

# **SOFTBALL TASMANIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**GUIDELINES**

**RULES**

**CHAMPIONSHIP TRIBUNAL**



# **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS GUIDELINES**

## State Championships – Guidelines, Rules, Championship Tribunal

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## GUIDELINES FOR TASMANIAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

These guidelines have been compiled by the Tasmanian Softball Board detailing information relating to State Championships.

The information contained in these guidelines reflects the current regulations of Softball Tasmania (ST) and it is the responsibility of Affiliated Associations to ensure that there have been no subsequent amendments to them. This information can be changed from time to time by the Board of Management of Softball Tasmania, and any such changes will be notified to the member affiliated Associations.

### 1. Policies and Forms

**1.1 Unless listed in State Championship Guidelines – all policies under [Softball Australia resources](#) are to be adhered to.**

**1.2 In addition to Softball Australia Resources all policies including those listed below from [Softball Tasmania resources](#) are to be adhered to:**

- State Championship Guidelines
- Concussion policy
- Inclusion policy
- Zero tolerance
- Code of Conduct

**1.3 Entry Via RevSport can be found on Softball Tasmania Site or link sent to Associations.**

### 2. Championships

At the discretion of the Annual General Meeting of ST the following Championships may be conducted annually:

- 2.1 Open Men and Women Championships (including A, B and any other grade as determined by the Board)
- 2.2 Under 19 Championships
- 2.3 Under 16 Championships
- 2.4 Under 14 Championships
- 2.5 Under 12 Carnival
- 2.6 Any other Championships as determined by the Board of Management.

**Note:**

Open Championships: if three teams or less have been submitted, Open Championships for Men and Women will be held over 1 day (being the Sun). If four or more teams have been submitted, the Championships shall be held over 2 days (being Saturday & Sunday). If five Teams or more for Open Championships it will go to A Grade and B Grade.

The finals will be determined by the championship committee once entries have been received.

### 3. Championship Entries

- 3.1 Only Affiliated Associations may host or enter teams in State Championships. An affiliated Association should indicate on their team entry, if they are entering more than one team, and which team is deemed to be the stronger of the two to assist with formulating the composition of divisions, if sufficient entries allow this to occur.

- 3.1.1 Entries shall be completed by using the Rev Sport portal by the Affiliated Associations no later than two (2) weeks prior to the Championship. **No late entries will be accepted.**
- 3.1.2 There shall be separate entries for each team entered.
- 3.1.3 The entries must include two (2) named umpires one of which must be capable of umpiring plates at a level appropriate to that particular Championship. Team entries will not be accepted if umpires have not been nominated.
- 3.2 An entry fee per team will be set by the Board of Management prior to the start of the season. All entry fees must be paid 2 weeks prior to the championship via RevSport. This entry fee is non-refundable except if Softball Tasmania has to cancel the event due to lack of team entries, inclement weather or exceptional circumstances as decided by the ST Championship Sub-Committee.

## 4. Timing

- 4.1 The Board of Management shall recommend the appropriate dates for Championships to be conducted.

## 5. Rotation

- 5.1 State Championships shall be held in rotation as proposed by the Board.
- 5.2 Rotation order, as set down under a five (5) year rotation, shall be confirmed by the Board each year and only changed if a hosting Association is unable to host or is deemed unsuitable for any reason.
- 5.3 Any Association that is unable to field a team will not be able to host that Championship but will retain their order on the rotation and the next Association on the roster will be awarded that Championship.
- 5.4 New affiliated Associations may be added to the rotation roster one year after affiliation, provided that the Board of Management is satisfied that suitable facilities are available.
- 5.5 Four weeks prior to an Association hosting a Championship, the ST Umpiring Coordinator or delegated person, shall undertake an inspection of the grounds and facilities with the President of the hosting association and report to the ST Championship Coordinator their suitability or not to host such Championships. The ST Coordinator shall consult with the subcommittee and, should the grounds or facilities be deemed not to be suitable, the Championship shall be transferred to the next Association named in the rotation.
- 5.6 If a Host Association does not enter a team, then the next Association may Host that particular Championships, at the discretion of the ST Championship Sub-committee in consultation with the Board.

## 6. Team Lists

- 6.1 Team Lists shall contain names of officials, and players, all of whom must be registered with ST. Team lists will be checked to ensure the correct registration has been paid.
- 6.2 The Team List must show the full name (not initials) and uniform numbers of the participants and date of birth for underage players and must be forwarded to the Championship Coordinator no later than one (1) week prior to the commencement day of the Championship.

- 6.3 Officials of teams with junior players, including bat boys/girls must have a Working with Vulnerable Person's card and number recorded on their registration details as per RevSport.

### 7. Player Eligibility

- 7.1 Players participating in Tasmanian Championships must be registered players of their respective affiliated Associations. If a player/official is named as a team member in an association team different from their registered association, a permit must be completed via RevSport prior to the Championship commencing.
- 7.2 Players, listed on the Team Sheet, as confirmed at the Managers Meeting prior to the commencement of the Championships, are eligible only to play with that one team throughout the series.
- 7.3 Players eligible for under age teams shall be under age as on the 1st January of the current season.
- 7.4 If an Association is unable to fill a team in the respective age division, they may apply for permission, from the Championship Sub-committee, to play a maximum of 2 overage players. If permission is given the team may have no more than 10 players, which includes the overage players. An eligible overage player is one that is under the age as at 1<sup>st</sup> October of the current season.
- 7.5 It remains the responsibility of individual affiliated Associations to ensure that players conform to these age groups, but team lists may be checked by ST. If any disputes arise in this matter, it shall be the responsibility of the Association entering the team to provide proof of age. Should this proof not be forthcoming, the challenged player may, at the discretion of the Championship Committee, be precluded from participating in the Championships.
- 7.6 Junior State Teams may be permitted entry in State Championships for match practice only at the discretion of the Softball Tasmania Board.  
Should a Junior State Team be entered, points for and against shall be calculated in the usual way, but the State Team shall not be eligible to compete in the final/s.

### 8. Official Eligibility

- 8.1 All officials participating in Tasmanian State Championships must be registered with their respective affiliated Associations or directly with Softball Tasmania.

### 9. Umpires

- 9.1 Each Affiliated Association must include on their Team Entries the correct and full name of at least two umpires per team competing in the Championships. At least one of these umpires must be nominated as a suitably qualified or experienced **plate umpire**. Affiliated Associations unable to fulfill these requirements will be required to:
- 1 Liaise with the Director of Umpiring to find a suitable umpire.
  - 2 Pay a fee of \$150.00 per umpire not provided within 7 days of the event. The Director of Umpiring shall provide Softball Tasmania Finance Manager with the name of the Association that was unable to fulfill these requirements. This will include details of the game being played and times. This fee will be paid to Softball Tasmania. At the discretion of the Championship Sub-Committee part of this fee may be paid to the umpire that filled in.

- 3 If an Association fails to pay the required fine, they will be deemed non-financial and unable to submit any further State Championship teams until paid with no exceptions.
- 9.2 In the case of a nominated umpire being unable to officiate in games it is the responsibility of the Association/Team entering the team(s) to produce a replacement Umpire – any alteration to the original list must be notified by the affiliated Association to the Director of Umpiring and State Championship Administrator via email as soon as possible.
- 9.3 All Association/Team Umpires must attend the Umpires Technical Meeting.
- 9.4 The State Director of Umpiring shall be responsible for the allocation of Umpires to each game, including finals.

### 10. Uniforms

- 10.1 Players will wear the full team uniform along with the team officials, which includes the teams playing top and team colours, which shall conform to the official rules of softball. The colours for such uniform shall have been registered with ST and shall be retained throughout the current season unless otherwise notified.
- 10.2 Accredited Umpires shall wear a blue top, navy slacks/track pants or appropriate shorts, Umpires in training should wear a green shirt and non-accredited umpires should wear suitable clothing not in the colours of the participating teams and all umpires are to wear enclosed shoes.
- 10.3 Any player or official who is not in the approved uniform shall not be permitted on the field of play or on the bench.
- 10.4 In the event of inclement weather, suitable clothing may be worn by players and officials on the diamond or on the bench. Permission to wear such clothing during a game, must be requested and granted by the plate umpire,
- 10.5 No part of the State uniform may be worn at State Championships once a team starts their warm-up. Exception being members of a State Team participating in the Championships

### 11. Playing Draw – Preparation

- 11.1 Between the closing date of team nominations, and at least one week prior to the Championships, the State Championship Sub-Committee Administrator shall draw up a roster and provide it to the State Directors of Umpiring and Scoring, plus participating affiliated Associations.
- 11.2 The Director of Umpiring and Director of Scoring shall appoint Umpires and Statisticians respectively to the games and within two days return the allocations, with any problems, back to the State Championship Administrator, who shall make any necessary changes and complete the draw with the Officials' allocations.
- 11.3 The Final Draw shall be circulated to ST, the affiliated Associations entering a team(s), the State Director of Umpiring and the State Director of Scoring within one week of the championship.
- 11.4 Round Robin, Pool or a format suitable to the number of entries and diamonds available, will be used as necessary. (Refer to appendix 1 under rules, for possible alternative formats). The format of the roster and finals will be determined by the Championship Administration the host Affiliated Association may be consulted if deemed necessary.



- 11.5 The Championship Administration shall ensure that time is allowed in preparation of the Championship draw to include:
- 11.5.1 Team Manager' Meeting – no later than 30 mins prior to the first scheduled game.
  - 11.5.2 Umpires' Technical Meeting – no later than 30 minutes prior to the first scheduled game.

## 12. Trophies

- 12.1 Perpetual Shields will be presented to the winning teams and team members shall receive individual recognition to be determined by the ST Championship Sub-committee, who shall arrange for the purchase of individual items and ensure that shields are returned and engraved.
- 12.2 A MVP for each team will be awarded (exception for Under 12 Carnival). Only one MVP per team will be awarded (exception if mixed teams where a male and female player per team will be awarded MVP). Each team must hand their nomination for MVP to one of the Championship Committee members prior to the presentation ceremony.
- 12.3 All teams and individual members participating at the Championships are encouraged to remain at the venue and shall attend the presentation ceremony.

## 13. Responsibilities of Participating Associations

- 13.1 Affiliated Associations must make available to their team officials the following:
- (a) Copy of the Rules and Regulations of State Championships
  - (b) Copy of the Players, Officials and Spectators Code Of conduct.
- (Appendix A)
- 13.2 Affiliated Association Teams are to ensure their team is compliant with the requirements.

## 14. Responsibilities of Host Association

- 14.1 Information on the draw and results of matches shall be circulated to RevSport, ST Website, and Mercury, Examiner and Advocate newspapers and a copy of all media Releases, to be forwarded to the ST Administration Officer.
- 14.2 A suitable ground must be provided taking into account the safety of spectators and all diamonds marked in accordance with the Official Rules of Softball Australia. All equipment such as bases, benches, back nets, carpets, etc. are to be provided and positioned on each diamond prior to the commencement of each game. Affiliated Associations are to ensure that the softball equipment is in a good state of repair and does not represent any safety problems during the duration of the games.  
Associations are to provide an extra diamond for use in the case of injuries and unsuitability of a diamond.
- 14.3 The Host Association shall provide adequate catering facilities.
- 14.4 Suitable First Aid facilities are to be provided however, if it is not possible, a telephone is to be made available for contacting a local ambulance service and the defibrillator location should also be made known at the Managers' Meeting. Ice must be available at the ground for first aid purposes.

- 14.5 Should the ST Director of Scoring or Championship Coordinator be unable to attend the Championships, the Championship Sub-committee will name an Official Score Recorder for the Championships, whose responsibility will be to receive and record the results of games and broadcast them on an official Results Board, which the Host Association shall supply. These results are to include the points and percentage for each team participating in the Championships. At the completion of the championship the nominated Score Recorder should forward the results to the state championship coordinator.
- 14.6 The Host Association shall provide a suitable venue for conducting the Team Managers' Meeting and the Umpires' Technical Meeting.
- 14.7 The Host Association shall provide a suitable change room for Umpires.
- 14.8 The Host Association shall appoint a Championship Convenor to be responsible for overall coordination of the Host Association's responsibilities. The Convenor will be required to represent the Host Association on the Championship Committee. Affiliated Associations should notify the Championship Co-ordinator at least two weeks prior to the championship, who the championship convenor is.

### 15. Rules for the Conduct of Tasmanian State Championships

- 15.1 Tasmanian State Championships shall be conducted under the auspices of the Tasmanian Softball Council Inc (trading as Softball Tasmania), and shall be managed by a Championship Sub-Committee.  
The Championship SUB-COMMITTEE shall consist of person/s co-opted annually by the Board member holding the State Championship Portfolio and ratified by the Board.
- 15.2 A Championship COMMITTEE shall have jurisdiction over individual Championships and shall be comprised of
- (a) The Softball Tasmania Championship Co-ordinator or delegated person
  - (b) The Tournament Chief Umpire (TCU)
  - (c) The Host Affiliated Associations Convenor
- 15.3 It is a condition of entry to any Tasmanian State Championship that all affiliated Associations, their players and officials agree to be bound by the attached Rules and shall accept the decisions made by the Championship Sub-Committee. It is also acknowledged that by participating in the Championship this condition has been accepted.

## Appendix A - Player's 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/team or club you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during that activity.

1. Be a positive role model for softball and at all times and value the individual.
2. Participate within the competition conditions and rules 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, coaches and all players.
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, scorers, administrators, the media, parents and spectators
  - Maintain high standards of personal appearance and behaviour
  - 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 Member Protection Policy

## Coach's 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/team 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, 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 talent, developmental stage and goals of each individual player.
4. Treat each player as an individual and help them reach their full potential.
  - Provide training programs that are planned and sequential and suitable for the age, experience and ability of the players
  - 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.
  - 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, scorers, administrators, the media, parents and spectators
  - 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 coaching knowledge and skill.
  - Maintain and improve your NCAS accreditation
  - Seek continual self-improvement through performance appraisal and ongoing education
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. 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.
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 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.
  - Provide a modified training program where appropriate
  - Allow further participation in training and competitions only when appropriate
  - 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.

### Official's 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/team 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.
2. Place the safety and welfare of the players/participants above all else be fair and impartial. Avoid any situation which may lead to a conflict of interest.
3. Be courteous, respectful and open to discussion and interaction.
4. Refrain from any form of personal abuse. This includes verbal, physical and emotional abuse.
5. Refrain from any form of sexual harassment. This includes explicit, implicit, verbal and non-verbal sexual harassment.
6. Make a commitment to providing a quality service to softball, to your affiliated club, association/team 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
7. 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, scorers, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. Encourage others to demonstrate the same qualities.
  8. Operate within the rules and spirit of the sport.
  9. Abide by and respect the policies governing softball and sport generally and the organisations and individuals administering those policies.
  10. 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
  11. Value the individual in sport.
  12. Do not tolerate acts of aggression.
  13. Encourage inclusivity and access to all areas of officiating.
  14. Refrain from engaging in any behaviour that is in breach of Softball Australia's
  15. Member Protection Policy.

### Administrator's Code of Conduct

In addition to Softball Australia's values and general Code of Conduct, as an administrator for Softball Australia, a Member State or an affiliated association/team or club you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during that activity

1. Be a positive role model for softball and at all times and value the individual.
2. 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.
3. Refrain from making derogatory, demeaning or discriminatory remarks about any umpires, administrators, players, coaches or other players.
4. 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 coaches, officials, umpires, scorers, administrators, the media, parents and spectators
  - Maintain high standards of personal appearance and behaviour
  - Encourage others to demonstrate the same qualities
5. Be fair, considerate, impartial and honest in all dealing with others.
6. 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.
7. Do not tolerate acts of aggression.
8. Perform any duties and responsibilities where you are a representative of Softball Australia in a mature, fair and professional manner.
9. Resolve conflicts fairly and promptly through established procedures.
10. Maintain a safe environment for you and others.
11. Be aware of, and maintain an uncompromising adherence to Softball Australia standards, policies, regulations and procedures.
12. Be aware of your legal responsibilities.
13. Refrain from engaging in any behaviour that is in breach of Softball Australia's Member Protection Policy.

### Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct

In addition to Softball Australia's values and general Code of Conduct, as a parent or guardian of any person involved with Softball Australia, a Member State or an affiliated association/team or club you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during that activity.

1. Remember that your child participates in sport for their own enjoyment, not yours.
2. Focus on your child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
3. Never ridicule or yell at your child and other children for making a mistake or losing a competition.
4. Show appreciation for good performance and skilful plays by all players, including opposing players.
5. Respect the decisions of officials and coaches and teach young people to do the same.
6. Do not physically or verbally abuse anyone associated with the sport (player, coach, umpire etc).
7. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
8. Refrain from engaging in any behaviour that is in breach of Softball Australia's Member Protection Policy.

### Spectator's Code of Conduct

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

1. Applaud good performance and efforts from all players and teams. Congratulate all players on their performance regardless of the game's outcome.
2. Respect the decisions of officials and coaches and teach young people to do the same.
3. Never ridicule or scold a young player for making a mistake. Positive comments are motivational.
4. Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by other spectators, coaches, officials or players.
5. Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
6. Encourage players to follow the rules and the officials' decisions.
7. 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).
8. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

### General Code of Conduct

In addition to Softball Australia's values and the codes of conduct for specific roles, all members, parents, guardians, spectators and others involved with Softball Australia, a Member State or an affiliated association/team or club must meet the following requirements in regard to their conduct in any role or during any activity held by or under the auspices of Softball Australia, a Member State or an affiliated association/team or club.

1. Be a positive role model for softball and at all times and value the individual.
2. 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.
3. Refrain from making derogatory, demeaning or discriminatory remarks about any administrators, players, coaches or other players.
4. 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 coaches, officials, umpires, scorers, administrators, the media, parents and spectators
  - Maintain high standards of personal appearance and behaviour
  - Encourage others to demonstrate the same qualities
5. Be fair, considerate, impartial and honest in all dealing with others.
  6. Make a commitment to providing quality service.
  7. Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with persons under 18 years of age, as your words and actions are an example.
  8. Be aware of, and maintain an uncompromising adherence to Softball Australia standards, policies, regulations and procedures.
  9. Operate within the rules of softball including national and international guidelines which govern Softball Australia, the Member State and affiliated association/team and club.
  10. Understand your responsibility if you breach or are aware of any breaches of this Code.
  11. Do not use your involvement with Softball Australia, a Member State or an affiliated association/team or club to promote your own beliefs, behaviours or practices where these are inconsistent with those of Softball Australia, the Member State or an affiliated association/team or club.
  12. Avoid unaccompanied and unobserved activities with persons under 18 years of age, wherever possible.
  13. Provide a safe environment for the conduct of the activity.
  14. Show concern and caution towards others who may be sick or injured.
  15. Refrain from engaging in any behaviour that is in breach of Softball Australia's Member Protection Policy.



## CHAMPIONSHIP GUIDELINES

### Appendix B – Rotation

DATE	CHAMPIONSHIP	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
9th/10th December	<b>U16 girls/boys</b>	NTSA				
20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>Men's/Women's</b>	STSA				
18th February	<b>U/19 girls/boys</b>	USA				
24 <sup>th</sup> /25th February	<b>U14/U12 girls/boys</b>	BSA				





# **SOFTBALL TASMANIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

## **RULES FOR TASMANIAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

## Rules for Tasmanian State Championship

**NB: All Rules as provided by the Official Rules of Softball shall apply to Tasmanian State Championships except in so far as they are modified hereunder.**

### 1. Attendance at Ground

- 1.1 A team must be at the venue at least 30 minutes before the game is scheduled to start.
- 1.2 A team's line-up sheet must be lodged with the opposing team's Scorer at least 20 minutes before the game is scheduled to start.
- 1.3 Where a team is playing consecutive matches on the same day, and the break between those matches is not more than 45 minutes, the above time shall be 10 minutes for the second of those matches.
- 1.4 A team must commence the championship with a minimum of nine (9) players. A forfeit will be declared if 9 players are unavailable at the commencement of the team's first game. If during or in subsequent games a team is unable to take the diamond with nine (9) players due to injury or ejection of player(s) the game can continue and will not be a forfeit except if there is less than 7 player's.

### 2. Line-Up Sheets

- 2.1 The given name and surname of all players and officials participating in the game and in the bench area **MUST** be included on the line up sheet; game sheet includes player's uniform numbers. A copy of the line-up sheet is to be given to the umpire and one to the opposing team before the game commences. Line up books will be supplied by ST and handed out at managers meeting and to be returned at the conclusion of Championship games.
- 2.2 The first named team shall occupy first base, second named third base.

### 3. Balls

- 3.1 Balls for all games shall be supplied by and remain the property of Softball Tasmania. At the discretion of the Board of Management, Affiliated Associations may be charged a levy to cover the costs of these balls.
- 3.2 Prior to the commencement of the game one ball shall be given to each team for use by the pitcher. The ball shall be handed back to the Plate Umpire prior to the commencement of the game.
- 3.3 See [Rule 20](#) for ball sizes for each Championship

### 4. Bases

- 4.1 All bases shall be firmly secured. If pegs are used, they must be completely covered by the base.

### 5. Equipment

- 5.1 Once equipment has been approved by the Tournament Chief Umpire, or a person designated by the TCU for this purpose, it shall be accepted by all participants as legal equipment.

## 6. Metal Cleats

- 6.1 Metal cleats are **not permitted** to be worn in any Championships.

## 7. Suspension of Play

- 7.1 In the event of adverse weather (which includes extremely high temperature) and prior to the commencement of a game, the Championship Committee shall decide whether a game shall be commenced or be delayed, whether a game shall be deferred or whether a game shall be cancelled.
- 7.2 Once a game has commenced the plate umpire has full jurisdiction over the decision to continue or not.
- 7.3 A game temporarily suspended by the plate umpire, for any reason or deferred without a result being determined under Clause - 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 shall be resumed at the point where it was suspended.
- 7.4 Where, due to darkness, rain, extreme temperature, or other causes which puts the players or patrons in peril and a game cannot continue, the game shall be regulated if four (4) or more completed innings or 50 minutes has been played.

## 8. Disruptions

- 8.1 Unless one full round has been completed no winner will be declared. If one full round has been completed then the team on top will be declared the winner.
- 8.2 The following guidelines are for the assistance of the Championship Committee.
- 8.2.1 Every attempt should be made to determine a winner through the playing of games (e.g. a single elimination round)
- 8.2.2 If any round cannot be played or completed the winner should be decided on the games played using match ratio. Positions are determined by comparing teams' match rates (MR). A Teams match rate is calculated by dividing the number of points gained by the number of games played and multiplying by 25.

$$MR = \frac{\text{points} \times 25}{\text{games}}$$

The team with the higher match ratio is deemed to hold the higher position on the ladder.

e.g. **TEAM A** played 6 games won 4 lost 2 = points total 18  
 $18 \times 25 / 6 = 75$   
**TEAM B** played 5 games won 4 lost 1 = points total 17  
 $17 \times 25 / 5 = 85$

Percentages are used when two or more teams have identical match ratios.

$$\% = \frac{\text{runs AGAINST}}{\text{DEFENSIVE innings}}$$

The team with the lower percentage is deemed to hold the higher position.  
 (Lower average of runs scored against in each defensive innings)

## 9. Forfeits

- 9.1 The score of a forfeited game shall be 7-0 or the score at the time of the forfeit, whichever gives a better run average to the team not at fault.

## 10. Barracking

- 10.1 Barracking is allowed from the benches but there shall be no personal; or disparaging remarks against the opposition players or officials or the Umpires.

**Penalty:** The player/official shall be ejected from the game.

Following the game, the Umpire shall complete the 'Report on Ejection from the Game form and to hand to the TCU for processing.

Any spectator directing disparaging remarks against the umpire, opposition team or supporters, may cause their team to forfeit the game.

## 11. Smoking & Vaping

### 11.1 *Public Health Act 1997*

*No person may smoke or vape within 20 metres of competition, seating or marshalling areas at outdoor sports grounds while a sporting event is being conducted.*

*This includes all sporting events, irrespective of the type of ground.*

*It includes the period 30 minutes before and after the sporting event. It does not include informal or impromptu sporting activities.*

*You risk an on-the-spot fine of at least \$260 if you smoke in a smoke-free area.*

*The maximum fine for an offence is \$2600.*

*From 1 March 2012, smokers can no longer evade penalties by putting out the cigarette when asked to do so.*

*The owner/manager of an establishment risks an on-the-spot fine of at least \$130 and/or prosecution for allowing people to smoke in smoke-free areas.*

*The maximum fine for an offence is \$6500.*

*Tobacco Control Officers, some council officers and police are all empowered to enforce smoke-free areas*

Any Player/Official not complying with this law shall be ejected from the game and removed from the ground.

Such person shall be reported to the TCU.

Any Spectator not complying shall be asked to leave the ground.

## 12. Alcohol consumption

- 12.1 Alcohol is not to be consumed by players, team officials or umpires during any game played at state championships.

Umpires have authority to eject any player/official, they judge to be under the influence of alcohol. Such player/official shall be reported as per the Championship Tribunal rules.

## 13. Spitting

- 13.1 The practice of spitting shall not be permitted.

- 13.2 Any player or official who is detected by an Umpire to be spitting shall be issued with one warning only, following which any further transgression of this rule will result in that player or official being ejected from the game.

## 14. Toss

- 14.1 It shall be the responsibility of the two competing teams to arrange the toss no

later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled commencement time of the game.

14.2 The team named first in the programme shall occupy first base bench and shall call the toss.

14.3 The team named second in the programme shall occupy the third base bench.

14.4 If a double round is to be played a toss will not be required as the first named team shall bat first.

### 15. Warm-Up

15.1 Each team may have a five-minute warm-up on the playing surface before the commencement of each game, provided that the warm-up shall not delay the scheduled commencement time of the game.

15.2 The team batting first shall have first use of the diamond and the team fielding first shall have second use of the diamond and shall remain on the diamond in preparation for the commencement of the game.

### 16. Introductions

16.1 At the discretion of the Competition Committee players and officials may be introduced to dignitaries or to the public at least 15 minutes before the game.

### 17. Bench Area

17.1 **ONLY** team personnel, as listed on the game sheet may enter the designated bench area during the game and must remain within the bench area throughout the game.

**Exception:** This does not preclude the team Manager/Official or player, after gaining permission from the Plate Umpire, leaving the bench area on matters concerning the welfare of team members.

17.2 Team personnel who are involved in scouting/videoing etc. whilst their team is playing must not be in uniform and must not be listed on the line-up sheet.

### 18. Game Times

18.1 All games shall start at the scheduled time except there shall be at least 20 minutes between games and 30 minutes when a team is playing consecutive games.

18.2 Where games are behind schedule they may be rescheduled or transferred to another diamond at the discretion of the Championship Committee.

18.3 No extra time for injury will be added in any game restricted to time in any State Championship. Points will be shared and the score and innings recorded as 0-0

### 19. Procedures for Round Robin games

#### 19.1 Open, Under 19-U16

19.1.1 All Open (including A, B and any other senior grade championship), Under 19 and Under 16 Round Robin games shall be 7 innings or one hour and twenty (20) minutes whichever comes first.

19.1.2 A new innings will not be commenced after one hour fifteen (15) minutes. Any innings started must be completed.

- 19.1.3 An innings shall be declared ended once;
- Three (3) outs have been made or;
  - Seven (7) runs have crossed home plate and any subsequent play has been completed. A team may score a maximum of ten (10) runs per innings.
  - No 7 run rule for Open Men's/Women's**

19.1.4 A coach can declare an innings once per game.

### 19.2 Under 14

19.2.1 All Under 14 (and age groups below) Round Robin games shall be 7 innings or one hour twenty (20) minutes whichever comes first.

19.2.2 If the batter has faced at least one pitch when time is up, they will be entitled to finish their turn at bat, and any runs scored as a consequence of this shall be counted. If no pitches have been faced, then the game must end.

19.2.3 An innings shall be declared ended once;

- Three (3) outs have been made or;
- Seven (7) runs have crossed home plate and any subsequent play has been completed. A team may score a maximum of ten (10) runs per innings.

19.2.4 A coach can declare an innings once per game.

### 19.3 Under 12

The aim of the U/12 Carnival is participation and fun. This is not a Championship and no winner will be declared.

All players should have at least one innings in the infield and no player should play in the same position for more than 2 innings. This is to provide opportunities to players to be involved in the game.

#### **TEAMS**

- Mixed teams consisting of 7 or more players. Teams should have a mixture of boys and girls on the field.
- Maxim of 9 players on the field
- A team may have other players on the bench, these players can bat during the batting innings and there is no limit to the numbers of bench players.
- A maxim of 10 batters per innings.

For the sake of time, substitutions and changes to the field should be made between innings (unless the case of injury). Coaches should have field positions for the next innings ready prior to the team completing their turn at bat.

Players can be substituted on and off as required, there is no limitation of movement in and out of the game (i.e, there is no difference between the starting 9 and bench players in regards to substitutions)

#### **Field & Equipment**

- Ball - 11 inch low impact ball
- Catcher's gear - catchers must wear a face mask, chest protection and shin guards.
- Base paths are 55 feet and pitching distance 35 feet (if a pitcher is struggling to make the distance, then can come closer (minimum 30 feet) as long as deemed safe.

## Game Strategy

- Teams play a minimum of 3 innings. Games should last no longer than hour 20minutes. All players (maximum of 10 batters) will bat each innings despite the number of outs. If there is time within the 1 hour 20 minutes to play more innings, then teams are encouraged to do this.
- Each player bats regardless of the number of outs. Each play in the field is played if there are no outs. No infield fly rule or dropped third strike rule applies.
- If one team has more players than the other team, the number of batters each innings shall be the higher number (maximum 10 batters),
- If a batter has faced 1 pitch, they shall complete their turn at bat.
- Regardless of whether a player is on or off the field, the batting line up will stay the same.
- Speed up catcher rule applies, or if changing catcher please ensure they are ready at the start of the team's fielding time. If the catcher for the next innings is on base with 3 batters to go, they should be replaced by another player to allow time for the catcher to get ready.
- A pitcher may be used for a maxim of 2 innings per game.
- Coaches are encouraged to rotate players to different fielding positions and for players to be on the bench for one innings only at a time.
- Last batter - the fielding team concludes their fielding by (1) making the out on the batter running and any other base runners or (2) throwing the ball to the base ahead of the lead runner i.e. the lead runner can advance no further (refer to last batter in Batter/Base Runner section)
- Coaches are permitted outside the infield when their team is fielding but must not interfere with the play. Coaches must wear team colours and no open-faced shoes when coaching.

## Batter/Baserunner

- The pitcher pitches up to 5 pitches per batter. Once a batter has 3 balls the batter progresses to coach pitch.
- The coach pitches the ball (x2)
- If batter has not hit one of the pitched balls the tee is placed in front of home plate. The batter and base runners may run a maxim of 2 bases when the ball is hit from the tee.

This is to allow all players the opportunity to hit the ball (no walks) and that there is some action in the field. A hit from the tee must pass the 15' arc. Players are encouraged to hit a pitched ball - the tee allows players in this age group who have not developed skills to hit a moving ball to still participate, run the bases etc. Plus allows some action in the field.

- If the batter fails to hit the ball in fair territory after 2 attempts from the tee they will be given out.
- A runner cannot advance from a caught fly ball hit.
- A batter MAY be given out if the bat is thrown dangerously after receiving a warning.
- A batter/runner may only advance the base they are going to plus one on ANY overthrow in dead ball territory.
- Sliding is permitted. Bunting is not permitted. Players can lead off on the pitch. Stealing is permitted. Only one base allowed on a pass ball.
- The last batter if they become a batter runner may advance as many bases as they can safely but are not required to hit a "home run". The base that the batter runner reaches safely at the end of the innings is the base this player starts on at the batting of their team's next turn of bat. Any other base runners left on base safely at the end of the innings can also start on this base at the commencement of the teams next batting innings.

## Scoring

- Scorer shall be responsible for timing the innings and tell the umpire when the speed catcher rule should be applied.
- One point for each out made
- One point for each base reached safely
- A special score sheet will be provided to score these games.

There is no mercy rule. Seven runs across the plate in an innings will not apply as we want all eligible players to bat per inning.

### 19.4 Tie Break Rule

Tiebreak rule will apply in all grades if time allows after the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) innings. Games will be called when time elapses and the winner will be determined in the normal way or a tie recorded if applicable.

### 19.5 Run Ahead Rule

Run ahead rule will apply in all grades when one team leads the other by-

Fifteen (15) runs after 3 innings  
Ten (10) runs after four (4) innings  
Seven (7) runs after five (5) innings

**EXCEPTION-** The run ahead rule may not be applied if a different format of the game is used for example, skins format and mixed competition. This will be decided by the Championship Sub-Committee.

### 19.6 Speed-Up Catcher & Pitcher Rule

The speed-up catcher & pitcher rule may be applied to all games as this allows the catcher & pitcher to get ready to field.

If the catcher or pitcher is on base with two out, they must be replaced by another team member who may be either a bench player or a player who must be at least four (4) players ahead in the batting line up. This is not counted as a substitution. If an ineligible runner is put on base, when brought to the umpire's attention, they will be replaced with an eligible runner. There is no penalty for this action.

If junior state championship teams are mixed then the Championship Committee may alter the game format to accommodate

## 20. Pitching Distance and Ball Size

Ages below this shall be determined by the Championship Committee in consultation with the Board.

Game	Division	Pitching	Ball Size
Under 12	Female	35'	11"
	Male	35'	11"
Under 14	Female	40'	11"
	Male	40'	11"
Under 16	Female	43'	12"
	Male	46'	12"
Under 19	Female	43'	12"
	Male	46'	12"
Open	Female	43'	12"
	Male	46'	12"



## 21. Results

- 21.1 Results of games at all State Championships shall be determined in accordance with the Official Rules of Softball except as provided in these Championship Rules.
- 21.2 It is the responsibility of team scorers to check the score with the Official Scorer at the end of the game.  
The Official Scorer shall return the sheet to the Championship recorder at the conclusion of the game. If there is no Official Scorer, the Plate Umpire has the responsibility to ensure the sheet is returned.

## 22. Positions for Finals

- 22.1 Points shall be awarded for each game as follows:

Win	Four (4) Points
Loss	One (1) Point
Draw	Two (2) Points
Forfeit	Nil (0) Points

- 22.2 All results will be put into RevSport and will be available on Softball Tasmania [website](#) under draws and results for the allocated Championship. If a full round has been completed then the final placings on RevSport will be used.  
If one full round cannot be completed, then refer to clause 8. Disruptions for determination of winner using match ratio formula.

## 23. Finals

To be eligible to participate in any final a player must have participated (present at the ground and on the team list) in at least 50% of games played by their team.

### 23.1 Open Women and Men (all grades) and Under 19

- 23.1.1 Following the completion of the Round Robin games the top two teams shall play off for the A Grade title.
- 23.1.2 Other grades may be played for at the discretion of the Championship Committee in consultation with the Board.
- 23.1.3 Finals will be seven (7) innings, 1 hour 30 minutes or until a result is achieved.
- 23.1.4 The Run Ahead Rule (as per the official rules of softball) shall apply. (Refer clause 19.5)
- 23.1.5 The Speed-Up Catcher rule shall apply & Pitcher rule may be used.

### 23.2 Under 16 & Under 14

- 23.2.1 In Under 16 Championships the top two shall play off to determine the winners except where there are 4 or more teams playing, where the top team shall be declared the winner, to be determined by the ST Sub-committee.
- 23.2.2 Finals will be seven (7) innings or if one 1 hour 30 minutes have been played. The innings will be completed and the winner declared.

23.2.3 The 7 Run will apply for finals

23.2.4 The Run Ahead Rule (as per the official rules of softball) shall apply.  
(Refer clause 19.5)

23.2.5 The Tiebreak Rule shall apply at the commencement of the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) innings and continue until a result is achieved.

23.2.6 The Speed-Up Catcher rule shall apply and the pitcher rule may be used.

## 24. Protests

24.1 All protests shall be dealt with on the spot by the Tournament Chief Umpire or by a person appointed by the Tournament Chief Umpire.

24.2 It shall be the responsibility of the management of the team lodging the protest to locate and advise the TCU of their intention to protest.

## 25. Ejection of Players/Officials from Game

**For the purpose of this rule, a game is deemed to have commenced at the time the Umpires arrive at the diamond and concludes at the time the Umpires depart from the diamond.**

25.1 Should a player/official be ejected from the game the Umpire concerned shall submit a written report to the Championship Committee immediately at the conclusion of the game in question.

25.2 Any player/official ejected from a game for offensive conduct or language shall be reported and appear before a Tribunal comprising the ST Sub Committee (e.g. the TS Representative, the Host Association Convenor and the Tournament Chief Umpire).

25.3 The Umpire who ejected the player/official shall also be in attendance at the Tribunal Meeting.

25.4 The ST Representative shall advise the player/official ejected and the Umpire concerned of the time and place of the Tribunal Meeting, this shall be conducted as close to the end of the game in question as possible (including finals).

25.4.1 The ejected player/official shall make themselves available from the time immediately commencing after the conclusion of the game from which they were ejected and shall remain in a conspicuous place in the immediate vicinity of the clubrooms so that the TS Representatives can locate them readily. The ejected player/official may have a support person with them during the tribunal meeting. Junior players/officials must be accompanied by an appropriate adult.

25.5. The Tribunal shall have the authority to impose one or all of the following penalties

25.5.1 Reprimand the player/official

25.5.2 Suspend the player/official for any or all of the remaining games of the Championships

25.5.3 Report the player/official to the TS Misdemeanour Sub-Committee



## CHAMPIONSHIP GUIDELINES

- 25.6 Where the Tribunal is of the opinion that the conduct of the player/official may warrant further suspension/disqualification by the ST Misdemeanour Sub-Committee, a written report shall be forwarded for consideration of the ST Board of Management. Should this avenue be determined, the player/official shall be advised at the time the Championship penalty is imposed.
- 25.7 Any player suspended or disqualified by the Tribunal shall not be eligible to receive any award for “MVP”, “Best Player” or the like at the particular Championship at which they were suspended or disqualified.

### Appendix one – Possible alternative formats for games

#### **Skins**

The Seven run rule per innings will apply – once a team has scored 7 runs in an innings and any subsequent play has stopped the umpire will call side.

The run ahead rule will **not** apply for these games.

Teams will score one point for each innings that they win. If both teams score the same amount of runs for an innings, neither team will be allocated points.

An innings must be completed for points to be allocated except in the case that the team batting second scores more runs than the opposition for the incomplete innings.

The team that scores the most points over the three games will be declared the winner. If teams finish on equal points after the three games then the team that scored the most runs over the three games will be declared the winner. If teams are even then the team that won the most games will be the winner.



# **SOFTBALL TASMANIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

## **STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TRIBUNAL**

## Rule 24: Ejection of player/officials from a game

### 1. Following Game where Player/Official is ejected

- 1.1 The TCU gives the Report Form to the Umpire concerned with the ejection for completion.
- 1.2 The Umpire returns the Report Form to the TCU who gives same to the TS Representative
- 1.3 The ST Representative advises the Manager of the team concerned, together with the reported player/official to report at a specified time and place for the Tribunal hearing.

### 2. The Tribunal Hearing

- 2.1 The ST Representative reads the Report to the TCU the Tournament Convenor and the Umpire/Umpires who had affected the ejection.
- 2.2 The Umpire(s) is given the opportunity, for reasons of clarification, to amend, delete or add to the Report.
- 2.3 The reported player/official, together with a member of the team's management is then summoned.
- 2.4 The Report is read and the reported player/official is then given the opportunity to plead either "guilty" or "not guilty" to the offence, to provide an explanation and to question either the Tribunal and/or the Umpire/s
- 2.5 After all discussion has concluded all persons except the members of the Tribunal are asked to leave the room.
- 2.6 Following the deliberation of the Tribunal the reported player/official and the member of the team management are recalled and advised of the Tribunal's decision.
- 2.7 The TCU shall advise the Umpire(s) affecting the Report of the decision of the Tribunal.

### 3. Conditions Applying to Suspended Player/Official

- 3.1 Should a player or official be suspended for one or more games by the Tribunal that player or official shall **not** –
  - 3.1.1 Be permitted to wear team uniform for the period of suspension,
  - 3.2.2 Be permitted in the dugout or on the bench during any game.
  - 3.3.3 Be listed on the line-up sheet or scorebook as a player or reserve.
- 3.2 The ST Representative shall advise the reported player/official and the member of the team management of these conditions when announcing any suspension.
- 3.3 The TCU shall ensure the compliance with these conditions for the duration of the suspension.

### 4. Advice to Tasmanian Softball Council

- 4.1 A copy of the Report together with written advice of the decision taken by the Tribunal shall be forwarded to the ST Honorary Administrative Officer with the ST Representative's Championship Report.
- 4.2 If the decision involves a recommendation for consideration by the ST Misdemeanour Committee, the ST Administrative Officer shall forward a copy of the Report and Tribunal decision to said Committee within fourteen (14) days of receipt of same from the ST Representative.



## Championship Tribunal



## Championship Tribunal

### Umpire's report of player/Official ejected from a game

NAME OF PLAYER/OFFICIAL \_\_\_\_\_

TEAM \_\_\_\_\_ POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

CHAMPIONSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

GAME \_\_\_\_\_ STARTING TIME \_\_\_\_\_

**REASON FOR EJECTION** (PLEASE TICK APPROPRIATE REASON)

TECHNICAL OFFENCE \_\_\_\_\_ CONDUCT OFFENCE \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE EJECTION**

\_\_\_\_\_  
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**UMPIRE'S MAKING REPORT** \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND HAND TO T.C.U IMMEDIATELY  
FOLLOWING GAME**

(THIS FORM IS TO BE FORWARDED TO T.S.C. FOLLOWING THE CHAMPIONSHIP  
T.S.C. REPRESENTATIVE TO COMPLETE SECTIONS OVER PAGE

**SOFTBALL TASMANIA – STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**



