



UPDATED - Highlights of changes for the 2026 Operating Rules

Following are the highlights of changes to our 2026 Operating Rules as approved by the Board of Directors.

Rule 1: Residency

Section 1 General

- C. Players and coaches registered on a team with the Association must be resident of the District they reside in by May 15th.**

- F.** For minor softball registration purposes, the address for players from the center/non-center shall be the address of the player's parent(s) and/or the address of the person who is in loco parentis of the player within the district. **(Players cannot use the addresses of relatives, billets, friends, etc).** Postal addresses (i.e., post box numbers or sites) are not acceptable. They must list the center/non-center they reside nearest to or reside in within the district.

Section 2 Dual Residency Regulations

- A. It shall be the obligation/responsibility of Softball Saskatchewan, in their sole and unfettered discretion to implement residency affiliation and registration rules/regulations for the formation of teams and to rules on all matters of residency.**

Rule 5 Provincial Championships

Section 2: Determining "A" Associations

For the 2026 season all Associations who wish to register "A" team(s) in Provincial Championships must apply by the following deadlines:

All Girls "A" Categories U13 and older Dec. 1st (Must submit Application Form)

Associations who will have more than one (1) team will have up until Feb. 1st to finalize their number of "A" teams.

Associations must demonstrate in their application their player development plan for each age category over a two-year period. We are looking for Associations to register teams in two consecutive years in the same age category or back-to-back age categories. Failure to do so will result in the association being ineligible to be an "A" Association for a period of three years in all age categories.

Associations selected to register "A" teams in each age category will be notified within two weeks of the application deadline. This information will be published on our Association website. These will be the only teams allowed to register in the U13 and above "A" categories of Provincial Championships.

For the 2027 playing season the application deadline will be September 1st Determining the number of the teams an association has will be Nov. 1st.

Section 6 MINOR Provincial Championship Team Formation

1. Teams registering in ALL Minor age categories must make their player selections from within the Sask Sport District, of which they reside or attend school (**Elementary or High School**).

Players who utilize this rule will still require a District Transfer. Proof of school attendance, signed by the principal, must be provided with the District Transfer Form.

Note: This rule now applies to all players from any District who reside or attend school.

2. **Minor Player Evaluations/Tryouts**

All minor player evaluations can be held anytime.

3. Age Category Information

- B. We have added a U15 C Girls North and South Provincial Championship. Previously there was no north or south for the U15 C category.

- E. **U11 Girls Categories**

- There may be three (3) categories in both the North and South. The North may be further split into 3 divisions – A, and two B (Green & White) and the South may be further split into 3 divisions – A and two B (Green & White). This means there may be 6 Provincial Champions in the U11 Category.

- M. District 2 (Regina) and District 6 (Saskatoon) must register a minimum of the following teams in the Provincial Championships.

- A minimum of 4 teams in the U11A Girls category
- A minimum of 3 teams in the U13A Girls category
- A minimum of 2 teams in the U13B Girls category
- A minimum of 2 teams in the U15A Girls category
- A minimum of 2 teams in the U15B Girls category
- A minimum of 2 teams in the U17A Girls category
- A minimum of 1 team in the U17B Girls category
- A minimum of 1 team in the U19A Women's category
- A minimum of 1 team in the U19B Women's category

NOTE: District 2 and District 6 may register teams in the 'C' Categories provided the above rules are met.

Section 13 Reside or Attend School

Players who reside in one district but attend school during the February – June education period in a different district may choose to register in either district. Players who choose to register with an Association outside their district of residence must still submit a District Transfer if registering for provincial championships.

Proof of school attendance must be submitted and attached to the District Transfer form.

Section 14 Minor Player Releases and District Transfers (must obtain every year if necessary)

For participation in the Provincial Championships, players must follow the following process:

- A. Before trying out or evaluating in another association a player must have a release from their home or nearest association and provide this signed release to the Association they are trying out with and to the Softball Saskatchewan Executive Director.
Further, if an association has a player registered for a tryout/evaluation from outside their district it is their responsibility to ensure the player has an approved release and or district transfer if required.
- B. District Transfer Deadline Dates:
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| Feb. 1st | U13A, U15A and U17A Girls |
| Feb. 1st | U19A Women's |
| April 15th | All Minor B categories and all minor boys categories |
| May 1st | All U11 categories and all Minor C Girls categories |

Final approval of applications will be complete upon review by the Softball Saskatchewan Board of Directors.

- C. 2027 District Transfer Deadline Dates:
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|------------|--|
| Oct. 1st | U13A, U15A and U17A Girls |
| Oct. 1st | U19A Women's |
| April 15th | All Minor B categories and all minor boys categories |
| May 1st | All U11 categories and all Minor C Girls categories |
- D. Players residing in a community with a recognized minor softball association must obtain a release from this association. Players who reside in a non-center or rural residence where there is no minor association must obtain a release from their nearest recognized minor association that had a team registered in that age category the previous year. If released, these players can register where they choose to within the district.
- E. For players wanting to register with an association U19 A, U17 A, U15 A or U13 A team outside the district they must also obtain releases from all Associations who have an A team within the district and apply for a district transfer.

Section 25 Provincial Championship Umpire Game Fee's

- B. Provincial Championship umpire fees shall be paid at a rate of:
- \$45 per game for plate/base umpire in the U11 & U13 age groups.
 - \$60 per game for base/plate umpire in all age groups U15 and older.

Rule 6: Provincial Championship Playing Rules

In U11 and U13 we removed the mandatory innings a defensive player must play and now recommend defensive players play a minimum of one (1) complete inning.

There are other minor changes to the Operating Rules that should be reviewed once the 2026 Handbook is published in January 2026.