



# 2023

## BY-LAWS & SPECIAL OPERATING RULES

Western Canadian  
Softball Association  
BY - LAWS

## **PART 1 – NAME**

The name of the organization shall be the ‘Western Canadian Softball Association’ and herein the By-Laws referred as WCSA or the Association.

## **PART 2 – AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of the Association is to carry on in more than one Province or Territory of Western Canada, without pecuniary gain for its members, the following objectives:

- a. Foster, develop, promote and regulate the playing of Amateur softball,
- b. Provide the game of Softball with proper safeguards in accordance with the spirit of true sportsmanship,
- c. Encourage all eligible potential members to affiliate with the Association, and
- d. Instigate, promote and regulate the Western Canadian Softball Championships.

## **PART 3 – DISSOLUTION**

If for any reason the operations of the Association are terminated or wound up, or the Association is dissolved and there remains at that time after the satisfaction of loans, debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall be paid to a charitable organization in Canada having the same or similar objectives as set out for this Association.

## **PART 4 – JURISDICTION**

- a. The Association recognizes all Amateur sports and claims jurisdiction over and recognizes its responsibilities as the governing body of the Western Canadian Softball Championships, which include Fastpitch and Slo-Pitch softball as played by members of this Association in Western Canada or in other such places as may be designated by the Association.
- b. Softball Canada recognizes the Association as the governing body of the Western Canadian Softball Championships, which include both fastpitch and slo-pitch softball in Western Canada.
- c. The softball playing rules as set by Softball Canada (unless modified by WCSA Special Operating Rules) shall be the established rules.

## **PART 5 – MEMBERSHIP**

- a. Association Membership: membership shall be open to the following Provincial/Territorial Associations; British Columbia-BC, Alberta-AB, Northwest Territories-NT, Manitoba-MB, Saskatchewan-SK, and Yukon-YT. The Provincial/Territorial Associations shall be the governing bodies of softball in the applicable Province or Territory.
- b. Team Membership: teams that are bona fide affiliates of their Provincial/Territorial Associations shall be deemed as members of the Association.
- c. Individual Membership: anyone elected or appointed to the Board of Directors shall be a member of the Association.
- d. Affiliate Membership: The Provinces Of Ontario and Quebec may be invited to participate in the WCSA Championships in case of low participation of teams to fill championship draws.

## **PART 6 – MEMBERSHIP DUES**

- a. Membership fees shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting as directed by the Annual General Meeting and shall be in an amount as is deemed necessary to carry out the continued operation of the Association.
- b. Team registration fees shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting as directed by the Annual General Meeting and shall be in an amount deemed necessary to carry out the continued operation of the Association.

## **PART 7 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- a. A Board of Directors of the following officers and a President shall manage the affairs of the Association:
  - President - SK
  - Office/Treasurer - SK
  - Member-at-Large - NT
  - Draw Master - AB
  - Historian - YT
  - Officials Coordinator – MB
- b. Each Provincial/Territorial Association shall appoint one (1) of their members to the Board of Directors of the Association annually.

## **PART 8 – DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- a. Upon appointment by their Provincial/Territorial Associations, the Board of Directors so appointed shall conduct the affairs of the Western Canadian Softball Association in the Province/Territory that he/she represents.
- b. The Board of Directors shall conduct the business of the Association between the Annual General Meetings of the Association.
- c. The Board of Directors shall carry out such duties as outlined below:
  1. The WCSA President shall:
    - i) Chair all Board of Directors meetings;
    - ii) Be the spokesperson for all matters pertaining to the WCSA;
    - iii) Have signing authority for all the WCSA contracts;
    - iv) Be ex-officio of all committees;
    - v) Monitor individual Director performances;
    - vi) Establish the agenda for the Annual General Meeting (AGM);
    - vii) Supply a report to the WCSA AGM;
    - viii) Represent the WCSA at Western Canadian Softball Championships, if required;
    - ix) Act as the liaison with Provincial/Territorial Presidents and Associations.
  2. The WCSA Office shall:
    - i) Be responsible for networking all WCSA correspondence;
    - ii) Be responsible for collating the AGM packages;
    - iii) Co-ordinate all conference calls of the Association;
    - iv) Be the recording secretary for all Board of Directors meetings;
    - v) Be responsible for updating the WCSA handbook and distribute it by April 1 of the current playing year;
    - vi) Act as a liaison between the WCSA and their respective Provincial/Territorial Association.
  3. The WCSA Treasurer shall:
    - i) Supervise the receipt and disbursement of all Association funds;
    - ii) Serve as chairperson of the Financial Committee to establish a yearly budget;
    - iii) Co-ordinate and communicate the participation of teams in all Western Canadian Softball Championships (follow up may be required to fill Championships on a pro-rata basis);

- iv) Be responsible for receiving and distributing the 'Confirmation of Participation' (COP) chart to all Provincial/Territorial Associations by June 15<sup>th</sup> of the current playing year;
  - v) Co-ordinate with the Member-At-Large on the purchase of the Awards for all Western Canadian Softball Championships;
  - vi) Provide an accounting of all financial transactions;
  - vii) Provide a financial statement to the Annual General Meeting;
  - viii) Act as liaison between the WCSA and their respective Provincial/Territorial Association.
4. The WCSA Member-at-Large shall:
- i) Be the Chairperson of the Appeal Committee;
  - ii) Tabulate the Participation Evaluation Forms;
  - iii) Develop and maintain a WCSA Championship Supervisors Manual;
  - iv) Develop and maintain a WCSA 'Team Information Package' containing 'what every team should know when attending a Western Canadian Softball Championship';
  - v) Evaluate annually, the WCSA, awards and selection criteria;
  - vi) Supply a report to the WCSA AGM;
  - vii) Act as liaison between the WCSA and their respective Provincial/Territorial Association.
5. The WCSA Draw Master shall:
- i) Approve all Western Canadian Softball Championship draws;
  - ii) Negotiate any draw modifications with each host – the Draw Master shall have final approval of all draws;
  - iii) Annually, evaluate the draw format;
  - iv) Distribute all draws to the P/T Associations, Hosts and WCSA Supervisors.
  - v) Supply a report at the AGM;
  - vi) Act as liaison between the WCSA and their respective P/T Association.
6. The WCSA Historian shall:
- Be responsible for the collection and storage of:
- i All WCSA meeting minutes and correspondence,
  - ii All WCSA tournament results forms with the following information:
    - Final placing of all teams
    - Dates and tournament locations

- iii Forward pertinent information to the WCSA office by October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- iv Act as liaison between the WCSA and their respective P/T association.

7. The WCSA Officials Coordinator shall:

- i Compile attendance of officials at all Championships.
- ii Issue penalties to participating P/T's for failure of sending officials to applicable championships.
- iii Field and review all UIC and WCSA Championship reports.
- iv Forward pertinent information to the WCSA Board of Directors where a recommendation or need for further disciplinary action is required.
- v Act as a liaison between the WCSA and their respective P/T Association.

## **PART 9- GENERAL DUTIES OF MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

a) **The Provincial/Territorial Associations shall:**

- 1. Bear all costs of their delegates attending the WCSA Annual General Meeting (AGM);
- 2. Pay the WCSA Affiliation Fees, Team Registration Fee's and any fines due to the WCSA Treasurer by October 1<sup>st</sup>;
- 3. Assign WCSA Representatives to all WCSA Championships in their P/T and inform all Provinces/Territories by July 1,
- 4. Designate the Umpire-in-Chief for all WCSA Championships in their P/T and inform the Member-at-Large by July 1;
- 5. Provide notification of Officials travelling to the Western Canadian Softball Championships by May 1st, and names by July 1st;
- 6. Collect the signed 'Host Agreements' and 'Host Fees', submitting the 'Host Fees' to the WCSA Treasurer by October 1<sup>st</sup>;
- 7. Bear all costs of the WCSA Championship Supervisors;
- 8. Be responsible for distributing Team Information Packages.

b) **The WCSA Championship Supervisor shall:**

- 1. Chair the pre-tournament coaches/manager meetings;
- 2. Establish and be a member of the Protest Committee and ensure alternates are designated;

3. Make contact with the Tournament Host two (2) weeks prior to the championship to ensure completion of the Host Agreement Checklist;
  4. Be responsible for providing an evaluation back to the Provincial/Territorial office.
  5. Ensure the Tournament Results Form is completed and forwarded to all P/T offices.
- c) Every member of the Board of Directors of the Association or other person who has undertaken any liability on behalf of the Association and their heirs, executors, administrator and estate, respectively, shall from time to time and at all times, be indemnified and save harmless out of the funds of the Association and from against:
1. All costs, charges and expenses whatsoever which such member of the Board of Directors of the Association or other person sustains or incurs in or about any action, suit or proceedings which are brought, commenced or prosecuted against him or in any respect of any act, deed, matter or thing whatsoever, made, done or permitted by him, in or about the execution of the duties of his office or in respect of any such liability.
  2. All other costs, charges and expenses which he/she sustains or incurs in or about or in relation to the affairs hereof, except such costs, charges or expenses as are occasioned by his own wilful neglect or default.
- d) The Board of Directors shall have the power to authorize expenditures on behalf of the Association from time to time and may delegate by resolution to any one member of the Board of Directors of the Association, the right to employ and pay salaries to employees. The members of the Board of Directors shall have the power to:
1. Make expenditures for the purpose of furthering the objectives of the Association.
  2. Enter into a trust arrangement with a trust company for the purpose of creating a trust fund, which the capital interest may be made available for the benefit of promoting the interests of the Association in accordance with such terms as the members of the Board of Directors may prescribe.



## **PART 10 – MEETINGS**

- a) The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association shall be held during the month of January.
- b) The Host P/T will be provided \$500 to help offset costs associated with hosting the WCSA AGM.
- c) The rotation for the location of the Annual General Meeting shall be: 2023-BC, 2024-YT, 2025-AB, 2026-NT, 2027-MB, 2028-SK.

## **PART 11– VOTING AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- a) Each Provincial/Territorial Association shall have one (1) vote. The President of the Western Canadian Softball Association shall not cast a vote for their P/T and shall cast a deciding vote in the case of a tie.
- b) Notices of Motion must be given in writing by December 1<sup>st</sup>. New motions may be brought to the floor with a 100% vote approval of the members present at the Annual General Meeting.

## **APPENDIX A: CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTOR POSITIONS / PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **2023 WCSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

<b>President</b>	<b>Gary MacDonald - SK</b>
<b>Yukon</b>	<b>Cliff Cave - YK</b>
<b>British Columbia</b>	<b>Lisa Parkes - BC</b>
<b>Alberta</b>	<b>Peter Gogich - AB</b>
<b>Northwest Territories</b>	<b>Dennis Marchiori - NT</b>
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	<b>Garry Burns - SK</b>
<b>Manitoba</b>	<b>Larry Giesbrecht - MB</b>

Office/Treasurer: Softball Saskatchewan  
2205 Victoria Avenue  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 0S4  
Email: [info@softball.sk.ca](mailto:info@softball.sk.ca)  
Phone: 306-780-9235

Draw Master: Softball Alberta  
9860-33rd Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T6N 1C6  
Email: [info@softballalberta.ca](mailto:info@softballalberta.ca)  
Phone: 780-461-7735

Member-at-Large: Softball Northwest Territories  
4908 - 49th Street, Box 11089  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3X7  
Email: [nwtsoftball@gmail.com](mailto:nwtsoftball@gmail.com)  
Phone: 519-301-2598

Historian: Softball Yukon  
4061 4th Avenue  
Whitehorse, YK Y1A 1H1  
Email: [sarah@softball yukon.com](mailto:sarah@softball yukon.com)  
Phone: 867-667-4487

Officials Coordinator: Softball Manitoba  
Suite 321, 145 Pacific Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2Z6  
Email: [softball@softball.mb.ca](mailto:softball@softball.mb.ca)  
Phone: 204-925-5673

**2023 CHAMPIONSHIP DATES & LOCATIONS:**

Championship	Location	Date
U13 Boys	Saskatoon, SK	July 28 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>
U15 Girls & Boys	Richmond, BC	Aug. 10 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup>
U17 Girls & Boys	Winkler, MB	Aug. 17 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>
U19 Women & U20 Men	Regina, SK	Aug. 4 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>
Senior Women & Men	Winkler, MB	Aug. 17 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>

Western Canadian  
Softball Association  
Special Operating  
Rules

## **ARTICLE 1 – CHAMPIONSHIP CATEGORIES**

1. Male and Female FP
2. U13 Male FP
3. U15 Male and Female FP
4. U17 Male and Female FP
5. U19 Female and U20 Male FP

Note: Categories may not be added or deleted until the year following the passed motion.

## **ARTICLE 2 – AGE RESTRICTIONS**

(All categories 'open' except)

1. U15 Male and Female: Maximum age limit shall be under 15 years of age prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. EXCEPTION: NT and YT are allowed up to four (4) first year U17 players.
2. U17 Male and Female: Maximum age limit shall be under 17 years of age prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. EXCEPTION: NT and YT are allowed up to four (4) first year U19 Female players and U20 Male players and will be allowed up to four (4) 1<sup>st</sup> year U23 players (under 23) prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year).
3. U19 Female and U20 Male: Maximum age limit for the U19 Female category shall be under 19 years of age prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Maximum age limit for the U20 Male category shall be under 20 years of age prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current playing year.
4. All P/T's male divisions, U13 to U20, be allowed to have a maximum of 2 overage players per team. These players must be players who are one year advanced from the current playing category of the team in question. This will be highlighted on each OPL.
5. Overage players must reside in their home P/T.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR AGE CATEGORIES AND  
DISTANCE TABLES (Fast Pitch)

CANADIAN FAST PITCH CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY  
AGE CATEGORIES & DISTANCE TABLE (FAST PITCH)

CANADIAN FAST PITCH CHAMPIONSHIPS  
AGE CATEGORIES & DISTANCE TABLE (FAST PITCH)

CATEGORY	AGE (prior to January 1 <sup>st</sup> of the current year)	BALL	PITCHING	BASELINES	FENCES
MALE					
Masters*	40 or over	30.5cm (12")			
* In Masters Men's Fast Pitch the minimum age limit will be 40 years of age in the year of the event.					
Men's					
U23	Under 23	30.5 cm (12")	40.0 m (46')	18.3 m (60')	68.6 m – 81.0 m (225' – 265')
U20	Under 20	30.5 cm (12")	40.0 m (46')	18.3 m (60')	68.6 m – 81.0 m (225' – 265')
U17	Under 17	30.5 cm (12")	40.0 m (46')	18.3 m (60')	68.6 m – 81.0 m (225' – 265')
U15	Under 15	30.5 cm (12")	14.0 m (46')	18.3 m (60')	68.6 m – 81.0 m (225' – 265')
U13	Under 13	27.95 cm (11")	12.8 m (42')	18.3 m (60')	64.0 m – 76.2 m (210' – 250')
U11	Under 11	27.95 cm (11")	11.58 m (38')	16.76 m (55')	51.8 m – 68.6 m (170' – 225')
U9	Under 9	27.95 cm (11")	10.67 m (35')	13.7 m (45')	48.5 m – 68.6 m (160' – 225')
U7	Under 7	27.95 cm (11")	9.14 m (30')	13.7 m (45')	48.5 m – 68.6 m (160' – 225')
FEMALE					
* In Masters Women's Fast Pitch the minimum age limit will be 35 years of age in the year of the event.					
Women's					
U23	Under 23	30.5 cm (12")	13.1 m (43')	18.3 m (60')	67.1m – 71.6 m (220' – 235')
U19	Under 19	30.5 cm (12")	13.1m (43')	18.3 m (60')	61.0 m – 64.0 m (200' – 210')
U17	Under 17	30.5 cm (12")	13.1 m (43')	18.3 m (60')	54.9 m – 64.0 m (180' – 210')
U15	Under 15	30.5 cm (12")	12.2 m (40')	18.3 m (60')	51.8 m – 64.0 m (170' – 210')
U13	Under 13	27.95 cm (11")	11.58 m (38')	16.76 m (55')	48.5 m – 64.0 m (160' – 210')
U11	Under 11	27.95 cm (11")	10.67 m (35')	13.7 m (45')	45.7 m – 64.0 m (150' – 210')
U9	Under 9	27.95 cm (11")	9.14 m (30')	13.7 m (45')	45.7 m – 64.0 m (150' – 210')
U7	Under 7	27.95 cm (11")	9.14 m (30')	13.7 m (45')	45.7 m – 64.0 m (150' – 210')
Orthodox					
MALE					
FEMALE					
MIXED					
		30.5 cm (12")	12.8 m (42')	18.3 m (60')	68.6 m – 81.0 m (225' – 265')
		30.5 cm (12")	12.2 m (40')	18.3 m (60')	610 m – 64.0 m (200' – 210')
		30.5 cm (12")	12.8 m (42')	18.3 m (60')	68.6 m – 81.0 m (225' – 265')

Notes: Minor/Youth age categories refer to all categories up to U20 inclusive.

### **ARTICLE 3 – PROVINCIAL/TERRITORY ELIGIBILITY**

1. Any Province/Territory who wishes to enter a team in any Western Canadian Championship after June 30<sup>th</sup> of the current year, will be assessed a \$250.00 late entry fee which will be split by the hosting province/territory and the WCSA. This fee must be paid before the Province/Territory late entry is accepted.
2. Any Province/Territory who withdraws an entry in any Western Canadian Championship, after June 30<sup>th</sup> of the current year, will be assessed a \$1,000.00 penalty which will be provided to the Host P/T.
  - a) This penalty will be split by the hosting P/T and the WCSA. EFFECT: If the penalty is not received by the WCSA by October 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year, then the defaulting P/T will be ineligible to participate in the respective category the following year.
  - b) Once the draw is complete and approved by the Draw Master and a team withdraws:
    - i) The P/T of the team withdrawing has 24 hours to find a replacement team,
    - ii) Then, the Host P/T has 24 hours, the 2<sup>nd</sup> option, to find a replacement team.
  - c) If a team withdraws within one (1) week of the start of the Championship and no replacement team is found, the hosting P/T will receive the full amount of the penalty.
3. There may not be a Western Canadian Championship held unless there is participation from a minimum of three P/T's and six (6) teams.
4. The WCSA shall extend an invitation to teams from Ontario and Quebec to participate in all categories that are not filled by the Western P/T's.

### **ARTICLE 4 – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

1. Players must register within their respective P/T in the current year.
2. Coaches/Managers shall not count as players, unless currently signed as an active player in the proper manner.
3. Players participating in a Western Canadian Championship are ELIGIBLE when:
  - a) They are picked up to go to a Canadian Championship – they may return and participate with their own team

- in the Western Canadian Championship in the same year.
- b) Or, they are members of Male teams who have united to form a Male A team to compete in the Canadian Championship. This Male A team roster would thus be comprised of:
    - i) more than two (2) players from each of two (2) or more Male teams participating in a Western Canadian Championship, and
    - ii) Other Male players from the Province/Territory.
4. Players are INELIGIBLE to participate in a Western Canadian Championship when:
    - a) They are on a roster of a team participating in a Canadian Championship.
      - i) Exceptions as states above (Article 4.3), and
      - ii) Exception (Male FP): Male Men FP can pick up from U20.
    - b) Or they are a current National team member.
  5. In all fastpitch categories players may only participate in one (1) Western Canadian Championship.
  6. Teams from NT and YT will be permitted to pick up three (3) players registered with another Province/Territory if that Province/Territory agrees to such additions. These players must be eligible to participate in their home Province/Territory in that category.
  7. Players registered in one Province/Territory for a Canadian Championship may not participate for a different Province/Territory in a Western Canadian Championship.
  8. Any player with a permanent address in one Province/Territory (P/T) and wishing to register in another P/T must have approval from both Provinces and/or Territories and complete an Inter-Provincial transfer form signed off by both Provinces or Territories involved by July 15<sup>th</sup> of the current playing year.
  9. All policies follow those of Softball Canada. See [www.softball.ca](http://www.softball.ca)

## **ARTICLE 5 – TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

1. The makeup of the Provincial/Territorial team representative participating at all Western Canadian Championships shall be the responsibility of the



Provincial/Territorial Softball Association.

- a) The approved Provincial/Territorial Western Official Players List is to be sent to the Host P/T office and the host contact person a minimum of one (1) week prior to the Championship. The final Western Canadian Championship Official Players List will be confirmed at the Championship Coaches meeting.
- b) All categories are allowed a maximum of two (2) teams per Province/Territory plus a Host team. EXCEPTION: where there are seven (7) teams or less, one additional team may be added to adjust the draw to an even number. Said team will be allocated on a pro-rata basis from the Province/Territories other than the Host Province/Territory.
- c) P/T must have completed Provincial Championships in categories that qualify for the same calibre Western Canadian Softball Championship a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled start date of the Western Canadian Championship.
- d) Female players are eligible to participate on male teams.
- e) Coach Requirements
  - i. Certified/Trained coach must be in attendance and on the bench at all games.
  - ii. Adult FP Categories: require one of the registered coaches to be fully trained in NCCP Community Softball.
  - iii. Minor Categories: categories require one of the registered coaches to be fully certified in NCCP Competition Introduction.

EFFECT: If a Province/Territory sends a team that participates in a Western Canadian Championship without the required Level Coach/Manager, the Province/Territory will be assessed a \$250.00 penalty by the WCSA and the team will NOT be allowed to use base coaches during the Championship.

## **ARTICLE 6 – HOST TEAM**

1. In all Western Canadian Softball Championships, the host Province/Territory may enter up to three teams.
2. The Provincial/Territorial Association shall determine the manner in which the Host team is to be determined.

## **ARTICLE 7 – AWARDS**

1. The Association shall provide gold, silver and bronze medallions for each Championship. No more than 20 shall be given to any team provided that the names of the individuals (receiving the medals) are duly registered on said team roster. (Masters FP and Coed SP shall be given NO MORE THAN 23 MEDALLIONS). All teams are encouraged to attend the medal presentations; however, the Bronze medalists may request to receive their medals immediately following the Bronze Medal Game.
2. The Host shall provide a Championship trophy/plaque to the winning team in each Western Canadian Championship.
3. In Minor categories the Host shall provide two (2) Player of the Game awards for each game in the Round Robin.

## **ARTICLE 8 – DRESS AND EQUIPMENT**

1. Players must be in identical uniforms. The Western Canadian Supervisor, in consultation with the Tournament UIC, shall judge the acceptability of uniforms. Players unacceptably uniformed will be dealt with as follows:
  - a) if possible a player will be warned before a game about their appearance,
  - b) a player participating in a game will be instructed to immediately correct the uniform deficiency,
  - c) a player failing to correct the deficiency shall be ejected from the game,
  - d) All players appearing on a game sheet must wear a uniform number on the back of their uniform. No number may be repeated. (Only whole numbers from 00 to 99 are permitted, a maximum of 2 digits).
  - e) Coaches shall be respectfully dressed in similar colours to that of their team.

2. The Western Canadian Championships will use the same softballs as the Canadian Championships.

## **ARTICLE 9 – DURATION OF CHAMPIONSHIPS**

All Western Canadian Softball Championships will be four days, with the Coaches/Managers meeting being held the evening before the first scheduled game.

## **ARTICLE 10 – CHAMPIONSHIP DRAWS**

The WCSA Draw Master shall forward to each WCSA Board Member and to each Host Chairperson/Supervisor, a copy of said draw 10 days prior to all Western Canadian Championships.

## **ARTICLE 11 – CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT**

1. Unless otherwise stated, all Canadian Championship rules will be adhered to for all Western Canadian Championships.
2. The type of draw used in all championships will ensure the Final game is a one game playoff. There will be no 'IF' game.
  - a) Six to Nine teams: each team will play in a complete round robin (5-7 teams) or a modified round robin (8-9 teams, maximum of six games per team). {If possible, the team(s) you do not play will be from your own P/T.} The top four teams advance to a four-game playoff round. First and Second place qualifiers shall receive two lives and the third and fourth place qualifier will receive one life.
  - b) Ten and Eleven Teams: Teams are split into two pools. Each team plays four games in either a complete round robin or a modified round robin (maximum of four games per team). The top four teams from each pool will advance to a ten- g a m e playoff round. The top two teams in each pool shall receive two lives and the next two will receive one life.
  - c) Twelve Teams or more: Teams are split into two pools. Each team will play five games in either a complete round robin or modified round robin (maximum of five games per team). The top four teams from each pool will advance to a ten-game

playoff round. The top two teams in each pool shall receive two lives and the next two will receive one life.

3. All final games are scheduled for 1:00pm on the final day.
4. In all Round Robin games, the home team is the one whose name appears on the right side of the draw. In all Championship round games (except the final) option of being home team will be the highest ranked team based on the standings after the Round Robin. EXCEPTION: In the Championship Final Game the option of home team will be made by the winner of the 1 vs 2 Championship Round Game.
5. The Home team will always take the third base dugouts.
6. In case of inclement weather or other uncontrollable circumstances, the WCSA Supervisor will be responsible to revise and or alter the draw.
7. In case of rain delay, or a complete wash out, during one of the days of the Championship, new times and a schedule may have to be made. No protests of the altered scheduled will be allowed.
8. If a game is cancelled before completion, due to rain or any other reason, the game will be completed as soon as possible. The game will start at the exact point that it was called.
9. The 'Tiebreaker Rule' will be in effect after 7 innings of play.
10. A Run Ahead Rule applies to ALL GAMES in any championship and shall result in the conclusion of the game:

a) **Fast Pitch Categories:**

- i). In all categories, games will end after 2 ½ innings of play if the home team is winning by 15 or more runs. A game will end after 3 complete innings of play if the visiting team is winning by 15 or more runs.
- ii). In all categories, games will end after 4 complete innings of play if the visiting team is winning by 10 or more runs.
- iii). In all categories, games will end after 4 ½ or 5 ½ innings of play if the home team is winning by 7 or more runs. A game will end after 5 or 6 complete innings of play if the visiting team is winning by 7 or more runs.

11. **Tiebreaking Procedures:** to determine the Final Standings in the Round Robin the following criteria shall be used to break ties:
- a) The following guidelines will apply to WCSA Championship Games:
    - i) No WCSA Championship games will remain a tie.
    - ii) If a game is tied after seven (7) complete innings, the teams will revert to the international tie breaking rule starting in the top of the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) inning.
    - iii) The final score of a game is also the score used for tiebreaking purposes.
    - iv) If the home team is ahead after 6 ½ innings of play, they will NOT bat in the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) inning. This rule will also be in effect if the mercy rule comes into play after 2 ½, 3 ½, 4 ½ or 5 ½ innings.

Two (2) teams tied:

- i) the winner of the round robin game between the tied teams receives the higher placement.

Three (3) teams tied:

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

will be used to determine the higher placement.

- v) If still tied then total runs for each team (with a maximum of 7 runs per game) for all games played in the Round Robin will be used to determine the higher placement.

Four (4) or more teams tied:

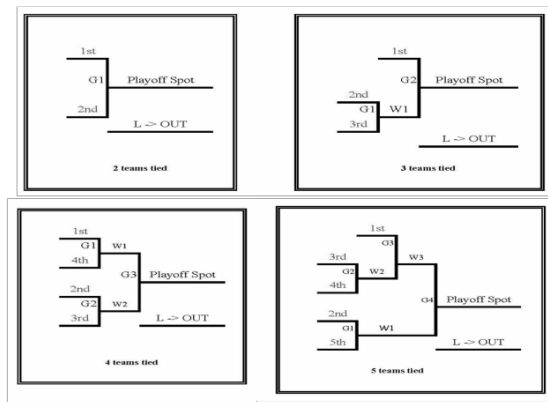
- i) The difference of plus or minus of total runs scored, with a limit of seven (7) plus or minus for all games played in the Round Robin will be used to determine all four placements. If still tied then,
- ii) Least runs allowed by each team for all games played in the Round Robin will be used to determine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

#### **NOTES:**

- a) A regulation game shall consist of 7 innings. A full 7 innings need not be played if the team second at bat has scored more runs than the other team after 6 ½ innings or before the third out in the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning.
- b) 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.

#### **Tie Breaking Games**

- a) The above criteria ranking establishes the standing after completion of the round robin.
- 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.
  - 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 playoff round may begin in the time slots reserved for tie breaker games. (*Refer to Annex 'B' for larger image*)

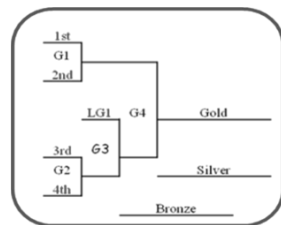


## ARTICLE 12 – INCOMPLETE CHAMPIONSHIP PROCEDURE

1. If, for any reason, a Western Canadian Softball Championship cannot be completed the following formula shall be applied to determine final standings and medal awards:
  - a) If the qualifying round cannot be completed, medals will be awarded on the basis of the standings at the time.
  - b) If the qualifying round is completed and not games have been played in the championship round, the qualifying round standings shall be used to award medals.

**FOR A CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND OF 4 TEAMS** (Four games):

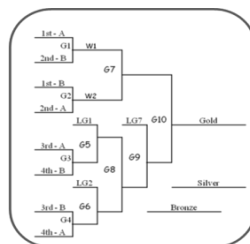
- If after games 1 and 2 have been played and no other games can be played, the Gold shall be awarded to the team with two (2) lives and the Silver and Bronze to the remaining two (2) teams based on their qualifying round standings.



- If after game 3, the Gold will be awarded to the team with two (2) lives and the Silver to the team with one (1) life. (*Refer to Annex 'C' for larger image*)

**FOR A CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND OF 8 TEAMS** (10 games):

- If after games 1 and 2 have been played, the teams with two (2) lives shall receive the Gold and Silver medals, the Gold will go to the team finishing higher in the qualifying round. The Bronze medal shall go to whichever of the remaining teams with one (1) life finished higher in the qualifying round.
- If after the 3rd game on the two (2) life side (game 7), the teams in this game shall receive the Gold and Silver medals, the Gold medal going to the winner of this game and Silver to the runner-up. The Bronze medal shall go to whichever of the remaining teams with one (1) life finished higher in the qualifying round.
- If after game 8, the Gold will be awarded to the team with two (2) lives and the Silver to the runner-up of game 7 or the winner of game 9, with the Bronze medal to the remaining team with one (1) life. (*Refer to Annex 'D' for larger image*)



2. If, for any reason, the Western Canadian Softball Championship cannot commence until the second last day, then the tournament shall revert to a single or double knockout (or modification thereof) format. This will be determined at the discretion of the Western Canadian Supervisor.
3. If, for any reason, a Western Canadian Softball Championship cannot begin, then a winner will not be declared in that year.
4. The Western Canadian Supervisor will be required to wait until 12:00 pm of the final scheduled day of the tournament before declaring champions.
5. If there are situations that arise which are not covered by the Incomplete Championship Procedure, or by any other article under the Special Operating Rules or By-Laws, the Western Canadian Supervisor shall have sole authority to rule.



## **ARTICLE 13 – OFFICIALS**

1. Provincial/Territorial Associations who are planning to send officials to Western Canadian Championships shall inform the appropriate host Province/Territory of the number of officials attending the Championship by May 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. The Host Province/Territory shall have the right to refuse officials if the notice is not received by this date. The names of the officials are to be submitted to the host Province/Territory by July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
2. In all Western Canadian Softball Championships, a two (2) umpire system will be used in all Round Robin games and Tiebreaker game(s) and a three (3) umpire system be used in all Championship Round games.
3. Umpire-in-Chief and Deputy Umpire-in-Chief working a Western Canadian Championship will be paid a UIC/DUIC Fee of \$50.00 per day per person that they are on site. Each umpire will be paid games fees of \$30.00 per person for a three-umpire system, and \$35.00 per person for a 2-umpire system for all adult categories. Minor Categories will be \$25.00 per person for three umpire system and \$30.00 per person for a 2-umpire system. Any Province/Territory Association which sends teams to a Western Canadian Championship but fails to send an umpire to that Championship, will be assessed a fee of \$500.00 per incident. This fee will be forwarded to the WCSA who will then forward it to the host Province/Territory Associations.
4. Umpires travelling out of Province or Territory must receive a written/ electronic evaluation from the Western Canadian Championship UIC for all categories. Within 10 days of the end of the championship
5. Accommodations for designated umpires traveling to Western Championships shall be paid for by the host Provincial/Territory office. The cost then will be submitted to the appropriate Provincial/Territory office of the designated officials. Each province will be responsible for the accommodations of their designated officials.

## ARTICLE 14 – ROTATIONS AND CHART

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
<b>Fastpitch:</b>							
U13 Male	AB	MB	BC	SK	AB	MB	BC
U15 Male & Female	BC	SK	AB	MB	BC	SK	AB
U17 Male & Female	MB	BC	SK	AB	MB	BC	SK
U19 Female & U20 Male	SK	AB	MB	BC	SK	AB	MB
U23 Male & Female	SK	AB	MB	BC	SK	AB	MB
Male & Female	MB	BC	SK	AB	MB	BC	SK
Master Male & Female	AB	MB	BC	SK	AB	MB	BC

1. The hosting P/T must indicate at the AGM the year preceding the event, their intention to host their assigned championship.
2. If a P/T forfeits their right to host a Championship the year following the AGM, the members will make an effort to award the Championship at the AGM or by no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. For any category, if no host site has been found by March 1<sup>st</sup> in the year of the Championship, that Championship will not be played in that year.
4. NT and YT can be added to the rotation chart as agreed one year in advance.

## ARTICLE 15 – CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

1. The preferred weekend for Western Canadian Championships for the U13 Male, U15, U17 and U19 Female/U20 Male categories is the second weekend in August.

## ARTICLE 16 – CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

1. Rules governing any Western Canadian Championship shall be those found in the Softball Canada rulebook for the current year; EXCEPT where rules are changed by Western Canadian Championship rules.
2. Attendance at the pre-tournament coaches/managers meeting is mandatory for all teams. Failure to have a coach, manager or representative at the pre-tournament meeting, unless there are extenuating

circumstances, will result in a \$500 fine per offending team assessed against the offending Province/Territory. The fine will be forwarded to the WCSA.

3. A maximum of 17 and a minimum of 11 players, including added players are permitted on each team roster. Teams may have a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of five (5) coaching positions on the championship OPL.
4. All teams must participate in the opening ceremonies, fully dressed in team uniforms. As prescribed by the Host Committee, teams may have to supply their own flag and banner.
5. Games will start exactly on time or as close to the scheduled time as possible. Teams must be available and ready to play at the scheduled time; if the team is not ready to play at the scheduled time, the game will be forfeited.
6. Line up cards shall be submitted to WCSA supervisor at a designated location complete with full name of player, position. Must include all substitute names and be signed by the team coach. The lineup cards must **be** submitted thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled game time
7. No equipment other than bats in the bat rack, such as gloves, helmets, balls etc, will be allowed on the tops of the dugouts or outside the dugout area, unless being used and approved by the umpires.
8. If a player/coach/manager is ejected from the ball game, that player/coach/manager must leave the ballpark. He/she cannot sit on the player's bench or remain in the stands. Players/coach/managers ejected from a game may continue to participate in subsequent games of the Championship, providing that the Protest Committee has levied no further suspension.
9. No foul or abusive language (or gestures) or harassment by players/coaches/managers of game officials will be tolerated at any time. 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: the offending person(s) will be given a warning and both teams shall be advised that the warning has been given.

- A second offence will lead to ejection from the game.
10. If a ball is hit or thrown out of play, the plate umpire is to immediately put another ball of their choice into play. The ball that went out of play must return to an umpire for inspection before it can be put back into play.
  11. All protests will be handled by the Protest Committee at the **TIME OF THE PROTEST**. Upon arrival of the Protest Committee, the protesting team will supply the Committee with a Protest Fee of \$250.00 (cash). Failure to do this will nullify the protest and the game shall continue immediately. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned after the game.
  12. Any game or procedure not covered by the above will be clarified and ruled upon by the Championship Protest Committee. In this context, any decision rendered by the Protest Committee will be considered final. **NO APPEALS WILL BE ALLOWED.**
  13. Any of the starting players, including the 'DP' (FP) and 'EP' (SP), may be withdrawn and re-enter once, provided players occupy the same batting positions. **EXCEPTION:** (U19 and under categories) when all legal substitutions have been entered by a team in a game the **RE-ENTRY** rule is waived in the event of injury and/or illness.
    - a) The player entering the game shall assume the batting position of the injured and/or ill player.
    - b) The injured and/or ill player may NOT return to the game.
    - c) Substitutions can only take place at the time of the injury and/or illness.

## **ARTICLE 17 - SPECIAL OPERATING RULES U13 MALE**

1. The Game
  - a) Maximum of 5 runs per half inning. Once the 5<sup>th</sup> run is scored, all other runners are stranded.
  - b) Each player listed on the line-up card must play a minimum of 2 innings (12 outs) by the end of the 4th inning in each game. In a run ahead game, a team will not be penalized if not able to play all players. Violations of this rule will result in the Head coach being suspended

for one (1) game.

- c) Everyone on the roster and in attendance must bat in games. There will be unlimited defensive substitutions. (Effect: A coach who does not allow every player on the roster and in attendance to bat shall be removed from the game and suspended from further participation in the championship). The Supervisor shall review reported instances of coaches who do not follow this rule. Injured player(s) who are unable to bat cannot return to play in that game after being declared injured.

## 2. Pitching

- a) Pitchers may pitch a maximum of (3) innings per game in the Round Robin or possible tiebreakers and (4) innings per game in the Championship Round. Should a pitcher throw (1) pitch this is classified as a complete inning pitched. In the event of extra innings, the pitching rule is not in effect. The penalty for pitcher(s) exceeding the limit of innings pitched is that the coach is ejected, player(s) is removed from the pitching position and all illegal innings will be re-played.
- b) The "Conference Rule" (regarding pitchers) in U13 will allow one (1) conference per pitcher per inning and the second (2) conference will result in the pitcher being removed from the pitching position but may remain in the game in another position.
- c) In the event of a suspension in play resulting in a day(s) delay the Pitching Rule is carried over to the new day and the game resumes from the point of suspension.
- d) All pitchers must wear a protective mask.
- e) No Intentional walks.

## 3. Distances & Measurements

- a) Base Path Distance: 13.70m (55')
- b) Pitching Distance: 10.67m (38')
- c) Softball: Rawlings 27.95cm (11") Red Dot

## **ARTICLE 18 – ACTS OF SUSPENSION**

- 1. The Board of Directors may, from time to time, suspend any players, coaches, managers, clubs, and umpires from membership in the Association. A registered letter to the suspended party shall communicate notice of any suspension and such notice shall state the reasons for the said suspension. The

Board of Directors may authorize an appeal of the suspension provided they are satisfied, on majority vote, that the situation warrants the hearing of such appeal.

2. If a Western Canadian Supervisor recommends to the WCSA Board of Directors that disciplinary action be taken against a player, team, or official, notification shall be forwarded to the President and Office of the WCSA, the Provincial/Territorial Association of the player, team, or official and the offending person or persons. This report should be forwarded to the above people within 30 days of the Championship.
3. The WCSA shall recognize all Provincial/Territorial suspensions.

## **ARTICLE 19 – ACTS OF DISQUALIFICATION**

A team, team member, or umpire may be disqualified for any of the following:

1. Conduct detrimental to the game of Softball,
2. Physical violence proceeding, during or following a game,
3. Participating while they do not meet the eligibility requirements of the WCSA,
4. Forfeiture of a game.

## **Hosting Standards**

### **A. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOST**

1. Agrees that the Host Chairperson/Representative will not be affiliated, in any way, with any of the participating teams.
2. Agrees that the sponsoring group will become a signatory to this agreement and shall indemnify and hold harmless the WCSA from and against any financial loss, debt or liability arising out of the Championships.
3. Agrees to undertake liability insurance coverage for all reasonable hazards pertaining to the Championship.
4. Will submit to the Provincial/Territorial office, at least two (2) months prior to the Championship, a list of recommended accommodations including facilities and price, as well as submit same to the other P/T offices for distribution to their participating teams.

5. Agrees to provide sufficient diamonds for each category in the Championship (approved by the Provincial/Territorial Association).
6. Will provide 'double bases' for each diamond used in the championship.
7. Agrees to provide a change room at the ball park for the umpires.
8. Shall be responsible for securing additional required WCSA official softballs (above the allocation provided), as well as a powdered rosin bag for all games, on all diamonds in all fastpitch softball games. The WCSA official softballs are Rawlings for FP and Worth for SP, of which the WCSA will provide five (5) dozen per category.
9. Will provide qualified personnel for the following:
  - a) Scorekeepers and groundkeepers
10. Shall be responsible for press facilities, including but not limited to, a press box.
11. Shall not issue any press release(s) on the policy of the tournament without WCSA approval.
12. The Host agrees to comply with any sponsorship agreements the WCSA has in place (Rawlings). Will assist in putting up corporate sponsor banners at their Championship site as designated by the WCSA and be responsible for their return to the Provincial/Territorial office.
13. If the host agrees to publish a program the sale of the same, all receipts from advertising and sale thereof, shall be the property of the host absolutely. The host agrees to provide the WCSA and the Provincial/Territorial Association of the host, one page of advertising without charge. (See Host Chairperson/Supervisor guidelines, a letter from the WCSA Chairperson and sponsorship advertising should be included in the program).
14. Shall follow WCSA/Softball Canada protocol in the Opening ceremonies, and shall receive approval of the procedure being used, prior to the championship. The Opening ceremonies shall be conducted on the first day of competition.
15. Will provide the following awards (trophies):
  - a) **ADULT CATEGORIES:**
    - i) The winning teams must be issued a

‘keeper’ trophy/plaque supplied by the host committee.

b) **MINOR CATEGORIES:**

- i) A player of the game award for both teams in each game of the Championship.
16. Agrees to take pictures of the top three teams and submit same with the Championship report.
17. Will provide adequate room(s) for the Coaches/Managers meeting and the Umpire Meeting, to be held prior to the championship, as outlined in the WCSA bylaws.
18. Agrees to block book hotel rooms for the officials. It is preferable that this be at a different hotel than the teams are staying. Eight rooms are usually appropriate. Each room should have two beds. The payment of rooms for the tournament is the responsibility of the Host Province/Territory who then invoices each P/T their allocated expense.
19. Agrees to book the hotel room for the Western Canadian Supervisor for the duration of the Championship. The payment of the room for the tournament is the responsibility of the Host P/T.

**B. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOST**

1. In lieu of a percentage of the gate, the host will pay the WCSA:
  - a) \$250.00 per adult category (Male and Female)
  - b) \$100.00 per minor category (Male and Female)
  - c) A complete report on the championship must follow the event.
2. There shall be no complimentary tickets, other than those issued to and by the WCSA, officials and their delegates. All teams competing in a championship will be entitled to admission passes for those listed on the OPL only. Passes should be issued to all Provincial Directors who are in attendance at the Championship.
3. The host agrees to assume the cost of the following:
  - a) Ceremonies, meetings, advertising and prizing.
  - b) Ground transportation of the officials to and from the host airport, hotel and tournament site.
  - c) Social Event (optional) and a nominal fee may be



charged.

- d) Umpire-in-Chief and Deputy Umpire-in-Chief working a Western Canadian Championship will be paid a UIC/DUIC Fee of \$50.00 per day per person that they are on site. Each umpire will be paid games fees of \$30.00 per person for a three-umpire system, and \$35.00 per person for a 2-umpire system for all adult categories. Minor Categories will be \$25.00 per person for three umpire system and \$30.00 per person for 2 umpire system.

**C. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE WCSA**

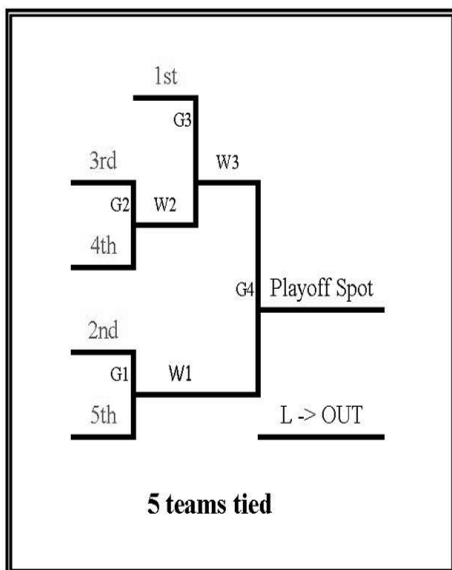
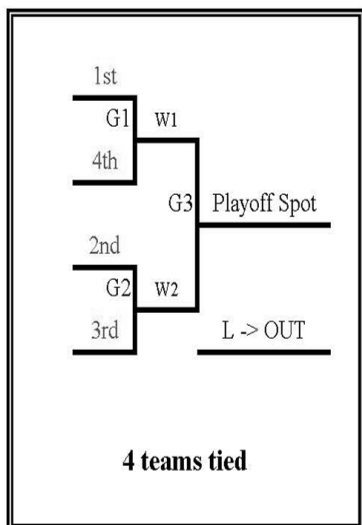
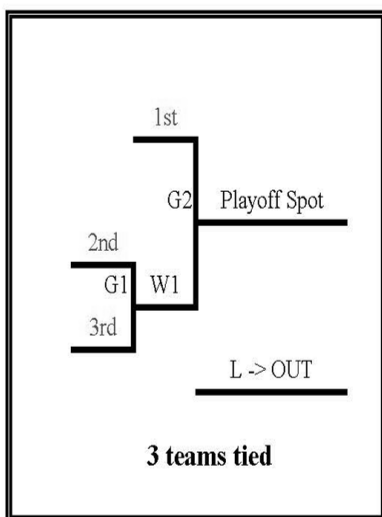
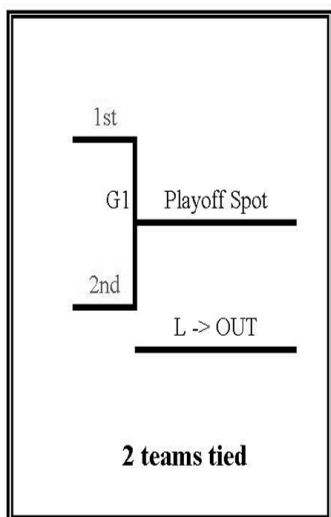
- 1. Shall, in consultation with the Host, prepare and approve the draw. The WCSA will then forward the draw to the Western Canadian Supervisor and the Host, who in turn will forward same to participating teams.
- 2. Shall provide:
  - a) Awards as outlined in the WCSA Special Operating Rules (i.e. Medals),
  - b) five (5) dozen of the WCSA official Rawlings softballs,
  - c) Sufficient line-up cards for use in the Championship.
- 3. Shall approve the teams/players wishing to participate in the Championship.
- 4. Shall, in conjunction with the host, conduct the coaches/managers and umpire meetings prior to the commencement of the Championship.
- 5. The Western Canadian Supervisor shall chair the Coaches/Managers meeting and appoint the Protest Committee. The Protest Committee will be made up of no less than three people, which will include the following:
  - a) Tournament Umpire-in-Chief,
  - b) Western Canadian Supervisor,
  - c) Host Chairperson/Representative/Designate, provided by the Host Committee.
  - d) All decisions rendered by the Protest Committee shall be final, with no avenue for appeal.
- 6. All negotiations for sponsorship of a WCSA Championship must be approved by the WCSA.

#### **D. GENERAL**

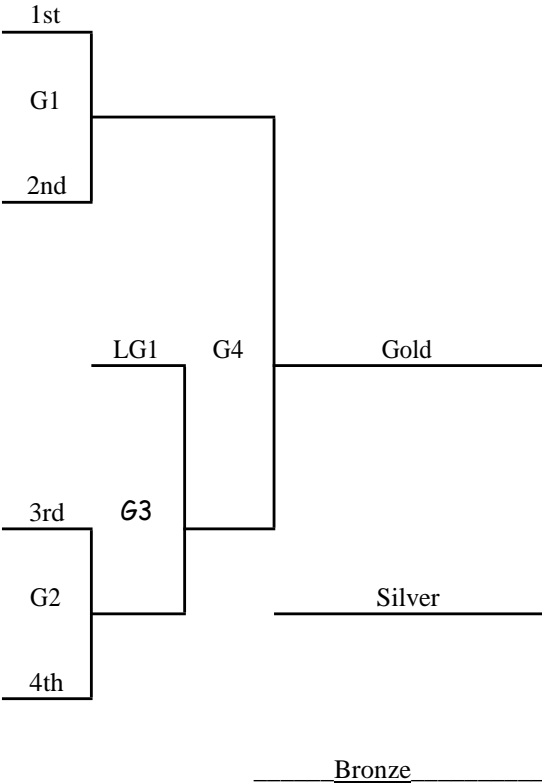
In the event that the above mentioned championship(s) is (are) cancelled because of weather conditions, political unrest, an act of God, insurrection, labour unrest, or for any other reason beyond the control of the WCSA, or the Provincial/Territorial Association, the host organization shall have no recourse against the WCSA or the Provincial/Territorial Association for expenses, costs or damages incurred by the host organization in consequence of any undertakings, obligations or other matters related to this agreement. It is agreed by both parties, that the entering into this agreement is done with the knowledge that the ultimate goal is the most successful Championship possible.

# Annexes

## Annex 'B' - Tiebreaker



Annex ‘C’ – 4 Team Championship Round



# Annex 'D' – 8 Team Championship Round

