

SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA

12 YEARS & UNDER SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

1. These rules are to be read in conjunction with the School Sport Australia General Policies, Championship Philosophy and General Championship Rules.
2. Each state/territory team roster shall consist of a maximum of fifteen (15) players and a minimum of twelve (12) players.

Players are to be aged 12 Years and Under as at 31 December in the year of competition unless age dispensation has been granted to a State or Territory as per the School Sport Australia Sport Participation Policy.

Amended June 2019

3. **Championship Format:** Refer to School Sport Australia General Championship Rules, Rule 4 Championship Format.

Notes: (a) a double round robin shall be played for a six (6) team format.

(b) For a seven (7) team competition, the round robin will be followed by a further round of two (2) pools (Pool A – top 3 and Pool B – bottom 4) involving two (2) games per team.

(c) For a four (4) team competition, three (3) rounds of competition to be played.

(d) Where necessary, three (3) games may be played in any one day.

4. The games shall be played according to the official rules of Softball Australia except:
 - (a) pitching distance shall be Girls – 11.58 metres; Boys – 12.19 metres and a base line distance of 18.29 metres for both divisions.
 - (b) A Softball Australia approved 11 inch (Hard Core) softball shall be used.
 - (c) * All games during the Championship will consist of seven (7) innings or one hour and twenty minutes, whichever comes first.
 - * A game that is tied at the end of the seven (7) innings or at the end of a completed innings after one hour and twenty minutes shall be considered a drawn game.
 - * At the expiration of one hour and twenty minutes, the batter in the batting box will complete that turn at bat.
 - * At the expiration of one hour and twenty minutes, if the team first at bat leads or the scores are tied, the score will revert to the score at the end of the last even innings. If the team second at bat leads, the score will stand.
 - * No new innings will be commenced in the last five (5) minutes of a game.
 - * The plate umpire shall be responsible for the keeping of time and shall record the starting time with the official scorer/s if used OR otherwise with both team scorers.
 - (d) All games should have qualified Plate and Base Umpires where possible. Each competing state/territory should bring a qualified student umpire.
 - (e) Limited pitching will apply in that, in any one game, any one pitcher shall pitch no more than three (3) innings, except where the game goes to seven (7) innings whereby a fourth (4th) innings may be pitched. One third of an innings is credited to a pitcher for each time an out is achieved whilst the player is in the pitching role.
 - (f) **Catcher Speed Up Rule**

If the catcher is on base or is awarded a base when there are two out, the catcher may be replaced on the base by any player, from the team line up, other than any of the next four batters.

If the catcher is not replaced, another player in full protective gear should be ready to warm up the pitcher at the beginning of the next innings.

Amended February 2016

(g) **Official Rule 4 The Game, Sec 3 Players** to be modified to allow the inclusion of a 'Designated Runner'.

- A 'DESIGNATED RUNNER', referred to as a 'DR', may be used provided the position of DR is listed on the line-up sheet, in the allocated position, prior to the start of the game and the player's name is indicated.
- The 'DR' position may be used in offense only
- The 'DR' may be used for any base runner, including as the runner in the application of the Catcher Speed Up rule, once only in any offensive inning.
- The 'DR' may be used as a substitute for any fielder or batter during the game, at which time the 'DR' may be substituted for by a player who then becomes the 'DR'. The substitute must be a player who has not been in the game.
- If the 'DR' is not substituted for in the same change the position of 'DR' shall lapse
- A 'DR' substituted for may not return to this position within the game.
- The consequence of a breach of this rule will be treated in the same manner as Rule 4(e).

(h) **Official Rule 5, The Game, Sec 1 Choice of Turn at Bat to be modified: Home Team**

- The first named team shall occupy first base and will toss a coin prior to the commencement of each game, to determine which team will bat first.(At the discretion of the winner of the toss)

(i) **Game Schedules**

Where possible, a minimum of two (2) hours should be allowed between the starting times of games. Should a game extend beyond one and a half (1½) hours, a minimum of half (½) an hour should be allowed between games if one of the teams is involved in a double-header.

A minimum of 45 minutes will be scheduled for team warm-ups following the Opening Ceremony.

Added February 2015

(j) **Declaration**

In all games the batting team may declare their innings closed. This declaration may be made for each innings if so desired.

(k) **Loss of Time**

In the event of a protest, diamond maintenance, interruption to play or an injury to a player lasting more than 5 minutes, the umpire will note the time taken. This time will be added to the finishing time for the game to ensure the full time allocation for the game.

(l) Rule 6 Sect. 8 Intentional Walk as detailed in the International Softball Federation (ISF) Rulebook will not apply in this competition.

Amended March 2017

(m) Where a fenced diamond is available for the championships, the outfield fence distance will be as exists on each fenced diamond. For all other diamonds a boundary distance, of 175ft minimum and 200ft maximum, will be marked with a line and cones. A fair batted ball which clears this marked distance will be awarded a home run. A fair batted ball which passes through this marked distance after having first contacting the ground will be awarded **three** bases from the time of the pitch.

- (n) The ISF Run Ahead Rule will apply for the SSA 12 yrs and Under Championship and games shall be declared appropriately. However if time permits, the game may continue if both teams are in agreement, but no further runs will score.

Amended March 2017

- (o) All bases and pitching plates, where possible, should be pegged. If this is not possible, the base position must be clearly marked.

5. (a) An initial meeting with host state organisers should be arranged so that the chief umpire who will be in control of the Championship will be present to explain rulings and interpretations.
- (b) Umpires should convey pre-game instructions and ground rules to players before all games during the Championship.

6. (a) The point scoring system shall be:

Win - 3 points
Draw - 2 points
Loss - 1 point

- (b) **Scorers**

- (1) Each team is to be responsible for the provision of a scorer for each game and Scoresheets.
(2) Each team is to be responsible to complete a team scorecard at the beginning of each game. Scorers are to ensure that correct names are entered along with any positional changes that have occurred during the game along with scores by innings.
(3) Similarly, the need for accuracy in recording scores is stressed. Copies of scorecards are to be given to the Championship Manager at the conclusion of each match.

Amended March 2017

7. Protests against a playing rule interpretation must be lodged immediately before the next pitch to the plate umpire or with the most Senior Umpire not officiating in that game. The time of the game shall be suspended at the time the protest is lodged.

Depending on the time elapsed, any warm-up time is to be granted at the Umpire's discretion. The time of the game resumes at the next pitch.

9. **Wet Weather**

- (a) If a full day's play is abandoned, games shall be rescheduled on the next available playing day.
- (b) Games forced to stop during the day will be rescheduled later that day where possible, or on the next available playing day.
- (c) Any game stopped while in progress will be continued as soon as possible. The game will recommence from the point where the game was suspended.
- (d) **Cancellation of Games**
If cancelled, games cannot be rescheduled within the competition. The competition may be reduced to a single round, or a double round if completed. The most recent game/s played between the two teams shall be the game/s to be counted in considering completed rounds.
- (e) Should a game be called due to inclement weather or undue circumstances, a regulation game will be declared if one hour, or three or more completed innings have been played, or if the team second at bat has scored more runs than the other team has scored in three or more innings.

10. **Player Safety**

It is highly recommended that shin guards, mouth guards and protectors be worn by all players.

11. **Pitcher Warm Up**

- (a) Players and team officials warming up pitchers at any time must wear full protective gear.
- (b) All warm-ups for pitchers during games must be conducted in foul territory in the outfield of the diamond except on diamonds where a designated warm-up area is provided.
- (c) The catcher must be facing towards home plate and a spotter wearing a helmet must be positioned behind the pitcher and facing the game in order to alert the catcher and pitcher of any balls which may be hit towards them.

12. **Exchange of State Badges / Friendship Pins**

Amended March 2017

Badges shall be presented at the end of the first game against each team.

13. **Trophies, Awards**

Major Trophies

- (a) The winning girls' team will be presented with the 'T I Thompson' trophy.
- (b) The winning boys' team will be presented with the 'Neville Wagner' shield.
- (c) The winning states will be responsible for engraving the trophies after each Championship.

Winning Teams – Awards

- (i) Medallions are to be presented as per School Sport Australia policy.
- (ii) Medallions are to be engraved:

Softball Championship
'Venue'
'Year'

- (iii) Medallions will be presented to team officials nominated by the School Sport Australia member bodies.

14. The Championship (Disputes, Disciplinary) Committee will consist of the National Secretary, Tournament Chief Umpire and the Championship Convener.

15. For all interrupted games, the recommencement of play will be from the point of interruption unless determined otherwise by the Championship Committee.

Note: A regulation game will be declared if one hour, or three or more completed innings have been played or if the team second at has scored more runs than the other team has scored in three or more innings,. If this is the case the game will not be recommenced.

16. **Recommendations for Host State**

- (a) Ample warm up and warm down time should be scheduled
- (b) If possible, player development sessions should be scheduled on day one. (It should be noted that these sessions are compulsory for all players.)
- (c) If possible, apartment style accommodation should be booked for team officials.
- (d) Adequate ice, water and shade should be provided for the player bench areas for all diamonds.

- (e) Sufficient warm up time, a minimum of 30 minutes, must be allowed between the completion of the Opening Ceremony and the commencement of any scheduled games of the Championship.
- (f) When writing a draw for the championships, equal time for both boys and girls divisions should be given on Diamond 1 / all diamonds.

**SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA
SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

NAME	STATE	YEAR
Stuart Landis	QLD	2007
Vicki Reeve	ACT	2007
Jenny Murch	ACT	2008
Cathie Elsworth	NSW	2008
Andrea Thwaites	VIC	2008
Dianne Phillips	QLD	2009
Joan Medhurst	SA	2009
Deb Sayers	ACT	2013
Chris Gent	SA	2014
Tracey Staneig	QLD	2014
Trish Fox	NSW	2016
Matthew Harrison	QLD	2016
Gary Ogg	QLD	2016
Susan Brasier	NSW	2018
Kathryn Stuart	NSW	2018
Kate Greeney	ACT	2019

**SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA
ECLECTIC SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

NAME	STATE	YEAR	SPORTS
Sue Brandenburg	NSW	2007	Softball / Netball
Chris Currie	ACT	2014	Softball / Volleyball