

Sanctioned & Non-Sanctioned Minor Softball Policy



Effective Date: April 1, 2026

The following policy provides information regarding sanctioned and non-sanctioned programs and information for participating in non-sanctioned programs and activities during the softball season.

Softball Season

Softball Alberta defines the softball season as being from April 1st through to August 31st of each year. This applies to both athletes and coaches.

Sanctioned Programs

Sanctioned softball programs include activities of minor teams (their players and coaches) that are affiliated with Softball Alberta through their local minor Softball Association or League.

Non-Sanctioned Programs

Include activities of teams, leagues, tournaments, or clinics that are not approved or sanctioned by Softball Alberta.

Players and Coaches

Any players or coaches who wish to participate with a non-sanctioned program or activity within the softball season after April 1st of the current year but before August 31st must complete and submit an authorization form from their team coach or their organization. Included on the release form must be the timeframe of the release. A copy of this release must be forwarded to Softball Alberta.

Softball Alberta Programs

Players and coaches wishing to participate in Softball Alberta programs such as the Softball Alberta Provincial Championships, Softball Canada National Championships, Western Canada Softball Association Championships, Softball Canada National Team programs, Canada Games and Alberta Summer Games must be committed to fulfilling their obligations to these programs. Access to these programs is a privilege offered to and reserved for the members of Softball Alberta. Players and coaches who do not fulfill their commitments to these programs may be removed or released.

Softball Alberta recognizes that players and coaches have the right to choose the type of programming they wish to participate in; however, Softball Alberta wishes to protect the integrity of the programs that we and our member associations and leagues provide. As such, we have created this Sanctioned/Non-Sanctioned Minor Softball Program Policy.

Insurance

Players and coaches participating in non-sanctioned softball programs and activities are not insured through Softball Alberta's insurance program.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1) Can my athlete play both Softball Alberta sanctioned and non-sanctioned softball at the same time during the defined softball season?

No, players must be committed to fulfilling their obligation to their minor softball association, league and the team. The only exception would be if a player gets authorization to participate in a non-sanctioned program from their Coach/Organization.

2) If my athlete plays an entire season of non-sanctioned softball, can they return to Softball Alberta sanctioned programs and activities the following softball season?

Yes, providing their minor softball association accepts the player's registration.

3) Can I coach both a sanctioned softball team and a non-sanctioned softball program at the same time during the season?

No, coaches must be committed to fulfilling their obligation to their minor softball association, league and team. The only exception would be if a coach gets authorization to participate in a non-sanctioned program from their Organization.