**Intermediate FP A/B/C Categories**

1. **Coaches** – teams require a registeredcoach/managerto be fully CertifiedNCCP (Softball) - “Community Softball” *(formerly CSOG)*, Level I, or higher. Fully trained means the coach has completed their Foundations of Coaching Softball Part 1 module, attended the weekend Community Softball course and has completed their MED Online Evaluation. **A maximum of four (4)** coaches/managers are allowed on the team bench.
2. **Pickups for Provincials -** teams are allowed 2 pickups for Zone and/or Provincial playoffs to fill out their roster but CANNOT DROP or RELEASE players for the purpose of picking up. These pickups may only be selected from affiliated teams, and of teams in the same classification or lower.
* The maximum roster size is 17 players. Pickups are NOT placed on the actual roster form; they should only be **on Player Release Pickup Forms** which are available from your District Organizer or the Softball Alberta Office.
* *YOUR* District Organizer or the Softball Alberta office MUST sign these forms prior to the Provincial event after verifying the pickup’s affiliation. (*Players can ONLY be picked up once.*)
* These Pickup Release Forms must be presented to the Softball Alberta Rep at the Coaches Meeting PRIOR to the team’s FIRST game.
1. A “**Coin Toss**” will be used to determine home team for Qualifying Round games; the “Coin Toss” will usually be done immediately after the Coaches Meeting. Teams NOT in attendance will automatically forfeit “choice of inning”. In the Championship Round, home team will be determined by the qualifying round standings, the higher ranking teams will have a choice of inning.
2. **The Game –** Seven (7) innings constitutes a legal ball game, except if tied after seven (7) complete innings or expiry of time limit. If the game cannot be completed due to time expiry, rain, darkness, etc.; five (5) innings or expiry of time limit constitutes a legal ball game.
* **Time Limits –** *Time starts at completion of Plate Conference*
* **1hr 45min –** Qualifying Round games, and Tiebreaker games - No new inning shall start after a 1 hour & 45 minute time limit for all games.
* **No Time Limit –** Championship semi-final and final games [*C1 - C4*].
* **NO GAMES end in a TIE –** Tiebreaker Rule will commence at the end of the game *[the 9th batter in that respective half inning starts on 2nd base]*.
* **Run Ahead Rules *(Mercy)***
* **15 runs –** where one team is leading the other by **15 runs after 2½ or 3** complete innings of play, the team leading shall be declared the winner
* **10 runs** - where one team is leading the other by **10 runs after 3½, or 4** complete innings of play, the team leading shall be declared the winner
* **7 runs –** where one team is leading the other by **7 runs after 4½, 5, 5½, or 6** complete innings of play, the team leading shall be declared the winner
* **Designated Player –** use is permitted as per Softball Canada FP Rule 4–5.
* **Charged Conferences –** three (3) defensive conferences per seven inning game, one (1) offensive conference per inning.
* **Temporary Runner *(Courtesy)* –** may be used for the catcher or pitcher if the catcher or pitcher gets on base with 2 out – it is the last person in the batting order that is not on base who assumes the catcher’s / pitcher’s position on base; as per Softball Canada FP Rule 4–11 “*Temporary Runner***”**.
* **Replacement Player *(Blood)* –** as per Softball Canada FP Rule 4–10.

# Standings at Completion of the Qualifying ROUND

*Teams are RANKED after the Round Robin games based on:*

1. WIN / LOSS record (no tie games in round robin)

2. Games played against each other.

3. a) Total Plus/Minus of all games – (runs **For** minus **Against**) with a maximum (+/-) per game being:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Adult FP Categories | 7 runs |

b) Least runs allowed in all games by each team

c) Total runs scored in all games for each team

d) Positions settled by a coin toss

**NOTES:**

* 1. No team will be eliminated by criteria 2 or 3 – a tiebreaker game is required
	2. When using criteria 2, if one team has beaten all the other teams who they are tied with, then that team will be ranked highest regardless of whether or not the remaining teams have played one another.
	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.

# Tiebreaker Games

* + 1. The above criteria ranking establishes the standings after completion of the qualifying round.
		2. 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:
			1. Number of games played will be equal to number of teams minus one (1). [E.g. Two teams = 1 game, Three teams = 2 games, etc.]
			2. If odd number of teams, the team ranked highest receives a bye in the first round.
		3. If no tiebreaker games are required, then the Championship round may begin in the time slots reserved for tiebreaker games.

