

2022 Australian Championship Regulations

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SOFTBALL AUSTRALIA LIMITED

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 These Regulations, governed by Softball Australia's Constitution, are the primary reference to host, manage and participate in Softball Australia Events and encompass information previously provided in the Participation Guidelines, Event Hosting Standards and Player Draft.

2 Events

General

- 2.1 Softball Australia will conduct a series of Events during the course of each year. These Events will be conducted to meet or contribute to achieving the strategic objectives and initiatives of Softball Australia's Strategic Plan. The purpose of the Events includes, but is not limited to:
- providing selection opportunities for higher honours and selection in national teams.
 - providing interstate competition at both age-grade and open-grade.
 - providing opportunities for participation in elite competition.
 - providing opportunities for financial gain and increasing the profile of softball in Australia.
 - contributing to player, coach, umpire and statistician identification and development pathways.
 - encouraging participation, to enhance the growth of the game.

Categories

- 2.2 Softball Australia will conduct the following Events each year:

Event	Shield
Open Women's National Softball Championship	Gilley's Shield
Open Men's National Softball Championship	John Reid Shield
Over 35 Women's National Softball Championship	N/A
Over 35 Men's National Softball Championship	N/A
Under 23 Women's National Softball Championship	Joyce Lester Shield
Under 23 Men's National Softball Championship	Laing Harrow Shield
Under 18 Girls' National Softball Championship	Elinor McKenzie Shield
Under 18 Boys' National Softball Championship	Nox Bailey Shield
Under 16 Girls' National Softball Championship	Esther Deason Shield
Under 16 Boys' National Softball Championship	Arthur Allsopp Shield
Under 14 Girls' National Softball Championship	N/A
Under 14 Boys' National Softball Championship	N/A

Management and finance

- 2.3 During Events, operations are the responsibility of the Tournament Management Committee (**TMC**), in conjunction with Softball Australia.
 - 2.3.1 The TMC consists of the Technical Delegate (**TD**), Tournament Chief Umpire (**TCU**), Tournament Chief Statistician (**TCS**) and the host Tournament Convenor (**TC**). Softball Australia may, at their discretion, add additional positions to the TMC.
- 2.4 All financial costs associated with running an Event will be the responsibility of the Host and any profits derived from the tournament will be retained by the Host.

3 Scheduling and allocation

Scheduling

- 3.1 Softball Australia will schedule National Championships, taking into account age-grade events during school holidays, established state events, and Host convenience.
- 3.2 Finalised dates will be displayed on Softball Australia's website.

Allocation

- 3.3 Event venues will be determined in accordance with Softball Australia's Event allocation process:
 - 3.3.1 Softball Australia will contact states and call for hosting applications.
 - 3.3.2 States will submit applications reporting against the ability to provide or deliver against standards set by Softball Australia.
 - 3.3.3 Softball Australia will allocate hosting rights to specific states.
 - 3.3.4 Softball Australia and the Host will enter into an Event Hosting Agreement.
- 3.4 A summary of the event responsibilities of Softball Australia and the host can be found in Appendix 1.

4 Representative teams

- 4.1 Softball Australia will invite Member States to enter teams. Additional invitations may be made, for example age-grade national teams competing in U23 competition with a view to improving team performance on the international stage, or overseas club or state teams competing in National Championships. The International Friendship Series is open to all clubs and associations for entry, subject to capacity.
- 4.2 For all age-grade National Championships (U14, U16, U18, U23 and O35), states may enter more than one team.
 - 4.2.1 Where a state enters more than one team into a National Championship, the names of the teams will be at the discretion of the state, provided it makes reference to the state itself.
 - 4.2.2 The composition of the teams will be at the discretion of the state. A state may choose to enter one team that is perceived to be stronger than their other team, or may enter two teams of perceived equal strength.

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- 4.3 A team that is not representing a State is not eligible to compete for a national championship title.
- 4.4 All official entries will be required by a pre-determined date set by Softball Australia.
- 4.5 The total number of people per state team will not exceed 24, and the number of players will not exceed 16. If less than 16 players are named, team officials may exceed eight.
- 4.6 Official team lists must be submitted to Softball Australia by pre-determined dates each year.
- 4.6.1 Any changes to the official team list, including any additions or alterations to team personnel or changes to uniform numbers made prior to the Event, including at the Technical Meeting, must be made via the online registration portal before the change will be officially recognised.
- 4.7 No additions to an official team list will be permitted after the Technical Meeting, unless approved by the TD of the Event.
- 4.7.1 The TD must consult Softball Australia's National Events Manager (**NEM**) before doing so and ensure any changes comply with the relevant State.
- 4.8 National teams participating for development purposes will be administered by Softball Australia.
- 4.9 Two states may combine to enter a team into a National Championship, with approval of Softball Australia. At least one of the states must not already have entered a team into the championship.
- 4.9.1 Composite teams must nominate a state under whom they will be administered.
- 4.9.2 Combined state teams must comply with the Regulations regarding eligibility to participate, exactly as though this was a state team in its own right.
- 4.9.3 A combined state team may participate in the Player Draft in accordance with clause 8.6 of these Regulations to fill vacancies in their team. Draft placing of the combined team will be determined from the previous year's finishing position of the team's administering state.
- 4.9.4 It is the responsibility of the states combining to determine the following and advise Softball Australia accordingly:
- (a) The name of the team.
 - (b) The appointment of the team officials.
 - (c) The State playing uniform to be worn (members of combined teams may wear the approved warm up jacket of their home state).
 - (d) Softball Australia will correspond with the nominated state, and any fees, fines or other charges incurred by the team will be charged to that state, which is then responsible for making payment.
 - (e) Prior to combining to enter a team, the partner states will determine the percentage of fees, fines and charges each will incur and agree to pay such amounts to the state with the responsibility for the team administration.

Entry fees

- 4.10 Team entry fees will be set annually by Softball Australia and notified to States during the invitation process. Unless prior arrangement is made, Softball Australia may withdraw a team entry if the entry fee is not paid by the due date. Softball Australia may also withhold refund of team entry fees if a team withdraws after completion of the player draft.
- 4.11 Payment due date is at dates as set by Softball Australia each year.

Accommodation and travel

- 4.12 Eight weeks prior to the Event, all participating States must notify the Host of team arrival and departure times, accommodation details and ground transport information.
- 4.13 Teams must ensure they book all return travel the day following grand final day, unless prior approval has been given by Softball Australia.

5 Trophies and awards

- 5.1 Trophies, team medallions and individual player awards will be provided by Softball Australia.
- 5.2 Additional awards may be included or introduced by Softball Australia.
- 5.3 If the Host wishes to include additional awards, prior approval must be obtained from Softball Australia.
- 5.4 All presentations and announcement of individual award winners will be made at the closing ceremony.

Perpetual trophies

- 5.5 All States holding previous year's perpetual trophy must present their trophy to the Host during the Event opening ceremony or designated opportunity. This includes defending State champions as well as defending McLaughlin Cup champions in the Open Women's competition.

Medallions

- 5.6 Medallions will be presented to individuals of the winning team at U16 to open-grade Events and both teams in the grand final at U14 Events.

Individual awards

- 5.7 Individual awards will be presented to the Most Valuable Player, Best Batter, Best Pitcher, and Player of the Grand Final at all U16 to open-grade events. The Rosemary Adey Rookie of the Year is awarded to the best first year player at open-grade national championships only. Refer to Appendix 19 for award criteria.

Awarding of a national title

- 5.8 If a championship commences with teams from at least four states, a national title will be awarded, even if the championship concludes with teams from less than four states.

6 Individual participant eligibility

Qualifications

- 6.1 The state for which a player or team official is registered at five months prior to the beginning of a month of which an event is scheduled, is the state that the individual is eligible to represent during that season (refer to the table below for dates). If there is no opportunity for an individual to register before the allocated date, the state the individual was last registered with will be considered valid.

- 6.1.1 For 2022, given that the dates for the rescheduled 2022 National Championships were not announced until 10 November 2021, the eligibility date for National Championships commencing in April was pushed back to 1 December 2021.

Event	Start Month	Registration/Clearance Date
2022 Open Women's Nationals	April	1 December 2021
2022 Open Men's Nationals	April	1 December 2021
2022 Under 14, 16 and 18 Nationals	April	1 December 2021
2022 Under 23 Men's Nationals	April	1 December 2021
2022 Under 23 Women's Nationals	May	1 December 2021
2022 Over 35 Nationals	June	1 January 2022

This clause does not apply to:

- 6.1.2 Drafted players or pick up officials selected in accordance with these Regulations.
- 6.1.3 International players who are temporary residents of a state and become registered with that state. An international player must be confirmed on a state squad list by the date the squad list is due to be submitted (after the draft).
- 6.1.4 Players who have never been registered and cannot register before the eligibility date (eg. 1 August) but do register prior to the commencement of the Event. A player who has never registered must be confirmed on a squad state list by the date the list is due to be submitted.
- 6.1.5 Players who are registered in the national database as members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF). Should an ADF member permit to play in another State, the State they are permitted to at the dates indicated in the table in 6.1 is the State they will be deemed eligible to play for at National Championships.
- 6.2 In order to participate in an Event, all players, team officials, umpires and appointed statisticians must be registered in the National Database prior to the event, in the current season.

International player participation

- 6.3 A player will be deemed international:
- if they do not hold an Australian Citizenship; or
 - if they have represented another country and have not been approved for international transfer back to Australia (dual-citizenship)

Examples – International Players

- 6.4 See below for a series of examples that demonstrate whether or not a player can be classified as an International Player.
- 6.4.1 A player born outside of Australia who does not hold Australian Citizenship and is unable to make themselves available for Australian selection.
- 6.4.2 A player born outside of Australia who holds citizenship in both their birth country and Australia yet does not register to play within Australia or complete an international transfer from their birth country.
- 6.4.3 A player born within Australia who holds citizenship in both Australia and a second country yet does not register to play within Australia or complete an international transfer from their second country of citizenship.
- 6.5 The preponderant goals of international players participating in Softball Australia National Championships are:
- 6.5.1 Improve the quality of play and overall competition, thereby providing potential national representative players maximum exposure to the highest possible level of play and competition.
- 6.5.2 Improve performance of smaller states and facilitate a much tighter and even level of competition across all teams.
- 6.6 Any restrictions, qualifying criteria or application processes relating to international player participation in Softball Australia Events are directly related and strategically aligned to the aforementioned preponderant goal.
- 6.7 Each state is permitted to have four international players in a state team participating in a National Championship event, with only two named players being permitted to pitch during the event.
- 6.7.1 A state may apply in writing to Softball Australia, in certain circumstances, for additional international players.
- Examples include:
- (a) Where additional international players could make the difference for a team to have enough numbers to attend
- (b) Where international players reside and play softball at a local level in Australia and their participation would help to achieve the preponderant goals
- 6.7.2 Where required, a completed [WBSC-SC Player Transfer Request Form](#) must be submitted to Softball Australia prior to the commencement of the championship.
- 6.7.3 If a team exceeds the international player limit, their games will be deemed as forfeits.
- In addition:
- (a) If a team is found to exceed the international player limit whilst the championship is in progress, they will be ineligible to play in that year's finals.

- (b) If a team is found to exceed the international player limit after the championship, that team will be ineligible to play in the finals in the following year's corresponding championship.

7 Age restriction and verification

- 7.1 Players in age-grade Events must be under the required age (eg U16) on 31 December in the year preceding the Event.

Event	Eligible Year of Birth
2022 Over 35 Nationals	1987 or earlier
2022 Under 23 Nationals	1998 or later
2022 Under 18 Nationals	2004 or later
2022 Under 16 Nationals	2006 or later
2022 Under 14 Nationals	2008 or later

- 7.2 States are responsible for the age verification of their players after players have completed the online registration form.
- 7.3 Any state team seeking exemption for an over-age player to participate must apply in writing to Softball Australia's NEM. The team manager must have a copy of the NEM approval at the Event.
- 7.4 The penalty for a non-approved over-age player participating at an Event is a forfeit of every game the player participates in, whether on the diamond or on the bench.

8 Player draft and pick-up officials

- 8.1 The draft will take place approximately six weeks prior to the Event.
- 8.2 The player draft ensures fair distribution of key players unable to be utilised by their home state. In some instances, it enables states to enter teams where attendance would otherwise not be achievable.
- 8.3 The draft is aimed at players who may be on the fringe of selection in their home state or unable to attend due to non-participation by the home state.
- 8.4 The player draft applies to U14 to open-grade Events.

Player eligibility

- 8.5 Players are eligible to enter the draft under the following circumstances:
- 8.5.1 An athlete stood for selection in their state, was not selected, and is endorsed for the draft by their state.
- 8.5.2 A player is cleared to another state after the eligibility date (eg. 1 August for January Championships) and has not had the opportunity to try out for the state they were registered with as at the eligibility date due to trials occurring after the date the player cleared.

- 8.5.3 The player's state is not entering a team in the Event.
- 8.5.4 Ex-patriot players: only ex-patriot players residing interstate and released for the draft are eligible to enter negotiations with the state of origin prior to the draft. This is the only circumstance where contact can be made with a player nominating for the draft prior to the conduct of the draft.

Administration and procedures

- 8.6 The following online documents are required to be completed in relation to the draft:
- 8.6.1 '[Request to Select Players in Player Draft](#)' – States wishing to select players from the draft must include the number of players they wish to draft on this form and submit by the due date.
- 8.6.2 '[Player Draft Nomination Form](#)' – players wishing to enter the draft must complete this form. A bond of \$500 (inc GST) is payable at the time of nominating for the draft.
- (a) Softball Australia will verify with the player's home state that the player is eligible to enter the player draft.
 - (b) Should a player not be selected in the draft, the bond amount will be refunded.
 - (c) Should a player be selected in the draft, the bond amount will be transferred to the state that selects the player, for them to deduct from the total player levy amount to be charged to the drafted player.
 - (d) A player that is selected in the draft and subsequently withdraws, will not be provided with a refund of the bond amount. That amount will be retained by the state that selected that player in the draft.
- 8.7 Administration and management of the draft will be coordinated by Softball Australia, who will:
- Forward a list of all eligible draft players to states.
 - Confirm and distribute final team standings from the previous year's Event to confirm draft selection order and player entitlements.
 - Coordinate teleconference requirements to conduct the draft at the date and time previously confirmed.

State eligibility to draft players

- 8.8 Player entitlements for teams in the draft are based on the states' placing at the previous year's Event:
- Teams ranked one and two are entitled to select a maximum of two players.
 - Teams ranked three and four are entitled to select a maximum of three players.
 - Teams ranked fifth to eight are entitled to select a maximum of four players.
- 8.9 Softball Australia may, if circumstances warrant, vary the number of draft players for a specific Event or, on a case by case basis, allow additional draft players to a specific state team.

Selection sequence

- 8.10 Each state will take it in turn to select one player at a time from the draft pool.
 - 8.10.1 States eligible for maximum draft selection are entitled to select in each round of selection.
 - 8.10.2 States ranked third and fourth may only enter the draft in round two of selection.
 - 8.10.3 States ranked first and second may only enter the draft in round three of selection.
- 8.11 The sequence for selecting is the reverse order of state seeding, eg 8th place has first pick, 7th place has second pick and so on. A state that wishes to enter the draft when it did not attend the previous year's Event will be entitled to the maximum number of selections and will take the last pick in the first round.
- 8.12 Composite teams will be entitled to enter the draft under the previous year's seeding or placing of the state they are representing.

Communications

- 8.13 State draft representatives are permitted to converse with other state representatives in relation to attributes of players participating in the draft.
- 8.14 Pre-draft selections and negotiations are **not permitted**.
- 8.15 Pre-draft contact with players is **not permitted**, other than with ex-patriot players eligible to play for their state.

Post draft selections

- 8.16 A player who nominates for the draft and is not selected at the time the draft is conducted, will be placed in a draft pool list.
- 8.17 Players placed in the draft pool list may still be selected after the draft by a state who has not used all their permitted draft selections.
 - 8.17.1 Where an eligible state wishes to select a player from the draft pool list, they must advise Softball Australia's NEM via email of the player they wish to select.
 - 8.17.2 Players in the draft pool list may be selected by a state up until the Friday two weeks prior to the beginning of the Event.
 - 8.17.3 Where a player in the draft pool list is offered the opportunity to be selected after the draft, the player has the right to decline the opportunity without losing their bond payment.
 - (a) If a player declines the opportunity to be selected by a state after the draft, their name will be removed from the draft pool list and they are not eligible to be selected by another state. They can however be selected by their home state.

Additions to draft pool list after the player draft

- 8.18 A player may be added to the player draft pool list after the player draft has been held, where there are no other players remaining in the draft pool list for the relevant Event who have the same main/first playing position as the player being added to the list.

- 8.18.1 In this situation, a player is not eligible to nominate themselves directly to Softball Australia to be added to the draft pool list. The player's home state must notify Softball Australia that the player is being added to the list and must advise Softball Australia of the player's main/first playing position.
- 8.18.2 States looking to draft a player who plays a specific position, and there are no players remaining in the draft pool list who have that position listed as their first/main position, must only converse with another state office to find out if they may have any players who play that specific position and may potentially be added to the draft pool list.
- (a) Direct contact with players is not permitted.

Selection of players added to the draft pool list after the player draft

- 8.19 A state seeking to select a player who has been added to the draft pool list after the player draft is held must not have passed on a selection during the player draft when a player with the same main/first playing position that they are seeking was still available to be selected with that pick.

Example: State A wishes to select a pitcher that has been added to the draft pool list after the player draft. State A had selection three in the player draft and passed on that selection. At that time, there was another player who had listed pitcher as their main/first playing position available to be selected. Even though that player may have subsequently been selected in the player draft, given that State A passed on that opportunity, they are not eligible to select the pitcher that has been added to the draft pool list.

- 8.20 When a player is added to the draft pool list after the player draft, Softball Australia will notify via email all states who have not used their maximum draft selections that the player has been added.
- 8.20.1 The state with the highest eligible selection in the draft will have the first rights to select that player. That state will have a period of 24 hours from when the email was sent to advise Softball Australia if they wish to select the player.
- 8.20.2 If that state does not respond within 24 hours, another state with the next highest eligible selection can then also select that player.
- (a) When this occurs, the state that first advises Softball Australia's NEM via email that they wish to select the player will have the right to do so.

Player levy

- 8.21 If a player levy is imposed, it cannot exceed the amounts indicated in 8.21.1. The player levy amounts exclude the cost of flights, which will be booked and paid for separately by the drafted player.

- 8.21.1 Player levy maximum amounts (inc GST):

Championship duration	No of nights' accommodation	Maximum levy amount (inc GST)
6-day Championship	6	\$1,540
6-day Championship	7	\$1,675

8.22 In addition to accommodation, the following items are expected to be included as part of the player levy for a drafted player:

- Meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner, bench food)
- Ground transport
- Medical kit expenses
- Incidentals (laundry, petrol, ice etc)
- Team entry fee
- Uniform items (to keep): Team cap/visor, walk out polo shirt, playing socks

8.22.1 If some of the expected inclusions are not provided, or will be provided to a lesser extent, the levy a drafted player pays may be reduced.

8.22.2 Costs for a physiotherapist/massage therapist are not included as part of the player levy. Any personal medical supplies (eg. strapping tape) are the responsibility of the drafted player. Where a state provides these to a drafted player, a state may charge extra for these items.

8.22.3 The following items will be provided to a drafted player to loan, for return at the end of the event:

- Playing top(s)
- Playing pants/shorts
- Tracksuit jacket (if part of uniform)
- Tracksuit pants (if part of uniform)

A drafted player has the option of purchasing the items listed above if desired. Undershirt and walkout shorts are also optional additional purchases.

8.22.4 Any balance of funds from meals and incidentals will be refunded equally to all individuals who contributed equally to these amounts.

Draft player recall

8.23 A player selected during the player draft or post draft may be recalled to their home state's team up until the Friday two weeks prior to the beginning of the Event. Please refer to the table below for recall dates. If a player endorsed for the draft is not selected in the draft, that player can be recalled to their home state. Where a draft player is recalled from a State, that State has provision to draft another player from the available draft pool.

8.23.1 Player Draft recall dates

Event	Start date	Final date for recall
Open Women	Tuesday 5 April 2022	Friday 18 March 2022
Open Men	Tuesday 5 April 2022	Friday 18 March 2022
U18s	Tuesday 12 April 2022	Friday 25 March 2022

U14s	Tuesday 19 April 2022	Friday 1 April 2022
U16s, U23 Men	Tuesday 26 April 2022	Friday 8 April 2022
U23 Women	Tuesday 3 May 2022	Friday 15 April 2022
Over 35s	Sunday 26 June 2022	Friday 10 June 2022

Drafted player withdrawal

- 8.24 If a player selected in the player draft withdraws from a team, they will not be eligible to be drafted by any other state or be recalled to their home state.

Pick-up officials

- 8.25 Each state entered in an Event may pick-up officials.
- 8.25.1 Pick-up officials must have applied for an official's position in their state for that Event or be released by their state.
- 8.25.2 The Application for Pick-Up Official Form, (Appendix 2), must be signed by the official, a home state representative and the state seeking the official and submitted to Softball Australia prior to the commencement of the Event.
- 8.25.3 Pick-up officials may be recalled to their home state no less than two weeks prior to the Event Technical Meeting. In this instance, the original pick-up state will be permitted to pick-up another official and submit any relevant documentation to the TD prior to the commencement of the Event Technical Meeting.
- 8.25.4 Pick-up officials will be provided with the relevant team uniforms at no cost and will not be required to pay any fee or levy that would be greater than that if they had been selected for their own state.

9 Uniforms and equipment

General

- 9.1 State uniforms will be in the state colours approved by Softball Australia. These colours will be the same for all state teams.
- 9.2 Protective equipment will not be Australian Team equipment, carrying any Australian Team logo or Softball Australia logo, for example catchers' helmet.
- 9.3 All batting helmets worn by players in a state team must be in the colour indicated in the uniform register.
- 9.4 Uniforms may bear the wearer's name, or in the case of officials, their positions in the team, providing any playing numbers are not obscured.
- 9.5 Softball Australia will forward details of registered playing uniforms to the TD prior to commencement of the Event.

Player uniform

- 9.6 Uniforms must meet the requirement of the Softball Australia Official Playing Rules.
- 9.7 States need only have one playing strip. There is no requirement for a second 'clash' strip.

- 9.8 In addition to the number on the back of the playing uniform, all players are to have a uniform number displayed on the front of their playing top, which shall be 7.62cm (3") high.

- 9.8.1 Softball Australia may grant an exemption of this requirement to some teams for the 2022 National Championships, based on those teams already having their playing uniforms for these championships. In these cases, approval must be granted by Softball Australia prior to the commencement of the event.

Changes to player uniforms

- 9.9 Following initial registration of a state uniform, changes may be made by notifying Softball Australia prior to the Event. Should the proposal change the appearance of the uniform, prior approval from Softball Australia must be obtained.

Coach and official uniforms

- 9.10 Coaches' uniforms will be similar to the players' uniform, with or without a number, or a shirt similar to the players' shirt, with appropriate pants/shorts, shoes that are fully enclosed and socks or the official team tracksuit. Other team officials may wear the same attire as the coach, the team's official walk-out uniform or the team bench uniform.

Sponsors logos

- 9.11 Advertising by sponsor/s is permitted on state team playing uniforms and off-diamond uniforms in accordance with the following parameters:
- 9.11.1 Playing apparel
- (a) Each team is allowed one major sponsor on playing apparel a maximum of 300mm x 300mm and can be positioned on the front or back of apparel item.
 - (b) Each team is allowed no more than five (5) secondary sponsor logos on playing apparel however each individual logo must not be larger than 120mm x 120mm.
 - (c) Playing apparel must be approved by Softball Australia prior to production.
- 9.11.2 Non-playing apparel
- (a) Sponsorship on non-playing apparel is at the discretion of the Executive Officer of that state.
- 9.11.3 Sponsors with uncertain or polarising social or moral values must be approved by Softball Australia prior to production.

10 Scoring

Appointments

- 10.1 The National Chief Statistician (**NCS**) will appoint all statisticians to National Championships. Statisticians wishing to be appointed must apply to do so, with endorsement by the State Scoring Director and countersigned by the state. Completed forms must be returned to the NCS by a pre-determined date. The NCS will appoint the

Tournament Chief Statistician (**TCS**), who will manage statisticians, both on and off the field. A TCS Position Description is included in Appendix 15. A Position Description for Web-Based Reporting Personnel is included in Appendix 16.

- 10.2 The TCS and all officiating statisticians must hold an active NOAS Level 4 accreditation and a Level 2 accreditation (or approval by the National Scoring Committee) with iScore module, which is the only technology-based program to be used at Events.

Travel and accommodation

- 10.3 Softball Australia will cover the cost of flights, accommodation and ground transport for all interstate statisticians, from one day prior to the start of the tournament to one day after the conclusion of the tournament.
- 10.4 The NCS is responsible for listing all flight and travel requirements for statisticians and forwarding this information to Softball Australia, who will make the necessary arrangements.
- 10.5 Softball Australia will coordinate and confirm accommodation with local providers at least three months prior to the Event. Should a Softball Australia national travel services partner exist at this time, this partner must be used to make all bookings. Confirmed accommodation details must be tabled at the National Scorers Annual Meeting.

Statistics

- 10.6 All completed scoresheets, forms, documents and electronic reports recording game performance and the national statistics database, must be forwarded to Softball Australia within 14 days after the conclusion of the Event.
- 10.7 A copy of tournament statistics, including Tournament MVP, Tournament Batting, Tournament Pitching and each team's Batting and Pitching statistics must be emailed in pdf form to Softball Australia's NEM within 14 days after the conclusion of the Event.
- 10.8 National coaches, selectors, Softball Australia representatives and the TD must be provided with statistical information as and when requested by Softball Australia. The TCS is to provide this information.
- 10.8.1 Where a national coach or selector is involved in the Event with a team, they will not be provided with statistical information until the conclusion of the Event.
- 10.9 The TCS will provide the following information: team line up on the website, results and play by play on the website, information to national coaches, selectors and the TD.
- 10.10 The TCS must complete the TCS Report and forward this to the NSC within 14 days after the conclusion of the event.

Facilities

- 10.11 The Host must provide office facilities that includes a desktop computer, that must have the up to date and relevant operating system with compatible Microsoft Access software, printer, internet connection, telephone, photocopier and sufficient space and desks to cater for the number of official statisticians needed for the championship (as noted in the hosting standards). Facilities must provide privacy and security for equipment and access to hot and cold beverages.
- 10.12 Wireless access must be available at all diamonds and at the location where statisticians will be working. Hosts must have 3G or 4G connectivity devices available in the case of Wi-

Fi access being unavailable (eg pre-paid mobile broadband). Wireless access must be tested a minimum of one month prior to the commencement of the event.

Official Uniforms

- 10.13 All Statisticians, scoring technical staff and scoring assistants must wear the Softball Australia Official Grey and Orange trim shirt at all Softball Australia national events. Black slacks, shorts or skirts are to be worn with this shirt.
- 10.14 All Statisticians and scoring technical staff who are travelling interstate to participate at a Softball Australia national event must wear the Softball Australia Official White with Navy Trim Travel Shirt. Black slacks, shorts or skirts are to be worn with this shirt.

11 Umpiring

Appointments

- 11.1 The National Umpire-in-Chief Operations (**NUIC**) will appoint all umpires to National Championships. Umpires wishing to officiate must apply to do so, with endorsement by the state Umpire-in-Chief or State Director of Umpiring (**SDU**) and countersigned by the state. Completed forms must be returned to the NUIC by a pre-determined date. The NUIC will appoint the Tournament Chief Umpire (**TCU**), who will manage umpires, both on and off the field. A TCU Position Description is included in Appendix 17.

Travel and accommodation

- 11.2 Softball Australia will cover the cost of flights, accommodation and ground transport for all umpires, from one day prior to the start of the tournament to one day after the conclusion of the tournament.
 - 11.2.1 Where the event schedule and flight departure times allow, umpires can be scheduled to fly home on the same day as the conclusion of the event.
- 11.3 The NUIC Operations is responsible for listing all flight and travel requirements for umpires and forwarding this information to Softball Australia, who will make the necessary arrangements.
- 11.4 Softball Australia will coordinate and confirm accommodation with local providers at least three months prior to the Event. Should a Softball Australia national travel services partner exist at this time, this partner must be used to make all bookings. Confirmed accommodation details must be tabled at the National Umpires Annual Meeting.
- 11.5 Softball Australia is responsible for organising ground transport for Event umpires. This information must be tabled at the National Umpires Annual Meeting.

Facilities

- 11.6 Host states are requested to provide suitable change facilities for umpires. These facilities must include private/cordoned off changing areas for men and women, and security for equipment.
- 11.7 Host states are requested to make 'office' facilities available to the TCU with internet availability. *It is desirable to have separate printing capabilities to the official statisticians.*
- 11.8 Host states are requested to make available to the TCU a meeting area that provides some degree of privacy.

12 General Event Rules

12.1 In addition to these Regulations, all games at National Championships will be played in accordance with:

- Softball Australia's Official Playing Rules
- Australian Championship Competition Rules (Appendix 3)
- [Softball Australia approved Technical Bulletins.](#)
- Any specific ground rules requested by the Host and approved by Softball Australia.

12.2 Specific playing rules are included as follows:

12.2.1 Australian Championship Competition Rules – Appendix 3.

12.2.2 Rules for Australian U14 National Championships – Appendix 4.

Duration

12.3 National Championships will not exceed nine days, excluding travel time.

Playing schedule

12.4 Every effort is made to provide maximum playing opportunity, within reason, and provide meaningful competition. When team entry numbers permit, single or multiple round-robin draws will be scheduled, followed by an elimination finals system.

12.5 At combined Events, the sequence in which grand finals are played will be: the younger age grade final will be played first; if the combined Event is the same age grade, males will play the first grand final in odd number years, and females will play the first grand final in even number years (eg 2022, female final then male final).

13 Softball Australia's Codes of Conduct

13.1 All participants at Events must abide by Softball Australia's Code of Conduct. An Event Tribunal will have authority to deal with and take appropriate action against any player or official whose on or off-diamond actions or conduct are reported as being in breach of the Code of Conduct. The Coaches, Players, Spectators and Officials Codes of Conduct are included in Appendices 7, 8, 9 and 10.

14 Drug testing

14.1 The Host must be aware of the Sport Integrity Australia (**SIA**) anti-doping requirements. SIA is permitted to test or conduct doping control at any Softball Australia Events. Softball Australia's Anti-Doping Policy is available on the Softball Australia website. Hosts must provide the following facilities and equipment in order to accommodate SIA requirements:

- 14.1.1 A drug testing room and waiting area for the sole purpose of drug testing that offers athlete privacy and confidentiality and is close to the field of play. The drug testing room should include a small table and at least three chairs.

-
- 14.1.2 A toilet facility which allows a chaperone to directly observe a competitor providing a urine sample.
 - 14.1.3 The facility must be secured by lock, to accommodate the storage of drug testing equipment.
 - 14.1.4 The Host must also supply bottles of non-carbonated water and a fridge, esky or bin with ice to keep bottled water chilled.
 - 14.2 The facility will be inspected by the Doping Control Officer (**DCO**) on arrival at the ground. The reserved area must be appropriately signed to ensure non-authorised personnel do not enter the area. Upon arrival, the DCO will indicate the number of sealed bottles of water that will be required. Any additional staff or equipment and testing-related expenses will be provided by SIA.
 - 14.3 All SIA officials will be wearing uniform or identification badges and the DCO will make contact with the TD or TC immediately on arrival. A copy of the game schedule and team lists should be made available to the DCO at this time.

Appendix 1

Softball Australia and Host Venue Responsibilities (Summary)

Softball Australia Responsibilities

1. Manage all team entries, registrations and the player draft.
2. Supply balls for the event.
3. Appoint the Tournament Chief Umpire and umpires and cover the cost of their flights, accommodation and ground transport.
4. Appoint the Tournament Chief Statistician and statisticians and cover the cost of flights, accommodation and ground transport for interstate statisticians.
5. Appoint national selectors to attend the event.
6. Produce the event program. The program will be published online prior to the start of the event.
7. Supply medals for events, in line with the requirements of the Australian Championship Regulations.
8. Provide live streaming of games at the Gilley's Shield and John Reid Shield, for the last two games of the day each day on the main diamond.

In consultation with the Host, Softball Australia will:

9. Coordinate all pre-Event meetings.
10. Develop and distribute an Event draw to all relevant stakeholders.
11. Appoint a Softball Australia Technical Delegate.
12. Promote the event on the Softball Australia website and via other relevant marketing communication channels.
13. Conduct site and ground inspections the day before the event begins.
14. Coordinate sponsorship and advertising, in accordance with Softball Australia's National Sponsorship Policy.

Host Venue Responsibilities

1. Provide appropriate playing and training facilities for the event.
2. Appoint an official photographer for the event.
3. Leverage the event through junior participation involvement to increase the profile of the sport at grassroots level.
4. Ensure spectator admittance charges are kept to a minimum.
5. Ensure a First Aid Officer is at the venue each day, from 60 minutes prior to the first game of the day to the completion of the last game of the day.
6. Produce an Event Handbook for teams and officials with important event information.
7. Conduct either a formal opening ceremony or a short procedure prior to the first game to allow the championship holders to return the trophy/shield.
8. Conduct a closing ceremony at the conclusion of the event.



Event Hosting Responsibilities

9. Provide Game commentary including team introductions for the daily feature match and finals.
10. Provide facilities and specific requirements for drug testing.
11. Provide appropriate spectator facilities and services.
12. Provide facilities for umpires, statisticians and tournament officials.
13. Appoint a Tournament Convenor to oversee the organisation and running of the event.

The full responsibilities of the Host Venue are contained in the Event Services Agreement, signed by both Softball Australia and the Host Association.



Australian Championship Application for Pick-Up Official

Appendix 2

National Events Application for Pick-Up Official

Championship: _____ Year: _____

State seeking pick-up: _____

Official details

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Home club: _____ Association: _____

State: _____

Reason for requesting pick-up of official

Authority

I agree to be a pick-up official for the abovenamed Association for the stated Australian Championship.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

To be completed by state seeking official

I hereby request approval for the above named official to participate for my state at the above championship.

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

To be completed by official's home State Association

I certify that the above-named player was available for selection for the state team and that this state has no objection to the official being a pick-up for the above named state.

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

Reasons if request is denied

Australian Championship Competition Rules

Appendix 3

Australian Championship Competition Rules

National Championships are played under the current Softball Australia Official Playing Rules including any Softball Australia technical bulletins. The information set out below is in addition to the Rules set out in the Official Playing Rules.

1 Attendance at meeting and grounds

- 1.1 All teams are to be represented at technical and management meetings; failure to comply may result in a \$200 penalty. All teams must also be at the venue and ready to start 30 minutes prior to game schedule; non-compliance will incur a \$100 penalty.
- 1.2 The **Technical Meeting** will be chaired by the TD, with representation from the TCS, TC and TCU.
- 1.3 A **team managers meeting** may be conducted at the completion of the round robin and prior to the finals series, if deemed necessary by the TD. This meeting may be held to: confirm final placings prior to finals, confirm the playing schedule, and address any matters that may have arisen during the round robin.
- 1.4 Any changes to ground rules will be announced 30 minutes before the game when line-up cards are exchanged.
- 1.5 Teams are to be in their respective dugouts 20 minutes prior to the commencement of their game.

2 Balls

- 2.1 Balls for all games will be supplied by, and remain the property of, Softball Australia. One ball will be given to each team for use by the pitcher at least 30 minutes before each game. The ball will be handed back to the plate umpire when requested before the game. Softball Australia will provide balls on a ratio of 3 balls per game.

3 Bases

- 3.1 All bases and the pitching and home plate will be firmly secured. If pegs are used for bases, they must be completely covered by the base. Velcro attached bases must not be used. The double base should be two separate bases with the base in foul territory being of a contrasting colour.

4 Grounds

- 4.1 The TCU, or a representative nominated by the NUC, will undertake a safety check of the grounds at least 48 hours prior to the first game of the championship. The TD should be present for the safety check. The Championship Convenor will then be advised of any changes to be made to the playing grounds.

5 Suspension of play

- 5.1 In the event of adverse weather, the TMC will decide whether a game will commence, be delayed, recorded as a regulation or abandoned.
- 5.2 Once a game has commenced, if darkness, rain, storm, panic or other cause puts the players or patrons in peril the game will be suspended. The Plate Umpire will decide if a game is to be suspended. Once the game is suspended (for other than a shower of rain),

Australian Championship Competition Rules

the plate umpire hands the responsibility over to the TMC. The TMC will decide when and if the game will resume.

- 5.3 A game temporarily suspended by the plate umpire for any reason without a result being determined under a "Regulation Game" will be resumed at the point where it was suspended using the original line-up during the round of play. Every effort should be made to complete round one with regulation games and then round two and so on.
- 5.4 The TMC may decide to record a regulation game for any game suspended, that is regulation at the time of suspension (providing a result under the rules has been achieved), during any round in the interest of the tournament draw (and in the interest of completing the full round on a designated time frame if applicable).
- 5.5 If by the end of play for the day a suspended game has played for five or more innings with a result, or the team second at bat has scored more runs than the other team in four or more innings a regulation game will be recorded.

6 Barracking

- 6.1 Barracking is allowed from the benches but there must be no personal or disparaging remarks.

7 Smoking & consumption of alcohol

- 7.1 Smoking or the consumption of alcohol is not permitted on the benches or the field or whilst in uniform. Any breaches to this may result in a player/official being ejected from the game and/or championship.

8 Toss

The home team is defined as the team that occupies 3rd base and fields first.

- 8.1 Where there is an uneven number of rounds of competition in the round robin, one person from each team will report to the TCU at the conclusion of the Technical Meeting for the toss to decide the 'home team'. The first named team on the official draw will call the toss.
- 8.2 Where there is an even number of rounds of competition in the round robin, there will be no requirement for the toss. The first named team on the official playing schedule will be the home team.
- 8.3 For all the first round of finals matches, the team that finished higher on the ladder will have the choice to be the home or away team (without toss).
- 8.4 For subsequent rounds of the finals series, Softball Australia will determine for each game which team will have the choice to be the home or away team.

9 Warm-up

- 9.1 Each team may have a five-minute warm-up on the playing surface for their first scheduled game of the tournament. The 'home team' will have last warm-up and remain on the field for the start of the game, unless team announcements are made prior to the game when both teams will be required to vacate the diamond.
- 9.1.1 Teams will be allowed to warm up in the outfield only whilst ground maintenance staff are completing their work on the infield area.
- 9.1.2 Long-ball hitting cannot be undertaken, however throwing, bunting, pepper hitting, ground and fly ball fungo hitting or whiffle ball hitting are acceptable activities. All hitting must be done from foul territory toward centre field. Throwing and hitting off or on the foul ball lines is not permitted.

Australian Championship Competition Rules

9.1.3 Pitchers must warm up in the designated bullpen areas where possible.

9.1.4 Care should be taken where spectators are likely to be hit by wild throws or pitches.

9.2 During a game, pitchers should warm up in the bull pens; if bull pens are not available then outfield foul territory should be used, with the pitcher pitching away from the field of play. A minder with a glove should be stationed in a position to protect the pitcher and catcher facing the batter. The minder should verbalise and try to keep their players away from live ball plays. A maximum of four people may be in the outfield area.

9.3 Coaches will report for the pre-game meeting one minute before the scheduled start of the game. If there are to be announcements made, the meeting will take place five or more minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game.

10 Introductions

10.1 At the discretion of the Host, in consultation with Softball Australia, players and officials may be introduced to dignitaries or the public before the game.

10.2 For each Grand Final, the players and officials will be introduced to the public eight minutes before the game. Please refer to Appendix 21 for the protocol for announcements.

10.2.1 Where time does not permit for Grand Final introductions (eg. games delayed due to weather, incoming rain/storm etc) then they are not mandatory.

11 Bench area

11.1 All team personnel who are participating in a game must remain within the designated 'bench area' throughout that game. This does not preclude the team manager/administrator leaving the bench area on matters concerning ice, injured/sick players, etc.

11.1.1 The bullpen or approved warm up areas are considered an extension of the bench area.

11.2 Team personnel who are involved in scouting/videoing/etc. outside the dugout whilst their team is playing must not be in uniform and must not be listed on the line-up card; they are not permitted to communicate with their team.

11.3 Players who are sick/injured and are not going to participate in a game:

- must not be listed on the line-up card.
- may be on the bench but must be in their playing uniform.
- may be off the bench but must not be in their playing uniform.
- junior players should be accompanied by the Team Manager if not on the bench

12 eCommunication and filming

12.1 States are reminded that the rules of softball prohibit any form of communication equipment being taken on the field of play, which includes the dugout, and outside or outside the field of play with the dugout and or team. A breach of this will result in ejection of the head coach.

12.1.1 This includes smart watches. Should a team official wish to wear a watch they can do so, however it must not be a smart watch.

Australian Championship Competition Rules

- 12.2 There will be no filming directly behind the back nets behind home plate or any side angle (up to one side panel) visible to the rear of the plate by any competing team for individual team use. Note: the back net and side panels should be marked to clearly identify the area. Filming may only occur behind the back nets if all competing teams are provided a copy of the film by midnight of the day the filming occurred. This must be approved by Softball Australia prior to the tournament.

13 Team statistics

- 13.1 A copy of tournament statistics, including Tournament MVP, Tournament Batting, Tournament Pitching and each team's Batting and Pitching statistics must be emailed in pdf form to Softball Australia's NEM within 14 days after the conclusion of the Event.
- 13.2 Teams that do not include a team statistician in their team rosters will not be provided individual statistics daily during the Event.

14 Line up cards

- 14.1 Line-up cards will be provided by Softball Australia and will be distributed at the Technical Meeting. Each team will complete a line-up card for each game.
- 14.2 Team coaches/administrators are reminded to refer to Softball Australia's Official Playing Rules for instructions on completing line-up cards. Also see Section 17.6.
- 14.3 Each team will hand the original and one copy of the line-up card to the TD or their representative 30 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. The TD or their representative will hand each team the copy of the opposing team's line-up.
- 14.4 In all Australian Championships or tournaments when the line-up is submitted to the TD or their representative before the game, the line-up must be signed by the Head Coach/Manager. Once submitted to the TD or their representative, the line-up will be official.
- 14.5 When one of the two competing teams is playing the second game of a back-to-back double header, that team will hand the original and a copy of their line-up card to the TD or their representative 30 minutes prior to the start of the second game or 20 minutes after the conclusion of the first game of the double header, whichever is the later.
NOTE: Softball Australia has the right to penalise teams who fail to comply.
- 14.6 The TD or their representative will arrange for one copy of each line-up card to go to the TCU and TCS.
- 14.7 The TCS will arrange copies of the line-up cards for selectors and announcers.
- 14.8 Changes to the official line-up may be made at the pre-game meeting in case of injury. However, the batting order must not be changed. Under no circumstances can a new line-up be presented at the pre-game meeting.

15 Forfeits

- 15.1 The score of a forfeited game will be 7-0 in favour of the team not at fault. All player statistics of a forfeited game will be included in the official records, except that of a pitcher's win-loss record.

16 Results

- 16.1 Results of games at all championships will be determined in accordance with Softball Australia's Official Playing Rules except as provided for in these championship rules.

Australian Championship Competition Rules

17 *Game management initiatives to reduce length of game times*

17.1 Ball Rotation

17.1.1 When a ball leaves the playing field, it should be returned directly to the plate or base umpire or through a designated "ball return chute". Balls should not be returned to the defensive team field through the dug outs or thrown from the dead ball area to the field.

17.1.2 Players should not wait, or request time for the ball to be returned.
(Effect: After a warning from the umpire a ball will be called on the batter)

17.2 On Deck Batter's Circle

17.2.1 The On Deck Batter may take a position in their team's on-deck circle, however that batter may take a position in the other on-deck circle so that they are behind the batter and not on the batter's open side.

17.3 Temporary Runner

17.3.1 In the event that the catcher of record from previous inning is on base when there are two outs, the catcher will be replaced on base by a Temporary Runner (TR).

17.3.2 The TR may act as a runner for the catcher until they have scored, or the third out - whichever occurs first - at which time the catcher will return to the game.

17.3.3 The TR must be an eligible player on the line-up card and not in the next four batters. An eligible player is one who has not been deemed removed and ineligible under Softball Australia Official Playing Rules.

17.3.4 The plate umpire must be notified that a TR is entering the game.

17.3.5 If the TR is not used, reported or the incorrect player is used this is a correctable situation.

17.3.6 Any statistics accrued by the TR while they are in the game are credited to that player.

17.4 Between innings/change of innings timing

17.4.1 If in the umpire's judgment one minute has expired or is about to expire, the umpire will limit the pitcher to one warm-up pitch.

17.4.2 When the catcher was at bat or the on deck batter, the defensive team should have a warm up catcher or a defensive player ready to take the warm up pitches or the umpire will limit the pitcher to one warm-up pitch.

17.4.3 The catcher and team coach should limit timeouts for the catcher to talk with the pitcher. The catcher should not delay the game by visiting the pitcher at each innings or during the game, delaying play, excluding the first innings and when the pitcher is substituted.

(a) After a warning a conference may be called on the defensive team by the umpire.

17.5 Tiebreaker

17.5.1 Starting with the top of the 8th and 9th inning, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat ninth in that respective half-

Australian Championship Competition Rules

inning being placed on 2nd base. The player who is running can be substituted in accordance with the substitution rules.

- 17.5.2 Starting with the top of the 10th inning and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat ninth in that respective half-inning being placed on 3rd base. The player who is running can be substituted in accordance with the substitution rules.

NOTE: If an incorrect runner in the line-up is placed on base, this error may be corrected as soon as it is noticed. There is no penalty.

17.6 Line up Substitutions or Defensive Changes

- 17.6.1 Coaches should ensure they have the next inning substitutions or defensive changes to the plate umpire at the conclusion of the half innings. For continual breaches after a warning, the plate umpire *may* call a ball or strike on the offending team.
- 17.6.2 The coach should go to the plate umpire in the proximity of the official statistician and give the changes to the plate umpire only.
- 17.6.3 When possible, the base umpire could advise the opposing team that changes are taking place.
- 17.6.4 If an official runner is available, the changes should be communicated to the teams as soon as possible. The team scorer or team member may go to the official statistician to get or clarify any change at any time.
- 17.6.5 Coaches should communicate the changes to the plate umpire in the following way.
- (a) Uniform number out
 - (b) Uniform number in
 - (c) Then defensive position changes
 - (d) DP or Flex changes should include the words going to 9 players if applicable
 - (e) If the DP is going to field, Number ... Flex out, DP to defensive position
 - (f) If the Flex is coming in to the game. DP out and Flex to DP
 - (g) OPO. Uniform number to OPO, DP to fielding position
 - (h) Temporary runners should be announced, however the announcement of original player returning does not need to be, this is not considered a re-entry
 - (i) Re-entries under the substitution rules must be announced when the starting player is re-entered
 - (j) Multiple offence at bat changes cannot be made at the same time
 - (k) Defensive changes can only be made during the defensive innings.
- 17.6.6 Plate umpires should announce the team name to the statistician then follow the same process as above.



Australian Championship Competition Rules

- 17.6.7 Statisticians should repeat the changes back to the Plate Umpire immediately to allow the plate umpire to confirm and get the game back underway.

18 Game Duration

- 18.1 For U16 to open-grade championships (including Over 35s), for some championships Softball Australia may decide to implement a game time limit.
- 18.2 Where a game time limit is implemented, games shall be considered a regulation game at the completion of the innings if a winner has been determined.
- 18.2.1 When 80 minutes has elapsed at the last out of a completed innings a new inning will not commence. However, any innings in progress will be completed until a winner is achieved.
- (a) If scores are tied at the completion of that inning, the tiebreaker rule shall apply to determine a winning team. Refer to Section 17.5 for Tiebreaker Rules for Australian Championships.

19 Pitching

- 19.1 Intentional base on balls
- 19.1.1 Each team playing in U18 and U16 Australian championships may only use the intentional base on balls rule once per game.

20 Disruptions

- 20.1 Where there has been a major disruption to a championship, the determination of the winner of the championship will be left to the TMC. However, the TMC may decide that insufficient games have been played to declare a winner.
- 20.2 The following guidelines are for the assistance of the TMC:
- 20.2.1 Every attempt should be made to determine a winner through the playing of games, eg a single elimination round.
- 20.2.2 In the case of a single round-robin, if the round cannot be completed the winner should be decided on the games played. However, consideration must be given to the number of games each team has played.
- 20.2.3 In the case of a double round-robin, and the first round has been completed but the second round cannot be completed, and this could affect the final standings, the winner would be the team leading on points at the completion of the first round. If the first round has not been completed, the winner should be decided on the games played, taking into account the number of games each team has played.
- 20.2.4 If the finals series cannot be played, the winner will be the team leading on points at the end of the round-robin regardless of whether it is a single or double round robin.
- 20.2.5 Where only part of the finals series has been played, the results of those games can be considered in determining a winner. For example, if the Grand Final was not played, but a semi-final was played between teams one and two on the ladder, and team two defeated team one in that game, team two could be declared the winner.

Australian Championship Competition Rules

- 20.2.6 If teams are equal on points at the completion of the round-robin, refer to the procedures set out in Rule 21.

21 Positions for finals and resolution of ties

- 21.1 The following procedures will determine the position of teams for the final standings at the completion of the round-robin and resolve such positions in the event of a tie between two or more teams.
- 21.2 Two points will be awarded for each win in the round-robin games.
- 21.3 A tie exists when two or more teams have the same number of points at the completion of the round-robin games.
- 21.4 A tie will be resolved by following the under mentioned procedures:
- 21.4.1 If two or more teams are tied on points, the team with the least runs against for the entire round-robin will take the higher ladder position.
- 21.4.2 In the case that two teams are tied on points and runs against, the team that won the first round-robin game between those two teams will take the higher ladder position.
- 21.4.3 If three teams are tied on points and runs against, the head-to-head results played between those three teams in the first round of the round-robin will be considered. Where one team has won both games against the other two teams it is tied with in the first round of the round-robin, this team will take the higher ladder position. The next two ladder positions between the remaining two tied teams would be determined by the head-to-head game between those two teams in the first round.
- 21.4.4 In the case that three or more teams are tied on points and runs against and the teams can't be separated by the head-to-head results in the first round, eg each team has the same number of wins as the other teams they are tied with in the games played against each other, the positions will be determined by the final standings at the end of the first round of the round-robin (with points, then runs against as the determining factors).
- 21.4.5 If these teams are still tied (three or more teams tied on points, runs against, can't be separated by head-to-head results in the first round and are tied on points and runs against at the end of the first round) then runners left on base in the games played between these teams will be used. The team with the highest number of runners left on base will be placed ahead of the others, the team with the second highest number of runners left on base will be placed ahead of the remaining teams, until two teams remain. The winner of the first round game between these two teams will be ranked ahead of the other team.
- 21.4.6 Where runners on base can't split the teams, the teams that are tied will have their team names placed in a hat and drawn out in positional order.

22 Game times

- 22.1 All games will start at the scheduled time.
- 22.1.1 Exception 1: For games played on the same diamond there will be at least 20 minutes between games.

Australian Championship Competition Rules

- 22.1.2 Exception 2: When a team is playing consecutive games there will be a minimum of 30 minutes between games.
- 22.2 Where games are behind schedule they may be rescheduled or transferred to another diamond at the discretion of the TMC.
- 23 TCU and TD office and Umpires change area**
- 23.1 Any member of a team should not enter the umpires change rooms or TD or TCU office unless invited or previously approved. For these regulations these areas will be considered under the same rules as a playing field in regard to conduct and penalties.
- 24 Protests / Rule Clarifications**
- 24.1 A request for a Rule Clarification is not an official protest and may be made to the TCU or their nominated supervisor at any point during the game. If a team disputes a ruling, the coach should approach the umpire that has made the ruling for clarification, if the explanation is disputed the field umpires may get together to determine the correct ruling as crew. The TCU or nominated supervisor may help to clarify a rule at the back-net if required. As a crew they may bring the coach to the back-net to discuss quickly if required.
- 24.2 All official protests will be dealt with on the spot by the TCU or a person appointed by the TCU.
- 25 Ejection from a game**
- 25.1 A team official must ensure any individual ejected from a game leaves the surrounding area immediately; this includes the game spectator area and any area that offers vision of the game.
- 25.1.1 In the event that the ejected individual is under-age, a team official is required to accompany the ejected player until the full completion of the game. A member of the TMC must ensure ejected individuals leave the area accordingly.
- 25.2 An officiating umpire may report any player or official for offensive conduct or language any time after a game has been called, in which case the reported individual will be required to appear before a tribunal. An Umpire's Report of Player/Official Game Ejection Form is included in Appendix 11.
- 25.3 Should any player or official be ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct or offensive language, the umpire/s involved will submit a written report to the TCU as soon as possible after the conclusion of the game. A tribunal will be formed to hear the matter.
- 25.4 The game schedule will not be changed or postponed while the TD plans, carries out and completes the tribunal. The ejected person will not participate in the tournament until the tribunal is heard, with the tribunal deciding the complete penalty, if applicable.
- 26 Code of Conduct breaches**
- 26.1 Any individual participating in the Event may report a breach committed by a person of one or more of Softball Australia's Codes of Conduct.
- 26.1.1 Any reports must be submitted in writing to the TD on the 'Report of Code of Conduct Breach' form, which is included in Appendix 12.
- 26.2 The TD will decide if any further action is required, which can include a tribunal being convened to hear the matter or the matter being referred directly to Softball Australia for further action.

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- 26.3 If a tribunal is convened the game schedule will not be changed or postponed while the TD plans, carries out and completes the tribunal. The reported person will not participate in the tournament until the tribunal is heard, with the tribunal deciding the complete penalty, if applicable.

27 Tribunal procedures

- 27.1 The TD will decide on the composition of the tribunal. At times it will be appropriate for the members of the TMC to form the tribunal but at other times it will be appropriate for other suitably qualified personnel to consider the matter.
- 27.2 The TD will advise all relevant parties of the time and place the tribunal will take place. The reported individual is to be provided with a copy of the written report prior to the tribunal commencing and advised that the report is strictly confidential.
- 27.3 Both the person/s who submitted the report and the reported individual are entitled to have a support person present during the tribunal.
- 27.4 Once convened, the Chair will invite the person/s who submitted the report to confirm the report's details. Tribunal members may then ask questions to clarify their understanding of the events leading to the incident.
- 27.5 The tribunal will use their discretion to determine if the person/s who submitted the report are required to be present when the reported individual joins the tribunal.
- 27.6 The reported individual will then join the tribunal and the Chair will ensure the reported individual understands the content of the report. The individual will then be given the opportunity to accept, respond or give their version of events. If the tribunal has deemed it appropriate for the person/s who submitted the report to be present, the reported individual may ask questions of the person/s who submitted the report. At this point, tribunal members may ask questions of the reported individual to clarify their understanding of the events leading to the incident.
- 27.7 Once the reported individual and person/s who submitted the report have given their version of events, the tribunal will meet in private to discuss evidence and determine what, if any, further action is required. In determining what action is required, previous penalties or game ejections of the individual will be taken into account. This information is provided to the TD prior to the Event. The TD will also be in possession of guidelines on penalties available to be administered by a tribunal.
- 27.8 The individual will be advised on actions deemed necessary, together with an explanation as to why penalties have been imposed.
- 27.9 If a penalty includes suspension from further games, the individual must be advised that they are not permitted to be in team uniform, on the bench or in contact with team members during the course of a game. They may, however, be allowed to practise and warm-up with the team.
- 27.10 A decision by a tribunal to impose a penalty will be final and not subject to appeal. The tribunal will complete the official Report of Tribunal Hearing Form included in Appendix 13, and forward to Softball Australia post-Event.
- 27.11 If action against a participant is required, Softball Australia will advise the relevant state of the tribunal findings and action taken.
- 27.12 If the tribunal is of the opinion that the conduct of the individual warrants further suspension/disqualification by a Softball Australia judiciary, a written report will be

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forwarded to the NEM for consideration. The individual concerned must be advised of this course of action when facing the tribunal. If the NEM determines a judiciary is required, a judiciary committee will be formed to investigate and recommend an appropriate course of action.

28 *Complaints, disputes and behavioural expectations*

- 28.1 Any complaints or disputes shall be submitted in writing and submitted to the TD to be reviewed and considered by the TMC. Any complaint arising out of the event will be referred to Softball Australia for consideration and where necessary, action within seven days of the conclusion of the Event.
- 28.2 The Host must forward a written report to Softball Australia relating to any state team that does not comply with these Competition Rules. Softball Australia will consider and take action as necessary against any report.
- 28.3 Where a team refuses to commence or continue a game, Softball Australia has the authority to impose a fine of up to \$1,000, which must be paid by the offending team's state governing body within one month after completion of the Event. Any person, team or state dealt with under these Regulations will have the right to appeal to the Softball Australia Board of Directors.
- 28.4 In addition to the Codes of Conduct, all participants should bring to the attention of game or Event officials, any concerns relating to the behaviour of participants or spectators. If a spectator excessively abuses a participant, the umpire should seek the team manager's assistance to help control the situation. If a spectator refuses to comply, the TMC or TD should be notified and play suspended until the situation has been rectified and is under control.

29 *Duty of care*

- 29.1 Host states, the TMC and team officials must ensure they are conversant with the following guidelines:
 - 29.1.1 [Adverse Weather Policy](#)
 - 29.1.2 [Pregnancy Guidelines](#)
 - 29.1.3 [Concussion Policy](#)
 - 29.1.4 [Facility Management Guide](#)
- 29.2 Where the heat policy is invoked under Softball Australia's Hot Weather Guidelines
 - 29.2.1 Teams will be advised by the TCU when breaks will be taken, these may be at the completion of 5 innings if considered mid-range or 3rd and 5th innings in higher risk categories. In tie breakers it will be at the completion of 7 innings and every 2 innings after.
- 29.3 Where a serious injury occurs at the event, Softball Australia's Injury Report Form is to be completed to record the details of the incident.
 - 29.3.1 The Injury Report Form template is included in Appendix 10 of these Regulations.

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- 29.3.2 The TD is to liaise with the relevant Team Manager to provide them with a copy of the Injury Report Form.
- 29.3.3 The Team Manager will provide a copy of the completed form to the TD, along with any other supporting medical documents.
- 29.3.4 Where a separate injury report form is completed by a medical practitioner that is not Softball Australia's Injury Report Form, but records the same/similar details, then Softball Australia's Injury Report Form does not need to be completed in addition.
- 29.4 In the case of concussion, written clearance from a medical practitioner must be provided to the TD before a participant can return to the field of play.

30 Approved and Non-Approved Bats and Batted Ball Speed (BBS) Test Certification

- 30.1 All bats used in Australian Championships shall comply with:
- A bat will be approved for use in Australia if it is listed on the current WBSC-SD Certified Bat List; or
 - Any bat not listed on the WBSC-SD Certified Bat List will be considered approved for use in Australia if it is listed on the current USA Softball Approved Bat List.
- 30.2 Compliance with this requirement rests with all participants of the game not just the umpires, as the practicality of checking bats with separate lists prior to all games at all levels is not feasible.
- 30.2.1 It is of utmost importance that players, coaches, parents, team managers and administrators, understand they play an important role in this requirement.
- 30.3 Bats are continually being retested to ensure they comply with the International standards
- 30.4 The WBSC-SD BBS standard is 161 KPH (100 MPH); the USA Softball standard is 157.7 KPH (98 MPH)
- 30.5 If a bat cannot be identified due to the manufacturer's logo and model number being worn away, then the bat should be rejected.
- 30.6 The current BBS registered markings for certification are applied to the bats at manufacture.



- 30.7 Team management and players should ensure their team bats are checked prior to the championship and only bring bats that are on the certified lists to the tournament.
- 30.8 Any bat that cannot be identified or the manufacturer's model number is covered will be removed.



Australian Championship Competition Rules

- 30.9 The bats will be checked at either the technical meeting or prior to the first game for each team. The coach, manager and players should ensure all bats are presented for certification checking.
- 30.9.1 Any bat that does not pass certification checking is then held by the TCU until the tournament is completed.
- 30.10 The Australian Championship rules currently allow for bats to be checked prior to the tournament at the technical meeting, reducing time prior to the game allowing players and coaches to better prepare for the game. This procedure is already being used at international championships.
- 30.11 Non-certified bats have been found in games following the initial inspection procedure either being mistakenly or deliberately not being presented for checking. This has resulted in a more formal process being implemented, with defined penalties for non-compliance, to protect participants specifically and the sport in general.

Procedure for all Australian Championships

- 30.12 All bats will be brought to the technical meeting by each team.
- 30.13 Bats will be checked against the WBSC-SD certified bat list and then, if required, against the USA Softball certified list.
- 30.14 Certified bats will be stamped or labelled with the Softball Australia logo.
- 30.15 If a bat cannot be positively identified due to the manufacturer's name, logo or model number being worn away or otherwise illegible the bat will be rejected.
- 30.16 Any bat that does not comply, will have a label "non certified" (or similar) with reason applied that includes the team name and kept until the end of the tournament.
- 30.16.1 Note: It will be each team's responsibility to collect equipment at the end of the tournament.
- 30.17 Any non-certified bats discovered during pre-game equipment checks will be taken to the TCU prior to the game commencing. The TCU will check these bats and will either certify the bat and return it to the team or retain the bat until after the tournament.
- 30.17.1 Note: Umpires will still check all bats and helmets prior to every game for certification labels, dents, cracks, etc.
- 30.18 Coaches are responsible for ensuring all bats are checked and certified.
- 30.19 If a non-certified bat is detected or reported to the umpire at any point during a game, it will be treated the same as any protest and heard immediately. The bat will then be checked against the certification lists.
- If the bat is proven to be non-certified:
- 30.19.1 On the first occasion:
- (a) If prior to the batter completing their turn at bat, the batter will be called out, the play will be nullified if applicable, and the batter will be ejected from the game.
 - (b) If after their turn at bat, the Batter Runner will be called out, any advance of runners will be nullified, any out made during the play remains out, and the Batter Runner will be ejected from the game.



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30.19.2 On the second occurrence by any player of the same team during the championship the effects of (a) and (b) above will result and the Head Coach will be ejected from the game.

30.20 Batted ball speed is the ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) International standard for human reaction time to a batted ball. Where available all bats will be checked for batted ball speed with an approved bat compression tester, as per TB-2017-2.1.

30.21 References:

The World Baseball Softball Confederation-SD bat list is on the WBSC website:

<http://www.wbssc.org/softball/softball-bat-list/>

The USA Softball bat list is available at:

<http://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/play-usa-softball/certified-usa-softball-equipment>

31 *Metal cleats*

31.1 Metal cleats can be worn by players at U18 to open-grade tournaments.

32 *Opening and closing ceremonies – attendance*

32.1 All members of all participating teams shall be present and participate appropriately in the opening and closing ceremonies.

32.2 Team members will wear either their state walk-out uniform/team dress uniform or playing uniform unless otherwise notified. Information regarding uniform requirements for the opening and closing ceremonies will be in the championship Handbook.

33 *Australian squad/team selections Nominations*

33.1 Only players who are Australian citizens or who have Australian citizenship pending are eligible to nominate for selection in an Australian squad/team.

Removal of nomination

33.2 It is the duty of the state team manager to report in writing to the TD any player who, during the championship, is proving unworthy of possible Australian selection.

33.3 The TD at an Australian Championship may remove any player from the list of nominees at that championship on the grounds of character or demeanour adhering to the process below:

33.3.1 A player may only be removed from the list of nominees after a panel, consisting of the TD and two other persons chosen by the TD, has discussed the issue with the player concerned in the presence of the player's team administrator.

33.3.2 When a player is removed from the list of nominees, the TD will:

- Immediately advise the chairperson of the selection panel
- Forward a written report to Softball Australia within 14 days of the removal of the player from the list of nominees.



Rules for Australian U14 National Championships

Appendix 4

Rules for Australian U14 National Championships

This document should be read in conjunction with Australian Championship Competition Rules (Appendix 3).

1 Introduction

- 1.1 All games at Australian U14 Girls' and Boys' National Championships will be played in accordance with:
 - 1.1.1 Softball Australia's Official Playing Rules
 - 1.1.2 Australian Championship Regulations
 - 1.1.3 [Softball Australia approved Technical Bulletins.](#)
 - 1.1.4 Any specific ground rules requested by the Host and approved by Softball Australia.

2 Balls

- 2.1 The official ball is 11 inch hard core ball – Easton 804.

3 Pitching Distance

- 3.1 The pitching distances for U14:
 - 3.1.1 Girls is 40ft/12.19m
 - 3.1.2 Boys is 43ft/13.11m.

4 Participation

- 4.1 Teams are strongly encouraged to strive for 50% participation time to all players on a team list across the duration of the tournament.

5 Pitchers and catchers

- 5.1 A single pitcher or catcher cannot play more than a maximum of three innings in that designated position during any one game.
 - 5.1.1 Exception: For games designated as finals, the pitcher and catcher restrictions do not apply. These games will be marked accordingly on the championship draw.
- 5.2 If a pitch is thrown in any innings, that will constitute an innings.
- 5.3 Catcher speed-up rule, and to satisfy the requirement at the U14 Championships to replace the catcher after three innings, the coach may advise the plate umpire of the incoming catcher during the offensive innings.

This will allow the incoming catcher to come off base to get ready. This change can then officially be advised to the plate umpire in the change of innings without penalty.

NOTE: 5.3 - If there is an appeal for an unreported substitute this is a correctable offence for this situation.

6 Intentional base on balls

- 6.1 The Intentional Base on Balls rule is **not** to be used in the Australian U14 National Championships; the pitcher must pitch four balls to the catcher if required.

Rules for Australian U14 National Championships

7 Results

- 7.1 Results of games will be determined in accordance with Softball Australia's Official Playing Rules except as provided for in these Championship Rules.
- 7.2 Each team statistician is responsible for the accuracy of the result of the game as recorded on their results card for the game prior to handing to the plate umpire.
- 7.3 The plate umpire will sign the score card at the conclusion of each game to verify the result.
- 7.4 Result Cards showing the results of the game and signed by both teams and the plate umpire shall be returned to the TCU within 15 minutes after the conclusion of each game. The TCU will hand all scorecards to the TCS.

8 Disruptions/suspended/abandoned games

- 8.1 If games are halted due to inclement weather, games will be suspended and will resume at an appropriate time from the point it was suspended.
- 8.2 If a game cannot be resumed, games that have been played for one hour or five innings will constitute a regulation game or if the team second at bat have scored more runs in the bottom of the 4th innings.

9 Duty of care

- 9.1 Where the heat policy is invoked under Softball Australia's Hot Weather Guidelines:
 - 9.1.1 A break of 5 minutes will be taken after 40 minutes play, regardless of the innings timing. The umpires should use their discretion if a half innings or completed innings is close, to take the break then, even if this is before 40 minutes. In all cases when the Heat policy is invoked it is mandatory to take the 5 minute break.
 - 9.1.2 In high risk range, the TCU may direct an earlier break.
 - 9.1.3 In timed games, no additional time will be added to game times played under the Hot Weather Guidelines.

10 Playing Field

- 10.1 The playing field shall be a minimum of 200ft/60.98m. Where a diamond is not fenced a white line and collapsible dome markers will mark the homerun boundary. If a batted ball goes through the boundary it will be a ground rule triple.

11 Game Duration

- 11.1 Games, including all finals except the Grand Final, shall be considered a regulation game at the completion of the innings if a winner has been determined.
 - 11.1.1 When 80 minutes has elapsed at the last out of a completed innings a new inning will not commence. However, any innings in progress will be completed until a winner is achieved.
 - 11.1.1.1 In round games, where scores are tied after the designated game time, a drawn result will be recorded.
 - 11.1.1.2 In games where a result is required, where scores are tied after the designated game time, the tiebreaker rule shall apply.
- 11.2 **Grand Finals:** Grand finals shall be a regulation game (with no time limit), provided that, if after the completion of seven (7) innings of play the score is tied, the tiebreaker rule shall be played to determine a winning team.



Rules for Australian U14 National Championships

NOTE: Should any grand final, either using the tiebreaker or not, result in a drawn game, (eg darkness, storm) both teams shall be declared joint winners of the competition.

12 Points

12.1 In round-robin games,

- 2 points will be awarded for each win
- 1 point will be awarded to each team in a drawn game
- 0 points will be awarded for a loss

Game Management Clock Regulations

Appendix 5

Game Management Clock Regulations

The implementation of a pitch clock supports the efforts to maintain a reasonable pace of game, helping to create a better experience for fans in the stadium and viewers around the globe.

The pitch clock will be operated by an official umpire assigned by the Tournament Chief Umpire (TCU) or from suitable persons nominated by the TCU with a good understanding of the rules and process.

Listed below are the general guidelines and regulations for the pitch clock:

1 Pitch Clock

The twenty (20) second clock will begin:

- 1.1 When the Plate Umpire gives "Play Ball" signal to start the clock. The Plate Umpire gives "Play Ball" signal with a chopping motion to start the clock:
 - 1.1.1 When a new batter is near the batter's box and the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle and the catcher is near the catcher's box.
 - 1.1.2 After a foul ball is called, when the batter is near the batter's box, the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle and the catcher is near the catcher's box.
 - 1.1.3 After a dead ball is called, when the batter is near the batter's box, the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle and the catcher is near the catcher's box.
 - 1.1.4 After "Time" is called, when the batter is near the batter's box, the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle and the catcher is near the catcher's box.
 - 1.1.5 On a checked swing, once all play has ceased, and when the batter is near the batter's box, the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle or the catcher is in a position to return the ball to the pitcher.
 - 1.1.6 On a passed ball, once all play has ceased, and when the batter is near the batter's box, the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle or the catcher is in a position to return the ball to the pitcher.
 - 1.1.7 When there is no longer an opportunity for a play or attempted play by the catcher, and all runners returned to their base, and when the batter is near the batter's box, the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle or the catcher is in a position to return the ball to the pitcher.
 - 1.1.8 After the batter leaves the batter's box as a result of one of the Exceptions listed below, and once all play has ceased, and when the batter is near the batter's box, the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle or the catcher is in a position to return the ball to the pitcher.
- 1.2 When after a pitch, the catcher is in a position to return the ball to the pitcher.

2 Pitcher

- 2.1 The pitcher has twenty (20) seconds to begin their wind up after the twenty (20) second clock begins. The pitch starts when the pitcher begins any motion that is part of the wind-up.
- 2.2 If the twenty (20) second clock expires prior to the pitcher starting the pitch/their wind-up, dead ball shall be declared and a ball award to the batter.

Game Management Clock Regulations

- 2.3 Normally the 2nd base umpire is responsible for pitcher clock violation administration. A violation is administered by calling and signalling “dead ball”. The umpire shall point to the pitcher with an open hand and say “clock violation”.
- 2.4 The plate umpire shall award the batter a ball and give the new count.
- 3 Batter**
- 3.1 Once the twenty (20) second clock has started, the batter has ten (10) seconds to enter the batter’s box and must keep one foot in the batter’s box between pitches.
- 3.2 If the batter fails to enter the batter’s box within ten (10) seconds, dead ball shall be declared and a strike being called on the batter.
- 3.3 If the batter fails to keep one foot in the batter’s box, dead ball shall be declared and a strike being called on the batter.
- 3.4 The plate umpire is responsible for batter’s box violations. A violation is administered by the plate umpire calling and signalling “dead ball”. The plate umpire shall point to the batter’s box with an open hand and say “batter’s box violation” and award a strike on the batter and give the new count.
- 3.5 The batter may only step out of the batter’s box with both feet in the following circumstance:
- 3.5.1 When the ball is hit;
 - 3.5.2 On a swing, provided it is the momentum of the swing that takes them out of the batter’s box;
 - 3.5.3 If forced out of the batter’s box to avoid a pitch;
 - 3.5.4 On a wild pitch;
 - 3.5.5 On an attempted play at the plate or by the catcher on an advancing runner or by any player;
 - 3.5.6 If time has been called, or the plate umpire leaves his position to perform other duties not directly connected with the calling of plays;
 - 3.5.7 If the pitcher leaves the pitching circle;
 - 3.5.8 On a 3-ball count that the batter thinks the pitch was a ball.
- 3.6 If there is, in the Umpire’s judgement, no delay in the game by the batter’s failing to keep one foot in the batter’s box between pitches, no violation will be called;
- 3.6.1 It is not a delay of the game if:
 - 3.6.1.1. the batter steps out of the batter’s box, and steps back in immediately.
 - 3.6.1.2. the batter steps out of the batter’s box, takes a swing and steps back in immediately.
 - 3.6.2 It is a delay of the game if:
 - 3.6.2.1. the batter steps out of the batter’s box and turns to take a signal from the coach.
 - 3.6.2.2. the batter steps out of the batter’s box, and walks away from the home plate (3 steps or more).
 - 3.6.2.3. the batter steps out of the batter’s box and does not immediately return to the batter’s box when requested by the umpire.

Game Management Clock Regulations

4 Calling "Time"

- 4.1 If "Time" is called by the umpire during the twenty (20) second time period, the clock will pause (not reset).
- 4.2 After making sure the batter and pitcher are ready, the plate umpire gives "play ball" signal with a chopping motion to start the clock, and the clock will continue from where it was paused.
- 4.3 No "Time" shall be granted in the last five (5) seconds of the twenty (20) second clock run down. If "Time" is mistakenly granted by the umpire in the last five (5) seconds, the clock shall be reset to twenty (20) seconds.

5 Not subject to appeal or protest

- 5.1 The calling of or the failure to call a clock violation or a batter's box violation by the umpire is NOT subject to protest or appeal.

6 Between innings timing

- 6.1 Where a pitching clock is used as above and there is a 60 second counter option, the clock will be used to time the between innings change over.
- 6.2 The 60 second count down will start after the last out.
- 6.3 Where a countdown clock is not available a nominated base umpire may keep a stopwatch and operate from the last out. When the 60 seconds has expired the base umpires will return to their starting positions on the field, this sends the signal that 60 second has expired.
- 6.4 In both 6.2 and 6.3 above this hands the control of the timings over to the plate umpire to call last pitch.

Coaches' Code of Conduct

Appendix 6

Coaches Code of Conduct

In addition to Softball Australia's values and general Code of Conduct, as a coach appointed by Softball Australia, a Member State or an affiliated association or club you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held by or under the auspices of Softball Australia, a state or an affiliated association or club.

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of, and refrain from any discriminatory practices against, any person regardless of age, gender, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
2. Endeavour to ensure players' time spent with you is a positive experience.
3. Respect the talents, developmental stage and goals of each individual player.
4. Treat each player as an individual and help them reach their full potential.
 - a. Provide training programs that are planned and sequential and suitable for the age, experience and ability of the players.
 - b. Be fair, considerate and honest with players.
5. Be reasonable in your demands on your players' time and ensure there is an appropriate balance between sporting involvement, education and career objectives.
6. Implement clear rules for players in training and general conduct.
7. Be professional in your appearance and manner and accept responsibility for your actions.
 - a. Display high standards in language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation.
 - b. Display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved with softball, including opponents, coaches, officials, umpires, statisticians, administrators, the media, parents and spectators.
 - c. Encourage your players to demonstrate the same qualities.
8. Make a commitment to providing a quality service to your players, your affiliated club, association and state, and to Softball Australia, by continually improving your knowledge and skill.
 - a. Seek continual self-improvement through performance appraisal and ongoing education.
9. Operate within the rules and spirit of the sport.
 - a. Abide by and respect the policies governing softball and sport generally and the organisations and individuals administering those policies.
 - b. Reject the use of performance enhancing drugs in sport and abide by the anti-drugs policies of the relevant national and international sporting organisations and government regulatory bodies.
10. Ensure physical contact with players is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development. Inappropriate physical contact is a form of sexual harassment.
11. Refrain from any form of personal abuse. This includes verbal, physical and emotional abuse.

Coaches' Code of Conduct

12. Refrain from any form of sexual harassment. This includes explicit, implicit, verbal and non-verbal sexual harassment.
13. Refrain from initiating a relationship with a player and also discourage, in a sensitive manner, an attempt by a player to initiate a sexual relationship with you.
14. Provide a safe environment for training and competition. Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate for the age and ability of the players.
15. Show consideration and caution towards sick and injured players.
 - a. Provide a modified training program where appropriate.
 - b. Allow further participation in training and competitions only when appropriate.
 - c. When necessary, follow the advice of a reputable doctor or physiotherapist when determining when a sick or injured player is ready to recommence training or competition.
16. Be a positive role model for softball and your players.
17. Do not tolerate acts of aggression.
18. Refrain from engaging in any behaviour that is in breach of Softball Australia's Member Protection Policy.

Players' Code of Conduct

Appendix 7

Players Code of Conduct

In addition to Softball Australia's values and general Code of Conduct, as a player or participant in any activity held by or under the auspices of Softball Australia, a Member State or an affiliated association or club you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during that activity.

1. Be a positive role model for softball at all times and value the individual.
2. Participate within the competition conditions and rules and in the spirit of fair play.
3. Accept victory and defeat with dignity.
4. Comply with umpires' decisions in a professional and respectful manner.
5. Cooperate with all official requests to promote softball in a professional manner.
6. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people, and refrain from any discriminatory practices against any person regardless of age, gender, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
7. Refrain from making derogatory, demeaning or discriminatory remarks about any administrators, players, coaches or other players.
8. Be professional in your appearance and manner and accept responsibility for your actions.
 - a. Display high standards in language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation
 - b. Display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved with softball, including opponents, coaches, officials, umpires, statisticians, administrators, the media, parents and spectators
 - c. Maintain high standards of personal appearance and behaviour
 - d. Encourage others to demonstrate the same qualities
9. Refrain from any form of sexual innuendo or harassment towards any player, coach or official. This includes explicit, implicit, verbal and non-verbal sexual harassment.
10. Refrain from initiating a relationship with your coach.
11. Do not tolerate acts of aggression.
12. Perform any duties and responsibilities where you are a representative of Softball Australia in a mature, fair and professional manner.
13. Refrain from engaging in any behaviour that is in breach of Softball Australia's Protection Policy.

Spectators' Code of Conduct

Appendix 8

Spectators' Code of Conduct

In addition to Softball Australia's values and general Code of Conduct, as a spectator involved with Softball Australia, a state or an affiliated association or club activity must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during that activity.

- Applaud good performance and efforts from all players and teams. Congratulate all players on their performance regardless of the game's outcome.
- Respect the decisions of officials and coaches and teach young people to do the same.
- Never ridicule or scold a young player for making a mistake. Positive comments are motivational.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by other spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- Encourage players to follow the rules and the officials' decisions.
- Do not use violence, harassment or abuse in any form (i.e. do not use foul language, sledge or harass players, coaches, umpires, officials or other spectators).
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Officials' Code of Conduct

Appendix 9

Officials Code of Conduct

In addition to Softball Australia's values and general Code of Conduct, as an official appointed by Softball Australia, a Member State or an affiliated association or club you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held by or under the auspices of Softball Australia, a Member State or an affiliated association or club.

- 1 Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people, and refrain from any discriminatory practices against any person regardless of age, gender, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
- 1 Place the safety and welfare of the players/participants above all else.
- 2 Be fair and impartial.
- 3 Avoid any situation which may lead to a conflict of interest.
- 4 Be courteous, respectful and open to discussion and interaction.
- 5 Refrain from any form of personal abuse. This includes verbal, physical and emotional abuse.
- 6 Refrain from any form of sexual harassment. This includes explicit, implicit, verbal and non-verbal sexual harassment.
- 7 Make a commitment to providing a quality service to softball, to your affiliated club, association and state, and to Softball Australia by continually improving your officiating knowledge and skill.
 - Maintain and improve your accreditation
 - Seek continual self-improvement through performance appraisal and ongoing education
- 8 Be professional in your appearance and manner and accept responsibility for your actions.
 - Display high standards in language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation
 - Display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved with softball, including opponents, coaches, officials, umpires, statisticians, administrators, the media, parents and spectators
 - Encourage others to demonstrate the same qualities
- 9 Operate within the rules and spirit of the sport.
 - Abide by and respect the policies governing softball and sport generally and the organisations and individuals administering those policies
 - Reject the use of performance enhancing drugs in sport and abide by the anti-drugs policies of the relevant national and international sporting organisations and government regulatory bodies
- 10 Value the individual in sport.
- 11 Do not tolerate acts of aggression.
- 12 Encourage inclusivity and access to all areas of officiating.
- 13 Refrain from engaging in any behaviour that is in breach of Softball Australia's Member Protection Policy.



Injury Report Form

Appendix 10

Injury Report Form

Name: _____

Home address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: () () Mobile: _____
(home) (business)

State team: _____ Team manager: _____

Details of injury

Date of injury: _____

Description of injury suffered: _____

Was medical treatment required? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Describe medical attention provided: _____

Did a qualified medical practitioner treat the injured person? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Complete only if treated by a medical practitioner

Doctor's name: _____

Address: _____

Contact no: _____

Was the injured person taken to hospital? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Was the injured person taken to hospital by ambulance? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Complete only if taken to hospital

Doctor's name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

How long did the injured person remain at the hospital? _____

Was the injured person transferred to the hospital by ambulance? _____



Injury Report Form

Details of accident/incident

Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____

Full description of how injury occurred: _____

If injury occurred during a game, did the injured person continue in that game? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Was the person forced to leave the field due to the blood rule? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Medical Clearance

Did the person return to participate in the championship after the injury? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, was clearance obtained from a medical practitioner to return to participation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(Please submit a copy with this injury report form)

Note: a medical clearance is mandatory where a player has suffered a concussion.

Witnesses (please provide name and contact phone number for any witnesses)

Name	Home phone	Work phone
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Details of person who completed and submitted this form

Name: _____

Position: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please complete and hand a copy of this form to the Softball Australia Technical Delegate during the championship or forward it to Softball Australia following the completion of the championship.

Send to:
Softball Australia Limited
PO Box 107
La Trobe University Vic 3083

Email: shane.cantelmi@softball.org.au



Umpire's Report of Player/Official Ejected from the Game

Player/Official details

Team: _____ Position: _____

Date: _____ Starting time: _____

Inning:		Count:				Runners:		
#	<input type="checkbox"/> Top <input type="checkbox"/> Bottom	Ball	Strike	Out		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 st	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd

Reason for ejection:

- ☐ Illegal re-entry
- ☐ Using altered bat
- ☐ 2nd offensive charged conference
- ☐ Using communication device
- ☐ Other

- ☐ Unsportsmanlike conduct
- ☐ Verbal abuse
- ☐ Equipment abuse
- ☐ Dissent
- ☐ Rough play
- ☐ Fighting
- ☐ Inciting
- ☐ Immediately after the game
- ☐ Other

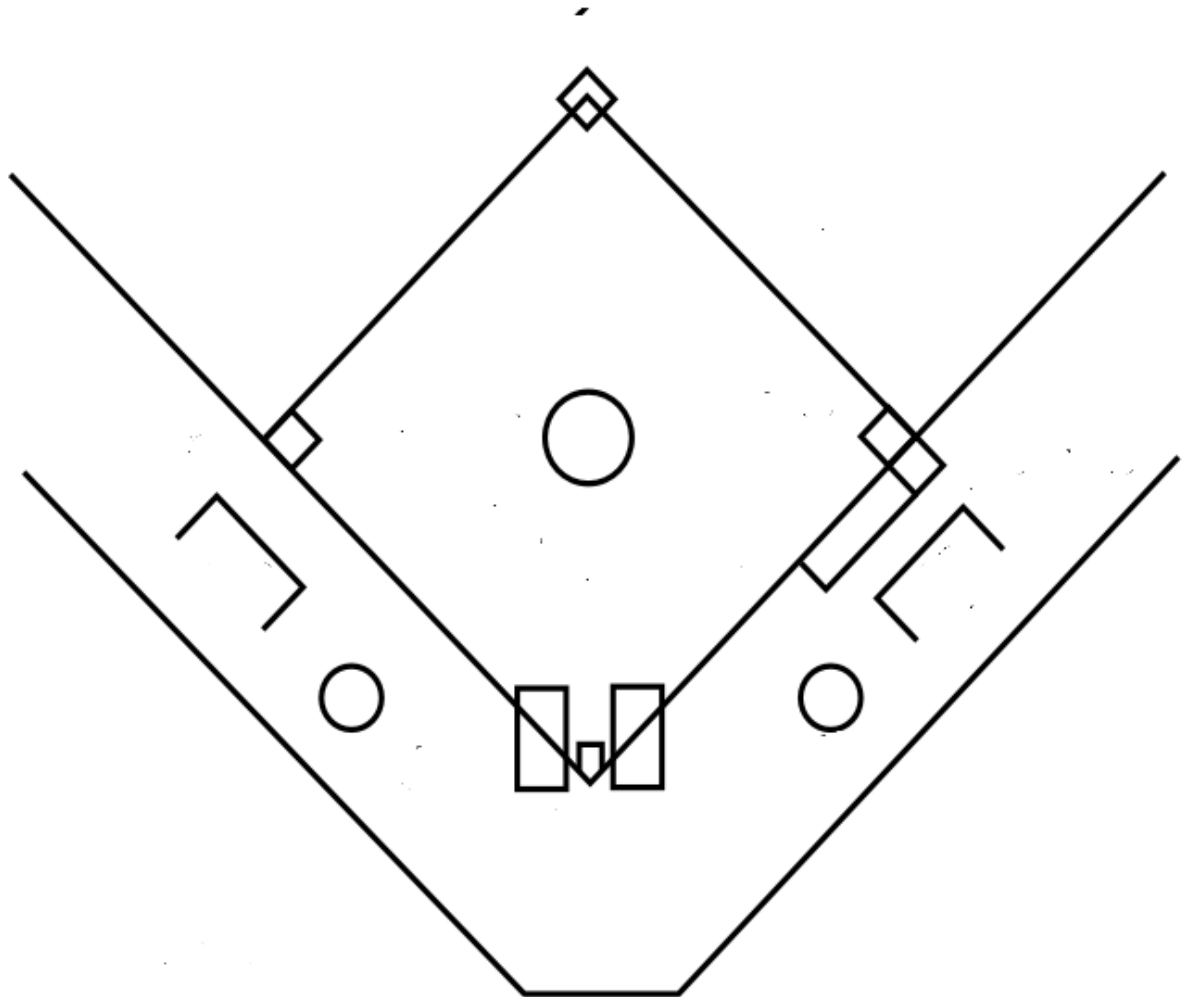
Events leading up to the ejection:



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface. The overall appearance is that of a clean, unused piece of stationery.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Umpire's Report of Player/Official Ejected from the Game





Report of Code of Conduct Breach

Appendix 12

Report of Code of Conduct Breach

Please complete this form and hand to the Technical Delegate (TD). It is the responsibility of the TD to follow up the report and if appropriate convene a tribunal.

Offending Party details

Name of offender: _____

Team: _____ Position: Player / Coach / Official / Spectator

Incident details

Championship: _____

Date: _____ Approx. Time: _____

Details of any events leading up to incident:

Codes of Conduct breached and how:

*This report **must** detail which specific sections of the Codes of Conduct have been breached and how they were breached.*



Any witnesses, supporting evidence or proof of incident:

Date of report: _____

Name of person/s making report:

Name: _____ Position: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____ Signature: _____



Report of Tribunal Hearing

Details of Tribunal decision and penalty imposed

Tribunal Chairperson

Name: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Tribunal Member 2

Name: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Tribunal Member 3

Name: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Tribunal Member 4

Name: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Technical Meeting Draft Agenda

Appendix 14

Technical Meeting Draft Agenda

Date:

Venue:

Ensure the following items are at the Technical Meeting:

- Line-up pads (TD)
- Print out of team lists (TCS)
- Print out of draw – if coin toss required (TCU)
- Print out with TD, TC, TCU and TCS contact details – mobile and email (TD)
- Contacts list template for teams to complete (TD)

Please note, that where a Technical Meeting is held for a combined event of different age groups (eg. Open Men and U14 Boys), it may be pertinent to cover age group specific rules (eg. U14 Boys) at the conclusion of the Technical Meeting and allow attendees of the other age group to depart the meeting.

1 **Welcome and Introductions** (TD)

Welcome representatives of participating teams and umpires.

Introduce:

Softball Australia Technical Delegate (TD) –

Tournament Convenor (TC) –

Tournament Chief Umpire (TCU) –

Tournament Chief Statistician (TCS) –

Selectors –

Advise that during the event, any event related questions are to come through the TMC.

Likewise, any communications sent out will come from the TMC.

2 **Venue briefing** (Convenor)

Handover to the Convenor to confirm important aspects from the Event Handbook, ensuring that live streaming and first aid arrangements are covered.

3 **Official Functions**

Opening Ceremony (if applicable) – confirm date & time – teams in playing uniform. Confirm that previous winners have the shield with them as current champions.

Closing Ceremony – confirm date & time. Presentation of shield and Championship Medals to take place.

4 **Drug testing**

Drug testing may occur at any event. Check that administrators have a list of drugs being taken by any of their players/officials. This will assist if SIA selects the event for drug testing.

Technical Meeting Draft Agenda

Please assist SIA should they be onsite and cooperate with any requests to test particular players.

5 Event Rules (TCU)

Handover to the TCU who will discuss the playing rules and rules regarding video arrangements. Any changes made over the past 12 months will be highlighted.

6 Contingency Plans

Outline plans in place for potential adverse weather.

7 Changes in players/officials, playing uniform numbers (Tournament Chief Statistician)

Teams to advise changes to their list of players and officials.

NOTE: No additions permitted to the personnel of an official party after the Technical Meeting, unless approved by the TD in the event of extenuating circumstances.

If event is an underage Championship, check that birthdates are provided for additional players registered at this meeting.

Ensure correct spelling of all names on line-up cards – no abbreviations/nicknames.

Remind coaches/managers to be on time with line up cards, failure to comply may result in penalty.

8 Communications

Request a list of contact numbers from each team. Provide TD contact number.

Communication protocol is directly through the TD.

9 Behaviour process and procedure on and off the field of play

Refer teams to Codes of Conduct in the Australian Championship Regulations. Advise that any on-field matters will be dealt with at the time by umpires and off-field matters are to be reported to the Technical Delegate.

A high standard of personal discipline is expected of all participants throughout any Event. In the case of an Australian Championship it is the duty of any Manager/administrator is to report to the TD, in writing, any player who is proving unworthy of possible Australian team selection. The rules provide for the TD to investigate such report.

10 Questions

Provide an opportunity for questions to be asked.

11 Coin Toss (TCU)

Where there are an uneven number of rounds, at the conclusion of the meeting the TCU with a team representative will carry out the toss to confirm the home team for each game.



Australian Championship Position Description Tournament Chief Statistician

Appendix 15

Position Description: Tournament Chief Statistician

Appointment & qualifications

Three months prior to the beginning of the Event, Softball Australia in conjunction with the Host will appoint the Tournament Chief Statistician (**TCS**).

Duties

The TCS's duties must be conducted in accordance with the Officials' Code of Conduct. In addition, the TCS will:

- With Softball Australia's TD, the TC and the TCU, form the Tournament Management Committee and sit on the tribunal when required.
- Allocate one IT and one paper statistician to all games as well as any spotters/assistants and trainees as deemed necessary.
- Ensure that all extensions are accurately completed in preparation for data entry.
- Appoint suitably qualified personnel to encode statistics using Softball Australia's iScore.
- Schedule and conduct meetings for the statisticians as and when required during the Event.
- Display the official standings after each day's play on both the Softball Australia website and in hard copy at the venue. This information will include placing, points, total runs for and total runs against.

NOTE: If a National Championship is being held concurrently at another venue, the TCS shall display the placings of both Events on the results board.

- Calculate the placings at the end of the round robin for the TD.
- Ensure that individual player statistics, as required by Softball Australia are compiled. The individual player statistics, including Most Valuable Player, Best Batter, Best Pitcher and Rosemary Adey Rookie of the Year for open-grade Events must be given to the TD immediately following the completion of the round-robin games. The TD, in conjunction with the TCS, can then use these statistics as a basis for the awards. *Individual player statistics from the grand final game must be provided to the TD to allow for the Player of the Grand Final Award to be determined.*
- Ensure that a copy of the individual player batting and pitching statistics (state by state) is forwarded to Softball Australia's National Events Manager within two weeks of the conclusion of the Event.
- Softball Australia will forward individual team statistics to states.



Australian Championship Position Description Web-Based Reporting Personnel

Appendix 16

Position Description: Web-Based Reporting Personnel

Appointment & qualifications

- Applicant must hold at least a current Level 2 Scoring Accreditation and have demonstrated the competency to score live.
- When the name/s of the web-based reporting personnel are submitted to Softball Australia, the NSC and Softball Australia will work with the personnel to ensure they are prepared to undertake the duties required for the Event.

Duties

- Publish information on the Softball Australia website including, as a minimum, team line-ups, umpires, box scores and play-by-plays (NCS to provide templates/guidance) as soon as possible after the completion of each game.
- Upload statistics daily.
- Communicate on the result section of the Softball Australia website any reasons for delays in matches, eg weather. This information should be included in the 'Details' section on the results website for each game that is affected.
- Oversee and or conduct practical assessments as required in consultation with the National Chief Statistician



Australian Championship Position Description Tournament Chief Umpire

Appendix 17

Position Description: Tournament Chief Umpire

The Tournament Chief Umpire (TCU) will:

- With Softball Australia's TD, the TC and the TCS, form the Tournament Management Committee and sit on the Tribunal when required.
- Participate in any tournament briefing conducted by the National Umpiring Committee (NUC) and the Umpire in Chief (UIC).
- Be the principal liaison between umpires, Softball Australia's TD and the host state.
- Be responsible for the management of the umpires both on and off the field.
- Be responsible for disciplinary action in the case of any misdemeanour.
- Be responsible for the safety of participants eg ground inspection, heat, etc.
- Conduct a briefing for officiating umpires prior to the commencement of the tournament
- Appoint umpires for all games at the Event in consultation with the umpire management crew.
- Notify the umpires, where possible, of their game appointments at least one day prior to the games in question.
- Issue ground rules to umpires.
- Oversee and or conduct practical assessments as required in consultation with the umpire management crew.
- Assess all officiating umpires.
- Provide each umpire with a copy of their assessment.
- Forward a copy of the assessments to the NUIC – Development.
- Withdraw any umpire from the tournament who does not meet the required practical standard.
- Furnish a report to the NUIC – Operations on the umpiring aspects of the tournament. The report should include:
 - Commentary and recommendations on any umpiring matters
 - Details of any umpires who were withdrawn from the tournament
 - Details of any misdemeanours by umpires and any disciplinary action taken as a result of those misdemeanours
 - Details of any unusual incidents
 - Any other relevant matters
- Carry out any other duties required by the NUC.



Australian Championship Position Description Technical Delegate

Appendix 18

Position Description: Technical Delegate

Appointment

Three months prior to the beginning of the Event, Softball Australia in conjunction with the Host will appoint the Technical Delegate.

Duties

The primary role of the TD is to represent Softball Australia and ensure that all events are conducted in accordance with Softball Australia policy and regulations. Specific responsibilities may vary at different events, but generic responsibilities are:

- Ensure that National Championship Events are conducted in accordance with the Australian Championship Regulations.
- Ensure the Event Host honours all elements of the Event Services Agreement.
- Represent Softball Australia at any event functions, including the opening and closing ceremony.
- In conjunction with the Tournament Chief Umpire (TCU), or the representative nominated by the NUC, undertake a safety check of the grounds prior to the championship.
- Chair the event technical meeting, managers meeting, and any judicial or disciplinary meetings as and when required.
- Accept line-up cards from teams 30 minutes prior to the start of each game and distribute them as required.
- In conjunction with the National Team Selectors, decide on the championship individual award winners.
- Ensure regulations regarding team uniforms are followed.
- Ensure rules regarding eCommunication and filming are followed.
- Provide event updates to teams during the event (eg. schedule change due to weather).
- Provide advice and guidance to the Tournament Management Committee (TMC) and/or Tournament Convenor (TC) as and when required.
- Complete an event evaluation report and forward the report to Softball Australia's National Events Manager (NEM) within 14 days of the event.
- The TD is required to be in attendance for the duration of the championship, whenever games are in progress. It is expected attendance will commence 60 minutes prior to the first game of the day and will conclude after the completion of the last game of the day.
- Where adverse weather is expected, the TD is expected to arrive at least 90 minutes prior to the first game of the day, to discuss with the TMC the playing schedule for the day.
- If a break between games to accommodate hot weather during peak temperature hours is scheduled, attendance at the venue during this time is not mandatory.

Australian Championship Awards

Appendix 19

Australian Championship Awards

- 1 All player awards, with exception to the Player of the Grand Final, will be determined following the round games once all teams have played an equal number of games. The player of the grand final will be selected immediately after the conclusion of the grand final.
- 2 The Chief Statistician will provide a statistical report to Softball Australia's TD at the conclusion of the round games.

Awards Committee

- 3 The Awards Committee responsible for selection of all individual awards comprises:
 - Softball Australia's TD, and
 - National Team Selectors
- 4 In deciding on award winners, the Awards Committee will have discretion to weight one factor more heavily than others.

Individual Awards Guidelines

	Guidelines	Factors Considered	
Most Valuable Player	Played in offence and defense in 60% of total innings played by the team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Batting average - Slugging average - On-base average - Runs batted in - Homeruns - Runner advance - Stolen bases - Fielding average - General contribution to the team - Pitching statistics (if applicable) 	
Best Pitcher	Pitched in 30% of the total defensive innings played by the team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Earned run average - Batters faced - Number of strike outs - Percentage strike outs per batters faced - Number of safe hits against - Percentage of safe hits per batters faced - Number of base on balls - Percentage of base on balls per batters faced - Strike percentage of total pitches (strikes + fouls) - Fielding average 	
Best Batter	Times in box - twice number of games teams has played.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Batting average - On base average - Slugging average - Runs batted in - Homeruns 	



Australian Championship Awards

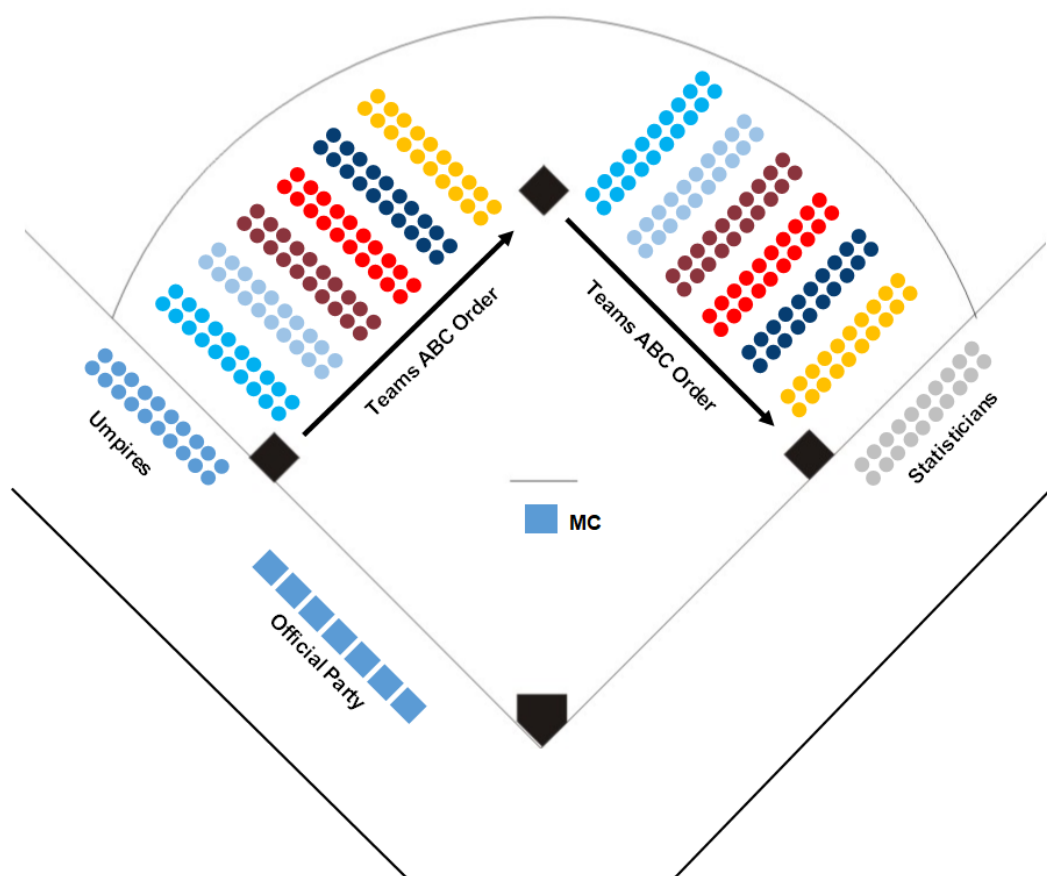
	Guidelines	Factors Considered	
Rosemary Adey Rookie of the Year	<p>Must be an Australian Citizen participating in an open-age Australian Championship for the first time.</p> <p>Played in at least 30% of the total innings played by the team.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Batting average - On-base average - Slugging average - Runs batted in - Fielding performance - Pitching statistics (if applicable) 	<p>Should there be a pitcher who is outstanding but has not played the 30% of total innings of the team, the player should be considered.</p>
Player of the Grand Final	<p>Must be a player who participated in the grand final.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Batting average - On-base average - Slugging average - Runs batted in - Home runs - Runner advance - Stolen bases - Fielding performance - Pitching statistics 	<p>Any outstanding plays that made a valuable contribution to their team's success (eg diving catch, outstanding catch taken on the fence, double plays, game changing play etc.), also outstanding batting and pitching by a player can be considered.</p>

Opening Ceremony Protocols

Appendix 20

Opening Ceremony Protocols

Example of Opening Ceremony layout for a combined event of two Championships with six teams each.



Opening Ceremony Notes

- To shorten the ceremony time, all attendees must be ready in their position – the parade or marching of teams/official party is not recommended.
- The Official Party should consist of the Technical Delegate, Tournament Chief Umpire, Tournament Chief Statistician, Championship Convenor, Host State President and any other dignitaries in attendance. The Official Party shall be seated for the Ceremony.
- The MC will face towards home plate, to speak to the crowd.
- For combined events, it is recommended to separate the line-up of teams by championship. For example, U18 Men's teams could be lined up between 3rd base and 2nd base, whilst U18 Women's teams could be lined up between 2nd base and 1st base. It is suggested to use a cone or other marker to designate where each team should stand.
- The Event Host may choose to include some form of entertainment or cultural/artistic show as part of the Opening Ceremony. The Event Host will discuss this with Softball Australia prior to the event and both parties will work together to determine in what part of the Opening Ceremony this will take place.

Opening Ceremony Protocols

Opening Ceremony Order of Proceedings

- 1 MC welcomes everyone to the event, which begins with a Welcome to or Acknowledgement of Country.

A Welcome to Country is a ritual or ceremony intended to highlight the cultural significance of the surrounding area to a particular Aboriginal clan or language group who are recognised as Traditional Owners of the land. The Welcome can only be performed by a recognised elder of the group.

Where an elder is not available, an Acknowledgement of Country can be offered.

This can be read by the MC, with the following wording:

“I’d like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, the _____ (people) of the _____ (nation) and pay my respects to Elders past and present.”
- 2 MC introduces teams.
- 3 MC introduces each member of the Official Party.
- 4 The Australian National Anthem is played (everyone to face towards the Australian flag).
- 5 Opportunity for any speeches.
- 6 Return of the Championship Shield(s) to the Softball Australia Technical Delegate.
- 7 The Technical Delegate (or designated dignitary) officially opens the championship. The following wording is suggested:

At _____ (name of the venue), in _____ (name of the state), today _____ (day, month, year), on behalf of Softball Australia, I have the honour to declare the _____ (FULL TOURNAMENT NAME – example: the seventy fourth Women’s National Softball Championship, playing for the Gilley’s Shield) open. May all teams play in the true spirit of sportsmanship and may the best team win.
- 8 Optional ceremonial first pitch.
- 9 Closing of ceremony. Teams depart the field of play (two teams to remain on the diamond if a game immediately follows ceremony).

Grand Final Introductions

Appendix 21

Grand Final Introductions

At 10 minutes prior to the start of the Grand Final, the coaches from both teams shall have a meeting at home plate with the game umpires.

Eight minutes before the commencement of the game, players and officials will be introduced.

- 1 The ground announcer welcomes everyone to the Grand Final, referencing the name of the championship and the shield being played for (if applicable).

- 2 The away team (team batting first/in first base dugout) is introduced on to the diamond.

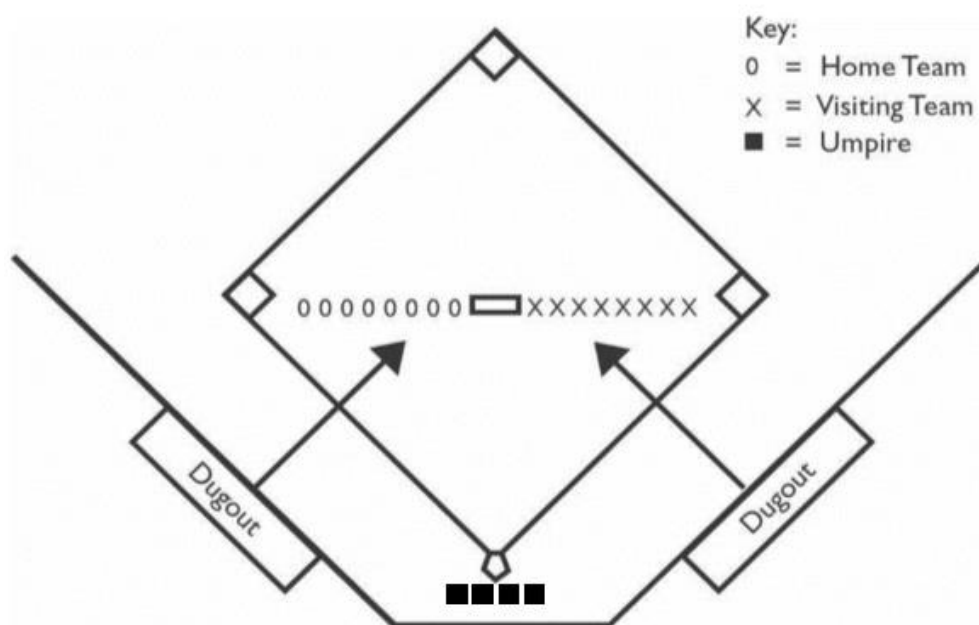
The players are individually announced, in batting order, and then the remaining players as they are listed in bench order.

The Head Coach is then announced onto the diamond, followed by a general introduction of the remaining team staff.

The players and officials line up between the pitching plate and first base (refer to below diagram), with the first player announced onto the diamond to stand closest to the pitching plate. All players and officials will face towards home plate.

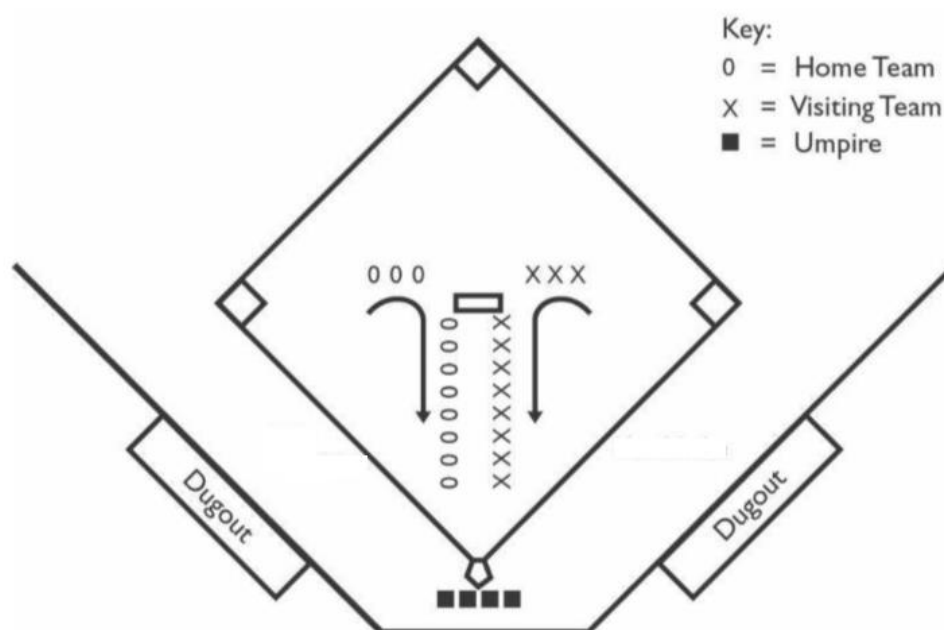
- 3 The home team (team fielding first/in third base dugout) is introduced out on to the diamond. The same protocol as per the away team will be followed, with the home team lining up between the pitching plate and third base.

- 4 The umpires for the game are individually announced, beginning with the home plate umpire. As announced, the umpires will position themselves behind home plate.



Grand Final Introductions

- 5 Once the umpires have been announced, the Australian national anthem will be played. The ground announcer will ask everyone to be upstanding, remove their hats and face the Australian flag for the playing of the anthem.
- 6 Once the anthem concludes, both teams make their way towards home plate, lining up between home plate and the pitching plate, to acknowledge the umpires and their respective opponents.



- 7 If there is a ceremonial first pitch, it will follow immediately after the teams have acknowledged each other and the umpires. The teams will remain on the field and move along the first and third baselines. The home team catcher will be at home plate in full gear to catch the ceremonial first pitch. The catcher will then return the ball to the person who threw the ceremonial first pitch.
- 8 Once the formalities have concluded, the home team will take the diamond, with the pitcher to take their warm-up pitches and then the game commences.

Closing Ceremony Protocols

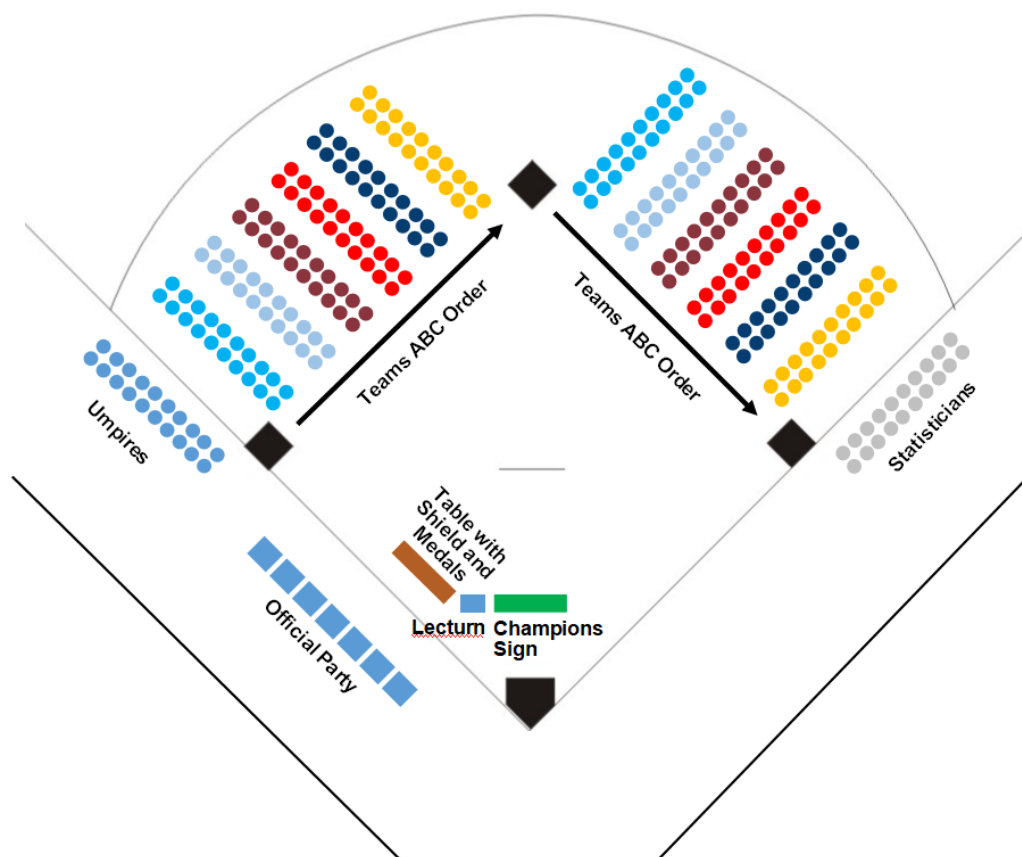
Appendix 22

Closing Ceremony Protocols

Closing Ceremony Note:

- The Event Host may choose to include some form of entertainment or cultural/artistic show as part of the Closing Ceremony. The Event Host will discuss this with Softball Australia prior to the event and both parties will work together to determine in what part of the Closing Ceremony this will take place.

- 1 In preparation for the Closing Ceremony:
 - 1.1 Place a table out on to the diamond, in alignment with the 3rd base line. The table will be covered by the Softball Australia tablecloth, with the shield(s) and medallions placed on it. If a lectern is to be used by the MC, this will be placed next to the table.
 - 1.2 The National Champions signage will be placed between the pitcher's plate and home plate.
 - 1.3 Teams, umpires, statisticians and the Official Party will be positioned in the same place they were for the Opening Ceremony. (refer to the diagram below for placements)



Closing Ceremony Protocols

- 2 The MC welcomes everyone to the event, which begins with a Welcome to or Acknowledgement of Country.

A Welcome to Country is a ritual or ceremony intended to highlight the cultural significance of the surrounding area to a particular Aboriginal clan or language group who are recognised as Traditional Owners of the land. The Welcome can only be performed by a recognised elder of the group.

Where an elder is not available, an Acknowledgement of Country can be offered.

This can be read by the MC, with the following wording:

“I’d like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, the _____ (people) of the _____ (nation) and pay my respects to Elders past and present.”
- 3 MC to introduce the Official Party and any other special guests at the venue.
- 4 Presentation of any special awards – for example, induction of a Life Member or Hall of Fame member.
- 5 Acknowledgment of teams, highlighting the Member States continued support of the championships.
- 6 Acknowledgement of umpires, highlighting the work of the Tournament Chief Umpire.
- 7 Acknowledgement of statisticians, highlighting the work of the Tournament Chief Statistician.
- 8 Acknowledgement of host, highlighting the work of the Championship Convenor and any others who have put in an exceptional amount of work to make the championship happen. The Technical Delegate presents the Softball Australia Certificate of Appreciation to the representative of the host state/venue.
 - 8.1 Opportunity for host state/venue representative to say a few words.
- 9 Presentation of Umpire awards/successful candidates. (if applicable)
- 10 Award presentations (for U16s to Opens) – where the event is a combined tournament, present all awards for one tournament first and then the other tournament(s). The Grand Final that was played first will be presented first.
 - 10.1 Begin with individual award winners. It must be mentioned that the awards are based only on the round games played and do not include finals.
 - 10.2 The Best Pitcher will be presented first. It must be mentioned that to be eligible to win the Best Pitcher Award, a player must have pitched at least 30% of their team’s defensive innings.
 - 10.2.1 When announcing the Best Pitcher, the player’s key statistics are read out first – eg. ERA, wins/losses, strikeouts etc. The player’s state and name are then read out – eg. “From State A, the Best Pitcher award goes to Player B”.
 - 10.2.2 Once the Best Pitcher has received their medal, they are to line up on the first base line (or a pre-designated position) and wait for the other two awards to be presented. A photo will be taken of the three award winners together.
 - 10.3 The Best Batter is presented next.

Closing Ceremony Protocols

- 10.3.1 When announcing the Best Batter, the player's key statistics are read out first – eg. number of hits, batting average, slugging average, home runs, RBIs etc. The player's state and name are then read out – eg. "From State A, the Best Batter award goes to Player B".
- 10.4 The Most Valuable Player (MVP) award is presented next. It must be mentioned that to be eligible to win the MVP Award, a player must have played at least 60% of their team's offensive and 60% of their team's defensive innings.
 - 10.4.1 When announcing the MVP, the player's key statistics are read out first – eg. number of hits, batting average, slugging average, home runs, RBIs etc. The player's state and name are then read out – eg. "From State A, the Most Valuable Player award goes to Player B".
- 10.5 A photo of the three award winners together is taken, positioned on the first base line or other pre-designated position.
- 11 Grand Final presentations
 - 11.1 Where the Shield is named (eg. Gilley's Shield), begin with a short background on the history of who the Shield is named after.
 - 11.2 Announce the Grand Final umpires.
 - 11.3 Announce the Grand Final statisticians.
 - 11.4 Mention the Grand Final score.
 - 11.5 Announce the Player of the Grand Final (U16 to Open).
 - 11.5.1 When announcing the Player of the Grand Final, the player's key statistics are read out first. The player's state and name are then read out – eg. "From State A, the Player of the Grand Final award goes to Player B".
 - 11.6 For U14s only – ask the runners-up to come forward to accept their silver medals.
 - 11.7 Ask the captain(s) of the winning team to come forward to accept the shield. The shield is to be received behind the 'National Champions' sign, to allow a photo to be taken of the captain(s) with the sign in the foreground.
 - 11.8 Once the captains have received the shield, invite the remaining team members to come forward to receive their winner's medals.
 - 11.8.1 As team members receive their medals, they are to position themselves behind the 'National Champions' signage (on the side closest to home plate). Once all team members are behind the sign, a photo will be taken.
- 12 For a combined event, repeat steps 10 and 11 for each subsequent championship.
- 13 Thank everyone and officially close the championship.



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