



2024 OFFICIAL HANDBOOK

Published & edited by authority of the AASA, Provincial Sport Governing Body
for Fastpitch, Slo-pitch, Orthodox & Modified Softball.

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A. CATEGORY SPECIFICS

1. MINOR:

a) AGES - To be eligible for the current season.

U19 Boys & Girls - Under 19 PRIOR to Jan. 1st of the current year.
Born in 2005 or later.

U17 Boys & Girls - Under 17 PRIOR to Jan. 1st of the current year.
Born in 2007 or later.

U15 Boys & Girls - Under 15 PRIOR to Jan. 1st of the current year.
Born in 2009 or later.

U13 Boys & Girls - Under 13 PRIOR to Jan. 1st of the current year.
Born in 2011 or later.

U11 Boys & Girls - Under 11 PRIOR to Jan. 1st of the current year.
Born in 2013 or later.

Category	Pitching Distance		Baselines		Ball
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
U19/20	U20 - 46'	U19 - 43'	60'	60'	12"
U17	46'	43'	60'	60'	12"
U15	42'	40'	60'	60'	12"
U13	38'	38'	55'	55'	11"
U11	35'	35'	45'	45'	11"

b) Categories of Provincial Play are:

- U11 Advanced / Developing
- U13 A, B, C, D (C & D - girls only)
- U15 A, B, C, D (C & D - girls only)
- U17 A, AW, B, C, D (C & D - girls only)
- U19 A, B, C, D (C & D - girls only)

c) **TIMBITS / U7 & U9**

- i) These are any form of minor softball which may not utilize one of the team players as the pitcher. There will be no age restrictions or requirements. Playing rules are determined by local leagues and organizations.
- ii) The League / Association / Team must complete RAMP affiliation to be covered by the Insurance and Benefits Program.

2. **ADULT FASTPITCH:**

Pitching Distance		Baselines	
Male	Female	Male	Female
46'	43'	60'	60'

FAST PITCH RANKINGS:	SENIOR 'A'
	U23 'A'
	U20 'A'
	U19 'A'
	U23 'B'
	MASTERS 35+ / 40+
	INTERMEDIATE 'A'
	INTERMEDIATE 'B'
	INTERMEDIATE 'C'
	U20 'B'
	U19 'B'

a) **AGES** - To be eligible for the current season:

U23 A Men & B Women

- Under 23 PRIOR to Jan. 1st of the current year.
- Born in 2001 or later.

U20 A Men

- Under 20 PRIOR to Jan. 1st of the current year.
- Born in 2004 or later.

Masters 35+ WOMEN'S FAST PITCH

- Players MUST be thirty-five (35) years or older in the current year
- Born in 1989 or earlier.

Masters 40+ MEN'S FAST PITCH

- Players MUST be forty (40) years or older in the current year.
- Born in 1984 or earlier.

b) **Categories of Provincial Play** are:

SENIOR	A
MASTERS	35+ Women, 40+ Men
INTERMEDIATE	A, B, C
U23	A & B Men & Women
U20	A & B Men

3. **ADULT SLO-PITCH:**

Pitching Distance		Baselines	
<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
50' – 60'	50' – 60'	70'	65'

a) SLO-PITCH categories of Provincial Play are:

- SENIOR**
- INTERMEDIATE**
- CO-ED**

ARTICLE I. PROVINCIAL PLAYOFFS

A. RESIDENCY AND ELIGIBILITY

1. DEFINITION OF TERMS USED

- a) "BONA FIDE RESIDENT OF ALBERTA" means a person who considers their actual and exclusive home to be in Alberta. Residency is a question of fact to be determined in each case. To assist in determining bona fide residency, it is proper to consider all factors which are relevant including employment, length of stay and any other factors which are useful to consider whether the intention of the player is to make Alberta their permanent home.
- b) "DEEMED BONA FIDE RESIDENTS" are any of the following:
 - i) Players who are full-time students in the year of competition in attendance at an educational institution in Alberta or a post-secondary educational institution in Canada may elect to be deemed bona fide residents of Alberta, provided their parent(s) or legally appointed guardians are bona fide residents of Alberta, or
 - ii) Players who are or were in continuous full-time attendance at a post-secondary educational institution anywhere within six (6) months of the official residency date of the year of competition may elect to be deemed bona fide residents of Alberta if their parents are bona fide residents of Alberta or if the player is employed in a full-time job in Alberta at the official residency date;
 - iii) Canadian citizens participating in American college softball competition or in a professional sport competition (other than softball or baseball) may be exempted from the official residency requirement provided they return to Canada immediately following the event;
 - iv) Players employed full-time in Alberta and having a residence in Alberta;
 - v) **Border Boundary Rule:** - any player who is a Canadian citizen living within forty (40) kilometers of a border of the Province of Alberta (subject to 'release' requirements); the approved Out-of-Province Release must be in the Softball Alberta office on or before June 1st.
- c) "**POST-PROVINCIAL PLAY**" means a Western Canadian Championship or a Canadian Championship competition.
- d) "**OFFICIAL RESIDENCY DATE**"
 - i) The official residency date for categories NOT LEADING TO POST-PROVINCIAL PLAY shall be the deadline for filing of the official team rosters:

MINOR - JUNE 15th
ADULT - JUNE 30th
 - ii) The official residency date for categories LEADING TO POST-PROVINCIAL PLAY shall be:

MAY 1st

2. SOFTBALL ALBERTA AND SOFTBALL CANADA RULES OF ELIGIBILITY
 - a) In order for a player to be eligible to compete on teams competing in Provincial Championships leading to Post-Provincial play they shall meet all of the eligibility requirements of this Association as well as the eligibility requirements of Softball Canada. If there is any difference in the rules of player eligibility between the rules of this Association and those of Softball Canada, the requirements of this Association will govern.
3. TEAMS IN CATEGORIES NOT LEADING TO POST-PROVINCIAL PLAY - ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS
 - a) The residency requirements shall be as per the "Official Residency Date" listed in Section A. 1. d).
 - b) The citizenship qualifications are the same as for players participating on teams competing in Post-Provincial play provided that in addition thereto the citizenship rules may be waived on application to the Association through the Executive of the Association or through the District Organizer of the zone in which the team is registered.
4. TEAMS IN CATEGORIES LEADING TO POST-PROVINCIAL PLAY - ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS, COACHES AND MANAGERS
 - a) Other than the exceptions in paragraph d), in order for a player to be eligible to participate as a member of a team competing in divisions which advance to Post-Provincial play they must possess the following residency AND citizenship qualifications.
 - b) RESIDENCY QUALIFICATIONS ARE:
 - i) be a bona fide resident of Alberta or a deemed bona fide resident of Alberta on the official residency date of the year of competition,
 - ii) not be a registered member of another Provincial/Territorial team(s), and
 - iii) meet any zone residency requirements provided for in the Operating Rules of this Association.
 - c) CITIZENSHIP QUALIFICATIONS ARE:
 - i) be a Canadian citizen by the official residency date of the year of competition, or
 - ii) be a landed immigrant of Canada who has obtained their status by the official residency date of the year of competition, or
 - iii) be neither a Canadian citizen nor a landed immigrant of Canada as described but having been a continuous bona fide resident of Alberta for a period of one (1) year (or {minors only} a resident of Alberta on January 1st of the current calendar year) prior to the dates of the Post-Provincial Championship in which they wish to participate.

d) EXCEPTIONS TO THE FOREGOING QUALIFICATIONS ARE:

Refer to the Softball Canada Rulebook - Special Operating Rules - *Participant Eligibility & Residency*

- i) Each team participating in a Provincial Championship may have on their roster:
1. U23 Men & Women FP ONLY - one (1) player,
 2. SENIOR 'A' FP ONLY up to two (2) players,
- who are Canadian citizens living outside of Alberta and/or Canada who return to Alberta and/or Canada after the official residency date and register for softball participation by the Provincial roster deadline date.

NOTE: (SENIOR 'A' FP ONLY) - Only one of these two players can be a pitcher.

Exceptions: Softball Alberta Border Boundary Rule and Softball Canada - SOR Part 2, Article 2 Residency, Section 2.4

- ii) Each team in the U23 Men & Women & Senior categories at a Canadian Championship will be allowed these player exceptions subject to all of the following requirements:

- The player meets Softball Canada official residency date of May 1st,
- The player has full time residency in the Province/Territory where they are registered,
- The player represents the Province/Territory in which they were registered by the official residency date.

Note: These players would be considered imports and be subject to and part of the numbers of the import rules under Softball Canada - SOR Part 2, Article 2 Residency, Section 2.6



TEAM FEE & ENTRY DEADLINE – MAY 15th / JUNE 1st

B. FEES

(Entry fee includes 5% GST)

CATEGORY	ENTRY FEE	TRAVEL	AFFILIATION	TOTAL
MEN & WOMEN FP	\$551.25	\$250.00	\$175.00	\$976.25
MASTERS FP	\$551.25	\$250.00	\$175.00	\$976.25
INTER A B C Women	\$551.25		\$175.00	\$726.25
INTER B C Men	\$551.25		\$175.00	\$726.25
U23 Women & Men	\$551.25	\$250.00	\$175.00	\$976.25
U20 Men	\$551.25	\$250.00	\$175.00	\$976.25
SENIOR SP	\$525.00		\$175.00	\$700.00
INTERMEDIATE SP	\$341.25		\$125.00	\$466.25

All minor teams must be affiliated individually through their local association.

U19 C & D	\$551.25			\$551.25
U19 A & B	\$551.25	\$250.00		\$801.25
U17 A / AW	\$551.25	\$250.00		\$801.25
U17 B C D	\$551.25			\$551.25
U15 A	\$551.25	\$250.00		\$801.25
U15 B C D	\$551.25			\$551.25
U13 A B C D	\$446.25			\$446.25
U11	\$393.75			\$393.75

1. Provincial entry fees can be paid by cash, cheque, e-transfer, Visa, or MasterCard. All NSF cheques will be charged a \$25.00 fee plus clearing bank charges over and above the amount originally requested.
2. A \$200.00 late fee will be charged to any team applying to enter provincials after the provincial Entry (May 15th/June 1st) deadline. Acceptance of the late application is subject to the approval of the Softball Alberta Director in charge of the applicable category in conjunction with the Softball Alberta administration.
3. Teams who withdraw their Provincial Entry or do not participate in the Provincial Playoffs forfeit their Provincial Entry Fee.
4. Provincial classification must be selected on the 'Team Entry for Provincial Playoffs' registration (Deadline May 15th/June 1st) and cannot be changed after this date unless Executive approval is granted.
5. All teams / players who enter to participate in Provincial Playoffs must be affiliated by the roster deadline.
6. U15 and higher category teams which are eliminated through a Regional Qualifier will receive a \$100.00 refund on their Provincial Entry Fee.

7. Teams participating in a category that leads to Post-Provincial play in the same year will complete and submit a “Letter of Intent” and shall also post a bond equivalent to the potential fine for withdrawing from said championship.
 - a) The due date of the bond with Softball Alberta is May 15th.
 - Canadian Championships - \$2000.00
 - Western Canadian Championships - \$2000.00
 - b) Teams which have signed the “Letter of Intent” and posted the applicable bond shall forfeit the bond if after qualifying for Post-Provincial play renege on their “Letter of Intent” agreement. If a replacement team can be found, \$1500 of this bond will be returned to the team.
 - c) Teams advancing to Post-Provincial play which occur a year or more after qualifying through Provincial playoffs shall post a bond equivalent to the potential fine for withdrawing from said Championship. The due date of the bond with Softball Alberta is May 1st in the year of the Post-Provincial event.

C. SCHEDULES, Cancellations, Rainout Reschedules

1. Provincial Playoff categories not bid for by May 15th are subject to cancellation. Should there be no bids for an originally scheduled provincial championship prior to the cancellation date, an application for hosting that provincial championship on an alternative date should be considered providing the new application meets all of the hosting requirements.
2. Softball Alberta reserves the right to combine Provincial Playoff categories / locations where the number of entries and/or location is beneficial to teams and conducive to hosting the Playoffs.
3. Teams that enter Provincial Playoffs do so with the understanding that the round robin format constitutes more games and therefore, teams may expect to begin Provincial Playoffs as early as FRIDAY MORNING, depending on the category and the number of teams accepted into the playoff.
 - a) In all instances, Softball Alberta will try to schedule Friday games based upon practicality and the need for the games to be completed to accommodate the weekend schedule.
 - b) Where July 1st falls on the weekend, games may start on the Saturday and be completed on Monday.
 - c) Provincial draws will be posted on the Softball Alberta website at least 2 weeks prior to the event. www.softballalberta.ca
 - d) 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 (1st) games. Consideration will be given to the host team to have prime time for their second game of the day. If there are two (2) host teams (2 categories) – the same consideration is given, but not scheduled at the same time. (Exception - Regional Qualifiers)

4. All Regional Qualifier and Provincial Draws are made by a random selection of teams except for minor categories leading to Post-Provincial play, which are made after conducting a ranking poll of all the coaches competing in each respective event. In a 2 or 3 team draw in Regional Qualifiers, the playoff will be played in one day.
 - a) The entire Regional Qualifier structure will be the responsibility of the District Organizer for that Zone.
 - b) The Provincial Office is responsible for the Provincial Championships.
5. During Regional Qualifier and Provincial Round Robin play, no team will be scheduled to play more than 3 games in one day with no more than two games back-to-back.

Exceptions:

 - a) Adult Slo-Pitch: No more than '4' games in one day with no more than two games back-to-back in scheduled round robin play.
 - b) Delays caused by weather or other unforeseen circumstances.
6. Regional Qualifiers will be played two weeks prior to the first weekend of Provincial Playoff dates or whenever possible for that said category. This is to be left to the discretion of the District Organizer in consultation with the teams involved. If an agreement cannot be reached teams must adhere to the decision of the District Organizer or face expulsion from further competition.
7. Normally, the "Rainout date" is the weekend after the original scheduled playoff date.
8. If the Regional Qualifier or Provincial Playoff is delayed, cannot be played or completed due to weather or extenuating circumstances:
 - a) The Regional Qualifier is to be completed in a timely manner prior to the Provincial Playoff, otherwise a coin toss will be required to select teams to advance,
 - b) The Provincial Playoff is to be completed in a timely manner:
 - i) By modifying the original schedule and/or adjusting game lengths to accommodate the condition of the facilities and in consultation with the officials and host;
 - ii) Or, after the original schedule of the event where facilities, officials, and most teams can be accommodated;
 - iii) Otherwise, a cancellation of the event may occur.

The conclusion of competitions would normally be played or completed on the following weekend.
 - c) If the Provincial Playoffs cannot be completed as above, the Provincial Playoff Committee shall consider when, where and how the Playoffs will be completed as a preference over cancellation of the event.

Example 1: where the Provincial is a Round Robin Format: games may be shortened on innings and/or time length; or, a Double Knockout Draw Format may be considered.

Example 2: where the Provincial is a Double Knockout Draw Format and it becomes impossible to complete the Playoff as a two loss Playoff due to weather or extenuating circumstances, all teams that have lost one game will be eliminated and those teams in the winner's bracket will continue to play on a single loss basis.

D. PROVINCIAL PLAYOFF ENTRY

1. The following dates will apply to ALL teams entering Provincial Playoffs:

PROVINCIAL TEAM ENTRY deadline for all teams/categories:

Leading to POST-PROVINCIAL	– MAY 15 th
NOT Leading to Post-Provincial	– JUNE 1 st

Completed Roster Deadlines:

- Minor Teams – JUNE 15th
 - Adult Teams – JUNE 30th
 - Slo-Pitch – at coaches meeting
 - Provincials in August – JULY 15th
- a) **MINOR** - A justification form must accompany all provincial entry forms for **ALL** categories. The justification must provide supporting details for the division selection. This would include league results and tournament play up to the date of the provincial entry form submission.
 - b) When the provincial team entry deadline falls on a weekend or holiday when the Softball Alberta office is closed & entries cannot be submitted in person to the office - then the official deadline date, shall be 12:00 pm on the first working day following the provincial entry deadline date. This does NOT apply to emailed or faxed entries.
 - c) Players Released:
 - i) On or after the roster deadline will be allowed five (5) working days to sign with a “Provincial” registered team, roster permitting - LIMIT: One (1) addition.
 - ii) After their teams’ Provincial event is complete, are only eligible in the “Post Provincial Pickup process” - NOTE: this does not constitute a reduction in players of the team’s Provincial roster, in a move to increase the post-provincial pick-up numbers.
 - d) Where a team withdraws from Provincials on or after the roster deadline, all players on that team’s provincial roster shall have five (5) working days to sign with a registered team, roster permitting. Limit one (1) addition. Movement of these players shall be to the same caliber or higher, based on the team’s Provincial designation at the time of entry.
 - e) All approved Player Transfers shall be received by the Softball Alberta office by the Provincial roster deadline for Minor Teams. Failure of that will deem the affected player ineligible from further participation at Regional Qualifiers, Provincial Playoffs, Western Canadian Championships and Canadian Championships.
2. Teams failing to pay Provincial Entry Fees to Softball Alberta by May 15th/JUNE 1st of each year shall be ineligible for Provincial Play during such year, unless accepted with payment of the late entry fee.

3. Teams entering Provincial Playoffs do so with the understanding that in cases of more than ten (10) teams entering a specific category, they may be required to participate in a Regional Qualifier for the right to advance to the Provincial Championships.

EXCEPTIONS:

- a) Adult FP and Slo-Pitch - a maximum of 20 teams.
- b) ALL Minor and Adult FP categories leading to Post-Provincial play and U11 are **OPEN** categories. (i.e. all entries are accepted - no Regional Qualifiers needed)

NOTE: Regional Qualifiers are considered a part of the Provincial Championships and will be subject to all rules and regulations as set forth for Provincial competitions, including fees & suspensions etc.

4. All categories of Provincial Playoffs, exclusive of the following exceptions, will use a MODIFIED ROUND ROBIN playoff.

Exception 1: In all categories of ADULT FP that advance to a Western or Canadian where a category has two (2) entries, the format shall be a best of five (5) series. The series will be held over a 2 day period with 2 games scheduled for Day 1 & 3 games for Day 2

Exception 2: Slo-Pitch - where the entries in a category are greater than five (5) teams, the Host will have the option of the Double Knockout or Modified Round Robin Format. The selected option is to be announced upon being awarded the Provincial event. [Softball Alberta's choice of preference is the Modified Round Robin Format]

5. All teams are expected to enter a playoff category which corresponds to their demonstrated team capability. Softball Alberta seeks to achieve this result and have meaningful competition.

- Softball Alberta may revoke entry of any team to a particular division based on information it has available on the level of play for the team up to June 10th.
- If a complaint is submitted to Softball Alberta, by an affiliated member, that a particular team has entered a category which creates unfair competition, it must be accompanied with documentation to substantiate the complaint and a deposit of \$300.00 (prior to June 10th).

See Softball Alberta website for “Provincial Category Protest” policy and form.

6. Teams competing in one zone and residing outside of this zone must enter the provincials in the zone in which they reside. A team's zone residency shall be determined by the zone residency of the majority of players.



E. PROVINCIAL ROSTERS

1. A team must have at least nine (9) players for Fast Pitch and ten (10) players for Slo-Pitch to start or continue a game. Effect: the game is forfeited.
2. All players:
 - a) Are allowed to register on both a Fast Pitch and a Slo-Pitch Provincial Roster – refer to category specifics for: Adult FP and Slo-Pitch,
 - b) Are allowed to register on multiple Affiliation Rosters but only **ONE** Provincial Roster in Fast Pitch,
EXCEPTIONS:
 - i) Minor Male players are allowed to register on more than one provincial roster provided provincials are on a different weekend.
 - ii) Senior Men & Women FP - Players are allowed to register on multiple affiliation rosters but only TWO Provincial rosters in Fastpitch. (*Players on a Senior A FP roster are subject to the WCSA Player Eligibility rules.*)
 - c) May participate in all the provincial categories in which they are signed, providing the dates for the Provincial Playoffs do not coincide.
3. Teams in Minor, U20, U23 and Masters Divisions must furnish satisfactory evidence as to their age before being approved by Softball Alberta. Satisfactory evidence shall be in the form of a birth certificate, Alberta Health Care Card, Driver’s License or Passport. If these documents are uploaded to their RAMP registration, that is also accepted.
4. Out-of-Province players and those players wishing to play Out-of-Province must request a “Player Release” from their Province/Territory of residence.
Out-of-Province Player Release request deadlines are:
 - a) For categories leading to Post-Provincial playApril 1st
 - b) For categories NOT leading to Post-Provincial playMay 1st
 - c) All approved Out-of-Province releases to the Softball Alberta officeJune 1st
 - d) Refer to the Border Boundary Rule under ‘Residency and Eligibility’ for out-of-province players from border communities on the Alberta border.
5. **MINOR Category:**
 - a) Team Roster is a maximum of seventeen (17) players.
 - b) U17 and above Female teams in categories **NOT** leading to Post Provincial play may have on their roster up to two (2) overage players for the purposes of Provincial play. These players can be affiliated players or pickups but may not play defensively as either a pitcher or catcher. Furthermore, these players must be players who are one year advanced from the current playing category of the team in question.
 - c) All male divisions are allowed to have a maximum of 2 overage players on their roster. These players must be players who are one year advanced from the current playing category of the team in question. (WCSA roster rules differ, see WCSA Handbook.)

d) **U11 Category**

- i) The U11 Provincials are an 'OPEN' event in pool play and divided into brackets for playoffs.
- ii) Co-ed U11 teams may enter the Provincials in the U11 Boys Category.

e) **U13 Category**

- i) Co-ed U13 teams may enter Provincials in the U13 Boys A & B Level.

f) **U15 Category**

- i) Co-ed teams may enter Provincials in the U15 Boys A & B categories.
- ii) Pitching distance will be 42'.
- iii) Co-ed A teams are permitted to participate in Post-Provincial play – Westerns.

6. **ADULT FP Category:**

- a) Team Roster is a maximum of seventeen (17) players.

Exception: Masters 35+ / 40+ FP and all categories NOT leading to Post-Provincial play - twenty (20) players

- b) Adult FP players will be permitted to sign a Provincial Roster with one (1) of the following Adult FP categories:

Senior A / Intermediate A, B or C / U20 Men / U23 Men & Women

AND one (1) Masters 35+ / 40+ FP Team

PLUS one (1) of each of the following Adult SP categories:

Senior SP / Co-Ed SP

7. **ADULT SLO-PITCH Category:**

- a) Team roster sizes will be as follows:

Men	Min. 12	Max. 17
Women	Min. 12	Max. 20
Coaches & Managers	Min. 1	Max. 4

Exception: CO-ED: Twenty (20) players with 5 men & 5 women and a maximum of ten (10) players per gender.

- b) Adult SP players will be permitted to sign a Provincial Roster on:

One (1) Senior SP team *and*

One (1) Co-Ed SP team

PLUS the following Adult Fast Pitch categories:

One (1) Masters FP team

AND one (1) of: Senior A / Intermediate A, B or C / U20 Men, U23 Men & Women

- c) The minimum age for minors to play in a Provincial Slo-Pitch Championship will be 16 years of age. They will adhere to the Minor SP Player Safety Equipment Rules as specified in Section J.2.f).

F. COACHES

1. Any team entering Provincials must have an NCCP Trained/Certified Softball coach listed on the team's Provincial Playoff Entry Form & on the team's Provincial Roster by the roster deadline date or that team's application will be returned to the team. **(See point 2 for additional coaching requirements)**

- a) Exempt categories are: Slo-Pitch.
- b) U11 – All U11 categories require a registered coach to have Foundations of Coaching Softball Part 1 and the Make Ethical Decisions Online Evaluation complete on their NCCP transcript.
- c) NOT leading to Post-Provincial play - all Minor & Adult FP categories require a registered coach to be fully Trained in NCCP "Community Softball".
- d) Leading to Post-Provincial play - all Minor & Adult FP categories require a registered coach to be fully Certified in NCCP "Competition Introduction".

FP categories leading to Post-Provincial play include:

- U15 A
- U17 A & AW
- U19 A & B
- U20 Men
- U23 A & B
- MEN & WOMEN FP
- MASTERS FP 35+ | 40+

**Exception – Adult FP WCSA Championships – require NCCP "Community Softball"*

- e) The "Certified Coach of Record" must be indicated on the Provincial roster. The "Certified Coach of Record" is permitted to sign only one roster per Provincial Playoff weekend.

Effect: The "Certified Coach of Record" will be recorded on one Provincial roster and removed from all other Provincial rosters for that Provincial Playoff weekend; those teams will require a new "Certified Coach of record".

- f) A transcript of the coach's training (*as obtained from www.coach.ca*) is to accompany the Provincial Entry & the Provincial Roster forms. The transcript can be obtained from www.coach.ca, using the 'Coach Transcript' tab and supplying the coach's last name and NCCP# (*phone 613-235-5000 for NCCP#, if unavailable*).
- g) The "Certified Coach of Record" must be in attendance at all games and on the team's bench during Provincials. If the "Certified Coach of Record" is not in attendance, then:
 - i) If a team arrives at the Provincial Playoffs without their Certified Coach, the team WILL BE allowed to play. However, NO person shall be allowed in the coaching boxes for their games until their certified coach arrives and signs in.

- ii) If another certified coach, certified for the applicable category, is in attendance and has the appropriate documentation, that coach may become the “Certified Coach of Record”,
 - iii) If a team’s Certified Coach is ejected from a game and they do not have an alternate, the team WILL BE allowed to continue play. However, NO person shall be allowed in the coaching boxes during the remainder of that game.
 Effect: (Items i. and iii.) When the Certified Coach is not in attendance and coaches are used in the coaching boxes, the game will be forfeited.
- 2. The total number of signed coaches and managers for a Provincial team shall not exceed four (4):
 - a) [MINOR Teams] One of which must be of same gender as the team and must have completed Foundations of Coaching Softball Part 1 and the Make Ethical Decisions Online Evaluation.
Effect: when a coach of same gender as team is not present and on bench - NO person shall be allowed in the coaching boxes during the remainder of that game.
 - b) Alternate coaches may be designated during the team’s initial sign-in at the Provincial Play-offs.
- 3. Managers and coaches MAY NOT participate as players unless they are so registered.
- 4. COACHES MEETING: A Coaches Meeting will be held prior to the commencement of all Provincial Championships. In some instances, this may occur on the evening before the start of the Provincial Championships.
 - a) The meeting time and location will be determined through mutual agreement by the Softball Alberta Office, the Softball Alberta Supervisor and the Host of each particular Provincial Championship.
 - b) The Softball Alberta Supervisor will chair the Coaches Meeting. Decisions mutually agreed upon at this meeting (i.e. Playoff procedures, coin toss, etc.) will be binding throughout the Championships; however, no changes in the playing rules will be entertained.
 - c) Team representatives (i.e. coaches and/or managers) are strongly recommended to attend the Coaches Meeting. Should a team representative fail to appear at a coaches meeting, that team will not be permitted to question or dispute any item that was agreed upon at the coaches meeting.
 - d) It is the responsibility of each team to contact either Softball Alberta or the Host for the time and location of the Coaches Meeting.

G. PICKUPS for PROVINCIALS

(Only for Categories NOT leading to Post-Provincial play)

ANY team that enters Provincial Playoffs in a category which does **NOT LEAD** to Post-Provincial play **IS** entitled to pickups after the roster deadlines.

1. Teams are allowed two (2) pickups for Regional Qualifiers or Provincial Playoffs (pickups for a Regional Qualifier are carried through to Provincial Playoffs with no additional pickups unless the maximum number (2) is not met).
 - a) These pickups may only be selected from affiliated teams and from teams in the same classification or lower:
 - MINOR (U17 & lower) - from within their own zone
 - ADULT & U19 - as per the guidelines for the team roster
 - b) Teams may use these two (2) pickups to fill out their roster but cannot drop or release players for the purpose of picking up.
 - c) Maximum roster size (including pickups) for **ALL** Minor and Post-Provincial **FP** teams is 17 players and all non-Post-Provincial Adult **FP** teams is 20 players.
 - d) Pickups shall not be approached until the end of their competition level.
2. Pickups **MUST** be registered players at roster deadline with an affiliated team, including a team that has been eliminated through a Regional Qualifier or Provincial Playoffs. Players can only be picked up once and **MUST** be carried to the Provincial Finals.
3. Player Release & Pickup forms must be approved by the Softball Alberta office. The Player Release & Pickup forms must accompany team rosters to the Regional Qualifier/Provincial Playoffs and must be presented to the Softball Alberta Supervisor prior to the team's first game. Player Release & Pickup forms are available from the Softball Alberta office / website.



4. Players registered with affiliated teams of the same classification or lower are eligible to be picked up by Provincial teams from their zone. Minor teams registered in the 'C' and 'D' categories may not pickup from the 'A' category of the division lower.

Pickup examples:

Category	Level	Categories eligible for pickups	
U19	C	U19 C, D	U17 B & lower
	D	U19 D	U17 B & lower
U17	B	U17 B, C & D	U15 A & lower
	C	U17 C, D	U15 B & lower
	D	U17 D	U15 B & lower
U15	B	U15 B, C, D	U13 A & lower
	C	U15 C, D	U13 B & lower
	D	U15 D	U13 B & lower
U13	A	U13 A, B, C, D	U11
	B	U13 B, C, D	U11
	C	U13 C, D	U11
	D	U13 D	U11
U11		U11 & lower	

Adult / Minor Categories Crossover:

Category	Level	Categories eligible for pickups	
Intermediate FP	B	Intermediate B, C	
		U19 B & lower	
Intermediate FP	C	Intermediate C	
		U19 B & lower	

H. INJURY/MEDICAL REPLACEMENT [Minor ONLY]

Teams may be allowed, at the discretion of the Executive Director, a replacement for players who have sustained a medical condition or injury after the Provincial roster has been submitted. In all cases, a signed Medical Doctor's certificate must be submitted by the player, and/or legal guardians for minors, to the Softball Alberta office. The Doctor's certificate must state:

- (a) That the player sustained an injury or has a medical condition,
 - (b) The injury/medical condition prevents the player from physically participating,
 - (c) The specified period the injury/medical condition will prevent participation.
 - (d) Additional documentation must:
 - i. Show that the player participated in softball competition (score sheets) prior to point of sustained medical condition or injury,
 - ii. State (for an 'injury' replacement) when and where the player was injured.
1. This documentation and the Doctor's certificate must be received by the Executive Director prior to the first scheduled date of the Regional Qualifier, Provincial, Western Canadian or Canadian Championship.
 2. Replacement players for Regional Qualifiers or Provincial playoffs must be affiliated (at the roster deadline for Minor and Fastpitch only), must not be registered on another provincial team and are subject to all applicable pick-up rules.
 3. Replacement players for Post-Provincial play must be affiliated (at the roster deadline), are subject to all applicable pick-up rules and may only be allowed after the pick-up selection order is complete.
 4. Players replaced due to an injury or medical condition will be ineligible from further participation at Regional Qualifiers and Provincial Playoffs, Western Canadian Championships and Canadian Championships.
 5. A team will only be allowed a maximum of two (2) injury/medical replacements for the current year.

Any false claims will be subject to suspension of the offending player, coach and/or manager.

I. REPLACEMENT PLAYER [Adult ONLY]

Teams may be allowed to replace players due to any reason after the roster deadline, with written consent of the player(s) being replaced.

1. Replacement players for Provincial playoffs must be affiliated (at the roster deadline for Adult Fastpitch only), must not be registered on another provincial team and are subject to all applicable pick-up rules.
2. Replacement players for Post-Provincial play must be affiliated (at the roster deadline), are subject to all applicable pick-up rules and may only be allowed after the pick-up selection order is complete.
3. Players replaced will be ineligible from further participation at Provincial Playoffs, Western Canadian Championships and Canadian Championships.
4. A team will only be allowed a maximum of three (3) Replacement Players for

the current year.

If any player(s) are replaced without prior written consent (email, letter) the following actions will be taken.

1. Coach and/or manager will be suspended for 1 year.
2. Replacement players will not be eligible for pickup for that team
3. Offending team will not be eligible for any other replacement or to pick up any players for the current year, even if their roster allows it.

J. EQUIPMENT

1. ALL Minor and Adult FP Categories:

- a) ALL players, both male & female, are required to wear protective batting helmets while on deck, batting & running bases in Regional Qualifier & Provincial competition.

[Refer to Softball Canada FP Rule 2.1.8 HELMET and 5.4.2 a) BATTING REQUIREMENTS]

- i) A protective batting helmet is one that is fully enclosed, with two (2) ear flaps and a foam liner with a peak.
 - ii) All teams must carry a minimum of five (5) batting helmets at all times.
- b) Catchers (or other members of the team) **MUST** wear a mask with throat protector and helmet while receiving warm-up pitches anywhere on or near the playing field or in the warm-up area prior to and during the game.

A batting helmet with facemask, or infielder defensive mask, are not legal for receiving warm up pitches.

EFFECT:

- i) If the person catching for the pitcher will not wear the mask after a warning, that person catching will be removed from the game.
 - ii) If the person catching for the pitcher is anyone other than a team member and will not wear the mask after a warning, it shall mean the removal of the coach or manager of the offending team.
- c) Refer to **Softball Canada FP Rule 2.1.8 HELMET** - for permissible uses by defensive & offensive players (examples as follows):
 - i) Any defensive player can wear a protective face mask / guard.
 - ii) Any defensive player or coach may wear a cap or an approved helmet of identical colour to the team caps. A helmet for defensive purposes does not require earflaps.

2. MINOR Category:

- a) Shoes:
 - i) (U15 and Under) Metal cleats are NOT allowed. **Exception: U15A**
 - ii) (U17 and Above) Metal cleats ARE permitted, provided the facility allows them. Cleats must not extend more than 2.0 cm (3/4") from the sole or

- heel of the shoe.
- iii) Hard plastic, nylon or polyurethane spikes similar to a metal sole and heel plate are NOT allowed.
 - iv) Shoes with rubber detachable cleats that screw onto the shoe are NOT allowed; however, shoes with rubber detachable cleats that screw into the shoe are allowed.
- b) The protective batting helmet for Minor categories includes:
- i) A chin strap fastened securely under the chin,
 - ii) And an “approved face mask/guard”.
- EFFECT: A player not wearing a helmet will be warned by the Umpire. If in the umpires’ judgment the helmet is intentionally removed, interference shall be called and the player whose helmet was removed shall be declared out.
- c) Catchers in Minor categories are required to also wear:
- i) a body protector,
 - ii) shin-guards that offer protection to the kneecap,
 - iii) and an athletic support with protective cup (both male and female).
- All of this equipment is to fit properly.
- d) Pitchers in categories **U19** and under are required to wear:
- i) An approved protective face mask/guard when pitching,
 - ii) No pitcher in these categories will be allowed to throw a pitch in a game until an approved face mask/guard is worn,
 - iii) Failure to wear an approved face mask/guard will result in the pitcher being unable to continue pitching and they must be replaced and or substituted for.
- e) In all categories NOT leading to Post-Provincial play, a bat that is legal in all aspects other than the wording “Official Softball” shall be declared legal.
- f) **Minor Slo-Pitch Player Safety Equipment Rules:**
- i) Minor players must wear a batting helmet and mouth guard when in an offensive position as a batter or runner.
 - ii) Minor players playing any defensive position must wear a mouth guard AND while playing an infield position must also wear a face protector.

3. **ADULT FP Category:**
 - a) Metal cleats ARE permitted in all categories of adult fast pitch, provided the facility allows them. Cleats must not extend more than 2.0 cm (3/4") from the sole or heel of the shoe.
4. **ADULT SP Category:**
 - a) Pitchers are required to wear a protective face mask & head protection while pitching in Provincial competition
 - b) ALL players, both male and female, are required to wear approved protective batting helmets while on deck, batting and running the bases in Provincial competition.
 - c) Refer to **Softball Canada SP Rule 2.1.8 HELMET** for permissible uses by defensive and offensive players.
5. Each team/player will be required to present all bats for inspection and/or testing.
 - a) All approved bats will be marked for that championship and returned to the teams. Any non-approved bats will be held and returned to the team once they have been eliminated from further play in that championship.
 - b) Once the championship has started any additional bats not previously inspected and/or tested must be presented to the UIC/DUIC a minimum of 45 minutes prior to their next game for inspection and/or testing.
 - c) Any uninspected bats discovered being used during the game will be removed for the remainder of the game and until it is inspected and/or tested and approved.

K. UNIFORMS

1. All players on a team shall wear uniforms alike in colour, trim and style; (in accordance with the colour code of the team). Female teams - pants or shorts may be worn at the individual player's discretion.
 - a) Ball caps must be alike and are mandatory for all male players and must be worn appropriately.
 - b) Caps, visors and headbands are optional for female players but must be alike in team colour and must be worn appropriately.
 - c) Any defensive player or coach may wear an approved helmet of identical colour of the team caps. A helmet worn for defensive purposes does not require ear flaps.
2. UNIFORM NUMBERS:
 - a) An Arabic number of contrasting colour at least 15.2 cm. (6 inches) high, must be worn on the back of all uniform shirts.
 - b) Players without numbers will not be permitted to play.
 - c) Only whole numbers 00 to 99 shall be used [maximum of two (2) digits].

- d) No manager, coach, or player, on the same team may wear identical numbers (numbers 1 and 01 are examples of identical numbers).

There is no penalty:

- for a player wearing a wrong number. Correct the number in the scorebook and on the lineup card and continue play.
 - for duplicate numbers. One player must change jerseys, or a substitute may enter for one of the players.
3. Managers and coaches shall wear uniforms. These uniforms may differ from that of the players (i.e. sweat suits or slacks), but those that are worn must be alike in colour, trim, and style in accordance with the colour code of the team. All on-field coaches and/or managers must wear shoes (fully enclosed with canvas or leather uppers).
 4. The Softball Alberta Supervisor in consultation with the Umpire-in-Chief shall judge the acceptability of uniforms. Teams with unacceptable uniforms will be dealt with as follows:
 - a) If possible, an individual will be warned before a game appearance.
 - b) An individual participating in a game will be instructed to immediately correct the uniform deficiency.
 - c) An individual failing to correct the deficiency will be ejected from the game.

L. GUIDELINES for TRAVEL to PROVINCIALS

1. Bring your approved Softball Alberta provincial roster and any Player Release & Pickup forms.
2. Have your own scorekeepers, even though there should be an Official Scorekeeper and check the score with the official scorekeeper at regular intervals.
3. Confirm your draw for your game dates & times and coaches meeting.
4. Participate in Opening Ceremonies.

M. PLAYOFF PROCEDURES

DEFINITIONS:

REGIONAL QUALIFIER: Will be the Playoff of more than one entry per category where more than the maximum number of teams allowed has entered for the Provincial Playoffs.

REGIONAL QUALIFIER FINAL: Will be the game to determine the Regional Qualifier(s). Regional Qualifier Finals will be scheduled for the last weekend of June for all provincial categories that do not lead to post-provincial play. The scheduling of all Regional Qualifiers is completely up to the discretion of the Zone District Organizer.

PROVINCIAL PLAYOFF: Will be the games between Regional Qualifier winners or as provided above for the Provincial Championships - with the rainout date being the following weekend.

OPEN PROVINCIAL PLAYOFF: Will be the acceptance and playoff of all entries into said

category - i.e. NO Regional Qualifier will be held.

PAGE PLAYOFF The Page Playoff is a playoff system where the top four teams advance to the playoff round. The first- and second-placed teams and the third- and fourth-placed teams play each other. The winner of the 1 vs 2 game gets a bye to the final, while the loser plays the winner of the 3 vs 4 game in the semi-final. The winner of the semi-final plays the winner of the 1 vs 2 game in the final, with the winner of that game winning the competition.

CHOICE OF INNING: Determination of Home or Visitor Team for a game.

1. A Softball Alberta Supervisor will be in attendance at all games.
2. The Province shall be divided into EIGHT (8) zones. Boundaries for the zones - Page 6

Zone 1	Zone 4	Zone 6 (Edmonton)
Zone 2	Zone 5	Zone 7
Zone 3 (Calgary)		Zone 8

3. The progression of Playoffs will be Regional Qualifiers (where necessary) and then Provincial Championships.
4. Softball Alberta will endeavor to eliminate Regional Qualifiers, wherever possible. The ideal maximum of ten (10) teams constitutes one team from each zone (8), plus the host team, plus a pro-rata entry based on the zone with the highest number of entries in that specific category.
5. The U11 and ALL FP categories leading to Western or Canadian Championships will use an Open Provincial Playoff. In all other categories, the number of teams allowed will be limited. If the total number of entries is more than the maximum number allowable, Regional Qualifiers must be held.
6. Each Zone may be allowed more than one team if the maximum of ten (10) or twenty (20) teams, as applicable, have not entered in the Provincial Playoff.
7. In cases of question, the Hosting Zone is to get the extra team to bring the total to the maximum number of teams allowable.
8. In all Provincial Championships where each zone is not represented, and where there is the opportunity for other zones to provide additional teams to bring the Championships to the maximum allowable teams, each zone with two or more applying teams will be given the opportunity to send additional teams in descending order according to the number of teams registered in that zone for that category.
9. All teams must have in their possession a copy of their approved Softball Alberta provincial roster and any Player Release & Pickup forms validated by Softball Alberta. These must be presented to the Softball Alberta Supervisor when requested.
10. All coaches participating in the playoffs must sign the signature sheet before their first game. Any coach arriving late must sign the original signature sheet prior to participating. Any Softball Alberta Supervisor may approach a coach or team at any time to request signatures.
11. Provincial Playoffs take precedence over league, or Regional Qualifiers as to available

facilities.

12. Playing fields must conform to at least minimum size as stated in the Softball Canada rulebook. Conditions should be best available. If the proposed playoff site is not adequate, the host must have written approval from Softball Alberta authorizing permission to use other than legal playing facilities.
13. Umpires must be registered with Softball Alberta. In the event they are not available, non-registered umpires must be cleared with the Umpire-in-Chief or his representatives, or a Softball Alberta Supervisor before commencing the first game. Registered umpires must be in an official uniform. No officiating umpire is to be assigned as a Softball Alberta Supervisor to a Zone or Provincial Playoff.
14. No smoking, vaping, liquor and/or other recreational impairment inducing substances shall be allowed within 100 feet of the benches or on the playing field area.

EFFECT: First offence, the coach or manager will be warned.
 Second offence will warrant forfeiture of the game.

15. All teams shall be responsible for the conduct of their fans. Should a fan or spectator, that can be identified as a supporter of one of the two teams playing, be guilty of objectionable conduct, the game umpire may stop the game and the team warned about the conduct of their fans and/or spectators.

If after the warning, the conduct of the spectators or fans does not improve then the Provincial Supervisor and UIC shall suspend the game until a reasonable amount of time is provided to remove the fans or spectators from the ball park. ***Failure to comply shall result in a penalty up to and including a forfeit to the offending team.***

N. GAME PROCEDURES

1. There will be no grace period from the designated start time of a game. Result would be forfeiture. This pertains to all categories of provincials.
2. Forfeiture of games where a team fails to appear on the field or refuses to play a game as scheduled in a Regional Qualifier or Provincial Playoff may disqualify the team from further participation in the Regional Qualifiers/Provincial Playoffs and may lead to suspensions as per Article VI, section B “Suspensions”.
3. All Regional Qualifier & Provincial Playoff games must be played in accordance with the rules set down in the Softball Alberta Handbook. The Handbook shall take precedence when discrepancies arise, particularly with regard to those rules regarding equipment.

4. **Home Team** - In the qualifying Round the home team will be determined by a coin toss at the Coaches/Manager meeting prior to the start of the Championship.
 - a) In the Championship Round, home team will be determined by the round robin standings, the higher ranking teams will have a choice of inning.
 - b) If there is more than one pool in the qualifying Round, the higher ranking teams of all pools combined will have choice of inning.
 - c) If teams of all pools combined are equally ranked, a coin toss will determine the higher ranking team.
 - d) In the Championship Game, the undefeated team in the Championship Round will have choice of inning (i.e. home or away). If the Championship has 2 pools and there are 2 undefeated teams, choice of inning will be determined by a coin toss. If there is an 'if' game, choice of inning will be determined by a coin toss.
5. Seven innings will constitute a legal game, except if tied after seven (7) innings or expiration of the time limit.
6. **TIME LIMITS** (in effect for ALL Categories **NOT** leading to Post-Provincial play):
(Time starts at completion of Plate Conference)
 - a) Minor: NO new inning shall start after a 1 hour & 45 minute time limit for ALL games EXCEPT the Championship games; NO new inning shall start after a 2 hour time limit for ALL Championship games.

Exception – U11 – No new inning shall start after a 1 hour and 30 minute time limit for all games except Championship games, NO new inning shall start after a 1 hour and 45 minute time limit for ALL Championship games.

 - *“Championship Games” refers to the medal {C3 & C4} games in Provincial Playoffs.*
 - *All Regional Qualifier games have the 1 hour & 45 minute time limit.*
 - b) Adult FP: NO new inning shall start after a 1 hour & 45 minute time limit for all games except the semi-finals and finals.
 - c) Adult SP: NO new inning shall start after a 1 hour & 15 minute time limit for all games except the semi-finals and finals.

Time limits may be extended at the discretion of the home plate umpire and/or the UIC and/or the Softball Alberta Supervisor for such matters as injuries, field maintenance, protests, etc.

7. **TIED GAME PROCEDURES:** - THERE WILL BE NO TIE GAMES, additional innings are played at the end of the game to resolve the tie with the **Softball Canada Tiebreaker Rule (FP & SP Rule 1.2.4)** in effect at the top of the next inning.
8. All games called by the umpire due to darkness or rain shall be “completed games” if five or more completed innings have been played, or if the team second at bat has scored more runs than the other team has scored in four and one-half (4½) or more innings.
9. When incomplete games cannot be immediately continued due to darkness, weather or any other extenuating circumstance, the Softball Alberta Supervisor shall direct when and where the games shall be played. Such games are to be continued from the point where they were abandoned and are to be played at the earliest possible moment so as not to unduly delay the series. *(Also, Refer to Article III, C. SCHEDULES, Cancellations, Rainout Reschedules).*

10. **RUNS PER INNING:** - categories with a Run per Inning Limit are:

a) **U11 & U13 Categories**

- i) A five (5) run rule per inning per team will be in effect throughout the game. Once the fifth (5th) run is scored all other runners are stranded. THEY DO NOT start on base next inning.

b) **U15, U17, & U19 Categories – NOT LEADING TO POST PROVINCIAL PLAY**

- i) A seven (7) run per inning per team rule will be in effect throughout the game. Once the seventh run is scored, all other runners are stranded. They DO NOT start on base the next inning. When the team behind cannot score enough runs to win in the allotted time period or after 4 ½ innings, the game is declared over.

11. **RUN AHEAD RULES:** - A Run Ahead Rule shall result in the conclusion of the game when there is a difference of:

a) [*Minor and Adult FP*]

- i) 15 or more runs after 2½ or 3 complete innings of play
- ii) 10 or more runs after 3 ½ or 4 complete innings of play
- iii) 7 or more runs after 4½, 5, 5½ or 6 complete innings of play

b) [*Adult SP*]

- i) As per the Softball Canada Slo-Pitch SOR Article 3 “Game Procedures”.

12. **PITCHING SPECIFIC RULES:**

a) All categories follow the standard softball pitch as outlined by Softball Canada & Softball Alberta as stated herein:

- i) [*Minor and Adult FP*] Softball Canada FP **Rule 4**
- ii) [*Adult SP*] Softball Canada SP **Rule 4**

b) [**U11, U13 and U15 categories**] Pitchers may pitch a maximum of:

- i) [*U11 categories*] - three (3) innings per game,
- ii) [*U13 categories*] - four (4) innings per game,
- iii) [*U15 categories*] - four (4) innings per game.

Should a pitcher throw one (1) pitch (excluding warm-up pitches), 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 pitching position.

At the time of the appeal, the non-offending team shall have the option of:

- i) allowing all plays to stand,
- ii) or, revert to the spot in the game when the violation occurred.

13. **Other CATEGORY SPECIFIC RULES:**

a) **U11 categories**

Substitution – The substitution rule does not apply. Defensive players may be substituted freely without penalty. Softball Alberta recommends that each player plays a defensive position for a minimum of one (1) complete inning per game. All players shall be listed on the lineup card and shall bat in the order shown.

All players shall be listed on the lineup card and shall bat in the order shown.

b) **U11 and U13 categories**

The 'Infield Fly Rule' is NOT in effect.

The batter is out on the third strike, regardless if the ball is caught or not, and the ball remains alive.

c) **U11, U13, and U15 categories**

The 'Designated Player' rule (FP) IS NOT permitted; BUT is permitted for **U15A** and above categories.

d) **Masters 35+ / 40+ FP**

DESIGNATED RUNNER is permitted in as per Softball Canada FP rule for “Designated Runner”.

f) **All Minor & Adult FP categories**

The Charged Conference is applicable as per Softball Canada FP Rule 4.2.1 & 5.2 - irrespective of the category exclusions stated in the Softball Canada Rule Book. **(Three defensive per game & one offensive per inning.)**

g) **Adult SP categories**

The Charged Conferences is applicable as per Softball Canada SP Rule 4.2 & 5.2 **(One defensive & one offensive per inning.)**

Temporary Runner: Is legal for a pitcher who gets on base.

The following provisions apply:

- a) Is optional except with two outs at which times it becomes mandatory.
- b) The temporary runner may be any player on the line-up card who is not on base at the time of application (even if they have previously been in the game and cannot legally re-enter the game) but cannot be a player who has been ejected or removed from the game for a violation of the rules.
- c) The player who finishes the previous defensive innings in the pitching position (or is designated as the pitcher in the line-up card for the home team's first inning at bat) is the only player eligible to have a temporary runner.
- d) Re-entry and substitution rules are waived for the temporary runner.
- e) If the temporary runner is on base and due to bat, they shall be replaced by another eligible player without penalty.

h) **All Minor and Adult FP categories**

TEMPORARY RUNNER: as per Softball Canada FP Rule 3.2.7

i) **Adult SP categories**

Will follow the Softball Canada Slo-Pitch SOR Article 3 “Game Procedures” for Provincial events (*Intermediate will follow the Senior rules*).

14. **BATTER’S BOX** - as per Softball Canada FP Rule 5.4.2 e) “Batting Requirements”

O. REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

1. Teams that must play in a Regional Qualifier will consider the Regional Qualifiers as the beginning of the Provincial Playoffs for that category in regard to fees, suspensions, etc. Teams who do not advance past the Regional Qualifier are still considered to have entered and participated in Provincial Play.

NOTE: Host teams for Provincials DO NOT participate in the Regional Qualifiers.

2. Regional Qualifiers with more than 2 teams shall use a Double Knockout Format. In the event there is no host for the playoff, all participating teams will share the costs and income of the playoff equally.

One of the following formats must be used for a two (2) team playoff:

- a) **HOME AND HOME SERIES:** The first 2 games on the home diamond of Team A and the 3rd game (if necessary) will be on the home diamond of Team B.

- i. A coin toss will determine the home team in Games #1 and #3 (if necessary). The team losing the coin toss in Game #1 will determine the home team in Game #2.

- ii. In a Two-out-of-Three Series, Game 1 will decide a winner if Games 2 & 3 are rained out. If Games 1 & 2 are played and Game 3 is rained out, then total runs will decide the winner.

- iii. The Hosting Team will pay for umpires, balls and grounds in all Series.

P. PROVINCIAL PLAYOFFS

All categories of Provincial Playoffs, exclusive of the following exceptions, will use a MODIFIED ROUND ROBIN in the **QUALIFYING ROUND**.

EXCEPTION: Slo-Pitch - where the entries in a category are greater than five (5) teams, the Host will have the option of the Double Knockout or Modified Round Robin Format. The selected option is to be announced upon being awarded the Provincial event. [Softball Alberta's choice of preference is the Modified Round Robin format].

EXCEPTION: Adult FP - where two (2) teams are entered in a category that advance to a Western or Canadian Championship, the format shall be a best of five (5) series. The series will be held over a 2 day period with 2 games scheduled for Day 1 and 3 games for Day 2.

1. In all categories where there are one or multiple pools, a minimum of two teams will advance from each pool to the championship round.

i) **In all fastpitch categories not leading to post provincial play, teams shall play in a Page Format Playoff schedule. (Exception – U11 & U13)**

ii) In categories leading to Post-Provincial play, the top place finisher(s) after the round robin receive two (2) lives in the playoffs; all other playoff qualifiers receive one (1) life (with no '1F' game in FP where 4 or more teams are entered).

2. MODIFIED ROUND ROBIN FORMAT

a) **TWO TEAMS ENTERED** - Play a best two out of three series

A coin toss shall determine 'home' team for the 1st and 3rd games (if applicable). The team losing the coin toss will have Choice of Inning for the 2nd game.

EXCEPTION: Senior FP, INT A FP, U20 Men, U23 Men & B Women & Masters FP - Play a best three out of five series

b) **THREE TEAMS ENTERED** - Play a double round robin.

Each team plays four games. The top two teams advance to the championship round.

A coin toss shall determine 'Home' team for the 1st game between pairings. The team losing the coin toss will have Choice of Inning for the 2nd game.

EXCEPTION: Masters FP - Play a single round robin.

c) **FOUR TEAMS ENTERED** - Play a complete round robin.

Each team plays three games.

i) **[Adult FP categories]** - The top two teams advance to the championship round in categories leading to Post Provincial play. All four teams advance to the championship round in categories not leading to Post Provincial Play.

ii) **[Minor and Adult SP categories]** - All four teams advance to the championship round.

- d) **FIVE TEAMS ENTERED** - Play a complete round robin.

Each team plays four games.

- i) **[Adult FP categories]** - The top two teams advance to the championship round in categories leading to Post Provincial Play.
The top four teams advance to the championship round in categories not leading to Post Provincial Play.
- ii) **[Minor and Adult SP categories]** - The top four teams advance to the championship round.

- e) **SIX TO NINE TEAMS ENTERED** - Teams are in one pool.

Each team plays four games.

- i) **[Minor and Adult FP categories]** - The top four teams advance to the championship round.
- ii) **[Adult SP categories]** - The top six teams advance to the championship round.
- iii) **[Minor Categories leading to Post Provincial Play]** - Final determination of the playoff format will be at the discretion of the Category Director and Executive Director pending the number of entries received.

- f) **TEN TO NINETEEN TEAMS ENTERED** - Teams are split into two pools.

- i) The top two teams in each pool advance to the championship. Round
- ii) If four pools, the top team in each pool advances to the championship round.
- iii) **[Minor Categories leading to Post Provincial Play]** - The top THREE teams in each pool advance to the Championship Round.
- vi) Adult SP: Top 3 teams from each pool advance to the championship round.

- g) **TWENTY TEAMS OR MORE ENTERED** - The teams are split into four pools.

Each team plays four games in either a full Round Robin or a Modified Round Robin, whichever may apply (with a maximum of four games per team).

The top team from each pool will advance to the championship round.

[Minor Categories leading to Post Provincial Play] - The top THREE teams in each pool advance to the Championship Round.



3. **STANDINGS AT COMPLETION OF THE QUALIFYING ROUND**

- a) WIN / LOSS record (no tie games in qualifying round)
- b) Games played against each other. ⁽²⁾
- c) i) Runs For/Against with a maximum per game being: ^{(3)&(4)}

U11 & U13	7 runs
U15, U17, U19	7 runs
Adult FP	7 runs
Slo-Pitch	15 runs

- ii) Least runs allowed in all games by each team
- iii) Total runs scored in all games for each team
- iv) Positions settled with a coin toss.

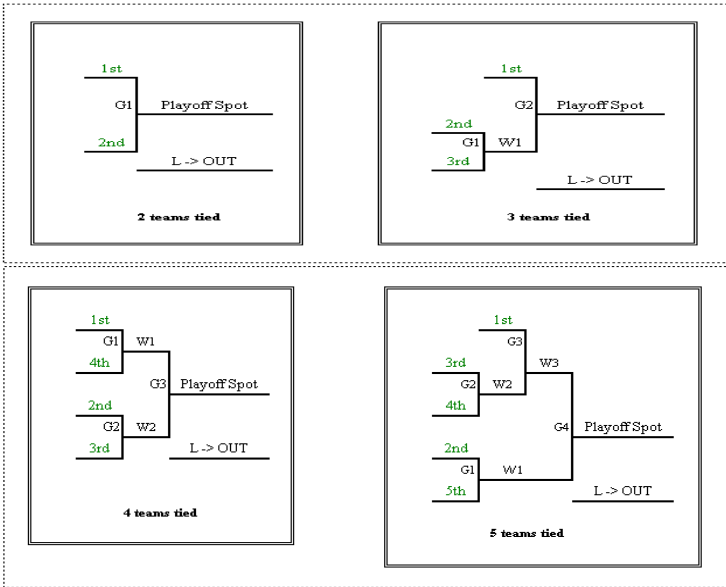
NOTES:

- (1) No team will be eliminated by criteria b) or c) – a tiebreaker game is required, EXCEPTION: U11 & U13 teams will be ranked according to criteria used in 3. a), b), c) for purpose of determining seeding for playoffs. No tiebreaker game is required.
- (2) When using criteria b), 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,

<p>Slo-Pitch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(3) When using criteria c), full team records of the entire qualifying round, and only 4, 5, 6, etc. full innings in 4 ½, 5 ½, 6 ½, etc. inning games are to be used,(4) 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.
<p>Fastpitch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(3) 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).(4) 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.

4. TIE BREAKER GAMES

- a) The above criteria ranking establishes the standing after completion of the qualifying round.
- b) 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:
 - i) Number of games played will be equal to number of teams minus one. (E.g. Two teams = 1 game, Three teams = 2 games, etc.)
 - ii) If odd number of teams, the team ranked highest receives a bye in the first round.
- c) If no tiebreaker games are required, then the championship round may begin in the time slots reserved for tie breaker games.



CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND

- a) **FORMAT FOR CATEGORIES NOT LEADING TO POST-PROVINCIAL PLAY**
(Exception – U11 & U13)

Minor Three (3) teams or less remains the same

Minor Four (4) to nine (9) teams entered:
Top four teams play in page playoff
[Bronze medal game played]

Adult Five (5) to nine (9) teams entered:
Top four teams play in a page playoff

All Ten (10) to Nineteen (19) teams entered:
Top two teams from each pool play in a page playoff based on overall round robin ranking [Minor categories – play for bronze medal]

All Twenty (20) or more teams entered:
First place team from each pool in a page playoff based on overall round robin ranking play in page playoff [Minor categories – play for bronze medal]

b) FORMAT FOR CATEGORIES LEADING TO POST-PROVINCIAL PLAY

[Minor and Adult FP categories]:

- i) The “if” game is eliminated where four (4) teams or more are entered.
- ii) When four teams advance to the championship round, a ‘Page’ playoff format will be used.

MINOR Three (3) teams or less:

Top two teams advance to the championship round.

1st place qualifier receives two (2) lives and the 2nd place qualifier receives one (1) life.

MINOR Four (4) to nine (9) teams entered:

Top four teams advance to the championship round.

ADULT Five (5) teams or less entered:

Top two teams advance to the championship round.

Exception (3 teams only):

[35+/40+ (Masters) FP] and [Adult SP] - All teams advance to the championship round: 3rd place plays 2nd place, winner plays 1st place; 1st place must lose twice.

Exception (4 or 5 teams only):

[Adult SP] - Top four teams advance to the championship round: 1st and 2nd place qualifiers receive two (2) lives and the 3rd and 4th place qualifiers receive one (1) life.

ADULT Six (6) to Nine (9) Teams:

Top four teams advance to the championship round.

Exception (Adult SP):

Top 6 teams advance to the championship round. If there is not a complete round robin, the 1st & 2nd place teams from the previous year will not play each other in the qualifying round.

ALL Ten (10) to Nineteen (19) Teams:

Top two teams from each pool advance to a four team championship round.

1st place qualifiers receive two (2) lives and the 2nd place qualifiers receive one (1) life.

Exception (Adult SP):

Top 3 teams from each pool advance to the championship round.

ALL Twenty (20) or more teams entered:

Top two teams from each pool advance to an eight team championship round.

1st place qualifiers receive two (2) lives and the 2nd place qualifiers receive one (1) life.

ARTICLE II. PROVINCIAL HOSTING GUIDELINES

A. BID TO HOST

1. Organization must be an affiliated body of Softball Alberta.
2. 'Bid to Host' applications are reviewed at the September Board meeting. Subsequent applications are reviewed periodically until February, after which applications will be on a "first come first serve" basis.
3. The successful bidder to Host Provincial Playoffs is given an automatic BYE into the Provincials.
4. Bid to include:
 - a) Confirmation letter for the facilities and a full description of facilities.
 - b) Provincial Host/Umpire Branch Bid Agreement from Zone Umpire Association stating availability of Official umpires.
 - c) Contact person for the event.
 - d) Description of available accommodations.
 - e) List the accommodations and campgrounds in area; also list the attractions occurring at that time.
 - f) Rainout & inclement weather contingencies (include the following weekend).
 - g) Include a letter of approval / support from the District Organizer of the zone in which you are planning to host the Provincial Playoff in, which also acknowledges that your Bid Application is complete.
5. Host responsibilities include:
 - a) Payment of all fees/expenses as defined by the Provincial Host/Umpire Branch Bid Agreement – refer to Article VI (**Umpire & Fees**) for guidelines.
 - b) Scheduling of all volunteers (Scorekeepers, grounds maintenance, etc.).
 - c) Publicity.
 - d) Providing an Emergency Action Plan to include availability of First Aid, emergency phone numbers (e.g. ambulance) and street address of facility (for directions to EMT).

B. REGIONAL QUALIFIER and PROVINCIAL

1. Draws will be made by Softball Alberta in accordance with Softball Alberta Playoff regulations. Hosts should make a one large draw sheet that can be posted and kept up-to-date after each game by the Softball Alberta Supervisor.
2. Umpires - ensure your umpires are booked.
3. Diamonds should be relined after each game.

For all age categories that lead to Post-Provincial play and all adult fastpitch categories, fences are to be installed that follow the Softball Canada distance guidelines.

4. Official Balls should be supplied for each game; two new ones, one used. Check the Softball Alberta website for the official softball for all Provincial Championships.
5. The official Double Base is mandatory in all Regional Qualifiers and Provincial Playoffs.
6. HOSTS - Official Scorekeepers are YOUR responsibility (use participating coaches if necessary, but have neutral scorekeepers).
7. Score sheets of completed games shall be signed by the Official Scorekeeper.
8. If possible, facilities for the umpires should be made available, along with a copy of the draw.
9. Hosts are responsible for ALL expenses not covered by Softball Alberta.
10. A concession should be made available, but washroom facilities MUST be available.
11. Players / coaches attending a Regional Qualifier or Provincial Playoff SHALL NOT be charged gate admission.
12. The Softball Alberta Supervisor must submit a completed draw and one copy of each game score sheet to the District Organizer or Softball Alberta Office within 72 hours after completion of the Playoff.

C. SOFTBALL ALBERTA HOSTING & TRAVEL PACKAGES

1. Softball Alberta will advise the Host of the number of teams participating and which teams, if possible.
2. Copies of the provincial rosters and sign-in sheets will be sent to the Softball Alberta Supervisor.
3. Awards for presentation: 1st and 2nd place awards or Gold, Silver and Bronze medals (where applicable) will be provided by Softball Alberta.
4. If provincial championship information is available, it may be given to the qualifiers after the completion of the Regional Qualifier. The package may include some or all of the following information:
 - a) If completed, a copy of the draw for the Provincial Championship (Draws may be made ahead of time with just zone numbers),
 - b) Player Release Pickup forms,
 - c) Contact name and phone number of the Provincial Playoff Host,
 - d) List of accommodations and campgrounds available in the area of Provincial Championship i.e. Hotels, swimming pools, and events in the area;
 - e) Maps,
 - f) Copy of guideline for Provincial traveling team.

D. HOSTING GRANTS

1. Hosting organizations for Regional Qualifiers in all divisions will receive a hosting grant of \$300.00 per team in attendance less the number of teams that advance from this Qualifier to the Provincial Championships.
2. Hosting organizations for Provincial Playoffs in all divisions will receive a hosting grant of \$300.00 per team. Where a team withdraws within 10 days or less of the scheduled event, that team will be included in the number of teams when calculating the hosting grant.

Exceptions: Intermediate SP -> \$250 per team
U11 Jamboree -> \$200 per team
Senior SP -> \$325.00
3. Hosting Grant applications MUST be submitted to Softball Alberta by September 15th of the current year. Hosting grants will be paid by within 30 days of the application being submitted.

ARTICLE III. POST-PROVINCIAL PLAY

A. QUALIFYING CATEGORIES

Western Canadian Championships	Canadian Championships
U15 A	U15 A
U17 AW	U17 A
U19 B Women & U20 B Men	U19 A
U23 B Men & Women	U20 A Men
35+ Women / 40+ Men Masters FP	U23 A Men & Women
	MEN & WOMEN FP & SP

1. In the case where a provincial championship has been cancelled due to no host there will be no teams sent to represent Alberta at that Post Provincial Championship.
2. **SLO-PITCH Category** - A provincial championship will be held annually in all SP categories. Teams that finish 1st in each category, may qualify to advance to the Canadian Championship. Teams that finish 2nd and lower may qualify to advance to the Canadian Championships.

Teams finishing in 2nd place and lower, may apply to Softball Alberta to participate in the Canadian Championships.

- a) Teams advancing to a championship which occurs a year or more after qualifying shall have a minimum of eight (8) returning players from the original qualified team in a category with a maximum roster of seventeen (17), or ten (10) returning in a category with a maximum of twenty (20) to retain that right.
- b) All players and coaches attending post provincial play must be affiliated by roster deadline that calendar year.
- c) All players attending post provincial play must be listed as a "Player" on their affiliated roster. Persons listed as a coach only are not eligible to attend post provincial play as a player.

B. PROVINCIAL PARTICIPATION

1. All teams qualifying for or attending Post-Provincial play must participate in the current year's applicable Provincial Playoff.

Exception: Where only one team has entered a category, that team automatically will attend Post-Provincial Play.

Defending Canadian Champions:

Should the Defending Canadian Champion win the Provincials, then the 2nd place team at the Provincials would be declared the Provincial Representative.

Defending Western Canadian Champions:

Alberta teams that win a Western Canadian Championship will not automatically return to the Western Canadian Championship the following year to defend their title.

C. FEES

1. Each team that qualifies for a Canadian Championship will be charged a registration fee of \$850.00. The teams (*except Defending Champions*) will pay Softball Alberta, who will in turn pay Softball Canada. Softball Alberta pays the registration fee on behalf of any Defending Champion in recognition of the previous year's achievement.
2. Each team that qualifies for a Western Canadian Championship will be charged a registration fee of \$50.00. The teams will pay Softball Alberta, who will in turn pay the Western Softball Canada Association.

* These registration fees must be sent in with the Letter of Intent forms by the May 15th deadline on a single, separate cheque. This cheque will not be cashed unless the team qualifies for post-provincial play. Teams who do not qualify for post-provincial play will have their uncashed cheque returned with the Bond.

D. PICKUPS - Fast Pitch Only

1. The Post-Provincial roster is completed with ALL players on the Provincial roster. Pickups are allowed following the Provincial Championships, if the Provincial Roster allows for it, from categories of equal or lower calibers.
2. Individuals meeting age requirements, but playing in a higher category, MAY be allowed as a pickup should their team not advance past the Provincial Championship and the higher category declines this person as a pickup for their Post-Provincial play. This may be granted through a request of the Executive Director.
3. Individuals playing in a lower category may be picked up by a higher category to participate in a Canadian Championship and still be eligible in their own category at a Western Canadian Championship.
4. A Provincial team may add up to three (3) players in all categories leading to a Western Canadian or Canadian Championship providing their roster allows for it. (*Players that are not affiliated by roster deadline are not eligible as a pickup player.*)
5. Players may be eligible to participate in multiple Canadian Championships – refer to Softball Canada SOR, PART 2, ARTICLE I - 1.1 “Eligibility”.
6. Teams adding pickup players shall select in the following order, (*Exception: Where two Post-Provincial Championships are filled with teams from one category, the Canadian Championship teams will have first cycle of pickups and then the Western Championship teams will cycle through the pickup order*):
 - a) Provincial Champion (i.e. Alberta 1 or first qualifying team),
 - b) Host (if not the first qualifying team),
 - c) Defending Champion,
 - d) Pro-Rata Team(s) in order of their qualification in the Provincial Championship,
 - e) Roster permitting, teams who are in need of additional players after completion of above selection order.
7. Players being considered as pickups shall not be approached until the completion of the Championship.
8. Players who refuse to join a team attending a Canadian or Western Championship cannot participate in that championship with another team.
9. In instances where players are playing out of their age category, the category in which the player is participating shall govern first right to pick up. If they are not contacted within 96 hours, (4 days) they shall become eligible to other categories.

10. Pickup Notifications

- a) The Provincial Champion shall provide the Executive Director of Softball Alberta names of player(s), guardians (for minor categories) and provincial and/or affiliation roster coach as well as contact information who have been or attempted to have been contacted within 48 hours from the time of winning the provincial championship.
- b) The Host, Defending Champion and Pro-Rata Team(s) shall provide the Executive Director of Softball Alberta names of player(s), guardians (for minor categories) and provincial and/or affiliation roster coach as well as contact information who have been or attempted to have been contacted within 48 hours from the time they are notified by the Executive Director of Softball Alberta.
- c) The Executive Director, at the request of the Provincial Champion, Host, Defending Champion and Pro-Rata Team(s), will attempt to contact the player(s), guardians (for minor categories) and provincial and/or affiliation roster coach who have not responded to the offer to pick-up and only within the time limits prescribed in subsection 10 a) & b) to confirm the player's decision.

The above time frames are the norm; however, these may be shortened due to extenuating circumstances such as a short turn-around time between a Provincial Championship to the Post-Provincial event or additional number of teams from one category attending Post-Provincial events.

11. Pickup Contact

- Contact is defined as “using reasonable means to communicate through the following acceptable methods: e-mail, voicemail or text messaging.”
- Attempt is defined as “using two of the three acceptable methods of contact.”
- Refuse is defined as “declining the offer in writing via email or text message or failing to respond to the offer in writing via email or text message within the 48 hour pick-up time period described in Section 10 a) & b).
- Contact information is defined as “date of contact, method of contact and exact email, telephone or text number.”



E. INJURY/MEDICAL REPLACEMENT [Minor ONLY]

Injury/Medical replacement may be allowed after the completion of the pick-up selection order. Refer to Article III, H. Injury/Medical Replacement [Minor ONLY]

F. REPLACEMENT PLAYER [Adult ONLY]

Replacement Players may be allowed after the completion of the pick-up selection order. Refer to Article III, I. Replacement Players [Adult ONLY]

G. UNIFORMS

At **ALL** Softball Canada **CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS**, each team must have at least two sets of uniform tops (one dark colored and one light colored). When two teams have identical uniforms, the home team will wear their dark colored uniform.

H. TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

1. Qualifying teams who will be attending the Western Canadian or Canadian Championships may be eligible for travel assistance.

This travel assistance will be determined annually based on the travel fund collected in the qualifying category.

- a) Where a category has less than three teams, the 1st qualifying team receives 100% of the travel assistance.
 - b) Where a category has three or more teams, the:
 - 1st qualifying team receives 70% of the travel assistance
 - 2nd qualifying team receives the remaining 30% of the travel assistance
2. If the qualifying team is either hosting or attending the Western Canadian or Canadian Championship in their own city/town and is deemed as the Provincial Champion then the travel assistance will be awarded to the next qualifying team that requires travel and accommodations to the Championship event. If all Alberta teams are from the host city/town, then the Provincial Champion will be awarded the travel assistance.

ARTICLE IV. PROTESTS & SUSPENSIONS

A. PROTESTS

1. A protest will not be considered if it involves a decision made by an umpire based solely on the umpire's judgment.

Protests that will be received and considered concern matters of the following types:

- a) Misinterpretation of a playing rule,
 - b) Failure of an umpire to apply the correct ruling to a given situation, and
 - c) Failure of an umpire to impose the correct penalty for a given violation,
 - d) Failure of a player or team to comply with the eligibility requirements as specified in these Operating Rules; (eligibility protests).
2. A protest may properly involve a matter of judgment and the interpretation of a rule and in such an instance the finding of fact by the umpire cannot be the subject of the protest but the application of the rule to the facts as found by the umpire may be the subject of a protest.
3. With respect to any protest regarding the matters referred to in Section A. 1. a), b) and c), (hereinafter called game-play protests) notification of intent to protest must be made immediately before the next pitch, and
 - a) The manager or acting 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 and official scorekeeper, and
 - b) All interested parties shall take notice of the condition 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].
 - c) The Protest Committee dealing with game-play protests shall be appointed by the Softball Alberta Supervisor and UIC. At least one member of the protest committee will be an umpire.
 - d) For Provincial Championship competitions:
 - i) The Protest Committee named in the coaches meeting shall be deemed appointed as above,
 - ii) All game-play protests shall be dealt with immediately and before play resumes,
 - iii) The results will be announced by the plate umpire.

4. Eligibility Protests

- a) Eligibility protests arising from matters referred to in Section A. 1 d) must be reported within twenty-four (24) hours after the scheduled start time of the game in which it is alleged an ineligible player participated. If the game in which the breach took place is concluded prior to the aforesaid twenty-four (24) hour period, the protest will be considered to be officially lodged when written communication has been sent to Softball Alberta. Communications regarding an eligibility protest shall be sent to the respective District Organizers and the coach of the team with which the challenged player is alleged to have participated.
- b) The form of an eligibility protest shall contain the following information:
 - i) The date, time and place of the game;
 - ii) The name of the umpires and score;
 - iii) The rule and section of the official rules, local rules or operating rules under which the protest is made;
 - iv) All essential facts in the matter protested.

The essential facts must be confirmed by statutory declaration of a person having knowledge of the facts central to the eligibility protest.

- c) An eligibility protest will not be acted upon unless it is accompanied by a fee of \$100.00 payable to Softball Alberta and evidence that the protest has been mailed or given to the club with whom the alleged ineligible player has participated.
- d) The eligibility protest will be considered by a Protest Committee appointed by Softball Alberta as the occasion arises and at least one member of such Protest Committee will be an umpire. After giving representatives of both teams such opportunity to be heard as the Protest Committee in their discretion may determine appropriate and upon hearing from the person who filed the complaint, a decision will be made as expeditiously as possible with the results to be announced by Softball Alberta. After giving both teams and the complainant an opportunity to be heard, no further evidence may be introduced and the decision of the protest committee shall be considered final and binding on all parties and no further appeal or review of the decision will be available to any person or party.
- e) The decision made in the case of an eligibility protest must result in one of the following:
 - i) If the protest is found invalid the game score stands as played;
 - ii) All games the ineligible player, coach, manager has participated in shall be forfeited;
 - iii) The team using the ineligible player, coach, manager shall be disqualified from further competition and will be suspended;

- iv) The Protest Committee will apply the results of game(s) forfeiture to the Playoff format and will restate the results. If the Protest Committee considers it fair and reasonable, it may declare one team the winner of the competition even though the competition format was not followed (i.e. declaring the results based on Playoff standings or based on the results of contests between the remaining eligible teams). If the Protest Committee does not consider that a fair and reasonable determination can be made, it shall reschedule a game or games between the non-offending teams to determine the winner.

NOTE: For the purpose of Section 4., an ineligible player shall be defined as a player, coach or manager declared ineligible as a result of an eligibility protest.

B. SUSPENSIONS

Any member violating the Bylaws of the Association, or refusing to abide by a decision of Softball Alberta, shall automatically be expelled or suspended with the right to appeal to the Board of Directors.

1. Members of Softball Alberta are subject to suspension for the following:
 - a) Improper conduct;
 - i) Any player, coach, manager or umpire on being reported to Softball Alberta for any improper conduct or having received payment inappropriately for their services, if found guilty, shall be suspended from competition, participation or officiating in games under jurisdiction of Softball Alberta and affiliated members.
 - ii) A player, coach or manager ejected from any game for fighting, intentionally dangerous or rough play, profane or abusive language to another player or spectator, striking or hindering an umpire in the performance of their duties, before, during or after a game, shall be suspended from participation until their case has been reviewed by Softball Alberta (including incidents occurring during Regional Qualifiers/Provincial Championships). This suspension may carry over from one season to another, if necessary, with no participation allowed.
 - iii) Any player, coach, manager or umpire who is involved in any physical or abusive confrontation will immediately be suspended from all softball participation until their case has been reviewed by Softball Alberta. Softball Alberta shall render a decision within twenty-one (21) days of the occurrence, otherwise the player, coach, manager or umpire shall be automatically reinstated. Any player, coach, manager or umpire who fails to appear at a duly called hearing without properly notifying Softball Alberta shall lose the right of appeal.
 - iv) All players, coaches and managers of any team which intentionally defaults (forfeits) or refuses to play any game in the Regional Qualifiers/Provincial Championships, shall immediately be suspended pending further review by Softball Alberta.

- v) In order that the game of Softball, as controlled by Softball Alberta and its affiliated 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 Alberta and if applicable, through Softball Canada are exhausted, shall be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct. Any team, manager, coach, player (or parent/guardian if minor) or umpire who resorts to such procedure shall automatically and immediately be suspended from all privileges and affiliations with Softball Alberta and Associated Leagues.
- b) Knowingly permitting betting;
 - c) Offering, agreeing, or attempting to lose a game or being interested in any pool or wager thereon;
 - d) Knowingly participating in a game with a suspended member;
 - i) Any player, coach or manager participating with a team that has been suspended or expelled or having on its roster, any suspended players, coaches or managers will be subject to suspension.
 - ii) Any team using a suspended player, coach, manager, or otherwise will be subject to disqualification and suspension.
 - iii) Any team, player, coach, manager or umpire participating in a game officiated by a suspended umpire may be suspended.
 - e) Knowingly using a player under a false name or certification and failure to produce certificates or evidence of eligibility as may reasonably be required;
 - i) Failure to produce certificates or evidence of eligibility on demand will automatically forfeit the games at which these are demanded.
 - ii) Using an ineligible player under their right name shall automatically cause forfeiture of the game and, at the discretion of Softball Alberta, may cause suspension of the player, coach and manager for the balance of the season.
 - iii) Using a player under a false name or certificate shall automatically suspend all players, coach and manager for the balance of the season and the coach and manager for an additional season.
2. Length of individual suspension will be dealt with according to the severity of the circumstances.
 3. Any member charged with an offence or offences named above shall have the privilege of appealing any decision to the Board of Directors of Softball Alberta. Start of the appeal period is the date when suspension is levied. Verbal notice of appeal must reach the Softball Alberta Office within 72 hours of suspension date, written notice of appeal to the Softball Alberta Office within 21 days from the date of suspension.
 4. Any suspension request to Softball Alberta must be submitted verbally within 72 hours from the date of the incident and written notice within 10 days to the Softball Alberta Office.

5. A Softball Alberta member League or Association wishing Softball Alberta to honour their suspension must submit a letter stating the individuals whom they are suspending and the reasons for the suspension.

The letter must be supported with:

- a) all documentation leading to the suspension, i.e.: the complaint, the notice of the organized hearing, the decision and the reasons for the decision;
- b) full contact information of the suspended individual;
- c) the length of the suspension;
- d) proof that the suspended individual was:
 - notified of the original organized hearing,
 - notified of an opportunity to appeal the decision,
 - and notified of the results of the appeal hearing, if any, including the reasons for the decision on appeal;
- e) minutes of the appeal hearing, if any.

The request will then be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting with the response following as soon as possible.

6. Any member of Softball Alberta, who has been suspended by Softball Alberta for a period of one year or more, must apply in writing to the Board of Directors of Softball Alberta for reinstatement of membership privileges. Those parties suspended and not reinstated, will have the right to an appeal process.

UMPIRES & FEES – Provincial & Regional Qualifiers

- A. At least two (2) official umpires MUST be used in each Provincial & Regional Qualifier game. Normally, with a six team or more Playoff, three (3) umpires are assigned per diamond with two (2) umpires working in one game and one resting, and then they work on a rotating basis.

Exceptions:

1. In the event of limited availability of umpires, Softball Alberta may approve use of a one umpire system for categories NOT leading to Post-Provincial play.
 2. If after starting a game with two umpires, it becomes necessary to complete the game with one that umpire shall assume full charge.
 3. All categories leading to a Canadian Championship and all Adult categories leading to a Western Canadian Championship shall use a three-umpire system in all games at Provincial Championships.
 - a) In the event that there are not enough qualified Umpires available for the championship, the UIC may choose to use a two-umpire system for all or part of the round robin portion of the championship.
 4. Minor categories leading to a Western Canadian Championship shall use a three-umpire system in the Championship round at Provincial Championships.
- B. Hosts must arrange for umpires for their Provincial or Regional Qualifier event through their Zone Umpire Association and are responsible for payment of their fees and the Provincial or Regional Qualifier UIC fees.
1. Umpire Fee Schedule:

CATEGORY	ONE UMPIRE SYSTEM (per game fee)			THREE UMPIRE SYSTEM (per game fee)		
	2024	2025	2026	2024	2025	2026
U19 & lower	\$50	\$55	\$60	\$135 (\$45)	\$150 (\$50)	\$165 (\$55)
U20 & above	\$55	\$60	\$65	\$150 (\$50)	\$165 (\$55)	\$180 (\$60)
Slo-Pitch	\$42	\$44	\$45	\$111 (\$37)	\$117 (\$39)	\$120 (\$40)
<p><i>If three umpire system rates at Provincials are negotiated between the Host Committee & the Zone Umpire Association Executive for that area, a firm rate must be established prior to the "Bid to Host".</i></p>						

2. Umpire-in-Chief fees may also apply as follows:

Number of teams	Fee / Day (Non-working UIC)	
2 teams	\$75 / day	1 UIC
10 teams or less	\$150 / day	1 UIC
11 to 20 teams	\$150 / day per UIC	2 UICs
20 teams or more	\$150 / day per UIC	3 UICs

NOTES

1. A non-working UIC is one who is not scheduled to work on-diamond during the event. A non-working UIC does not lose that status if forced to work one or more games due to emergency circumstances (weather, injury/ illness of other crew members).
 2. A non-working UIC is expected to complete a minimum of four evaluations of crew members during the event.
 3. The number of categories and diamonds being used at the host site may require more than the number of UICs indicated in the chart. This will be finalized by the Provincial UIC, Branch UIC and the Executive Director.
- C. Official umpires using their automobiles travelling to and from such events shall be paid a rate of \$0.50/km. Umpires coming from the same area will be paid based on two (2) umpires per vehicle. Mileage will be paid when the umpire is required to be 'away from home' (i.e. more than 20 km from the outer boundaries of the umpire's home city, town or village).
- When hotels and meals are required as 'away from home':
1. Hotel rates will be based on double occupancy per night plus tax,
 2. Meals are based on the following:
 - Breakfast - \$15.00
 - Lunch - \$20.00
 - Supper - \$25.00
- D. Umpires shall check the measurements of the diamond to the satisfaction of both teams and shall make a record of any objections raised by either team. Umpires shall, to the best of their ability, enforce the rules as written and may not, even with the concurrence of both competing teams, vary the rules, or refuse to administer all penalties the rules call for.
- E. UNSANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS: To facilitate the promotion of softball on a community level, umpires may officiate at unsanctioned tournaments and games between unaffiliated teams sponsored by church groups, fraternal organizations, within their own community league or recognized recreation district as long as all participants are members of that community league or recognized recreation district and so long as umpires are NOT paid for their services.
- F. Umpires who wish to officiate outside their registered Zone Umpire Association require permission from both their zone UIC and the UIC of the zone in which they wish to umpire.