



## SUMMARY of CATEGORY SPECIFIC RULES **Softball Alberta Regional Qualifiers and Provincial Playoffs**

(The Softball Alberta 2023 Official Handbook shall be referenced where discrepancies between this summary and the Handbook exist.)

### U15 A Categories

- Coaches** – teams require a registered coach/manager to be fully Certified NCCP (Softball) - “Competition Introduction”, Level II, or higher. Fully certified means the coach has completed their Foundations of Coaching Softball modules (if applicable), attended the 2 weekend Competition Introduction course, completed their MED Online Evaluation and has completed their on-field practice evaluation. **A maximum of four (4)** coaches/managers are allowed on the team bench, **ONE** of which must be of the same gender as the team and he/she must have his/her Make Ethical Decision Online Evaluation & must have completed Foundations of Coaching Softball Part I.
- 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.
- Metal Cleats** – (U15 and Under) Metal cleats are NOT allowed. (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.
- The Game** – Seven (7) innings constitutes a legal ball game, except if tied after seven (7) complete innings. If the game cannot be completed due to rain, darkness, etc.; five (5) innings constitutes a legal ball game.
  - NO GAMES end in a TIE** – Tiebreaker Rule will commence at the end of the game [*the 9<sup>th</sup> batter in that respective half inning starts on 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 team 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
  - Pitchers Protective Face Mask/Guard** – Pitchers are required to wear an approved protective face mask/guard when pitching.
  - Pitching Rule** – Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 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: 1) the coach is ejected, and 2) the player(s) is removed from the pitching position.

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

    - Allowing all plays to stand, or
    - Revert to the spot in the game when the violation occurred.
  - 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 if the catcher 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 position on base; as per Softball Canada FP Rule 3.1.23 and 3.2.7 “Temporary Runner”.
  - Injury Replacement** – as per Softball Canada FP Rule 3.1.19
  - Replacement Player (Blood)** – as per Softball Canada FP Rule 3.2.6.
  - Designated Player** – use is NOT permitted.

**A. 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:

U15 Categories	7 runs
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- 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:**

- a) No team will be eliminated by criteria 2 or 3 – a tiebreaker game is required
- b) 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.
- c) 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).
- d) If the home team is ahead when the game is over, the home team does NOT bat or complete their bat at the bottom of the inning.

**B. TIEBREAKER GAMES**

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:
  - a) 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.]
  - b) 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.

