



SUMMARY of CATEGORY SPECIFIC RULES

Softball Alberta Regional Qualifiers and Provincial Playoffs

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

U15 B

1. Coaches:

A **maximum of 4** coaches/managers are allowed on the team bench.

Each team requires at least one coach to be *trained* in NCCP (Softball) "Community Softball".

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*. **The certified coach of record must be in attendance at all games and on the team's bench during provincials.**

One coach must also be the same gender as the team and have *Foundations of Coaching Softball Part 1 PLUS* either *Safe Sport Training OR Make Ethical Decisions Online Evaluation* complete on their NCCP transcript. **This coach must be in attendance at all games and on the team's bench during provincials.**

2. Pickup Players:

Teams are allowed a **maximum of 2** pickup players for provincials 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 (in the same Zone as the Provincial team), and of teams in the same classification or lower. (Players can ONLY be picked up once).

- 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 on the Softball Alberta website.
- The Softball Alberta office MUST sign these forms prior to the Provincial event after verifying the pickup's affiliation

3. Metal Cleats: 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.

4. The Game:

- 7 innings constitute a legal ball game, except if tied after 7 complete innings or expiry of time limit. If the game cannot be completed due to time expiry, rain, darkness, etc.; 5 innings or expiry of time limit constitutes a legal ball game
- **Time Limits – Time starts at completion of Plate Conference**
 - **1hr 45min** – For round robin games - No new inning shall start after a 1 hour & 45-minute time limit for all games.
 - **2hr – ALL** championship games - No new inning shall start after a 2-hour time limit.
- **Runs per Inning Rule** – A 7 run rule per inning per team will be in effect throughout the game. Once the 7th run is scored all other runners are stranded. They DO NOT start on base next inning.
- **Defensive Infielders** – ALL infielders are required to wear an approved protective face mask/guard
- **Pitching Rule** – Pitchers can pitch a maximum of 4 innings per game. Should a pitcher throw 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
 - 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:

- a) Allowing all plays to stand, or
- b) Revert to the spot in the game when the violation occurred.

- **Infield Fly Rule** – Rule in effect [*Softball Canada FP Rule 5.1.26*].
- **Designated Player (DP)** – Use is permitted [*Softball Canada FP Rule 3.2.4*].
- **Flex Player** – Use is permitted [*Softball Canada FP Rule 3.2.5*].

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 ^(b).
3. Runs For/Against with a maximum per game being ^(c & d):

U15 Categories	7 runs
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4. Least runs allowed in all games by each team
5. Total runs scored in all games for each team
6. 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 in 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:
 - a) Number of games played will be equal to number of teams minus 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.

