



Highlights of Changes to the 2024 Operating Rules – Revised Dec.20, 2023

- Provincial Championship categories for minor females have changed to “A”, “B” and “C”.
- There will now be a Western Canadian Championship for U13 Girls and the top 2 teams (3 when hosting) in U13A will qualify to attend. *Note: One coach on the provincial roster must be Comp. Intro Certified.*
- For Canadian AND Western Canadian Championships, the following Provincial Championship categories lead to a Canadian and Western Canadian Championship:
 - U15A Girls & U15 ‘Open’ Boys
 - U17A Girls & U17 ‘Open’ Boys
 - U20 ‘Open’ Men’s
 - Men’s & Women’s ‘A’
 - Master Men’s

Softball Saskatchewan will approve sending the following teams to the above Canadian AND Western Canadian Championships:

- If the provincial championship has eight (8) teams OR less, then the TOP 2 (two) teams that check the “YES” box on the Letter of Intent will advance to Canadians. Three (3) teams if Saskatchewan is hosting.
 - The NEXT 2 teams that check the “YES” box on the Letter of Intent will advance to Western Canadians. Three (3) teams if Saskatchewan is hosting.
 - If the provincial championship has nine (9) teams OR more teams, then the TOP 3 teams that check the “YES” box on the Letter of Intent will advance to Canadians. Four (4) teams if Saskatchewan is hosting.
 - The NEXT 2 teams that check the “YES” box on the Letter of Intent will advance to Western Canadians. Three (3) teams if Saskatchewan is hosting.
 - The appropriate Letter of Intent must be received by the May 15th deadline. Teams registering in a category that leads to a Canadian and Western Canadian Championship must submit a \$2,000 bond with their Provincial Championship Entry Form in addition to the registration fee. (Separate cheques/payments must be made).
- For Canadian Championships, the following provincial championship categories lead to ONLY a Canadian Championship:
 - U19 Women’s and U23 Men’s

Softball Saskatchewan will approve sending the following teams to the above Canadian Championships:

- The top two (2) teams that check the “YES” box on the Letter of Intent to out-of-province championships and three (3) teams if Saskatchewan is hosting.
- The appropriate Letter of Intent must be received by the May 15th deadline. Teams registering in a category that leads to a Canadian Championship must submit a \$2,000 bond with their Provincial Championship Entry Form in addition to the registration fee. (Separate cheques/payments must be made).

- For Western Canadian Championships, the following provincial championship categories will lead to a Western Canadian Championship:
 - U13A Girls and U13 'Open' Boys
 - U19B Women's

Softball Saskatchewan will approve sending the following teams to the above Western Canadian Championships:

- The TOP two (2) teams that check the "YES" box will advance to Western Canadians. Three (3) teams if Saskatchewan is hosting.
 - Teams must submit a \$2,000 bond with their Provincial Championship entry form in addition to the registration fee. Teams who do not fulfill their obligations to attend Western Canadian Championships will be fined.
- **Provincial Championship District Transfers**
 - All U13 Girls & Boys, U15 Girls & Boys, U17 Girls & Boys and U19 Women's and U20 Men's players may apply for a district transfer. Players who wish to register on a U17A, U19A Girls, or U20 'Open' Boys teams must apply by the February 1st deadline. For all other players who wish to register in any other category, the deadline is April 15th.
 - We will not accept District Transfers in the U11 age division.

- **Minor Player Releases** (must be obtained every year if necessary)

For participation in Provincial Championships, players must follow the following process:

- *NOTE:* all minor players must register and if a team is available, try out with their local or nearest recognized minor softball association within their district. Softball Saskatchewan supports players playing at the highest level possible.
- Player releases must include written approval from the Board/Executive of the association or league the team, player/coach is a member of and signed by the President.
- Players residing in a community with a recognized minor softball association must obtain a release from this association. Players who reside in a non-center or rural residence with no minor association must obtain a release from their nearest recognized minor association. If released, these players can register where they choose to within the district.
- For players wishing to register with an association U19A, U17A, U15A, or U13A team outside the district they must ALSO obtain releases from all associations who have an "A" team within the district and apply for a district transfer.
- Players who are non-residents of Regina and Saskatoon may register in Regina or Saskatoon if they attend a softball academy or school in Regina or Saskatoon during the softball season. These players will still require a district transfer. Proof of school attendance, signed by the principal, must be provided with the team's provincial roster. Players will be placed on teams according to Regina or Saskatoon minor softball league rules/policies.
- Players who are released to register on an "A" team outside their local or nearest association and or district and are not successful in making the "A" team must return to their home or closest association to register on a "B" or "C" team.
- Players must obtain a release from their local or nearest minor association to register on an adult team.
- To determine the nearest center, we will use Google Maps and numbered roads. The player release application form is available on our website. Applications must provide the rationale as to why there is no opportunity for the player to register on a team within or near their residence within the district.

- **Age Category Information**

- U17 Girls Categories - Three (3) categories: "A", "B" and "C".
 - "A" category:
 - For teams who wish to compete for the opportunity to attend a Canadian OR Western Championship
 - Teams must submit the appropriate Letter of Intent.
 - There are no population limits in the "A" category.
 - Associations who form "A" teams may also register in "B" or "C" and not have to meet the population or community limits.
 - "B" category:
 - Does not lead to a Western or Canadian Championship.
 - Pending the number of teams entered we may split into two divisions.
 - Teams are allowed to have players from a maximum of 6 communities.
 - There is no population limit.
 - "C" category
 - Does not lead to a Western or Canadian Championship.
 - Pending the number of teams entered we may split into two divisions.
 - Teams are allowed to have players from a maximum of 4 communities and 20,000 population.

- U15 Girls Categories - Three (3) categories: "A", "B", and "C."
 - "A" category
 - Teams who wish to compete for the opportunity to attend a Canadian OR Western Championship
 - Teams must submit the appropriate Letter of Intent.
 - There are no population limits.
 - Associations that register an 'A' team may also register a team(s) in 'B' and/or 'C' and not have to meet the population community limits.
 - "B" category
 - Does not lead to a Western or Canadian Championship.
 - Pending the number of teams entered we may split into two divisions.
 - Teams are allowed to have players from a maximum of 6 communities and 25,000 population.
 - "C" category
 - Does not lead to a Western or Canadian Championship.
 - Pending the number of teams entered we may split into two divisions.
 - Teams are allowed to have players from a maximum of 5 communities and 15,000 population.

- U13 Girls Categories - Three (3) categories: "A", "B" and "C".
 - "A" category
 - For teams who wish to compete for the opportunity to attend a Western Canadian Championship
 - Teams must submit the appropriate Letter of Intent.
 - There are no population limits in the "A" category.
 - Associations who form 'A' teams may also register a team(s) in 'B' or 'C' and not have to meet the population community limits.
 - "B" category
 - Does not lead to a Western or Canadian Championship.
 - Pending the number of teams entered we may split into two divisions.
 - Teams are allowed to have players from a maximum of 6 communities and 25,000 population.
 - "C" category

- Does not lead to a Western or Canadian Championship.
 - Pending the number of teams entered we may split into two divisions.
 - Teams are allowed to have players from a maximum of 5 communities and 10,000 population.
- U11 Girls Categories
 - There will be two (2) categories in both the North and South. The North will be further split into 2 divisions – “A” and “B” and the South will be further split into 2 divisions – “A” and “B”.
 - This means there will be 4 Provincial Champions in the U11 Category.
 - There are no population or community limits in “A”.
 - In the “B” category teams are allowed to have players from a maximum of 5 communities and 10,000 population.
 - Associations who form “A” teams may also register team(s) in “B” and not be required to meet the community and population limits.
 - District 2 (Regina) and District 6 (Saskatoon) must register a minimum of the following teams in the U11 Provincial Championships.
 - A minimum of 4 teams in the U11 “A” Girl’s category

- **Population Limits**

For determining communities any community with a population of 200 or less will not be counted in the maximum number of communities.

- **Minor Team Membership (Affiliation)**

Minor Teams that apply for membership will have all rights allotted by Softball Saskatchewan and the privilege to play for Provincial titles. A team must be affiliated with a minor association that is in good standing, and Softball Saskatchewan must be satisfied that the team has shown a substantial connection to the association with which they affiliate to be eligible for admission to Softball Saskatchewan.

- **U13 Playing Rules**

- The Round Robin will utilize 5-inning games and NO TIME LIMIT. All Championship Round games are seven (7) innings.
- U13A Girls and U13 “Open” Boys will use the 9-person batting order.
- In all U13 categories runners may leave the base when the ball has left the pitcher’s hand. If they leave early, they will be called out.

- **Minor Player Evaluations/Tryouts**

Minor Softball Associations and their teams cannot start their player evaluation/tryouts until February 1st annually. This will take effect starting the 2025 softball season.

- The 2024 U15 Girls and Boys Western Canadian Championships have been awarded to the Battlefords Minor Softball Association from Aug. 2nd – 5th.