRIOR** to the team's **FIRST** game.
6. All teams must carry a minimum of five (5) helmets at all times. (Per Softball Alberta Handbook - Exception: Slo-Pitch) **NOTE: ALL** Minor categories (U10-U19) require an "approved face mask/guard" as a mandatory part of the protective batting helmet.
7. Players must wear uniforms with individual numbers ('00' to '99') and caps (female - visors/headbands/none) to resemble team colors, all to be worn appropriately. Coaches to be dressed similar and resembling team colors (NO blue jeans or 'open' toed shoes).
8. All Zone and Provincial games are to be played as per draw and instructions with alternate dates provided in case of rain. The draws cannot be changed without approval by the Softball Alberta Representative in charge. **Normally, the "Rainout date" is the weekend after the original scheduled playoff date.**
9. Zone Playoffs of greater than two (2) teams shall be a double knockout format.
10. All categories of Provincial Playoffs will use a **MODIFIED ROUND ROBIN** playoff. Exception: Slo-Pitch - where the Host has the option of the double knockout or modified round robin format - the selected option is announced upon being awarded the Provincial event.
11. A "**Coin Toss**" will be used to determine home team for EVERY game, unless specified otherwise (2 or 3 team draw or Slo-Pitch). The "Coin Toss" for all games will usually be done immediately after the Coaches Meeting. Teams NOT in attendance will automatically forfeit "choice of inning".
12. All games must go seven (7) innings, unless time does not permit due rain, darkness, etc.. Five (5) innings constitutes a legal ball game. *"All games to be 7 innings duration except where one team is leading the other by 7 runs after 4½, 5, 5½, or 6 complete innings of play, the team leading shall be declared the winner."*

EXCEPTIONS: (Time limit for all categories NOT LEADING TO POST PROVINCIAL PLAY, overrides the 5 inning legal game requirement)

- **[U10]** No new inning shall start after a 1 hour & 30 minute time limit, for all games except the Championship games, where no new inning shall start after a 1 hour & 45 minute time limit (*Games C3 & C4*). (*Time starts at completion of Plate Conference*)
- **[All MINOR (U12 to U19), ADULT FP categories, and All ZONE playoff games]** No new inning shall start after a 1 hour & 45 minute time limit for all games. (*Time starts at completion of Plate Conference*)
- **PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND GAMES:**
 - **[MINOR (U12 to U19) categories]** - (*Games C3 & C4*) No new inning shall start after a 2 hour time limit.
 - **[All ADULT FP categories]** – No time limit for the semi-finals and finals.

- **U10 & U12**

- 5 run rule per inning is in effect throughout the game; 15 run rule after 5 innings

- 'C' & 'D' in **U14, U16, U19**

- 7 run rule per inning is in effect throughout the game; 7 run rule after 5 innings

- U14 & above and Adult FP
- Slo-Pitch

- 7 run rule after 5 innings
- 15 run rule after 5 innings

- There will be **NO TIED GAMES**: - Tiebreaker Rule will commence at the end of the game (*time limit or 7 innings*) for all categories.
- All Teams are responsible for the conduct of their fans. Offending fans may cause games to be suspended or ultimately forfeited.
- Provincial Hosts **MUST** use the official softball as prescribed in the current Softball Alberta Handbook (and listed on the Softball Alberta website www.softballalberta.ca).
- Hosting Organizations are responsible for the entire cost of the Playoffs. This includes umpires fees, umpires travel, umpires per diem, umpires accommodations, extra balls and facilities.
- Hosts must be declared prior to start of the Provincial Playoffs for all Post-Provincial events hosted in Alberta; otherwise, the highest ranking team from the Host location will be automatically declared as the Host.
- All decisions made by the Softball Alberta Playoff Committee during the playoffs will be final. The Softball Alberta Representative in charge shall chair this Committee.

A. STANDINGS AT COMPLETION OF THE (Modified) ROUND ROBIN

- WIN / LOSS record (no tie games in round robin)
- Games played against each other.
- a) Total Plus/Minus of all games – (runs **For** minus **Against**) with a maximum (+/-) per game being:

U10 & U12	15 runs	Adult FP	7 runs
U14, U16, U18 & U19	7 runs	Adult SP	15 runs

- Least runs allowed in all games by each team
- Total runs scored in all games for each team
- Positions settled by a coin toss

NOTES:

- No team will be eliminated by criteria 2 or 3 – a tiebreaker game is required
- 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.

[SP & Minor - NON Post Provincial Categories]

- When using criteria 3, team records are based on ALL games of the round robin, and only 4, 5, 6, etc. full innings in 4 ½, 5 ½, 6 ½, etc. inning games are used,
- 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.

[Adult FP & Minor - Post Provincial Categories ONLY]

- The final score of a game is also the score used for tiebreaking purposes. (Softball Alberta no longer reverts back to the last full inning).
- If the home team is ahead when the game is over, the home team does NOT bat or complete their bat at the bottom of the inning.

B. TIEBREAKER GAMES

- The above criteria ranking establishes the standings after completion of the round robin.
- If there is a tie for the last playoff position; tie breaker games between these teams will be played, with ranking used to determine pairings in the first round, as follows:
 - Number of games played will be equal to number of teams minus one (1). (E.g. Two teams = 1 game, Three teams = 2 games, etc.)
 - If odd number of teams, the team ranked highest receives a bye in the first round.
- If no tiebreaker games are required, then the playoff round may begin in the time slots reserved for tiebreaker games.

