

**Softball Newfoundland Labrador
U19 Men's Fastpitch Provincial Championship**

Competition Notes

Softball Newfoundland Labrador sanction the **U19 Men'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 19 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

- No pitcher rotation rule in U19 Men's division.
- **Pitchers/coaches will be advised if an illegal pitch is thrown at the U19 Men'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

- The official batting order shall consist of 9 players. The designated player (DP) and FLEX are permitted at the U19 Men's division.
- 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.
- Coaches are encouraged to use all players on their roster; however there is no fair play rule in the U19 Men's division.

5. Scoring

- There is no maximum number of runs a team may score per inning (all innings are "open") . Softball Canada mercy rules will be in effect (15 run lead after 3 or 4 complete innings, 7 run lead after 5 complete innings).
- 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.
- 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:

1. Head to Head record.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. If teams are still tied, the team with the highest total number of runs scored will receive the higher placing.
5. 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.
6. 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. **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>

11. Pitching Rule: Male U16 & Above / Female U19 & Above

The WBSC has a single pitching rule for both men and women. This rule will be trialed by Softball Canada in for one year.

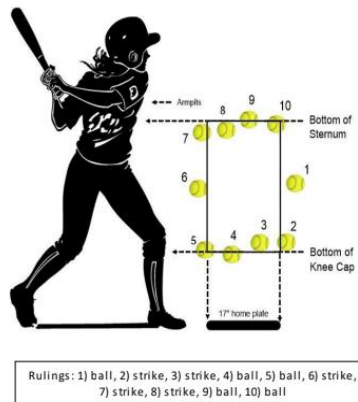
The pitcher **must have the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate** and both feet within the 61.0 cm (24 in) length of the pitcher's plate. The hips must be in line with first and third bases.

The pitcher must, after taking the signal, bring their whole body to a **full and complete stop** with the ball in both hands in front of the body. (Holding the ball in both hands to the side of the body is considered in front of the body.) **The non-pivot foot (the stepping foot) must be stationary at the start and during the pause. The non-pivot foot can only move forward with the start of the pitch. Any backward movement of the non-pivot foot during or after the pause is an illegal action.** This position must be held for **not less than two (2) seconds and not more than five (5) seconds** before releasing the ball.

The pivot foot must remain in **contact** with the pitcher's plate prior to the start of the pitch. Lifting the pivot foot off the pitcher's plate and returning it to the plate, creating a rocking motion **is an illegal act.**

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.



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.