

P.W.S.A. TOURNAMENT/BRACKET GUIDELINES AND PLAYING RULES – FOR 2021

SECTION 1 - ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

1. WITHDRAWAL OF TEAMS (P.W.S.A. Operating Rule R3.02)
Registered teams notifying the Association of their inability to compete in play-offs or forfeiting a game during the play-offs shall be automatically suspended until the following applicable fine is paid:
 - (a) From the time of Affiliation deadline to the play-off draw.....**\$50.00**
 - (b) From the time of the play-off draw to the end of the scheduled tournament/bracket game.....**\$500.00**
 - (c) Any team that finds it necessary to withdraw due to players attending a Softball Canada camp will not be fined.

Teams forfeiting a game during a play-off tournament/bracket may continue in competitions as long as the **\$500.00** fine is paid prior to the start of their next scheduled game. In case the forfeited game is their second loss, they will be eliminated from further play, as well as being fined **\$500.00**.

EXCEPTION: Any team not continuing to participate in a tournament/bracket for any reason other than the inability to field nine (9) players due to medical condition(s) or other extenuating circumstances, will immediately be placed under suspension.

The team will have ninety-six (96) hours to produce a certified copy of a doctor's note or other acceptable proof for any player(s) identified as unable to continue and causing their team to forfeit a game.

EFFECT OF NON-PAYMENT (P.W.S.A. Operating Rule R3.03)

Any team withdrawing or forfeiting shall automatically be placed under suspension until the fine is paid in full.

2. SIGN-IN (P.W.S.A. Operating Rule 4.02)
All coaches, managers and players must complete the sign-in form provided by the Divisional Coordinator for all play-off tournaments. (Team Certificate) these are the only persons who should appear on your line-up cards. Line up cards and score sheets to be sent electronically to the coordinator.

BAT STICKERS

Each bat used in a P.W.S.A. Bracket Game must be checked (visual) it is asked that each team line up the bats with the markings visible for ease of visual inspections. ***If a bat becomes illegal (e.g. dent, crack, etc.) the bat will be removed and the bat will be given to the Tournament/Game Chairperson. The bat will be returned to the player or team at the end of the Tournament/Game.***

3. COACHES AND MANAGERS (P.W.S.A. Operating Rule R1.06)
Coaches and Managers - Managers and Coaches must be signed on the Team Registration Certificate/Sign-in Form for each team they are affiliated with (i.e., Coaches and Managers participating for more than one team must be signed on each team's contract but may only register on one Team Registration Certificate/Sign-in Form per Division). Additional Managers and/or Coaches may register through the Divisional Coordinator or representative at a **fee set annually by the Board of Directors** and

must sign a Release of Liability Waiver Form as against the Association. Only registered Managers, Coaches, Players and Team Personnel are allowed on the coaching lines and bench areas in all Divisions. Deadline for 2021 July 1, 2021 due to the pandemic.

(a) At a Provincial Bracket Game, participating teams without a properly Certified Coach on the bench, will be fined \$100.00 per game.

***Exception:** Should a properly certified coach be ejected from a game and is the only properly certified coach registered with that team, the \$100.00 fine will not be levied. If ejected from the entire tournament/bracket, the \$100.00 fine per game will be levied, until the team has a properly certified coach on the bench.*

4. INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

For U10, U12 and U14 Divisions - medallions will be presented to the first and second place winners in each Grand Championship Tournament.

For U16, U19, INTERMEDIATE TIER II AND OPEN Divisions - Gold, Silver medallions will be presented.

Medallions will be presented to Players, Coaches and Managers signed on the team's P.W.S.A. Team Registration Certificate/Sign-in Form, up to a maximum of **twenty-one**.

Extra medallions may be ordered, (in writing to the P.W.S.A. Divisional Co-ordinator) at the team's expense, only for individuals associated with the team. Medallions may be purchased at the Championship site, if available.

SECTION II - PLAYING RULES

5. P.W.S.A. OPERATING RULES (P.W.S.A. Operating Rules R4.01, R4.11, R4.12, R4.13, R4.14)

R4.01 - P.W.S.A. Operating Rules, Tournament Guidelines and Softball Canada Playing Rules shall be followed. (See Softball Canada Rule Differences)

R4.11 - The Defensive Conference Rule: **Exception:** In both U10 and U12 Divisions, a team is permitted 2 defensive conferences per inning.

R4.12 - Designated/Flex Player – The designated/flex player (DP/Flex) is allowed in all divisions. Exception: U10 and U12 Divisions.

R4.13 - In all divisions, "excluding U10 players", the dropped third strike rule is in effect.

R4.14 – **U10 and U12 Divisions:**

Please see U10 Rule Differences.

Please see U12 Rule Differences.

6. NUMBER OF PLAYERS: (P.W.S.A. Operating Rule 1.08)
Teams must sign a minimum of eleven (11) and a maximum of seventeen (17) players, including a playing coach. NOTE: Teams are permitted to add to the official team roster, one additional player for every one player who has been injured, or is no longer with the team, if that results in the team being below eleven (11) players, and is unable or
(Revised July 2021)

unwilling to play with the team on or at Provincial Qualifiers and/or Provincial Bracket Championships. Any player addition must be submitted to the P.W.S.A. 48 hours prior to the first game, unless extenuating circumstances prevent 48 hours notice. When the injured player(s) return to active play, the substitute player(s) must be removed from the roster. A player who has quit the team or was unwilling to participate, without injury, is not eligible to return to the roster. Abuse of this rule will result in immediate suspension.

NOTE: the mandatory signing of 11 was waived for 2021 due to pandemic challenges.

7. UNIFORMS

The Association shall follow Softball Canada's uniform rule. (Refer to Softball Canada rule book Rule 3, section 8)

NOTE: If there is a problem with colours of uniforms or with two teams from the same Organization wearing the same uniform, the team losing the toss will be required to change their uniforms or to adapt their uniforms in some way.

Coaches must be neatly attired, including the wearing of suitable footwear, or dressed in team uniform in accordance with the colour code of the team. If a coach wears a hat or cap, it must be approved headwear.

COACHES/MANAGERS UNIFORM (R4.15): All team coaching personnel, including the Manager, shall wear a team uniform shirt.

8. PROTECTIVE GEAR

(P.W.S.A. Operating Rule R4.08) Helmets are compulsory for all players while on deck, at bat and while running the bases, in all Divisions and shall be of an accepted make and design, complete with ear lugs. Each participating team shall carry a minimum of five (5) helmets.

In the U10, U12 and U14 Divisions, batters and baserunners must have chin straps on the helmet, which shall be worn properly under the chin.

71

Approved protective cages on batting helmets are mandatory for U10 through U19/Open Divisions. Pitchers in the U12 and below categories are required to wear protective face masks.

Catcher's mask and throat protectors must be worn properly by anyone warming up pitchers. Players must wear mask, throat protector and helmet while warming up a pitcher anywhere on or near the playing field.

The Umpire/Association personnel in charge shall issue one warning to a team Coach or team Manager not following this safety rule, and thereafter, anyone found warming up a pitcher without a mask and throat protector shall mean the removal of the Coach or Manager from the game.

(P.W.S.A. Operating Rule R4.09) Spikes – Players in the U10, U12, U14 and U16 Divisions, shall not wear metal spikes.

9. SLIDING PADS

The Association shall follow Softball Canada's uniform rule. (Refer to Softball Canada rule book Rule 3, section 8)

10. DETERMINING HOME TEAM

Team representatives shall participate in a "toss of a coin" for home game and choice of bench a minimum of **one-half hour (1/2 hour)** prior to scheduled game time.

The winner of the coin toss shall have first choice of selecting home game or bench.

EXCEPTION: Back-to-back games.

NOTE: If there is a problem with colours of uniforms or with two teams from the same Organization wearing the same uniform, the team losing the toss will be required to change their uniforms or to adapt their uniforms in some way.

NOTE: Team representative must submit line-ups **at the time of the coin toss (one half hour prior to game time)**, and teams must be ready to play ten (10) minutes ahead of schedule game time. **PENALTY:** Lose right for home game.

11. **NO INFIELD PRACTICE**

Infield practice on the diamond(s) being utilized for the tournament **SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED**. For the purposes of this section, "infield" shall be that portion between the foul lines and out-of-play lines on the skinned area. Under no circumstances, shall warm up take place on the skinned portion of the infield between the two foul lines, commonly known as the infield.

12. **GRACE PERIOD** (P.W.S.A. Operating Rule R4.03)

Each team will be given fifteen (15) minutes grace before a game can be called by the Association/Tournament/Game Chairperson. Where a team fails to make an appearance after the allotted fifteen (15) minutes grace period, the game shall be declared a forfeiture.

NOTE: If a team has nine (9) players available to start a game at the scheduled time, the team does not have the option to take the additional fifteen (15) minutes. However, the Tournament/Game Chairperson CAN make allowances for extenuating circumstances.

13. **TIME LIMITS** (P.W.S.A. Operating Rule R4.04)

In all Divisions, all play-off tournament/bracket games shall be seven (7) innings.

EXCEPTION: In the U10 Division, no inning shall begin after one hour and 30 minutes.

In the U12 Division, no inning shall begin after one hour and forty-five minutes.

NOTE: U10 & U12 – all medal tournament games shall be seven innings.

14. **MERCY RULE** (P.W.S.A. Operating Rule R4.05)

In the U10 through U16 Divisions, if any team is ahead by fifteen (15) or more runs at the end of **three** innings (two and a half if home team) or any inning thereafter; or if any team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs at the end of **five** innings (four and a half if home team) or any inning thereafter, the game will be terminated.

In the U19 through the Open Divisions, if any team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs at the end of **three** innings (two and a half if home team) or any inning thereafter; or if any team is ahead by seven (7) or more runs at the end of **five** innings (four and a half if home team) or any inning thereafter, the game will be terminated.

In the U10 and U12 Divisions, if any team is ahead by twenty-five (25) or more runs after any complete inning (or half inning if home team) the game will be terminated.

15. **TIE BREAKER** (P.W.S.A. Operating Rule R4.06)

In all Divisions, after seven (7) innings of regulation play, the Tie Breaker rule shall be used. In the U12 Divisions – tournament/games with time limits on games, the Tie Breaker Rule shall be used at the end of seven (7) innings, or when the time limit is up.

Exception: In the U10 Division, with time limits on games, the Tie Breaker shall be at the end of six (6) innings or when the time limit is up.

16. **SUSPENSION OF PLAY**

In the event tournament/bracket play is suspended or cancelled, the following shall apply:

(Revised July 2021)

- (a) If game is continued in the same week/weekend, then all games will be resumed at the exact point where the suspension of play occurred, or
- (b) If the Championship tournament is postponed to a subsequent date, then all games having been completed at the time of suspension of play shall count and all games in progress at the time of suspension of play shall be replayed from the beginning, at which time the original line-ups may be changed.

17. PROTESTS (P.W.S.A. Operating Rules R5.01 to R5.05)

R5.01 - The notification of intent to protest must be made immediately before the next pitch. Only those team spokespersons designated at the start of the game shall be permitted to lodge a protest through the plate umpire to the Association Representative present at the tournament/game where the protest is occurring.

The spokesperson or manager of the protesting team should immediately notify the umpires and the opponent that the game is under protest. **The umpire in charge of the game shall then notify the Association Representative and the U.I.C. present.**

All protests shall be handled on the spot by the duly appointed Protest Committee as ascertained by the Tournament/game/association Chairperson prior to the start of the game.

Note: If, in the event the umpires have left the field and one of the coaches wants to lodge a protest, the protest will be accepted by the **Divisional Coordinator or a P.W.S.A. Representative** in attendance. This protest must occur before the protesting team leaves the diamond.

R5.02 – Protests Considered - Protests that shall be received and considered concern matters of the following types:

- (a) Misinterpretation of a playing rule.
- (b) Failure of an umpire to apply the correct rule to a given situation.
- (c) Failure to impose the correct penalty for a given violation.

R5.03 – Protests Not Considered - Protests shall not be received or considered if they are based solely on a decision involving the accuracy of judgement on the part of the umpire.

R5.04 – The plate umpire shall not have the authority to reject any protest submitted in the proper manner.

R5.05 - For any protest to be considered, the protesting party shall pay a fee of \$25.00. If the protest is not upheld, the fee must be paid at the conclusion of the game or before they play another game. **The fee must be paid to the tournament/game/association chairperson who will collect on behalf of P.W.S.A.**

ELIGIBILITY INQUIRY (P.W.S.A. Operating Rules R2.02 (d), R2.04 and R2.05)

R2.02 (d) - As of June 2, 2017, ALL players, in order to participate in any Provincial Women's Softball Association programs or tournaments, must have proof that at least one member of their family (mother, father, guardian) has taken the Respect in Sport course for Parents. Certification numbers must be provided to the Divisional Coordinator before the official Team Certificate/Sign-in Form will be approved.

R2.04 - Inquiries regarding the eligibility of a player, coach or manager shall be accepted at any time during a game/tournament but will not be dealt with until the game/tournament has been completed. Exception: See R4.02 for Sign-in Requirements.

Written inquiries regarding eligibility of a player, coach or manager received 48 hours prior to the date of the Association tournament/game shall be investigated by the Divisional Coordinator and a ruling handed down in conjunction with the Play-off Chairperson. The player, coach or manager shall be notified by their Coordinator that an inquiry has taken place.

R2.05 - Any player, coach or manager found to be ineligible will result in all honours won by the team, while using an ineligible person, to be struck from the Association records. In addition, the team shall be fined \$100.00 and placed under suspension for **3 Association Games.**

NO HEARINGS AT TOURNAMENT/game (P.W.S.A. Operating Rule R8.06)
Suspension and eligibility hearings shall not be handled at a tournament/game site.

18. PROHIBITIONS

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES - The consumption of alcoholic beverages or any other impairment inducing substances on or near diamond facilities is prohibited. – Exception – any licensed area.

Please note: Item (n) under R8.02 is now one of the reasons for suspension. We are also asking our Host Committee to enforce a zero tolerance policy of no alcohol consumption or any other impairment inducing substances in and around the ball diamonds or parking lot.

Automatic suspension for game, if a single game and/or automatic suspension for Tournament, if a Tournament.

Note: Teams/Associations must submit any matter involving unpaid dues to that Team/Association no later than seven (7) days prior to the Provincial Championship in the division they are affiliated with. All other issues that may result in suspensions or discipline must be submitted by September 5th of the current year.

SMOKING – It is illegal to smoke on and within 20 meters of children’s playgrounds and publicly owned sport fields and surfaces. (e.g. – areas for basketball, baseball, soccer or beach volleyball, ice rinks, tennis courts, splash pads and swimming pools that are owned by a municipality, the province or a post-secondary education institution) Managers, Coaches and Players are asked to remain in the bench areas during all games.

19. Umpires are empowered to call a game at any time because of darkness, rain, fire, panic, or other cause, which puts the fans/officials/players in peril.

NOTE: When a tournament/game is interrupted by playing conditions, teams and officials will be asked to remain at the park in a safe location for at least one hour. During this time, a decision will be made on continuance. Decision to be made in conjunction with Tournament Chairperson or Divisional Coordinator.

