

FAST-PITCH MINOR RULES

COMPETITION NOTES

Softball Newfoundland Labrador will sanction all the minor Fast-Pitch Provincial Championships. Except where noted (see Competition Notes below), rules for these events will be governed by Softball Canada 2019-2020 Official Rule Book.

1. Tournament Registration and Fees

- a. Teams that do not follow proper registration procedures may not be permitted to participate in tournaments;
 - b. 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 meet age requirements for the specific division 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 and Labrador website (www.softballnl.ca) or email Softball NL Executive Director Dave Feener at executivedirector@softballnl.ca.

2. Coach Certification and Dress Code

- a. **U12** must have at least one coach must possess a minimum NCCP "Community Sport - Ongoing Participation".
U14+ must have at least one coach must possess a minimum of Weekend One of Competition Introduction Program (in-training status).
Contact SNL (executivedirector@softballnl.ca) to check certification or to register for an off season certification clinic;
- b. Certificate of Conduct and Vulnerable Sector Check. All ADULT coaches, managers, parent volunteers, on the playing field during a MINOR game MUST have a cleared Vulnerable Sector Check. This check must be dated within the last 36 months of the tournament;
- c. 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;
- d. Sandals and flip flops are not permitted. Footwear must have closed toes and provide proper support.

3. Field Dimensions and Ball Size

MALE	Softball Size	Pitching Mound	Base Paths
U12	11"	35'	55'
U14	12"	40'	60'
U16	12"	42'	60'
U19	12"	46'	60'

FEMALE	Softball Size	Pitching Mound	Base Paths
U12	11"	35'	55'
U14	12"	38'	60'
U16	12"	40'	60'
U19	12"	43'	60'

4. Official Line Up / Fair Play Rules

Division	Batting Order	DP / Flex Players	Defensive/Offensive Play
U12	All participants bat	Not Permitted	Play a minimum of 3 innings / 9 outs No Player is to sit consecutive innings
U14	9 Players	Not Permitted	Play a minimum of 3 innings / 9 outs
U16+	10 Players (DP/Flex)	Permitted	List of all available substitutes are to be listed on the bottom of the line-up card

U12 and U14 Exceptions

- In any game that ends early due to the mercy rule. It is the responsibility of the COACH to ensure that all players play a minimum of 2.0 innings in the field.
- For DEFENSIVE PURPOSES - an inning will be the equivalent of 3 outs OR application of the 5 run rule to end an inning (see Scoring below).
- Teams must play with 6 Infielders and 3 Outfielders, playing in appropriate starting positions.
- If the player who caught in the previous ½ inning is on base with 2 outs, they MUST be replaced with the player who recorded the last (2nd) out in the inning. The team is not charged with a substitution, as the purpose is to speed up the game.

5. Scoring

- U12 - may score a maximum of 3 runs per inning. Exception: 7th inning ("open inning").
- U14/U16 - may score a maximum of 5 runs per inning. Exception: 7th inning ("open inning").
- Softball Canada mercy rules will be in effect (15/2.5, 10/3.5 and 7/4.5 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.
- Tie Breaking Rule will be in effect after 7 complete innings. Applies to all tournament games with the exception of the championship game. The team will start their turn at bat with the player who is scheduled last in that respective half-inning being placed at second base.

6. Home Plate Area

- a) The runner **MUST** make every effort to avoid colliding with opposing players at home plate. A motion using the upper body to gain momentum on a slide is unsportsmanlike conduct and will result in an ejection.
- b) The catcher **MUST** leave an area open for the runner to touch home plate.
 - Ball is not in the play and catcher is obstructing home plate – Delayed Dead Ball - runner safe.
 - Catcher is about to receive the ball and obstructs home plate – Delayed Dead Ball - runner safe.
 - Catcher has possession of the ball. Moves to a position to make a play. An area needs to be open on the plate for the runner to be able to touch. Runner is liable to be put out.

7. Strike Zone and Pitching

The Pitcher shall:

- Starts with U12/U14 two feet on the pitcher's slab or U16+ one foot on the pitcher's slab;
- Pitcher takes signal;
- Brings body to a full stop and gives a pause U12-U14 1 second or U16+ 2 seconds;
- Delivery starts with forward motion;
- Pitcher must remain inside the pitching chute;
- U12/U14 must deliver the ball with a push-and-drag motion. U16+ may jump/leap off the slab.

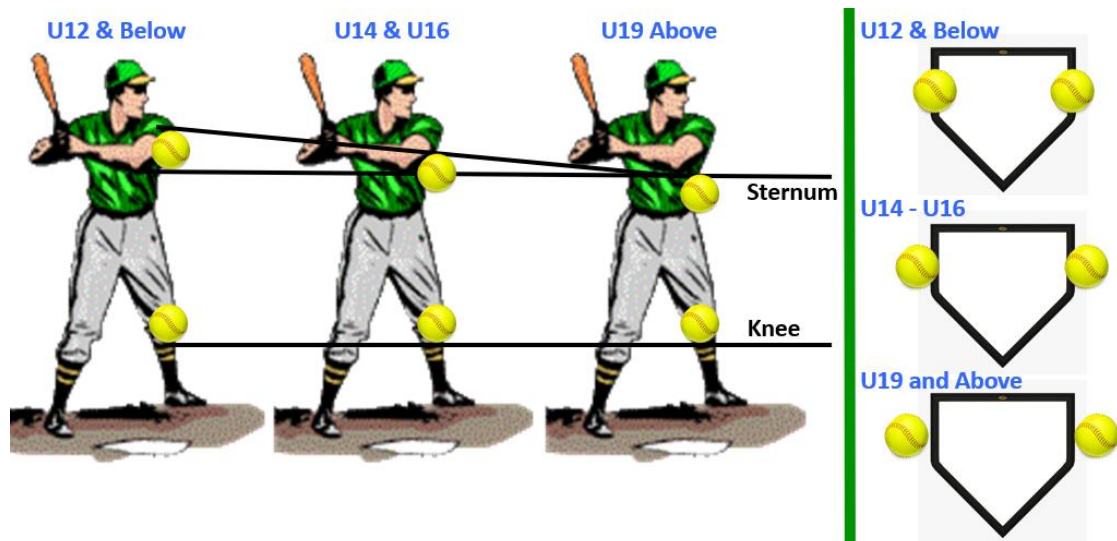
Illegal Pitch shall be called for any infraction of the pitching rules.

- U12/U14 - The umpire shall warn the pitcher on an illegal pitch. The next two called infractions shall not be penalized. On the fourth and continuing infractions, an illegal pitch will result in a ball on the batter and all runners advanced one base.
- U16+ - The umpire shall warn the pitcher on an illegal pitch. The next infraction will result in a ball on the batter and all runners advanced one base.

EXCEPTION – Runner on 3rd. When an illegal pitch is called with a runner on 3rd base. A ball shall be awarded to the batter. R1 will advance to 2nd base if it is open. No run shall be scored on an illegal pitch unless R3 is forced to vacate the base with a count four balls and bases loaded.

NOTE: In all levels of minor, at the umpire's discretion, if the pitcher continues to excessively use the same illegal motion, a change of pitcher will be enforced.

Strike Zone – umpires to adjust the zone to match the level of play.



Pitching Rotations

U12 / U14 2 Pitchers (Max 4-Inns), a pitcher will be considered to have pitched 1 Inning if the pitcher throws 1 pitch.	U16 / U19 No Rotations No Limits
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8. Protective Equipment – Fielding Defensive Masks and Batting Helmets

Age	Pitcher	On-Deck Batter / Batter / Runner
U12	MUST wear a defensive mask	Must have a Chin Strap Must have a Protective Face Guard (2020)
U14	MUST wear a defensive mask	Must have a Protective Face Guard (SNL 2020) <i>2019 – Required at Nationals and ECSC</i>
U16 Female	MUST wear a defensive mask	Must have a Protective Face Guard (SNL 2020) <i>2019 – Required at Nationals and ECSC</i>
U16 Male	---	Must have a Protective Face Guard (SNL 2020) <i>2019 – Required at Nationals and ECSC</i>

NOTES:

SNL recommends that infielders also wear a face mask.

SNL strongly recommends the use of a fielding mask at first and third base position

SNL recommends that all batting helmets have a protective face guard and chin strap.

For 2019, protective face masks will be phased in for all SNL Provincial Tournaments.

For 2019, U12-U16 participants are required to have face guard for ECSC and Nationals.

For 2020, protective face masks will be required in all Tournaments.

9. Bats - must be on the “Approved Bat List”. Enquiries sent to: umpiredirector@softballnl.ca

- <http://www.wbsc.org/softball/softball-bat-list/>
- <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/play-usa-softball/certified-usa-softball-equipment>

Needs to have one of these five stamps.

**WBSC
(New)**

ASA 2000

ISF 2005

ASA 2004

**USA Softball
(New)**



10. Infield Fly is not in effect for U12 divisions.

11. Stealing / Dropped 3rd Strike

U12

Lead Off	Stealing	Dropped 3 rd Strike
The runner may take 3-5 steps off the base but immediately returns to base when the catcher throws the ball back to the pitcher.	Permitted to steal 2 nd base at the time of the pitch or on a passed ball.	Dead Ball Batter is Out.

**** Runners are not permitted to steal 3rd base or home at any time.**

U14+ Male/Female follow official playing rules of Softball Canada.

12. 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.

13. 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.