

SA MASTERS GAMES 2024 - SOFTBALL - RULES OF COMPETITION

TEAM COMPOSITION AND ELIGIBILITY

- Date for player eligibility will be December 31st in the year of competition.
- Teams may consist of a maximum of 15 players and a maximum of 5 non-playing officials.
- All players and non-playing officials must be officially accredited in the Copper Coast Masters Games.
- Teams nominating for the 35+ competition are allowed up to 2 players aged 30-34 in the year of competition, and teams nominating for the 45+ competition are allowed up to 2 players aged 40-44 in the year of competition, but neither will be allowed to pitch or catch, and only one can be in the playing line-up at any one time.
- Accreditation must be available for presentation to volunteers checking same during the event.
- Age Groups: Fastpitch 35+ Male and Female and 45+ Male and Female (dependent on team nominations)
- Players found to be ineligible under the above rules, shall have all games in which they played declared a forfeit.
- There will be no interchanging of players between teams during the tournament.

UMPIRES

- Each team is required to register at least one umpire.
- The umpire should be of a standard capable of both plate and base umpiring adult level competition.
- Teams may choose to cover umpiring commitments through their players, however, should they exercise this option they MUST COMMIT to umpiring. If a team fails to provide an umpire for their respective duty, then the following will apply:
 - For first offence a loss of all premiership points for the respective day of play.
 - For second offence a loss of all premiership points at completion of minor round.
 - Any further infractions will result in removal of the team from the competition.
- The organising committee will make every effort to schedule umpiring duties around a team's games where possible, particularly if teams are using a player-umpire
- Umpires are asked to wear navy pants and light blue shirt if a dedicated non-playing official. Player-umpires are asked to wear clothing that does not clash with the participating teams and appropriate covered footwear.

MEDAL POLICY

- All registered players and registered non-playing officials are eligible to receive medals.
- Medal recipients must have participated in at least 30% of minor round games to be eligible to play finals.

ALCOHOL POLICY and SMOKING POLICY

- Smoking and alcohol is not permitted on the bench or the playing field.
- Any player or official found drinking alcohol during the game will be ejected from the game and face a tribunal hearing.
- No glass containers will be allowed on the grassed surfaces.

PLAYING RULES

- All games will be played as per 2022-2025 WBSC Rule Book (Fast Pitch), unless otherwise stated.
- All games will start and finish according to the fixture (unless otherwise advised). A central timing siren will commence and conclude games.
- All games (except for Finals) will be 80 minutes or 7 innings whichever occurs first.
- "Game" shall be called upon sounding of the completion siren, however, once a batter has started a turn at bat "game" shall not be called until all plays resulting from that batter have been completed.
- No new inning shall commence with less than (5) minutes playing time remaining. Umpires shall note the exact time of the commencing siren to know when 5 minutes are remaining.
- The score shall revert to that of the last even inning except that, if the team 2nd at bat has more runs when time expires OR in its incomplete inning has TIED the score, then the score shall stand.
- FINALS games will be 80 minutes and complete the innings. If the score is tied at the end of that inning a tie breaker inning will be played in the next inning. Please note that the tie-breaker rule is for finals play only.
- Once a team is 10 runs or more in front of their opponent then NO BUNTING OR STEALING, by the team in front, is allowed. Should a player attempt to bunt, bunt or steal a base whilst their team is 10 runs or more in advance of their opponents that player shall be called 'out'. Players may, should they wish, advance on a passed ball or wild pitch with liability to be put out regardless of how many runs ahead their team is.

RUN RULE

- There will be no run-ahead rule in this tournament and a limit of 7 runs per inning.

PROTESTS

- There will be no protest under any circumstances. The umpire's decision will be final.

DECLARATIONS & INTENTIONAL WALKS

- There are NO declarations and NO intentional walks allowed.

PLAYER/TEAM LINE-UPS

- A team may start and/or finish a game with a minimum of 7 registered players.
- If commencing the game with less than nine players, the batting line up must be listed in order, without any blank spaces. NO AUTOMATIC OUTS to be declared for the blank spaces.
- Should an injury occur during the game and reduce the batting line up to less than 9 players, that turn at bat is ignored and the game continues, no out is recorded.
- Should a team not have 7 players ready to participate at the scheduled commencement time then the following penalties shall apply:
 - 3 runs awarded to team not at fault and a further 3 runs awarded for every 5 minutes late (or part thereof) after the scheduled start time.
 - Should a team not be ready to take the field 10 minutes after the scheduled commencement time then the team not at fault shall win the game by forfeit and a score of 7-0.

DESIGNATED PLAYER (DP)

- Teams may use a DP as per the designated rule book.

DESIGNATED RUNNERS

- Teams may use a DR during a game (only once per inning) for any base runner, inclusive of the catcher. The DR must be named on the Official Scorecard prior to the commencement of the game. The DR, MAY NOT otherwise enter the game either defensively or offensively.

CATCHERS/PITCHERS

- When the catcher is on base with 2 outs, the offensive team MUST replace the catcher with another player. When the pitcher is on base with 2 outs, the offensive team MAY replace the pitcher with another player. That player will not be one of the next four batters. Time should be called by the offensive team and the plate umpire advised of the changeover.

SCORECARDS

- Scorecards will be issued to all teams. The completed card shall be handed to the Plate Umpire 10 minutes prior to the commencement of the game.
- The first named team is to supply the scorecard for each game.
- At the conclusion of the game the scorecard is to be signed by both teams and the umpires.
- The winning team is responsible for the return of the card to the administration area. The card must be lodged within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the game. In the event of a tie the first named team will be responsible for the return of the scorecard.
- Non lodgement of the scorecard may result in the loss of points for that game to the team failing to return the scorecard.

MATCH BALLS

- Vikings Masters Fastpitch Association will be supplying match balls for all games.
- Umpires will take match balls to each game.
- All match balls are to be returned to the plate umpire at the completion of the game.
- Match balls will be situated at the designated administration area.

DETERMINATION OF HOME TEAM

- During the minor round the first named team in the program will be the home team, occupy 3rd base and field first.
- The second named team will occupy 1st base and will bat first.
- In finals the higher placed team after the minor round will be the home team.

DIAMOND WARMUPS

- There will be no diamond warmups.

PITCHER WARMUPS

- Pitchers shall be allowed no more than five (5) warm-up pitches at the start of the game.
- Pitchers will be allowed up to 3 warm-up pitches between innings, provided they are completed within 1-minute of the last out of the previous half-inning.
- New pitchers entering the game will be given 5 warm-up pitches.

GROUND RULES

- All playing fields will have temporary home-run fencing at the limit of the outfield.
- Any batted ball hit beyond the home run fence on the full will be a home run.
- Any ball rolling through the home-run fencing will be a dead ball and the batter and any baserunners will be awarded 2 bases from the time of the pitch.
- Any ball hitting the home-run fencing and remaining in the field of play is live and in-play.
- Fencing will be set at 220 feet for Men's grades and 180 feet for Women's grades.
- Any additional ground rules will be presented at the Team Manager's meeting prior to the commencement of the tournament.
- If the ball becomes blocked the umpire shall award the base, they think the batter/runner would have made had the ball not been blocked.

METAL CLEATS

- Metal cleats may be worn. Pitchers cannot wear them whilst pitching, due to the pitching mats being used.

POINTS

- Points will be allocated in the following manner.
- 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and no points for a loss.

POSITION FOR FINALS

- In all competitions, Men's and Women's, the structure of Finals matches will be dependent on the number of teams nominated for each respective gender group and age group. Once this is known then the format of the Finals fixtures will be published at the Manager's Meeting prior to the competition commencing.
- However, the following shall apply regardless of team nominations. The position of the teams on equal points at the conclusion of the minor round games shall be determined by the runs scored against. If the runs against are the same, the winner of the head-to-head game between the two teams shall be the higher placed. If that game was a tie, then it will be decided who the higher team is by toss of a coin.

WEATHER

- The Tournament Committee will determine the condition of the grounds for play.

CANCELLED GAMES

- Any games cancelled due to the weather and/or ground conditions will be officially cancelled.
- Points for officially cancelled games will be awarded as for a draw.
- Any game started but not completed due to weather and/or ground conditions, will be a legal game if either 3 innings have been completed or 40 minutes of playing time has expired.
- FINALS: In the event the final rounds are officially cancelled due to weather and/or ground conditions, the winner of the division will be the highest ranked team after the completion of the minor round.

EJECTION OF PLAYERS/OFFICIALS

- Should any player and/or official be ejected from a game then the umpire/s concerned should submit a written report to the UIC immediately following the conclusion of the game.
- Any player or official ejected from a game may be required to attend a disciplinary hearing.
- Such hearing will occur as close as possible to the conclusion of the game in question.
- The disciplinary panel shall have the power to impose either a reprimand to the person concerned or suspend such player/official for any or all remaining games of the tournament.
- The disciplinary panel shall consist of the UIC, Softball Event Coordinator and the Technical Delegate.

PITCHING DISTANCE

- MEN
 - All grades - 46 feet
- WOMEN
 - All grades - 43 feet

FURTHER NOTICE

- Please note that the event committee may modify the rules described herein due to inclement weather or any other matter that may arise.
- All teams must be available to play from midday (12:00pm) on Thursday 11th April, as the schedule is unknown. A competition schedule will be released no later than one-week prior to the competition commencing.