



Established 1931
"The Tradition Continues"

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK

2004

Provincial Sport Governing Body for
Fastpitch, Slo-Pitch, Orthodox, and Modified Softball.

Published and edited by authority of the
Alberta Amateur Softball Association

www.softball.ab.ca

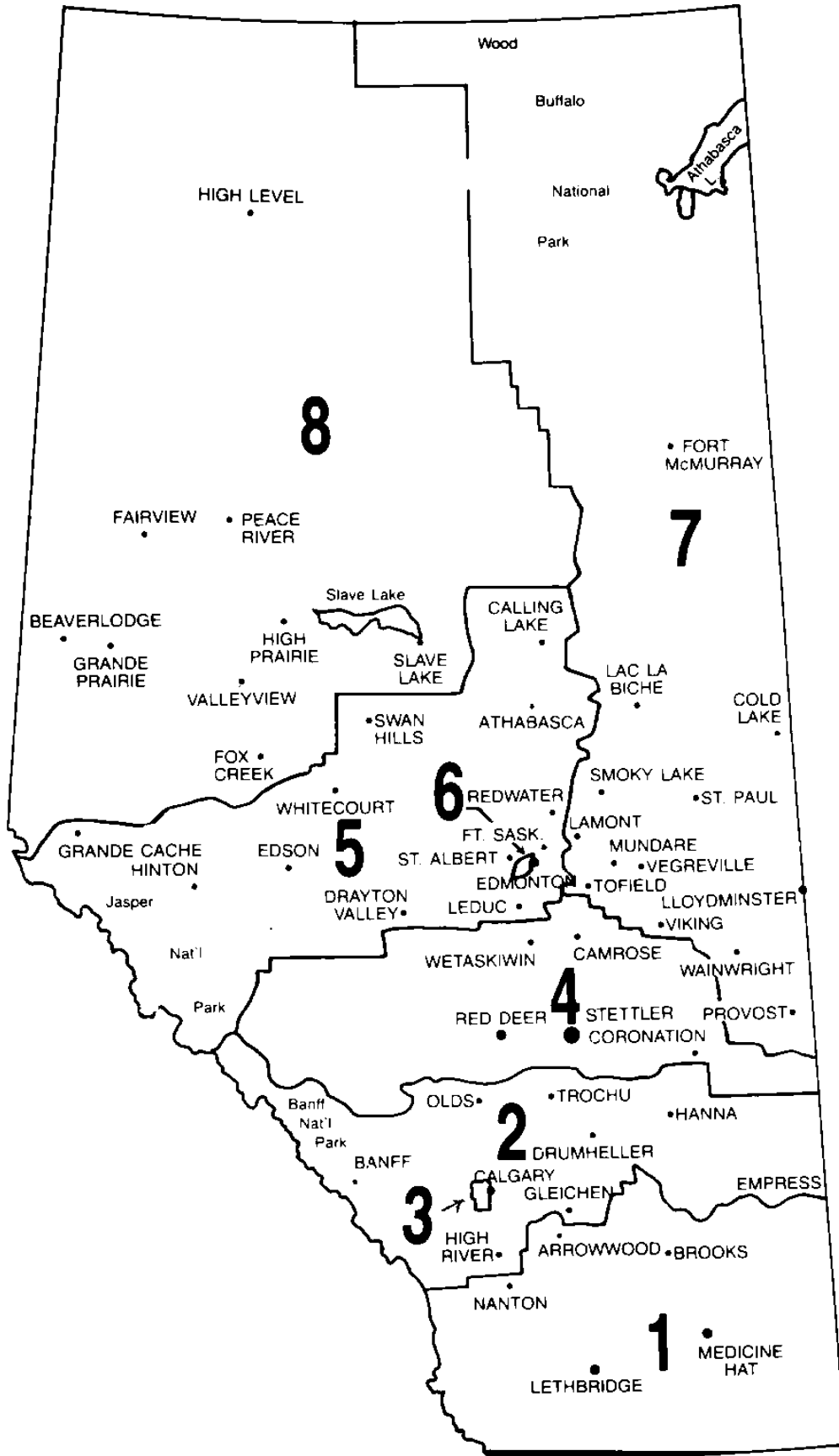
IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER 2004

- FEB 6, 7 & 8 . . . Board Meeting in Edmonton
- APR. 15th . . . Final date for nominations for Inductions into A.A.S.A. Hall of Fame.
. . . Low Participation' Status application deadline.
- APR 16 - 18th . . . Board Meeting in Edmonton
- MAY 1st . . . **Official Residency Date** for all categories
- JUNE 1st . . . Deadline For Team Entry to Provincial Playoffs (**ALL CATEGORIES**)
- JUNE 15th . . . Deadline for **MINOR TEAM** roster submission for Provincial Playoffs.
- JUNE 30th . . . Deadline for **ADULT TEAM** roster submission for Provincial Playoffs.
- SEPT. 1st . . . Deadline for Scholarship Applications.
- SEPT. 10th** . . . Deadline for Nominations for Annual Awards. ***or the date of your Fall Zone Mtg.***
- SEPT. 15th . . . Deadline for Hosting Grant Applications.
- SEPT. 15th . . . Deadline for 'Bid to Host' 2004 Provincials
- SEPT. 17th - 19th . . Board Meeting in Edmonton
- OCT. 15th - 17th . . 2004 Annual General Meeting in EDMONTON
- NOV 19th - 21st . . Board Meeting in Edmonton
- NOV 11 - 14th . . . 2004 Softball Canada AGM in BC

INDEX

2004 PROVINCIAL ZONES	Page 4
GENERAL OPERATING RULES	
GENERAL AND DEFINITIONS	Page 6
MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION	
1. APPLICATION	Page 7
2. FEES & REGISTRATION	Page 7
3. RESIDENCY AND ELIGIBILITY	Page 8
PROVINCIAL PLAYOFFS	
1. ENTRY	Page 9
2. FEES	Page 11
3. COACHES	Page 12
4. UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT	Page 13
5. GUIDELINES for TRAVEL to PROVINCIALS	Page 13
6. PICKUPS for PROVINCIALS	Page 13
7. PLAYOFF PROCEDURES	Page 15
8. ZONE PLAYOFFS	Page 17
9. PROVINCIAL PLAYOFFS	Page 18
POST-PROVINCIAL PLAY	
1. PICKUPS	Page 21
2. UNIFORMS	Page 21
3. TRAVEL	Page 21
3. FEES	Page 22
4. DEFENDING CHAMPIONS	Page 22
HOSTING GUIDELINES	
1. BID TO HOST	Page 23
2. ZONE & PROVINCIAL	Page 23
3. A.A.S.A. HOSTING & TRAVEL PACKAGES	Page 24
4. HOSTING GRANTS	Page 24
PROTESTS & SUSPENSIONS	Page 24 - 26
TOURNAMENTS	Page 27
CATEGORY SPECIFIC RULES	
1. MINOR BALL	Page 28
2. ADULT FASTPITCH	Page 30
3. SLO-PITCH	Page 31
4. MODIFIED / ORTHODOX FASTPITCH	Page 33
5. MODIFIED SOFTBALL	Page 33
OFFICIATING / UMPIRES	Page 34

A.A.S.A. PROVINCIAL ZONES



ALBERTA AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED UNDER THE NON-PROFIT
CORPORATIONS ACT OF ALBERTA

CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, REGULATIONS

AS AMENDED AT EDMONTON, OCTOBER 2003

Constitution / Special Operating Rules
can be found on our website
www.softball.ab.ca

THIS IS THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE ALBERTA AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. SHOULD THERE BE ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS HANDBOOK, THE OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION SHALL BE MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION OR THROUGH ITS EXECUTIVE MEMBERS.

THE ALBERTA AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
USES THE

'CANADIAN AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION'
OFFICIAL RULEBOOK AND REGULATIONS

FOR ITS INTERPRETATION OF PLAYING THE GAME OF SOFTBALL.

GENERAL OPERATING RULES

(AS REVISED AND AMENDED AT THE A.G.M. ON OCT 19, 2003)

FOR ALL THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

MINOR FASTPITCH
ADULT FASTPITCH
SLO-PITCH
MODIFIED / ORTHODOX FASTPITCH
MODIFIED SOFTBALL

ARTICLE I

GENERAL AND DEFINITIONS

- A. All teams, leagues and associations will have complete charge over their own operation and business.
- (i) Except in the case of a dispute, where any team, league or association shall have the privilege of appealing to the A.A.S.A. through writing to their own league and/or association.
- Exception for Provincial play: the rules applying to Provincial play will be in effect as specified by the A.A.S.A.
- (ii) Any team, League or Association has the privilege to request a "Local Dispute Hearing". This shall come at the request of a team, League or Association through the Executive Director, and shall be signed by the President of their local Association and be accompanied by a non-refundable certified cheque, or cash, for \$100.
- (iii) The President of the AASA shall upon the completion of the above criteria, name a committee of three (3) to five (5) Individuals to hear the dispute. One member of the "Local Dispute Hearing" shall be an umpire.
- (iv) The results of the "Local Dispute Hearing" shall be binding on all parties and shall be the last right of appeal.
- B. AMATEUR: (Definition of)
- An Amateur softball player is one who engages in Softball solely for the pleasure and physical, mental or social benefits he/she derives from it.
- NOTE: An AMATEUR within the context of the Canadian Amateur Softball Association's By-Laws shall be recognized by the Canadian Amateur Softball Association and its Provincial/Territorial affiliates for a player who does not derive his/her livelihood by accepting monetary reward in return for his/her softball services. Notwithstanding, compensation for bona fide expenses actually incurred because of his/her softball participation for travel, meals, accommodation and/or income lost due to absence from employment (substantiated by genuine receipts) where possible, and when deemed necessary by the officials concerned, shall not jeopardize said player's AMATEUR status as defined herein.
- C. The President or a person delegated by him will have the power to suspend any clubs, player, coach, trainer or manager for improper conduct on or off the playing field. The offence may be against any umpire or official of the A.A.S.A., player or fan.
- D. Any person not satisfied with a decision made by a Board Member or staff person may appeal to the A.A.S.A. by doing so in writing to the Executive Director within 48 hours. An A.A.S.A. appointed appeal committee shall render a decision within a reasonable time frame. The results of the decision shall be binding on all parties.
- E. TEAMS that apply for membership will have all rights allotted by the A.A.S.A. and the privilege to play for Provincial titles. A team must have at least nine (9) players for Fastpitch and ten (10) players for Slo-Pitch to be eligible for admission into the A.A.S.A.
- F. LEAGUES that apply for membership will have all rights allotted by the A.A.S.A. Leagues must have at least four (4) teams and a league Executive to be eligible for admission into the A.A.S.A.
- G. ASSOCIATIONS that apply for membership will have all rights allotted by the A.A.S.A. A softball association must have at least two (2) or more recognized divisions in operation to qualify for admission.
- H. DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS must have two (2) or more softball associations or leagues in operation to qualify for admission into the A.A.S.A.

- I. PROVINCIAL UMPIRE ASSOCIATIONS will qualify for membership into A.A.S.A. if they have three (3) or more area umpire associations or branches in operation.
- J. DISTRICT OR BRANCH UMPIRE ASSOCIATIONS will qualify for membership into the A.A.S.A. if they have ten (10) or more umpires in their association.
- K. Clubs, societies, or any organization whose sole purpose is the organization and/or promotion of a tournament or tournaments qualify for admission to the A.A.S.A.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION

1. APPLICATION:

- A. Players must be registered on the approved A.A.S.A. Affiliation Form for the current softball season and must confirm their residency and citizenship in order to be eligible for participation with a registered team. These forms must be delivered by the team or league to the District Organizer for their Zone or to the Alberta Amateur Softball Association Office.
- B. Teams who do not wish to participate in Provincial Playoffs may affiliate at any time during the current softball season.
- C. To be covered by the A.A.S.A. Insurance & Benefits Program, teams must be affiliated with the A.A.S.A. and rosters must be submitted as soon as possible to ensure coverage of registered players.
 - * Affiliated teams attending tournaments will be covered by the insurance & benefits program ONLY if the tournament is sanctioned by the A.A.S.A.
 - * Teams attending competitions outside the province of Alberta must obtain a travel permit to be covered by the Insurance and Benefits Program. Permits can be obtained at no charge from your District Organizer or the A.A.S.A. Softball Office.

2. FEES & REGISTRATION:

- A. Team affiliation forms must be registered with the District Organizer in their Zone.
- B. No clubs shall register more than 17 players during the current season.

Exception: (20 players) - Co-Ed SP, Modified Orthodox FP, Modified Softball, Masters Men / Women FP, Masters Men SP

NOTE: A team must have at least nine (9) players for Fastpitch and ten (10) players for Slo-Pitch to be eligible for admission into the A.A.S.A.
- C. The annual fee for the membership in the A.A.S.A. will be determined by the Executive Committee at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of affiliation of Teams, Leagues and Associations.

D. AFFILIATION FEES:

JUNIOR / ADULT FP & SP	- \$75.00 per team
MINOR TEAMS [Mite - Midget]	- \$75.00 per team
COACH PITCH / T-BALL	- \$45.00 per team
LEAGUES & ASSOCIATIONS	- \$30.00 per League / Association
	+ each team affiliation fee.

- E. All NSF cheques will be charged a \$25.00 fee plus clearing bank charges over and above the amount originally requested. (Fees, registration fees, sanctions, merchandise, etc)

3. RESIDENCY AND ELIGIBILITY:

A. DEFINITION OF TERMS USED

- A.1 "BONA FIDE RESIDENT OF ALBERTA" means a person who considers their actual and exclusive home to be in Alberta. Residency is a question of fact to be determined in each case. In order to assist in determining bona fide residency, it is proper to consider all factors which are relevant including employment, length of stay and any other factors which are useful to consider in order to determine whether the intention of the player is to make Alberta their permanent home.
- A.2 "DEEMED BONA FIDE RESIDENTS" are any of the following:
- (a) players who are full-time students in the year of competition in attendance at a secondary educational institution in Canada may elect to be deemed bona fide residents of Alberta, provided their parent(s) or legally appointed guardians are bona fide residents of Alberta, or
 - (b) players who are or were in continuous full-time attendance at a post secondary educational institution anywhere within six (6) months of the official residency date of the year of competition may elect to be deemed bona fide residents of Alberta if their parents are bona fide residents of Alberta or if the player is employed in a full-time job in Alberta at the official residency date;
 - (c) Canadian citizens participating in American college softball competition, or in a professional sport competition (other than softball or baseball) may be exempted from the official residency requirement provided they return to Canada immediately following the event;
 - (d) players employed full-time in Alberta and having a residence in Alberta;
 - (e) any player who is a Canadian citizen living within forty (40) kilometres of a border of the Province of Alberta;
- A.3 "POST-PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS" means Canadian or Western Canadian championship competition.
- A.4 "OFFICIAL RESIDENCY DATE"

<p>(a) For categories NOT LEADING TO POST PROVINCIAL PLAY, the official residency date shall be the date for filing of the official team rosters:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MINOR - JUNE 15TH ADULT - JUNE 30TH</p> <p>(b) For categories LEADING TO POST PROVINCIAL PLAY, the official residency date shall be:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MAY 1ST</p>

B. ALBERTA AND C.A.S.A. RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

- B.1 In order for a player to be eligible to compete on teams competing in divisions leading to post-provincial championships they shall meet all of the eligibility requirements of this Association as well as the eligibility requirements of C.A.S.A. If there is any difference in the rules of player eligibility between the rules of this Association and those of C.A.S.A., the requirements of this Association will govern.

C. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS ON TEAMS IN CATEGORIES NOT LEADING TO POST-PROVINCIAL PLAY.

- C.1 The residency requirements of players competing in competitions which do not lead to post-provincial championships.
- C.2 The citizenship qualifications for players competing on a team in competitions which do not lead to post-provincial championships are the same as for players participating on teams competing in post-provincial championships provided that in addition thereto the citizenship rules may be waived on application to the Association through the Executive of the Association or through the district organizer of the zone in which the team is registered.

D. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS ON TEAMS IN CATEGORIES LEADING TO POST-PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- D.1 Other than the exceptions in paragraph D.4, in order for a player to be eligible to participate as a member of a team competing in divisions which advance to post-provincial championships they must possess the following residency and citizenship qualifications.

D.2 RESIDENCY QUALIFICATIONS ARE:

- (a) be a bona fide resident of Alberta or a deemed bona fide resident of Alberta on the official residency date of the year of competition
- (b) not be a registered member of another Provincial or Territorial team(s) and,
- (c) meet any zone residency requirements provided for in the Operating Rules of this Association.

D.3 CITIZENSHIP QUALIFICATIONS ARE:

- (a) be a Canadian citizen by the official residency date of the year of competition, or
- (b) be a landed immigrant of Canada who has obtained their status by the official residency date of the year of competition, or
- (c) be neither a Canadian citizen nor a landed immigrant of Canada as described but having been a continuous bona fide resident of Alberta for a period of one (1) year prior to the official residency date.

D.4 EXCEPTIONS TO THE FOREGOING QUALIFICATIONS ARE:

See C.A.S.A. Rulebook - Special Operating Rules (Participant Eligibility & Residency)

SENIOR 'A' & JUNIOR 'A' FP ONLY, each team participating in a provincial championship competition may have on their roster up to one (1) player who is a Canadian citizen living outside of Alberta and/or Canada who returns to Alberta and/or Canada after the official residency date and registers for softball participation by the Provincial roster deadline date.

Exception: A.A.S.A. Border Boundary Rule

ARTICLE III

PROVINCIAL PLAYOFFS

TEAM ENTRY & FEE DEADLINE - JUNE 1ST

1. ENTRY:

- A. For all teams entering Provincial Playoffs, the following dates will apply:

PROVINCIAL TEAM ENTRY deadline for all teams/categories - JUNE 1st

Roster Deadline	- Midget Teams & down	- JUNE 15 th
	- Adult Teams	- JUNE 30 th
	- Provincials in August	- JULY 15 th

Where the provincial team entry, or roster deadline, falls on a Saturday or Sunday the official deadline date shall be 4:00 pm on the first work day following the deadline date.

*** MINOR players released on *or after* June 15th and ADULT players released on *or after* June 30th will be allowed five (5) working days to sign with a registered team, roster permitting. LIMIT: One (1) addition.

ALL PROVINCIAL TEAM ENTRY FORMS MUST BE PROCESSED THROUGH THE DISTRICT ORGANIZER and then forwarded to the Alberta Amateur Softball Association.

- B. DISQUALIFICATIONS: Clubs failing to pay Provincial Entry Fees to this Association by JUNE 1st. of each year shall be ineligible for Provincial Play in this Association during such year.

- C. Teams entering Provincial Playoffs do so with the understanding that in cases of more than ten (10) teams entering a specific category, they may be required to participate in a ZONE Playoff for the right to advance to the Provincial Championship Tournament.

EXCEPTION: Adult FP, Slo-Pitch, Modified Orth. FP - a maximum of 20 teams.

EXCEPTION: ALL FP Categories advancing to post-Provincial play and Mites - are Open categories.

NOTE: This Zone Playoff IS considered competition in the Provincial Playdowns and will be subject to all rules and regulations as set forth for Provincial competitions, including fees, bonds, suspensions etc..

- D. All categories of Provincial Playoffs, exclusive of the following exceptions, will use a MODIFIED ROUND ROBIN playoff.

Exception: Modified Orthodox & Slo-Pitch - where the entries in a category are greater than five (5) teams, the Host will have the option of the double knockout or modified round robin format. The selected option is to be announced upon being awarded the Provincial event. [Softball Alberta's choice of preference is the Modified Round Robin format.]

Exception: In all categories of ADULT FP that advance to a Western or Canadian where a category has two (2) entries, the format shall be a best of five (5) series. The series will be held over a 2 day period with 2 games scheduled for Day 1 and 3 games for Day 2.

- (i) In categories advancing to post provincial play, the first place finisher(s) after the round robin shall receive two (2) lives in the playoffs, all other playoff qualifiers receive one (1) life.
- (ii) In categories NOT advancing to post provincial play, all teams qualifying for playoffs shall compete in a single knockout playoff.

- E. Teams that enter Provincial Playoffs do so with the understanding that the round robin format constitutes more games & therefore, teams may expect to begin Provincial Playoffs as early as FRIDAY MORNING, depending on the category & the numbers accepted into the playoff.

In all instances, the A.A.S.A. will try to schedule Friday games based upon practicality and the need for the games to be completed to accommodate the weekend schedule.

Provincial draws will be posted on the Softball Alberta website at least 2 weeks prior to the event: www.softball.ab.ca

While pairings of the opening round remain a draw situation, the opening games must involve the pairing representing the closest teams to the Provincial Site in their first (1st) games. Consideration will be given to the host team to have prime time for their second game of the day. If two (2) host teams (2 categories) - same consideration, but not scheduled at the same time.

- F. During Provincial Round Robin play, no team will be scheduled to play more than three games in one day with no more than two games back to back.

EXCEPTION: Adult Slo-Pitch (No more than four games in one day with no more than two games back to back in scheduled round robin play)

EXCEPTION: Delays caused by weather or other unforeseen circumstances

- G. Players may participate in the Alberta Summer Games and Provincials in the same year.

- H. All players are allowed to register on both a fastpitch and a slo-pitch provincial roster. Minor & Adult players are allowed to register on more than one affiliation roster but only ONE Provincial roster in Fastpitch.

(See 'Rules Specific to Adult Fastpitch' & 'Rules Specific to Adult Slo-Pitch')

- I. Teams in Minor, Junior and Masters divisions must furnish satisfactory evidence as to their age before being approved by the Alberta Amateur Softball Association. Satisfactory evidence shall be in the form of a birth certificate, Alberta Health Care Card, Drivers Licence and/or a baptismal certificate.

- J. Cooperation is requested of League Executives to notify District Organizers when Provincial Applications are forwarded to the A.A.S.A. office where a particular team has entered a category which is too high or too low of a classification.

The District Organizer will be responsible to observe said teams and forward the evaluation to the Executive of the A.A.S.A. The Executive shall then have the power to adjust that team's entered category, according to their strength, and a decision will be made prior to July 1st of the current season which will then be forwarded to the District Organizer in charge of that particular zone in which this team resides.

- K. The 'Boundary Border' for border communities is forty (40) kilometres in case(s) of out-of-province players participating on Alberta teams for Provincial play.

- L. Teams competing in one zone and residing outside of this zone must enter the provincials in the zone in which they reside. A teams zone residency shall be determined by the zone residency of the majority of players

2. FEES:

CATEGORY	ENTRY FEE	TRAVEL	AFFILIATION	TOTAL
SENIOR A FP	\$400.00	\$150	\$75.00	\$625.00
SENIOR B FP	\$200.00	\$150	\$75.00	\$425.00
SENIOR SP	\$200.00	\$150	\$75.00	\$425.00
CO-ED SP	\$200.00	\$150	\$75.00	\$425.00
JUNIOR A	\$250.00	\$150	\$75.00	\$475.00
JUNIOR B	\$200.00	\$150	\$75.00	\$425.00
INTERMEDIATE B / C	\$200.00		\$75.00	\$275.00
MASTERS	\$200.00	\$150	\$75.00	\$425.00
MOD ORTHODOX	\$200.00		\$75.00	\$275.00
MIDGET A & B	\$150.00	\$150	\$75.00	\$375.00
MIDGET C & D	\$150.00		\$75.00	\$225.00
BANTAM A	\$150.00	\$150	\$75.00	\$375.00
BANTAM B C D	\$150.00		\$75.00	\$225.00
PEE WEE A	\$150.00	\$150	\$75.00	\$375.00
PEE WEE B C D	\$150.00		\$75.00	\$225.00
Other MINOR Teams	\$150.00		\$75.00	\$225.00

- A. Provincial entry fees must be paid by cash, cheque or money order. All NSF cheques will be charged a \$25.00 fee plus clearing bank charges over and above the amount originally requested.
- B. Teams who withdraw their Provincial Entry or do not participate in the Provincial Playoffs forfeit their Provincial Registration Fee.
- C. All teams who enter to participate in Provincial Playoffs must be affiliated.
- D. Provincial classification of 'A', 'B', 'C' or 'D' must be placed on the 'Team Entry for Provincial Play' form (Deadline June 1st) and cannot be changed after this date unless Executive approval is granted.
- E. Teams that participate in a category that leads to post provincial play in the same year, will complete and submit a "Letter of Intent" and shall also post a performance bond equivalent to the potential fine for withdrawing from said championship.

The due date of the performance bond with the A.A.S.A. is June 1st.

- * Canadian Championships - \$1000.00
- * Western Canadian Championships - \$500.00

Teams which have signed the "Letter of Intent" and posted the applicable bond, shall forfeit the bond if after qualifying for a Post Provincial Championship renege on their "Letter of Intent" agreement.

Teams advancing to post provincial championships which occur a year or more after qualifying through provincial playoffs, shall post a performance bond equivalent to the potential fine for withdrawing from said championship. The due date of the performance bond with the A.A.S.A. is February 28.

- * Canadian Championships - \$1000.00

3. COACHES:

- A. Any team entering provincial playoffs, must have the following level NCCP Certified Softball (THEORY, TECHNICAL, PRACTICAL) coach participating with the team during provincial playoffs and must be listed on the team's provincial playoff entry form by June 1st and the team roster by June 15th / 30th or that said teams application will be returned to them.

A copy of the coach's 'Certification Card' or documentation is to accompany the registration form.

Provincial Championship Coaching Certification Requirements

Category	Provincials	Westerns	Canadians
MITE FP & SQUIRT	LEVEL 1		
PEE WEE 'A' FP	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 2
PEE WEE 'B', 'C' &	LEVEL 1		
BANTAM 'A' FP	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 2
BANTAM 'B', 'C',	LEVEL 1		
MIDGET 'A' & 'B'	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 2
MIDGET 'C' & 'D'	LEVEL 1		
JUNIOR A & B FP	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 2
SENIOR A FP	LEVEL 2		LEVEL 2
SENIOR B FP	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 2	
INT. B/C FP	LEVEL 1		
MASTERS FP	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 2	
MODIFIED ORTH	NC		
SENIOR SP	NC	NC	LEVEL 1
CO-ED SP	NC	NC	NC
MASTER MEN /	NC	NC	NC

EFFECT: If a team arrives at Provincial Playoffs without a Level 1/2 Certified Softball Coach with the team, provided that they have a Level 1 /2 Certified Softball Coach listed on their roster, the team WILL BE allowed to play, however, NO person shall be allowed in the coaching boxes during the entire game for that team.

- B. Certified Coaches are permitted to sign only one roster per provincial playoff weekend.
- C. For all Western and Canadian FP Championships, a minimum Level 2 Certified Coach must be in attendance with the team.

For all Canadian SP Championships, a minimum Level I Certified Coach must be in attendance.

EXCEPTION: Masters Men SP / Co-Ed SP - No certification required.

- D. Managers and coaches MAY NOT participate as players unless they are so registered.
- E. COACHES MEETING: A Coaches Meeting will be held prior to the commencement of all Provincial Championships. In some instances, this may not occur as stated due to a Friday morning or evening start of the Provincial Championships. In this case, the meeting will be held after the commencement of the Provincial Championships (ie. - later Friday or early Saturday morning).
- (i) The meeting time and location will be determined through mutual agreement by the AASA Representative and the Host of each particular Provincial Championship.
 - (ii) Team representatives (ie. coaches and/or managers) are strongly recommended to attend the Coaches Meeting. Decisions mutually agreed upon at the Coaches Meeting (ie. procedures regarding inclement weather) will be binding throughout the Championships. However, no changes in the playing rules will be entertained.
 - (iii) Should a team rep fail to appear at a coaches meeting, that team will not be permitted to question or dispute any item that was agreed upon at the coaches meeting.

- (iv) It is the responsibility of each team to contact either the AASA or the Host for the time and location of the Coaches Meeting.

4. UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT:

- A. All players on a team shall wear uniforms alike in colour, trim and style. Pants or shorts may be worn at the individual players discretion.

Ball caps must be alike and:

- a) are mandatory for all male players and must be worn properly.
- b) Caps, visors and headbands are optional for female players but must be alike in team colour.
- c) Any defensive player or coach may wear an approved helmet of identical colour of the team caps. A helmet worn for defensive purposes does not require ear flaps.

- B. UNIFORM NUMBERS:

An arabic number of contrasting colour at least 15 cm. (6 inches) high, must be worn on the back of all uniform shirts. No manager, coach, or player, on the same team may wear identical numbers (numbers 1 and 01 are examples of identical numbers). Players without numbers will not be permitted to play. Numbers to a maximum of two (2) digits will be allowed.

There is no penalty for a player wearing a wrong number. Correct the number in the scorebook and on the line up card and continue play.

There is no penalty for duplicate numbers. One player may change jerseys, or a substitute may enter for one of the players.

- C. Managers and coaches shall wear uniforms. These uniforms may differ from that of the players (ie. sweatsuits or slacks), but those that are worn must be alike in colour, trim, and style in accordance with the colour code of the team.
- D. The Softball Alberta representative in consultation with the tournament Umpire-in-Chief shall judge the acceptability of uniforms. Teams with unacceptable uniforms will be dealt with as follows:
 - (a) If possible, an individual will be warned before a game appearance.
 - (b) An individual participating in a game will be instructed to immediately correct the uniform deficiency.
 - (c) An individual failing to correct the deficiency will be ejected from the game.
- E. All teams must carry a minimum of five (5) helmets at all times.
A helmet is one that is fully enclosed, with two (2) ear flaps and a foam liner with a peak.

Exceptions: ADULT SP - no ear flaps are required.

MINOR - also require a strap securely fastened under the chin

5. GUIDELINES for TRAVEL to PROVINCIALS:

- A. Carry Alberta team registration certificate form and player pickup releases, plus Alberta Health Care cards or numbers for players.
- B. If possible, bring along pins or trading items to be given out to players or other teams.
- C. Have own scorekeepers even though there is an Official Scorekeeper and check score with official scorekeeper at regular intervals.
- D. Confirm with the Host on times and dates you play and advise Host upon arrival in the area.

6. PICKUPS for PROVINCIALS: (Categories NOT leading to Post Provincial Play)

ANY team that enters Provincial Playoffs in a category which does not lead to Post Provincial play IS entitled to pickups.

- A. Teams are allowed two (2) pickups for Zone or Provincial Playoffs.

* These pickups may be selected from affiliated teams (in their own zone - Minor only) - and of teams in the same classification or lower.

- * Teams may use these two (2) pickups to fill out their roster but cannot drop or release players for the purpose of picking up.
- * Maximum roster size for ALL Minor softball teams is 17 players (including pickups).
- B. Pickups MUST be registered players at roster deadline with an affiliated team including a team that has been eliminated, to be picked up by Provincial teams from within their zone. Players can only be picked up once and MUST be carried to the Provincial Finals.
- C. Player releases for pick ups must be approved by the District Organizer in the team's zone or by the AASA office. These releases must accompany team rosters to the Provincial / Zone Playdowns and must be presented to the A.A.S.A. representative or delegate at the coaches meeting, prior to the team's first game. Releases are available from your District Organizer or the A.A.S.A. office.
- D. Players registered with affiliated teams of the same class or lower are eligible to be picked up by Provincial teams from their zone.

Exception: Minor Teams registered in the 'C' and 'D' categories may not pickup from the 'A' category of the division lower.

Note: Pickups shall not be approached until the players team has been completely eliminated from competition in specific categories.

Examples:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Category eligible for pickups</i>
Midget	C	Midget C, D, Bantam B & lower
	D	Midget D, Bantam B & lower
Bantam	B	Bantam B, C, D, Pee Wee A & lower
	C	Bantam C, D, Pee Wee B & lower
	D	Bantam D, Pee Wee B & lower
Pee Wee	B	Pee Wee B, C, D, Squirt A & lower
	C	Pee Wee C, D, Squirt B & lower
	D	Pee Wee D, Squirt B & lower
Squirt	A	Squirt A, B, C & Mite
	B	Squirt B, C & Mite
	C	Squirt C & Mite
Mite	House League status	

Adult / Minor Categories Crossover:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Category eligible for pickup</i>
Intermediate FP	B	Intermediate B, C / Junior B / Midget B & lower
Intermediate FP	C	Intermediate C / Junior B / Midget B & lower

E. LOW PARTICIPATION CATEGORY - (MINOR ONLY)

Low Participation Status may be granted in any category except those categories which lead to post-Provincial Play. An application for Low Participation Status must be submitted annually by April 15th and is only granted upon recommendation by the Zone District Organizer.

Low Participation Status meaning: upon request to the Zone District Organizer, the approval to pick up to four players from the surrounding area prior to a Zone or Provincial Playoff. No additional pickups would be allowed should the team advance past the Zone competition.

7. PLAYOFF PROCEDURES

DEFINITIONS:

ZONE PLAYOFF: Will be the Playoff of more than one entry per category where more than the maximum number of teams allowed have entered.

ZONE FINAL: Will be the game to determine the Zone winner. Zone Playoff Finals to be played two weeks prior to Provincial Playoffs - with the rainout date being the following weekend.

PROVINCIAL PLAYOFF: Will be the games between Zone winners or as provided above for the Provincial Championships - with the rainout date being the following weekend.

A. The Province shall be divided into EIGHT (8) zones.

Zone 1	Zone 5
Zone 2	Zone 6 (<i>Edmonton</i>)
Zone 3 (<i>Calgary</i>)	Zone 7
Zone 4	Zone 8

B. The progression of Playoffs will be Zone Playoffs (where necessary) and then Provincial Championships.

- (i) In all categories of softball, the Association will endeavor to eliminate zone playoffs, wherever possible. The ideal maximum of ten (10) teams constitutes one team from each zone, plus the host team, plus a pro-rata entry based on the zone with the highest amount of entries in that specific category.
- (ii) The MITE category and ALL FP categories advancing to Western or Canadian Championships will use an Open Provincial Playoff. In all other categories, the number of teams allowed will be limited. If the total number of entries are more than the maximum number allowable, Zone Playoffs must be held. ('OPEN' for the purpose of this specific clarification means NO Zone Playoffs will be held. All teams entering will be accepted.)
- (iii) Each Zone may be allowed more than one team if the maximum of *ten (10)* or twenty (20) teams, as applicable, have not entered in the Provincial Tournament.
- (iv) In cases of question, the Hosting Zone is to get the extra team to bring the total to the maximum number of teams allowable.
- (v) In all Provincial Championships where each zone is not represented, and where there is the opportunity for other zones to provide additional teams to bring the Championships to the maximum allowable teams, each zone with two or more applying teams will be given the opportunity to send additional teams in descending order according to the number of teams registered in that zone for that category.

C. Zone Playoffs will be played two weeks prior to listed Provincial Playdowns for that said category, whenever possible. This is to be left to the discretion of the District Organizer in consultation with the teams involved. If an agreement cannot be reached teams must adhere to the decision of the District Organizer or face expulsion from further competition.

D. If the Zone or Provincial Playoff cannot be played or completed due to weather or extenuating circumstances, the tournament is to be completed the following weekend. In cases of two or three teams competing for the Championship where a more suitable arrangement can be made, the District Organizer in attendance, along with the Managers of the teams involved have the option to select different dates. Once again, if arrangements cannot be worked out the conclusion of the competitions will be played or completed on the following weekend.

E. All Zone and Provincial Playoff games must be played in accordance with the rules set down in the Alberta Amateur Softball Association Handbook. The Handbook shall take precedence when discrepancies arise, particularly with regard to those rules regarding equipment.

F. Playing fields must conform to at least minimum size as stated in the rulebook. Conditions should be best available. Provincial Playoffs take precedence over league, or Zone Playoffs as to available facilities. If proposed site of playoff is not adequate, host must have written approval from the A.A.S.A. authorizing permission to use other than legal playing facilities.

G. An A.A.S.A. representative or delegate must be in attendance at all games. All players participating in the playoffs must sign the signature sheet (first game and for each team's semi-final and/or final games). Any player arriving late must sign the original signature sheet prior to participating. Any official Tournament Chairperson can at any time go to the diamond and have any team sign the signature sheet.

- H. All clubs must have in their possession a copy of their signed Team Registration Form & Player Release / Pick Up Forms all validated by the A.A.S.A. These must be presented to the A.A.S.A. representative. No team is allowed to play without any of these.
- I. All communication from clubs to Executive members shall be at the expense of clubs unless previously advised to the contrary.
- J. Officials must be registered with the Alberta Amateur Softball Association. In the event they are not available, non-registered Umpires must be cleared with the Umpire-in-Chief or his representatives, or an A.A.S.A. representative before commencing the first game. Registered officials must be in an official uniform. No officiating umpire is to be assigned as an A.A.S.A. representative to a Provincial or Zone Playoff.
- K. No participating coach, manager, player or any person connected with a ball team, while playing a game, shall consume any alcoholic beverage at the player's bench or vicinity of the player's bench or diamond.

EFFECT: First offence, coach or manager will be warned.
 Second offence will warrant forfeiture of the game.

L. MERCY RULES:

- i) All games to be of seven innings duration except should one team be leading the other by 7 runs at the completion of five, six or seven innings of play, the team leading shall be declared the winner and will advance to the next competition.

Exception:	Mite, Squirt, Pee Wee C & D	- 15 runs after 5 innings
	Pee Wee B	- 10 runs after 5 innings
	Bantam B, C & D	- 10 runs after 5 innings
	Modified / Orthodox FP	- 15 runs after 5 innings
	Slo-Pitch	- 15 runs after 5 innings

- ii) For all fast-pitch categories, if a team is leading by 20 runs - (MINOR & Modified Orthodox) / 15 runs - (ADULT) after the 3rd or 4th inning of play, the team leading shall be declared the winner. Should this occur, the maximum runs for / against for the specific category shall be awarded to the leading team for tie breaking purposes.

Note: If a game is forfeited, the score of the forfeited game shall be the same as the Mercy Rule in favor of the team NOT at fault. Forfeiture may result in coach / team suspensions.

- M. There will be no grace period from designated start time of a game. Result would be forfeiture. Pertains to all categories of softball.

N. TIME LIMITS:

MINOR:: No new inning shall start after a one hour & forty five minute time limit (1 hr 45 min), for all games in categories NOT leading to Post Provincial Play

ADULT FP: No new inning shall start after a one hour & forty five minute time limit (1 hr 45 min), for all games except the semi-finals and finals in all categories NOT leading to Post Provincial Play

O. TIED GAME PROCEDURES:

Seven innings will constitute a legal game, except if tied after seven (7) innings or expiration of the time limit. THERE WILL BE NO TIE GAMES, additional innings are played at the end of the game to resolve the tie with the CASA Tiebreaker Rule in effect at the top of the next inning.

- P. All Zone and Provincial Draws are made by drawing the teams from a hat. In a 2 or 3 team draw in Zone Playoffs, the tournament will be played in one day.
 - i) The entire Zone Playoff structure will be the responsibility of the District Organizer for that Zone.
 - ii) The Provincial Office is responsible for the Provincial Championships.

- Q. If on account of darkness or weather or any other extenuating circumstance, where the regulation game cannot be immediately continued, the Tournament Director shall direct when and where the game shall be played. Such game is to be continued from the point where it was abandoned and is to be played at the earliest possible moment so as not to unduly delay the series.

Double Knockout Draw Format: if on account of weather or extenuating circumstances, it becomes impossible to complete the Tournament as a two loss tourney, all teams that have lost one game will be eliminated and those teams in the winner's bracket will continue to play on a single loss basis.

- R. "Rainout date" is normally the weekend following the original scheduled playoff date.
- S. All games called by the Umpire due to darkness or rain shall be regulation if five 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 four and one-half (4½) or more innings.
- T. ALL FP CATEGORIES: A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher when there are two out in an inning. The runner will be the second out.
- U. BATTERS BOX - all FP categories

After entering the batters box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot, between pitches and while taking signals and practice swings.

- Exceptions:
- a) If the ball is hit foul or fair
 - b) On the swing, slap, or check swing
 - c) If forced out of the box by a pitch
 - d) On a wild pitch or passed ball
 - e) If there is an attempted play
 - f) If time out has been called
 - g) If the pitcher leaves the 8 ft circle or the catcher leaves the catchers box.
 - h) On a three ball pitch that is a strike, which the batter thinks is a ball.

Effects: If the batter leaves the batters box and delays play, and none of these exceptions apply, the umpire may warn the batter or call a strike. Note: any number of warnings and called strikes can be made with each batter. No pitch has to be thrown and the ball is dead.

8. ZONE PLAYOFFS:

- A. Teams that must play in a zone playoff due to more than ten (10) or twenty (20) teams, as applicable, entering in a specific category, will consider the zone playoffs as the beginning of the provincial playoffs for that category in regard to fees, bonds, suspensions and whatever. Teams who do not advance past the zone playoff are still considered to have entered and participated in provincial play.

NOTE: Host teams for Provincials DO NOT participate in the Zone Playoffs.

- B. Zone Playoffs of greater than two (2) teams shall be a double knockout format. In the event there is no host for the playoff, all participating teams will share the costs and income of the playoff equally.

One of the following formats must be used for a two (2) team playoff:

- (i) HOME AND HOME SERIES: The first 2 games on the home diamond of Team A and the 3rd and 4th games on the home diamond of Team B. Games 1, 3 and 4 shall be Championship games under all ordinary circumstances. Game 2 being an exhibition, non-Championship contest.

If Game 4 cannot be played and the teams have divided Games 1 & 3, the result of Game 2 shall decide the Series. If both Games 3 & 4 cannot be played after Teams have traveled, then Game 1 alone shall decide Series.

If games 1 & 3 are the only ones that can be played and the teams are tied after competition, total runs shall decide the winner.

The Hosting Team will pay for Umpires, balls and grounds in all Series.

- (ii) TWO OUT OF THREE GAMES: In a two out three Series, Game 1 will decide a winner if Games 2 and 3 are rained out. If Games 1 and 2 are played with Game 3 rained out, then total runs will decide the winner.

A coin toss will determine the home team in Game #1. The team losing the coin toss will determine the home team in Game #2. If a 3rd game is necessary, a coin toss will determine the home team.

9. PROVINCIAL PLAYOFFS:

All categories of Provincial Playoffs, exclusive of the following exceptions, will use a MODIFIED ROUND ROBIN playoff.

EXCEPTION: Modified Orthodox & Slo-Pitch - where the entries in a category are greater than five (5) teams, the Host will have the option of the double knockout or modified round robin format. The selected option is to be announced upon being awarded the Provincial event. [Softball Alberta's choice of preference is the Modified Round Robin format..

EXCEPTION: In all categories of ADULT FP that advance to a Western or Canadian where a category has two (2) entries, the format shall be a best of five (5) series. The series will be held over a 2 day period with 2 games scheduled for Day 1 and 3 games for Day 2.

- (i) In categories advancing to post provincial play, the first place finisher(s) after the round robin shall receive two (2) lives in the playoffs, all other playoff qualifiers receive one (1) life.
- (ii) In categories NOT advancing to post provincial play, all teams qualifying for playoffs shall compete in a single knockout playoff.

A COIN TOSS WILL DETERMINE HOME TEAM EVERY GAME

A. MODIFIED ROUND ROBIN FORMAT

1. TWO TEAMS ENTERED

Play a best two out of three series

A coin toss shall determine Home team for the first and third game (if applicable) between pairings. The team losing the coin toss will determine the home team in the second game.

EXCEPTION: Senior A & Senior B FP, Junior A & Junior B & Masters FP - Play a best three out of five series

2. THREE TEAMS ENTERED

Play a double round robin, each team plays four games. The top two teams advance to the playoff round.

A coin toss shall determine Home team for the first and third game (if applicable) between pairings. The team losing the coin toss will determine the home team in the second game.

EXCEPTION: (Masters FP) - Play a single round robin.

3. FOUR TEAMS ENTERED

Play a complete round robin, each team plays three games. The top two teams advance to the playoff round.

EXCEPTION: Minor - the top four teams advance to the playoff round.

4. FIVE TEAMS ENTERED

Play a complete round robin, each team plays four games. The top two teams advance to the playoff round.

EXCEPTION: Minor - the top four teams advance to the playoff round.

5. SIX TO NINE TEAMS ENTERED

Each team plays four games in a modified round robin. The top four teams advance to the playoff round.

6. TEN TO NINETEEN TEAMS ENTERED

Teams are split into two pools. Each team plays four games in either a complete round robin or a modified round robin, whichever may apply (maximum of four games per team). The top two teams in each pool advance to the playoff round.

7. TWENTY TEAMS OR MORE ENTERED

The teams will be split into four pools. Each team plays four games in either a complete round robin or a modified round robin, whichever may apply (maximum of four games per team). The top team from each pool will advance to the playoff round.

B. STANDINGS AT COMPLETION OF THE (Modified) ROUND ROBIN

1. Win / loss record (no tie games in round robin)
2. Games played against each other.

NOTE: If one team has beaten all teams who they are tied with, then that team will be ranked highest regardless of whether or not the remaining teams have played one another.

3. a) Runs for and against with a maximum per game being:

Mite, Squirt, Pee Wee C & D	15 runs
Pee Wee B, Bantam B, C & D	10 runs
Pee Wee A / Bantam A / Midget	7 runs
Adult FP	7 runs
Modified / Orthodox	15 runs
Adult SP	15 runs

- b) least runs allowed by each team
- c) total runs for each team

NOTES:

- a) No team will be eliminated or lose a 'life' by criteria 2 or 3 - a playoff game is required
- b) When using criteria 3, full team records of the entire round robin, and only 4, 5, 6, etc. full innings in 4½, 5½, 6½, etc. inning games are to be used.
- c) Runs for & against will be determined based on full innings. If the game is over and the bottom one-half of the inning is not required, the home team does NOT bat in the bottom of the inning.

C. TIE BREAKER GAMES

- a) The above criteria ranking establishes the standings after completion of the round robin. However, if after the win/loss criteria, a tie includes the last playoff position or where it represents the difference between one or two "lives" or where it represents the right to play for the gold, silver or bronze medal, it will be broken as follows:
 - (i) If two teams are tied, a sudden death playoff game will be held
 - (ii) If three teams are tied, a bye shall go to the team ranked highest who will then play the winner of a game between the other two.
 - (iii) If four teams are tied, then ranking shall be used to determine pairings for the tie breaking games. Tied teams will be ranked 1, 2, 3, 4 with team #1 playing team #4 and team #2 playing team #3. If four teams are tied for 1st or 3rd place, two games are necessary. If four teams are tied for second place, four games are necessary. If four teams are tied for fourth place, three games are necessary.
- b) All other positions will be settled by a coin toss
- c) If no tiebreaker games are required, then the playoff round may begin in the time slots reserved for tiebreaker games.

D. PLAYOFF ROUND

1. FORMAT FOR CATEGORIES *NOT ADVANCING TO POST PROVINCIAL PLAY*

MINOR Three (3) teams or less:

Top two teams play a single game playoff

MINOR Four (4) to nine (9) teams entered:

Top four teams play a single knockout playoff. I.E. 1 vs 4, 2 vs 3, winners advance to championship game, losers play for bronze medal.

ADULT Five (5) teams or less:

Top two teams play a single game playoff

ADULT Six (6) to nine (9) teams entered:

Top four teams advance to a single knockout playoff. E.g. 1 vs 4, 2 vs 3, winners advance to championship game.

ALL Ten (10) to Nineteen Teams

Top two teams from each pool advance to a single knockout playoff. I.E. 1A vs 2B, 1B vs 2A, winners advance to championship game - Minor: losers play for bronze medal.

ALL Twenty (20) or more teams entered:

Top team from each pool advances to a single knockout playoff. E.g. 1A vs 1C, 1B vs 1D, winners advance to championship game - Minor: losers play for bronze medal.

2. FORMAT FOR CATEGORIES *ADVANCING TO POST PROVINCIAL PLAY*

MINOR Three (3) teams or less:

Top two teams advance to playoffs. Second place team must beat first place team twice to win championship.

MINOR Four (4) to nine (9) teams entered:

Top four teams advance to playoffs. First & 2nd place qualifiers shall receive 2 lives and the 3rd and 4th place qualifiers receive 1 life.

ADULT Five (5) teams or less

Top two teams advance to playoffs. Second place team must beat first place team twice to win championship.

EXCEPTION: Masters FP (3 teams only) - After completion of single round robin, 3rd place plays 2nd place. Winner plays 1st place. First place must lose twice.

ADULT Six (6) to Nine (9) Teams:

Top four teams advance to playoffs. First & 2nd place qualifiers shall receive 2 lives and the 3rd and 4th place qualifiers receive 1 life.

ALL Ten (10) to Nineteen (19) Teams:

Top two teams from each pool advance to playoffs. 1st place teams in each pool receive two lives. 2nd place team receives one life. 1st place teams from each pool play against each other, winner advances to the final, loser is to play the winner of the game between the second place teams, winner of this game advances to the final and must beat other team twice to win championship.

ALL Twenty (20) or more teams entered:

Top team from each pool advances to a single knockout playoff. E.g. 1A vs 1C, 1B vs 1D, winners advance to championship game - Minor Only: losers play for bronze medal.

ARTICLE IV

POST-PROVINCIAL PLAY

1. PICKUPS - Fastpitch Only

- A. Pickups are allowed following the Provincial Championships from categories of equal or lower calibers. Individuals meeting age requirements, but playing in higher categories MAY be allowed to be picked up should their team not advance past the Provincial Championship and that categories decline of this person as a pickup for their Post-Provincial play. This may be granted through a request of the Executive.
- B. Individuals playing in a lower category may be picked up by a higher category to participate in a Canadian Championship and still be eligible in their own category at a Western Canadian Championship.
- C. A Provincial team may add up to three (3) players in all categories leading to a Western Canadian or Canadian Championship providing that their roster allows for it.
- D. Teams adding pickup players shall select in the following order
 - (1) Provincial Champion
 - (2) Host
 - (3) Defending Champion and
 - (4) Pro-Rata Team(s) in order of their finish in the Provincial Championship.
- E. Players who refuse to join a team attending a Canadian or Western Championship cannot participate in that championship with another team.
- F. In instances where players are playing out of their age category, the category in which the player is participating shall govern first right to pick up. If they are not contacted within 96 hours, they shall become eligible to other categories.
- G. Pickup Notifications
 - (1) The Provincial Champion has 48 hours, from the time of winning the provincial championship, to notify the Executive Director of the AASA
 - (2) The Host, Defending Champion and Pro- Rata Team(s) have 48 hours from the time they are notified by the Executive Director of the AASA.
- H. Pickups shall not be approached until the completion of the Championship

2. ***SLO-PITCH: Any individual player or team, that has participated at the Canadian SP championships is not eligible to play in the Western Canadian SP Championships in the same year.***

3. UNIFORMS:

- A. At ALL SENIOR FP/SP CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, each team must have more than one set of uniform tops in a Canadian Championship Game. Where 2 teams have identical uniforms, the home team will be given the choice of colour.

4. TRAVEL:

- A. Qualifying teams for Western or Canadian Championship travel assistance include:
 - (1) Provincial Champions in respective categories
 - (2) Defending Canadian Champions

Qualifying teams who will be attending the Western Canadian or Canadian Championships will be given travel assistance to attend the Championships. This travel assistance will be determined annually at the discretion of the A.A.S.A

- B. If the qualifying team is hosting the Western Canadian or Canadian Championship in their own city/town and are deemed the provincial champion, the A.A.S.A. travel assistance will be awarded to the next highest placing team that requires travel to the championship. In the event that all Alberta representatives are from the host city or town, the provincial champion will be awarded the travel assistance.

C. SLO-PITCH: All Categories Advancing to Post Provincial Play

The winning team of a provincial championship will be reimbursed a cash award totaling the current years Provincial entry fee and travel fund. This award will be deducted from the dollars available to that category from that teams portion of the travel fund.

The remainder of SP Travel Fees will be awarded to the winning team for the next available post-provincial competition. This funding will be forfeited if:

- 1) A team eligible for that championship chooses not to attend
- 2) A period of two years elapses since the year of the provincial championship where the award was earned

5. FEES

Each team that enters a Canadian Championship will be charged a registration fee. Minor Categories (Midget and below) will be charged \$300.00. Senior categories (Junior, Senior and all Slo-Pitch) will be charged \$400.00. Each team will pay the A.A.S.A. , who will in turn pay Softball Canada.

6. DEFENDING CHAMPIONS:

- A. In scenario's in which Alberta is fortunate enough to send a Defending Champion back to the following year's Championships, all categories which receive funding for their attendance, must participate in Alberta Provincial Playdowns.

Defending Canadian Champions:

Should the Defending Canadian Champion win the Provincials, then the 2nd place team at the Provincials would be declared the Provincial Representative.

Defending Western Canadian Champions:

Alberta teams that win a Western Canadian Championship will not automatically return to the Western Canadian Championship the following year to defend their title.

Exception: Alberta will send the Defending Champions (adult only) to defend their title at the following year's Western Canadian Championships at the team's cost, provided the team has a minimum of ten (10) players returning from the previous year's roster.

- B. Where Alberta receives the right to send an additional team to attend the following years championships, the Provincial Champion will receive the travel assistance and the additional team will attend at their own cost.

ARTICLE V

HOSTING GUIDELINES

1. BID TO HOST:

- (a) Organization must be an affiliated body of A.A.S.A.
- (b) Deadline for accepting bids is SEPTEMBER 15th of previous year.
- (c) The successful bidder to Host Provincial Playoffs is given an automatic BYE into the Provincials.
- (d) Bid to include:
 - (i) Full description of facilities.
 - (ii) Letter from Umpire Branch stating availability of Official umpires.
 - (iii) Contact person for the event.
 - (iv) Fee of \$10.00 submitted with bid, which is be returned if bid NOT accepted.
 - (v) Description of available accommodation.
 - (vi) List the accommodations, campgrounds and swimming pools in area. Also list attractions occurring at that time.
 - (vii) Rainout & inclement weather contingencies (include the following weekend).
 - (viii) Include a letter of approval / support from the District Organizer of the zone in which you are planning to host the Provincial Playoff in, which also acknowledges that your Bid Application is complete.
- (e) Host responsibilities include:
 - (i) Payment of all umpires fees / expenses.
 - (ii) Assist with travel arrangements.
 - (iii) Publicity.

2. ZONE & PROVINCIAL:

- (a) Draw will be made up by the A.A.S.A. in accordance with A.A.S.A. Playoff Regulations. Make up one large draw sheet that can be hung up to be kept up-to-date after each game.
- (b) Umpires - ensure your umpires are booked.
- (c) Diamonds should be relined after each game.
- (d) Official Balls should be supplied for each game. Two new ones, one used.
- (e) Official Double Base is mandatory in all Zone & Provincial Playdowns.
- (f) Official Scorekeepers are YOUR responsibility (participating coaches if necessary).
- (g) Scoresheets of games shall be signed by a representative of each team and the Official Scorekeeper.
- (h) If possible, facilities for the umpires should be made available, along with a copy of the draw.
- (i) Host pays the umpires and keeps track of how many games they have worked on a copy of the draw.
- (j) Host responsible for ALL expenses not covered by the A.A.S.A.
- (k) Concession should be made available. Washroom facilities MUST be available.
- (l) Players / coaches attending a Zone or Provincial Playoff MUST NOT be charged gate admission.
- (m) Hosts must submit a completed draw and one copy of each game scoresheet to the District Organizer within 72 hrs of completion of the Tournament.

3. A.A.S.A. HOSTING & TRAVEL PACKAGES:

- (a) Advise Host of how many teams participating and which teams if possible.
- (b) Copy of player registration form should be sent to the A.A.S.A. Delegate in Charge, the District Organizer or the Host.
- (c) Presentation of awards: Gold, Silver and Bronze medals (where applicable) will be provided by the A.A.S.A.
- (d) Package to be given to Zone winner at time of Zone Playoff Final to include the following information:
 - (i) Copy of draw for Provincial Championship (Draw can be made ahead of time with just zone numbers).
 - (ii) Player pickup forms.
 - (iii) Contact name and phone number of Host.
 - (iv) List of accommodations and campgrounds available in the area of Provincial Championship i.e. Hotels, swimming pools, and events in the area.
 - (v) Maps.
 - (vi) Copy of guideline for Provincial traveling team.

4. HOSTING GRANTS:

- (a) Hosting Organizations for zone playoffs in all divisions will receive a hosting grant of \$60 per team in attendance less the number of teams that advance from this playoff to the provincial championships.
- (b) Hosting organizations for provincial playoffs in all divisions will receive a hosting grant of \$60 per team.
- (c) In Mite provincials the hosting grant will be for a maximum of *ten (10) teams*.
- (d) Hosting Grant applications MUST be submitted to the AASA by September 15th of the current year. Hosting grants will be paid by the AASA within 30 days of the grant being submitted.

ARTICLE V

PROTESTS & SUSPENSIONS

1. PROTESTS:

- 1.1 No protests shall be received or considered if they are based solely on a decision involving the accuracy of judgement on the part of an umpire. Protests that will be received and considered concern matters of the following types:
 - (a) misinterpretation of a playing rule;
 - (b) failure of an umpire to apply the correct ruling to a given situation, and
 - (c) failure of an umpire to impose the correct penalty for a given violation;
 - (d) failure of a player or team to comply with the eligibility requirements as specified in these Operating Rules; (eligibility protests)
- 1.2 A protest may properly involve a matter of judgement and the interpretation of a rule and in such an instance the finding of fact by the umpire cannot be the subject of the protest but the application of the rule to the facts as found by the umpire may be the subject of a protest.
- 1.3 With respect to any protest regarding the matters referred to in Section 1.1 (a),(b) and (c), (hereinafter called game-play protests) notification of intent to protest must be made immediately before the next pitch, and
 - (a) the manager or acting manager of the protesting team shall immediately notify the plate umpire that the game is being continued under protest. The plate umpire shall in turn notify the opposing manager and official scorekeeper, and
 - (b) all interested parties shall take notice of the condition surrounding the making of the decision that will aid in the correct determination of the issue. [Note: on appeal plays, the appeal must be made before the next pitch, legal or illegal, or before the defensive team has left the field. For the purpose of this rule the defensive team has "left the field" when all players have left fair territory on the way to the bench or dugout area].

- (c) in all provincial championship competition protests arising from game-play protests shall be dealt with immediately and before play resumes. The results will be announced by the umpire.
- (d) the protest committee dealing with game-play protests shall be appointed by the President or the Executive and at least one member of the protest committee will be an umpire.

1.4 Eligibility Protests

1.4.1 Eligibility protests arising from matters referred to in Section 1.1 (d) must be filed within twenty four (24) hours after the scheduled start time of the game in which it is alleged an ineligible player participated. If the tournament or competition in which the breach took place is concluded prior to the aforesaid twenty four (24) hour period, the protest will be considered to be officially lodged when the same has been posted and addressed by ordinary mail to the office of the Association. Copies of all such eligibility protests shall be sent to district organizers for both clubs and the coach and manager of the team with which the challenged player is alleged to have participated.

1.4.2 The form of an eligibility protest shall contain the following information:

- (a) the date, time and place of the game.
- (b) the name of the umpires and score.
- (c) the rule and section of the official rules, local rules or operating rules under which the protest is made.
- (d) all essential facts in the matter protested.

The essential facts must be confirmed by statutory declaration of a person having knowledge of the facts central to the eligibility protest.

1.4.3 An eligibility protest will not be acted upon unless it is accompanied by a fee of \$100.00 payable to the Association and evidence that the protest has been mailed or given to the club with whom the alleged ineligible player has participated.

1.4.4 The eligibility protest will be considered by a protest committee appointed by the President of the Association or the Executive as the occasion arises and at least one member of such protest committee will be an umpire. After giving representatives of both teams such opportunity to be heard as the protest committee in their discretion may determine appropriate and upon hearing from the person who filed the complaint, a decision will be made as expeditiously as possible with the results to be announced by the President of the Association. After giving both teams and the complainant an opportunity to be heard, no further evidence may be introduced and the decision of the protest committee shall be considered final and binding on all parties and no further appeal or review of the decision will be available to any person or party.

1.4.5 The decision made in the case of an eligibility protest must result in one of the following:

- (a) if the protest is found invalid the game score stands as played;
- (b) all games the ineligible player, coach, manager has participated in shall be forfeited;
- (c) the team using the ineligible player, coach, manager shall be disqualified from further competition and will be suspended.
- (d) the protest committee will apply the results of game(s) forfeiture to the tournament format and will restate the results. If the protest committee considers it fair and reasonable it may declare one team the winner of the competition even though the competition format was not followed (e.g. declaring the results based on tournament standings or based on the results of contests between the remaining eligible teams). If the protest committee does not consider that a fair and reasonable determination can be made it shall reschedule a game or games between the non-offending teams to determine the winner.

NOTE: For the purpose of Section 1.4 an ineligible player shall be defined as a player, coach or manager declared ineligible as a result of an eligibility protest.

2. SUSPENSIONS:

Any member violating the Bylaws of the Association, or refusing to abide by the decision of the Executive Committee shall automatically be expelled or suspended with the right to appeal to the general body.

2.1 SUSPENSION OF PLAYERS, COACHES, OFFICIALS OR ANY MEMBER.

- (a) Any player, coach, official or manager on being reported to the Association for any improper conduct or having received money for his services shall, if found guilty, be suspended from competition, participation or officiating in games under jurisdiction of the A.A.S.A. and affiliated members.
- (b) All players and coaches of any club which defaults any game in the Provincial Playdowns, shall be suspended immediately pending review by a committee as designated by the President of the Association.
- (c) Refusal to play: Any player or coach of any club making it known that they are refusing to play shall be suspended immediately upon further review by a committee appointed by the President of the Association.
- (d) A player, coach or manager ejected from any game for fighting, intentionally dangerous or rough play, profane or abusive language to another player or spectator, striking or hindering an umpire in the performance of his duties, before, during or after a game, shall not play again until his case shall have been reviewed by the District Executive Members. This suspension shall carry over from one season to another if necessary. No participation or officiating allowed.
- (e) Any player, coach, manager, team participant or official who is involved in any physical or abusive confrontation will be immediately suspended from all softball until the case has been reviewed by a committee appointed the A.A.S.A. President. The committee appointed shall render a decision within twenty-one (21) days of the occurrence, otherwise the player, coach, manager, team participant or official shall be automatically reinstated. Any player, coach, manager, team participant or official who fails to appear at a duly called hearing without proper notifying the A.A.S.A. shall lose the right of appeal. Any player, team or official, upon being reported in writing of participating in a game officiated by a suspended umpire, may be suspended.
- (f) Length of individual suspension will be dealt with according to the severity of the circumstances. A League or Association wishing the A.A.S.A. to honour their suspension must submit a letter stating the individuals whom they are suspending and the reasoning for the suspension. The request will then be discussed at the next Executive Meeting with the response following as soon as possible.
- (g) Any member of the A.A.S.A. who has been suspended by the A.A.S.A. for a period of one year or more, must apply in writing to the Board of Directors of the A.A.S.A. for reinstatement of membership privileges. Those parties suspended and not reinstated, will have the right to an appeal process.

2.2 SUSPENSION OF CLUBS:

2.2.1 Members of this Association are subject to suspension for the following:

- (a) Knowingly permitting betting, or
- (b) Improper conduct of players or officials at the games, or
- (c) Offering, agreeing, or attempting to lose a game or being interested in any pool or wager thereon, or participating in any manner with a club or the club participating with a suspended coach or manager, or playing with a club that has been suspended or expelled or knowingly having on its roster, any disqualified players, coaches or managers. Knowingly using a player under false name or certification and failure to produce certificates or evidence of eligibility as may reasonably be required.

2.2.2 Failure to produce certificates or evidence of eligibility on demand will automatically forfeit the games at which these are demanded. Using an ineligible player under his right name shall automatically cause forfeiture of the game and, at the discretion of the executive, may cause suspension of the player, the club manager and coach for the balance of the season.

2.2.3 Knowingly using a player under false name or certificate shall automatically suspend all players, coach and manager for the balance of the season and the coach and manager for an additional season.

2.2.4 Any member charged with an offence or offences above named shall have the privilege of appealing any decision to the Executive Committee of the Association.

2.2.5 Any team knowingly using a suspended player, coach, manager, or otherwise will be subject to disqualification and suspension.

2.3 In order that the game of Softball, as controlled by the A.A.S.A. and its affiliated clubs shall not be affected by financial interest, any appeal to courts of law, or to a lawyer in anticipation of legal action, BEFORE all processes of appeal through the A.A.S.A. and if applicable, through the C.A.S.A. are exhausted, shall be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct. Clubs and players who resort to such procedure shall automatically and immediately be suspended from all privileges and affiliations with the A.A.S.A. and Associated Leagues.

2.4 Date suspension is levied is the start of the appeal period. Verbal notice of appeal must reach the A.A.S.A. Office within 72 hours of suspension date, written notice of appeal by registered mail to the A.A.S.A. Office within 21 days from the date of suspension.

2.5 Any suspension request to the A.A.S.A. must be submitted verbally within 72 hours from the date of the incident and written notice within 10 days to the A.A.S.A. Office.

ARTICLE VII

TOURNAMENTS

SANCTION FEES: ALL Adult & Minor Tournaments - \$25.00

- A. Tournament Sanctions should be obtained at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the tournament.
- B. Sanction fees are \$25.00, payable by cash, cheque or money order, to the ALBERTA AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. This fee must be forwarded to the District Organizer in your zone or the A.A.S.A. office.
- C. Tournaments must use Provincial classification when inviting teams to participate in their event. (Senior A, Intermediate B, Junior A, etc. NOT DIVISION 1, DIVISION 3, DIVISION 5 etc.)
- D. The tournament sanction, if granted, will be signed by an A.A.S.A. Executive Member, District Organizer or by the Alberta Amateur Softball Association Office. It will be presented to the applicant by the District Organizer or the A.A.S.A. office.
- E. NO sanctions will be issued in conflict with scheduled playoffs in the area.
- F. Tournament Sanctions MUST be posted at all times during the tournament.
- G. All irregularities, problems, conflicts, etc. must be reported to the District Organizer and Tournament Chairman not later than 72 hours after the completion of the tournament.
- H. To avoid unnecessary confusion and turmoil at the tournaments in the event of inclement weather, it is recommended that all tournaments adopt some form of rainout rules. Teams should be advised of these rules before they participate in a tournament.
- I. Officials MUST BE registered with the Alberta Amateur Softball Association. In the event they are not available, non-registered umpires must be cleared with the Umpire-in-Chief or his representative, or an A.A.S.A. representative before commencing the first game. Registered officials must be in an official uniform.
- J. Travel permits will be required by all teams from outside Canada. They must be presented to the Tournament Organizer, who in turn must forward them to the A.A.S.A. office.
- K. Teams attending competitions outside the Province of Alberta must obtain a travel permit to be covered by the insurance and benefits program. Permits can be obtained at no charge from your District Organizer or the AASA office.
- L. All N.S.F. Cheques will be charged a \$25.00 fee plus clearing bank charges over and above the amount originally requested.

ARTICLE VIII

CATEGORY SPECIFIC RULES

1. MINOR BALL:

AGES - To be eligible for the 2004 Season.

MIDGET Boys & Girls - Under 19 PRIOR TO Jan. 1st of the current year. Born in 1985 or later.

BANTAM Boys & Girls - Under 16 PRIOR TO Jan. 1st of the current year. Born in 1988 or later.

PEE WEE Boys & Girls - Under 14 PRIOR TO Jan. 1st of the current year. Born in 1990 or later.

SQUIRT Boys & Girls - Under 12 PRIOR TO Jan. 1st of the current year. Born in 1992 or later.

MITE Boys & Girls - Under 10 PRIOR TO Jan. 1st of the current year. Born in 1994 or later.

CATEGORY	PITCHING DISTANCE		BASELINES	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
MIDGET	46'	40'	60'	60'
BANTAM	42'	40'	60'	60'
PEE WEE	40'	38'	60'	60'
SQUIRT	35'	35'	55'	55'
MITE	30'	30'	45'	45'

THE OFFICIAL ZONE PLAYOFF AND PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP SOFTBALL FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF MINOR FP WILL BE:

MITE / SQUIRT / Boys & Girls SPALDING TOPFLITE 141 (11")

PEE WEE / BANTAM / MIDGET Boys SPALDING 177S cor. 47 (12")

PEE WEE / BANTAM / MIDGET Girls SPALDING 177S OPTIC cor. 47 (12")

ALL HOSTING CENTERS MUST BE PREPARED TO USE THE OFFICIAL SOFTBALL FOR THE ALBERTA SOFTBALL PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS!

A. All Minor Division clubs from Mite to Midget, in both Boys and Girls categories shall follow the standard softball pitch as outlined by the Alberta Amateur Softball Association and the Canadian Amateur Softball Association.

B. EQUIPMENT

(i) Shoes (youth/minor): No metal cleats are allowed. NO hard plastic, nylon or polyurethane spikes similar to a metal sole and heel plate, or shoes with detachable cleats (unless detachable cleats made of rubber) that could leave an exposed fastener are allowed.

(ii) Boys and Girls in ALL categories of Minor Ball (under 19) are required to wear a Protective Batting Helmet while on deck, batting and running the bases when competing in Zone & Provincial Playoffs. A Protective Batting Helmet is one that is fully enclosed, with two (2) ear flaps, a foam liner with a peak and a chin strap fastened securely under the chin.

EFFECT: A player not wearing a helmet will be warned by the Umpire. If, in the umpires judgement the helmet is intentionally removed, interference shall be called and the player whose helmet was removed shall be declared out.

(iii) Minor catchers MUST wear the protective Helmet AND mask with the attached throat protector prior to the game and between innings, when warming up a pitcher.

(iv) In addition -catchers in all categories in the Minor ball division are required to wear: the appropriate glove, chest protector, shin-guards which offer protection to the knee cap, and athletic support with cup (for boys and girls). All of this equipment is to fit properly.

(v) In all categories not leading to post provincial play, a bat that is legal in all aspects other than the wording " Official Softball" shall be declared legal.

C. INJURY RULE: as per CASA FP -Rule 4-6

D. Teams with players injured due to competition at camps and/or competitions while representing Alberta in Alberta Summer Games and/or the Western or Canada Summer Games shall be allowed an extra pickup upon the written release of the injured player.

E. Minor Ball categories of Provincial Play are:

MITE:	A, B
SQUIRT:	A, B, C (C is for girls only)
PEE WEE:	A, B, C, D (C & D is for girls only)
BANTAM:	A, B, C, D (C & D is for girls only)
MIDGET:	A, B, C, D (C & D is for girls only)

F. 'LOW PARTICIPATION CATEGORY'

Low Participation Status may be granted in any category except those categories which lead to post-Provincial Play.

An application for Low Participation Status must be submitted annually by April 15th and is only granted upon recommendation by the Zone District Organizer.

Low Participation Status meaning: upon request to the Zone District Organizer, the approval to pick up to four players from the surrounding area prior to a Zone or Provincial Playoff. No additional pickups would be allowed should the team advance past the Zone competition.

T-BALL / COACH PITCH

A. Is defined as any form of minor softball which does not utilize one of the team players as the pitcher. There will be no age restrictions or requirements. Playing rules to be determined by local leagues and organizations.

B. Teams must complete affiliation forms and the league / association / team must submit participants list to be covered by the Insurance & Benefits Program.

MITES:

A. In the event that one of the Mite categories for Provincial Play have an entry of less than 4 teams, A & B categories will be combined to form one Provincial Championship.

B. The Mite Provincial Tournament will be held with an unlimited entry of teams. (Note: The Hosting Grant will be for a MAXIMUM of 11 teams).

C. The 'Infield Fly Rule' WILL NOT be in effect.

D. A seven (7) run rule per inning will be in effect throughout the game. Once the seventh (7th) run is scored all other runners are stranded. THEY DO NOT start on base next inning. When the team behind cannot score enough runs to win in the allotted time period or after 4 ½ innings, the game is declared over.

E. The fifteen (15) run Mercy Rule is in effect.

F. The 'Conference Rule' (in regard to pitchers) **IS IN EFFECT**

G. The 'Designated Player' rule IS NOT permitted.

H. The batter is out on the third strike, regardless if the ball is caught or not, and the ball remains alive.

I. ***Co-ed Mite teams may enter the Provincials in the Mite Boys Category.***

SQUIRTS:

A. The 'Infield Fly Rule' WILL NOT be in effect.

B. A seven run rule per inning will be in effect throughout the game. Once the seventh run is scored, all other runners are stranded. They DO NOT start on base the next inning. When the team behind cannot score enough runs to win in the allotted time period or after 4 ½ innings, the game is declared over.

C. The fifteen (15) run Mercy Rule is in effect.

- D. The 'Conference Rule' (in regard to pitchers) **IS IN EFFECT**
- E. The 'Designated Player' rule IS NOT permitted.
- F. The batter is out on the third strike, regardless if the ball is caught or not, and the ball remains alive.

PEE WEE

- A. A seven run rule per inning will be in effect throughout the game for PEE WEE C & D. Once the seventh run is scored, all other runners are stranded. They DO NOT start on base the next inning. When the team behind cannot score enough runs to win in the allotted time period or after 4 ½ innings, the game is declared over.
- B. The fifteen (15) run Mercy Rule is in effect for the C & D categories and the Ten (10) run Mercy Rule is in effect for the B category.
- C. The 'Conference Rule' (in regard to pitchers) **IS IN EFFECT**
- D. The 'Designated Player' rule IS NOT permitted.

BANTAM:

- A. The Ten (10) run Mercy Rule is in effect for the B, C & D categories.
- B. The 'Conference Rule' (in regard to pitchers) **IS IN EFFECT**
- C. The 'Designated Player' rule IS permitted.

2. ADULT FASTPITCH:

AGES - To be eligible for 2004 Season

JUNIOR A, B Men & Women - Under 23 PRIOR TO Jan. 1st of the current year. Must be born in or later than: 1981

FASTPITCH RANKINGS: SENIOR 'A'
 JUNIOR 'A'
 SENIOR 'B'
 INTERMEDIATE 'B'
 MASTERS
 INTERMEDIATE 'C'
 JUNIOR 'B'

THE OFFICIAL ZONE PLAYOFF AND PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SOFTBALL FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF ADULT FP WILL BE

MEN - SPALDING 177S cor. 47

WOMEN - SPALDING 177S cor. 47 **OPTIC**

ALL HOSTING CENTERS MUST BE PREPARED TO USE THE OFFICIAL SOFTBALL FOR THE ALBERTA SOFTBALL PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT.

- A. Adult FP Players will be permitted to sign a provincial roster on a Modified Orthodox FP Team and/or a Masters FP Team AND one (1) of the following Adult FP categories:

Senior A or Senior B / Intermediate B or C / Junior A or B

PLUS one (1) of each of the following Adult SP categories:

Senior SP / Co-Ed SP / Masters SP

They may participate in all the provincial categories in which they are signed, providing the dates for the Provincial Playoffs do not coincide.

B. All Adult division clubs in both male and female categories shall follow the standard softball pitch as outlined by the Alberta Amateur Softball Association and the Canadian Amateur Softball Association.

C. **EQUIPMENT:**

- (i) Metal spikes ARE permitted in all categories of Adult Fastpitch. Cleats must not extend more than 2.0 cm (3/4") from the sole or heel of the shoe.
- (ii) ALL Adult teams, both male and female, are required to wear protective batting helmets while on deck, batting and running bases in Zone and Provincial competition.
- (iii) Batting helmets with two (2) ear flaps are mandatory for all categories of FP.
- (iv) Catchers and their substitutes MUST wear a mask, helmet and throat protector prior to the game and between innings, when warming up a pitcher.

Specific League rulings take precedence for league play in regards to the use of batting and running helmets.

MASTERS FASTPITCH:

A. AGES - To be eligible for 2004 Season

1. MASTERS WOMEN FASTPITCH

- players MUST be thirty-five (35) years of age in the current year to participate in Provincial Playoffs. Born no later than 1969. (Max roster size - 20 players)

2. MASTERS MEN FASTPITCH

- players MUST be forty (40) years of age in the current year to participate in Provincial Playoffs. Born no later than 1964. (Max roster size - 20 players)

B. DESIGNATED RUNNER is permitted in Masters Fastpitch. (See 2004 Softball Canada Rulebook)

3. SLO-PITCH:

SLO-PITCH RANKINGS: SENIOR	
MASTERS	
THE OFFICIAL PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SOFTBALL FOR THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF ADULT SP WILL BE	
Senior Men / Master Men	- SPALDING Thunder Heat cor. 40 (12")
Senior Women / Master Women	- SPALDING Thunder Heat cor. 47 (11")
Co-Ed	- SPALDING Thunder Heat cor. 40 (12")
ALL HOSTING CENTERS MUST BE PREPARED TO USE THE OFFICIAL SOFTBALL FOR THE ALBERTA SOFTBALL PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT.	

- A. Adult SP Players will be permitted to sign a provincial roster on:

One (1) Senior SP team

AND

One (1) Co-Ed SP team

AND

One (1) Masters SP team

PLUS the following Adult Fastpitch categories:

- A Modified Orthodox FP Team and/or a Masters FP team

AND one (1) of: Senior A or Senior B / Intermediate B or C / Junior A or B

They may participate in all the provincial categories in which they are signed providing the dates for the Provincial Playoffs do not coincide.

- B. Team roster is a maximum of twenty (20) players.

EXCEPTION: Senior Men / Women SP - seventeen (17) players.

CO-ED: Twenty (20) players with 5 men and 5 women and a maximum of ten (10) players per gender.

- C. EQUIPMENT:

Specific League rulings take precedence for league play in regards to the use of batting and running helmets.

- D. The categories for Slo-Pitch offered in the Province of Alberta shall be:

Senior Mens, Senior Women's, Co-Ed, Master Mens, Master Women's and Co-Ed Recreational SP.

- E. ***A provincial championship will be held annually in all SP categories. Teams that finish 1st in each division may qualify to advance to the Canadian Championship. Teams that finish second and below may qualify to advance to the Western Canadian Championships.***

Teams finishing in 2nd place and below may petition Softball Alberta to participate in the Canadian Championships.

Note: Teams advancing to a championship which occurs a year or more after qualifying shall have a minimum of eight (8) returning players from the original qualified team to retain that right.

- F. ***Any individual player or team, that has participated at the Canadian SP championships is not eligible to play in the Western Canadian SP Championships in the same year.***

MASTERS SLO-PITCH:

- A. Players must be thirty-five (35) years of age in the current year of play to be eligible for the Masters Category.

EXAMPLE: A person turning thirty-five (35) years of age in 2004 would be eligible for 2004 Canadian and/or Western Canadian Championships.

- B. +35 & +40 Masters Mens SP teams entering the Provincial Playdowns will do so with the understanding that the provincial winner will advance to the Canadian Championships and will qualify for travel assistance from the AASA. Teams must indicate on their Provincial Entry which SP Age Category they qualify for.

- C. If there are NO Provincial Playoffs, the teams will be allowed to pickup to a MAXIMUM allowable limit for a Canadian Championship or Western Championship - whichever it may be. All pickups must be from an affiliated team.
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4. MODIFIED / ORTHODOX FASTPITCH:

THE OFFICIAL ZONE PLAYOFF AND PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
SOFTBALL FOR MODIFIED / ORTHODOX FP WILL BE THE

SPALDING 177S

ALL HOSTING CENTERS MUST BE PREPARED TO USE THE OFFICIAL
SOFTBALL FOR THE ALBERTA SOFTBALL PROVINCIAL
CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT.

- A. Modified / Orthodox FP team roster be set at a maximum of 20 players. For Co-Ed, a maximum of 14 players of either gender will be allowed.
- B. Modified / Orthodox FP must have a minimum of 3 players of each gender in the game at all times. Substitutions will be male for male and female for female.
- C. PITCHING RULES - See Softball Canada Rulebook - RULE 6 - Modified Orthodox
- D. PITCHING RULES - See Softball Canada Rulebook - RULE 6 - Modified Orthodox

Exception:

The ball may be outside the pitchers wrist at the top of the back swing and during the complete forward delivery. A slingshot type pitch is allowed. (a sling shot type pitch is defined as turning the body towards first or third base and bending the elbow during the backswing) The top of the back swing may not proceed past a vertical position to the pitchers head. During the forward delivery the pitchers hand must be within one foot of the body and may not contact the body or leg.

- E. Pitching distance - 43 ft. - Male or Female
- F.
 - (i) A seven run rule per inning will be in effect with the last inning being open with no run restriction.
 - (ii) All games to be of seven inning duration except when one team is leading the other by 15 runs at the completion of five or six innings of play. The team leading shall be declared the winner and will advance.
 - (iii) A double run rule for provincial playdowns shall be in effect: where if a team is leading by 20 runs after the third or fourth inning of play, a + 15 run rating shall be awarded to the leading team for tie-breaking purposes.
- G. EQUIPMENT:
 - (i) masks, body protectors and helmets (See C.A.S.A Rulebook)
 - (ii) Metal cleats are not allowed
 - (iii) Batting helmets with two (2) ear flaps are mandatory.

Specific league rulings take precedence for league play in regard to the use of batting and running helmets.

5. MODIFIED SOFTBALL:

- A. 10 players on the field with a minimum of 3 females 10 players are required to start and finish the game.
- B. Field layout: Pitching Distance 46'
Baselines 65'
- C. Pitching Rule:

The pitch shall have an arc between 4-8 feet, a moderate speed with no sling-shot, slide arm, windmill or full revolution of the pitching arm in the delivery.

The pitcher shall take a position with 1 or both feet firmly on the ground and contact with but not to the side of the pitching rubber.
- D. There are no intentional walks -- 4 balls must be pitched to the batter before the umpire can issue a base on balls.
- E. The third strike rule is in effect - Softball Canada Rulebook.
- F. The third strike foul rule is not in effect.

- G. No designated player, hitter or extra hitter allowed.
 - H. Stealing is allowed after the ball crosses the home plate.
 - I. Bunting is allowed and all fastpitch rules apply with the following addition: a "slam bunt" is not allowed. A "slam bunt" is when the batter assumes the bunt position and then as the pitch is delivered, pulls the bat back and takes a swing at the pitch.

Effect: The player is automatically ejected from the game, and the tournament ejection rules will apply.
 - J. All catchers must wear a mask and throat protector. Female catchers must wear a chest protector.
-

ARTICLE IX

UMPIRES & FEES:

- A. At least two umpires MUST be used in championship games. Hosts must arrange for these umpires and be responsible for payment of their fees. The umpires shall check the measurements of the diamond to the satisfaction of both teams and shall make a record of any objections raised by either team.
- B. (i) In all Provincial Playoffs, with six or more teams, 3 umpires to be assigned per diamond with 2 umpires working in one game and one resting and they work on a rotating basis.
(ii) That all categories of Softball leading to a Canadian Championship and all Adult (only) categories leading to a Western Canadian Championship use a three umpire system in all games at the Provincial Championship.
(iii) That a three umpire system be used in the playoff round at Minor Provincial Championships which lead to a Western Canadian Championship.
- C. Umpires shall, to the best of their ability, enforce the rules as written and may not, even with the concurrence of both competing teams, vary the rules, or refuse to administer all penalties the rules call for.
- D. If after starting a game with two officials, it is necessary to complete the game with one, that official shall assume full charge.
- E. Official Umpires assigned to playoffs shall be paid the following fees:

		THREE UMPIRE SYSTEM
Midget and down	\$20.00	\$45.00 per game
Junior	\$25.00	\$51.00 per game
Intermediate	\$25.00	\$51.00 per game
Senior A Men FP / Open FP	\$30.00	\$75.00 per game
Senior A Women FP / Open FP	\$25.00	\$60.00 per game
Slo-Pitch	\$20.00	\$45.00 per game
Masters	\$25.00	\$51.00 per game
Modified / Orthodox	\$25.00	\$51.00 per game

If three umpire system rates at Provincials are negotiated between the Host Committee and the Umpire Branch Executive responsible for that area, a firm rate must be established prior to a bid to host.

- F. To facilitate the promotion of softball on a community level, umpires may officiate at unsanctioned tournaments and games between unaffiliated teams sponsored by church groups, fraternal organizations, within their own community league or recognized recreation district as long as all participants are members of that community league or recognized recreation district and so long as officials are NOT paid for their services. Umpires officiating at unsanctioned tournaments or at games between unaffiliated teams outside their own community leagues or recognized recreation districts and unaffiliated leagues WILL BE SUSPENDED.
- G. Umpires who wish to umpire outside their registered branch require permission from both their branch UIC and the UIC of the branch in which they wish to umpire
- H. Official umpires using their automobiles travelling to and from such events shall be paid ***the mileage rate consistent with the current rate as provided by Softball Alberta.*** also hotel and meals required away from home. Umpires coming from the same area will be paid for one car only. Mileage to be paid over a 20 km. radius from centre of city, town or village. Meals are based on the following: Breakfast - 8.00, Lunch - \$11.00, Supper - \$16.00. Hotels / Motels will be paid at a rate of \$55 per night + tax. RECEIPTS MUST BE PRODUCED IN ALL CASES.

UMPIRE BRANCHES

1. MIGHTY PEACE
2. FORT MCMURRAY
3. EDMONTON & DISTRICT
4. EDMONTON MINOR
5. HIGHWAY 43
6. LAKELAND
7. BATTLE RIVER
8. FLAGSTAFF
9. RED DEER
10. CALGARY ADULT
11. CALGARY MINOR
12. HIGHWOOD
13. LETHBRIDGE
14. MEDICINE HAT

