

Softball Newfoundland Labrador will sanction all the Minor Slo-Pitch Provincial Championships. Except where noted (see Competition Notes below), rules for these events will be governed by Softball Canada 2022-2023 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 meet age requirements for the specific division as of December 31st of the current year;

Teams must register a minimum of **11 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) **U13 and below** must have at least one coach who possesses a minimum NCCP "Community Sport - Ongoing Participation". All other coaches must have completed the online Foundations of Coaching Softball, Part 1.

U15+ must have at least one coach who possesses a minimum of Weekend One of Competition Introduction Program (in-training status). All other coaches must have completed the online Foundations of Coaching Softball, Parts 1 and 2.

Contact Softball NL (executivedirector@softballnl.ca) to check certification or for information and/or a 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	Commitment Line
U11	11"	38'	50'	21'
U13/15	U13 (11") U15 (12")	46'	65'	21'
U17	12"	50'	65'	21'

FEMALE	Softball Size	Pitching Mound	Base Paths	Commitment Line
U11	11"	38'	50'	21'
U13/15	11"	46'	65'	21'
U17	11'	50'	65'	21'

4. Official Line Up / Fair Play Rules

Division	Batting Order	Defensive Play
U11	All participants bat	Participants play a minimum of 3 innings / 9 outs No Player is to sit consecutive innings
U13 U15	All participants bat	Participants play a minimum of 3 innings / 9 outs
U17	Batting Order – 10 Players Batting Order – 11 Players	Substitutions made for starting players Option to use EP = 11 Players Bat / 10 Defense Players

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 / FAIR PLAY - a inning will be the equivalent of 3 outs OR application of the 5 run rule to end an inning (see Scoring below)

Fielding - Teams must play with 6 Infielders and 4 Outfielders.

5. Scoring

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 (10 run lead after 4.5 complete innings).

Maximum +/- rating in any game is +/- 7. If the home team is leading after an official game has 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.

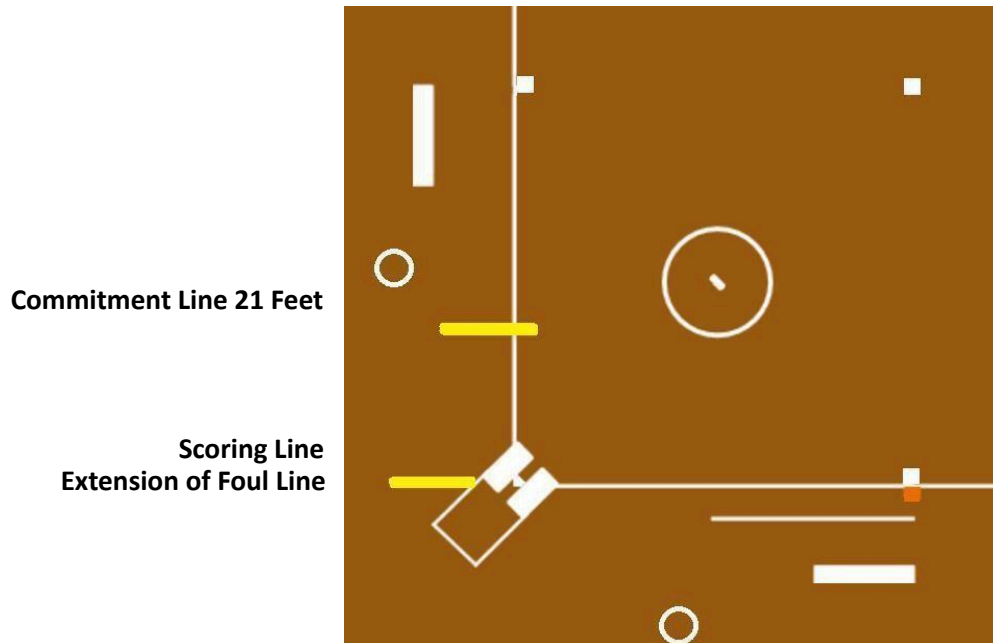
6. Home Plate Area

Commitment line used in all categories (line between 3rd base and home plate). When a runner crosses the line (one foot completely over or touching) but does not reach home plate, shall be called out when the ball is legally held by a defensive player who is in contact with home plate.

A runner MUST make every effort to avoid colliding with opposing players at home plate.

A scoring line, an extension of the foul line, shall start on the outside edge of the batter's box and run a length of FOUR feet towards the backstop.

On all plays at home, the runner must run over the scoring line. A base runner's foot down on or down past the scoring line prior to the ball being received by a defensive player touching the home plate results in the scoring of a run.



7. Strike Zone and Pitching

The Pitcher shall:

Start with either two feet on the pitcher's slab; or with one foot on the pitcher's slab and one foot behind;

the ball is to be held in the pitching hand;

delivery starts when the pitcher takes **ONE** step forward, presenting the ball with a moderate speed in an underhand motion (pitching arm is not to exceed past the hip)

minimum arc of 6 feet to a maximum of 12 feet

Illegal Pitch shall be called for any pitch whereupon:

- the pitcher does not have one foot on the pitching slab;
- delivery of the ball is lower than 6ft or higher than 12 ft; or the pitcher takes two steps
- excessive speed

NOTE

The umpire shall warn the pitcher who delivers with excessive speed. An illegal pitch shall be called for the next three infractions of excessive speed (ball on the batter). If the pitcher continues to repeat to pitch with excessive speed, the umpire will rule the pitcher to be ineligible to pitch for the remainder of the game.

Pitching Rotations

U15 / U17

U11 / U13

No Rotations

2 Pitchers (Max 4-Inns), a pitcher will be considered to have pitched 1 Inning if the pitcher throws 1 pitch.

No Limits

Strike Zone – area between highest shoulder & knees in the batter’s NATURAL POSITION with home plate.

Strike Mat – a rectangular black mat, distributed by SPN Slo-Pitch.

Measurement 22” x 40”

This mat has a home plate impression on the mat, as shown.



8. Protective Equipment

Pitcher and Fielding Defensive Masks

Age	Pitcher	Defensive Players
U11	MUST wear a defensive mask	SNL recommends infielders to wear a face mask. SNL strongly recommends the use of a fielding mask at 1st and 3rd base positions
U13		
U15		
U17		

Batting Helmets / Catcher Equipment

Age	On-Deck Batter / Batter/ All Baserunners	Catcher
U11	Batting Helmet must have a protective face guard (2020)	Must wear a Catcher’s Mask, Shin Guards and Chest Protector. Players are encouraged to wear Shin Guards and Chest Protector.
U13- U17	Batting Helmet must have a protective face guard (2020)	

Softball NL recommends that all batting helmets have a protective face guard (2020).

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 the USSSA stamp as well as one of these five stamps.

USSSA



**WBSC
(New)**



ASA 2000



ISF 2005



ASA 2004



**USA Softball
(New)**



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

11. Sliding

Permitted at 2nd and 3rd base.

Not permitted when running to 1st base or home.
○ Runner must use orange safety bag at 1st or scoring line at home

Exception – sliding back to 1st on a throw

12. Stealing / Dropped 3rd Strike / Foul Ball – 3rd Strike

No Stealing Permitted.

Dropped 3rd Strike is a dead ball.

Foul ball on the 3rd strike is an OUT.

13. 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 tiebreaker.

If two teams are still tied a coin toss will take place to determine positioning.

14. 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.