

Softball Newfoundland Labrador U14 Boy's Fastpitch Provincial Championships

Competition Notes

Softball Newfoundland Labrador sanction the **U14 Boy's Fastpitch Provincial Championships**. Except where noted (see *Softball NL Competition Notes* below), rules for this competition will be governed by Softball Canada 2015 Official Rule Book.

1. Tournament Registration and Fees

- **Teams that do not follow proper registration procedures may not be permitted to participate in tournaments:**
- A team will be considered registered for a Softball Newfoundland Labrador sanctioned tournament only when the following conditions are met:
 - i. **Registration must meet all deadlines;**
 - ii. All affiliation and tournament fees are paid upon registration for any tournament;
 - iii. All roster information must be submitted upon registration using proper forms provided by Softball NL. Incomplete registration forms will not be accepted by Softball NL;
 - iv. Only players, coaches, and team officials that are in "good standing" with Softball Newfoundland Labrador will be permitted to register and participate.
- Players must 14 year of age or less as of December 31st of the current year;
- Teams must register a minimum of 12 players to participate. Roster size must not exceed 17 players;
- All players participating in a Softball Newfoundland Labrador sanctioned tournament must appear on the official roster. Rosters are "official" once they are released by the Softball NL office to the tournament director. If a team is discovered to have used an ineligible player the team will face disciplinary action and possible removal from the tournament;
- For all other tournament registration and fee payment information please visit the Softball Newfoundland Labrador website (www.softballnl.ca) or email Softball NL Executive Director Dave Feener at executivedirector@softballnl.ca.

2. Coach Certification and Dress Code

- a) The coaching staff must possess a minimum certification of NCCP "Community Sport On-Going Participation" or former NCCP Level 1 certification for softball. Contact Softball Newfoundland Labrador (executivedirector@softballnl.ca) to check certification or to register for an off season certification clinic;
- b) Coaches are expected to dress in proper attire for the softball field. Coaches are not permitted to wear clothing that references alcohol, tobacco, or anything deemed inappropriate by the umpire, tournament director, or Softball Newfoundland Labrador representatives;
- c) Sandals and flip flops are not permitted. Footwear must have closed toes and provide proper support.

3. Rotation Rule

- In U14 Boy's, teams must have a minimum of 2 pitchers. Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 4.0 innings (consecutive or non-consecutive) in a regulation 7.0 inning game. If a game needs extra innings to complete, a player who pitched 4.0 innings in regulation may pitch again without limitation. This applies to the playoff round also.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:**
 - i) A pitcher will be considered to have pitched 1.0 inning if he/she has thrown 1 pitch.
 - ii) **Pitchers/coaches will be advised if an illegal pitch is thrown at the U14 Boy's division. Pitchers will not be penalized by the umpires for an initial illegal pitch for the purpose of helping the developing pitcher. At the umpire's discretion, if the pitcher continues to pitch using an illegal motion AND it gives the pitcher an unfair advantage against the opposing team the coach will be told by the umpire to change the pitcher. If the umpire feels that the illegal motion is not advantageous to the pitcher the umpire will not ask for a pitching change.**

4. Official Line Up

- a) Fair play rules apply to playing time and substitutions. Softball Canada substitution and re-entry rules apply (players in the starting line-up may re-enter the game 1 time, players that do not start are not permitted to re-enter once removed from the game. All substitutions must be announced to the home plate umpire, who will notify the scorekeeper, or risk penalty upon official appeal by the non-offending team.
 - b) The official batting order shall consist of 9 players. The designated player (DP) and FLEX are not permitted.
 - c) The remaining players (substitutes) must be listed on the bottom of the line-up card and must remain on the bench or they are not eligible to play.
 - d) In a 7.0 inning game a player must play a minimum of 3.0 innings/9 outs (unless he/she is a member of the home team and the game is called after 6.5 innings) and have at least one at bat. In any game that ends early due to the mercy rule it is the coaches responsibility to ensure that all players play a minimum of 2.0 innings in the field and attempt to get at least one at bat.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:**
 - i) **FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES/FAIR PLAY** 1.0 inning will be the equivalent of 3 outs **OR** application of the 5 run rule to end an inning (see *Scoring* below)

5. Scoring

- a) Teams may score a maximum of 5 runs per inning with the exception of the 7th inning ("open inning"). Softball Canada mercy rules will be in effect (15 run lead after 3 or 4 complete innings, 7 run lead after 5 complete innings).
- b) Maximum +/- rating in any game is +/- 7. If the home team is leading after an official game has been ended (either 6.5 innings or other i.e. weather, darkness, etc.) the game is over and will not continue for the purpose of a team attempting to gain a +7 rating.
- c) The I.S.F. Tie Breaking Rule will be in effect after 7 complete innings. This applies to all tournament games *with the exception of the championship game.*

6. Fielding

- Teams must have 9 defensive players (3 Outfielders).

7. Stealing/Advance on Bases

- Stealing is permitted at all bases as per Softball Canada 2015 Rulebook.
- On a dropped 3rd strike the batter may attempt to advance to first base only if first base is unoccupied with less than 2 outs. If there are 2 outs, the batter may attempt to advance regardless of whether or not first base is occupied;

8. Tie Breaking Procedures

For the purpose of determining all positions at the end of round robin play the following tie breaking procedures will apply in this order:

- Head to Head record.
- If there is still a tie, the team with the best plus/minus (+ or - 7) in all round robin games will be given the higher placing.
- If teams are still tied, the team who had the least total number of runs scored against for all round robin games will receive the higher placing.
- If teams are still tied, the team with the highest total number of runs scored will receive the higher placing.
- If teams are still tied, plus/minus ratio (**total number of runs scored for + total number of runs scored against/total number of runs for**) will apply. The lower plus/minus ratio will win the tie breaker.
- If two teams are still tied a coin toss will take place to determine positioning.

9. Tournament Days

Tournaments will be scheduled from Friday to Sunday, with Monday being a WEATHER DAY. If weather is unfavourable throughout the weekend games will be played on Monday. If the weather is unfavourable on Monday the tournament will NOT be rescheduled and awards shall be awarded to the top two ranking teams.

10. Face Mask

Pitchers at the U14 Boy's division are required to wear an approved face mask while in the pitching position.

11. **Bats**

Softball Newfoundland Labrador does not have its own bat certification program. Softball NL recognizes bats certified by the USA Softball and WBSC.

BAT STAMPS

U19 Boy's & All Female Divisions

ISF 2005

ASA Certified 2004

Certified By Amateur Softball Association 2000

U23 & Senior Men's

ASA Softball

Includes Any 1 of the 3 Stamps:

ISF 2005

ASA Certified 2004

Certified By Amateur Softball Association 2000

How to find out if a Bat would be Approved?

USA

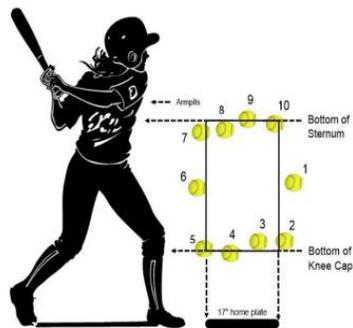
<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/play-usa-softball/certified-usa-softball-equipment>

WBSC

<http://www.wbsc.org/wp-content/uploads/20180326-Softball-Bat-List-Lista-Bates-Softbol.pdf>

12. **Strike Zone**

The space over any part of home plate between the bottom of the batter's sternum (chest plate) and the bottom of the batter's knee cap, when they assume their natural batting stance. The natural batting stance is the stance the batter takes after the release of the pitch when deciding to swing or not swing at the pitch.



Rulings: 1) ball, 2) strike, 3) strike, 4) ball, 5) ball, 6) strike, 7) strike, 8) strike, 9) ball, 10) ball

- i. when any part of a pitched ball enters the strike zone before touching the ground and the batter does not swing, provided the top of the ball is at or below the sternum or the bottom of the ball is at or above the bottom of the knee cap.

It is not anticipated that this new definition will result in a change in the current strike zone as currently applied. Instead, this rule attempts to more closely match the current expectations and application of the rule and allows greater clarity of the strike zone at competitive levels.

As previous, umpires are expected to “adjust” the zone to match the level of play at lower skill levels.

Some part of a legally pitched ball must pass through the strike zone to be called a strike
NATURAL STANCE and where the ball crosses the plate determine a ball or a strike.

The position of the batter in the batter’s box makes no difference.

Any part of the ball over any part of the plate is a strike if it is the right height.

13. Fast Pitch Regulations: U14 Male and U16 Female

Stance: Two feet on plate

Signal: Ball in the hand or glove and hands separated

Pause: Hands in front, 1-10 seconds

Pitch: Starts when one hand is removed from the ball

Chute: Stay inside 24 inch chute

Wind-Up/Windmill: Less than two revolutions, No Stop or reversal

Delivery: Underhand and Below the Hip

Pivot Foot: Push off and drag, Level with the ground

