

PSL Winter Competition Committee

# PSL WINTER GROUND RULES

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# **WINTER COMPETITION SEASON 2024**

## **COMPETITION GROUND RULES**

[To be read in conjunction with the current WBSC 2022–2025 Rule book]

(Any new WBSC rules or changes to WSBC rules during the 2024 PSL Winter Season will not take effect)

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## 1. REGISTRATION & COMPETITION TEAM FEE

- 1.1. It is required to ensure all participants, including coaches, umpires, scorers, and officials, are registered (and subsequently insured) before taking part in any competition.
- 1.2. All senior players are required be male.
- 1.3. Softball WA will issue invoices to the clubs for team fees and individual registration fees. The due date for such fees needs to be adhered to and clubs that do not pay by the due dates will be deemed un-financial and will lose match points until such time as they become financial. **(Refer to SWA Regulation 9 – Finance)**
- 1.4. Individual player registrations **MUST** be completed by the individual member themselves. The individual players name **MUST** be as per current birth certificate, birth extract, or driver's licence/Australian passport.

**Failure to comply with Rule 1 (REGISTRATION & COMPETITION TEAM FEE) will result in:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Club offence - Loss of 2 match points for each game the individual player has played in.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> and every Club offence there after - Loss of 4 match points for each game the Individual player has played in.**

## 2. CLEARANCES & PERMITS

Clearances (an unconditional transfer of a participant) and permits (a condition for playing in two (2) or more competitions) are covered in Softball WA Regulation 4.

## 3. TEAM SHEET, LINE UP CARDS & MATCH REPORTS

- 3.1. Each team must supply and prepare a team sheet for each game which will be an official record of the match details including player names, uniform numbers, batting order, fielding positions, coaching staff, umpiring staff, match date/time/location, division, team names, MVP votes and results and must match each other unless there is a dispute, the dispute shall be documented on both sheets.  
Any protest or report information also needs to be included on the team sheet.
- 3.2. Scores must be submitted by both Clubs per fixture played using the Revolutionise SPORT database. This needs to be completed by no later than **Tuesday 5pm** after a Sunday game, Sunday 5pm after a Friday game.  
***Committee will provide 7 days' notice when standard penalty enforcement will start.***
- 3.3. Any participant removed, ejected, or reported from the game, or immediately after a game, shall have their name and offence reported on both score sheets, also to the PSL Winter Committee Chairperson in writing via [perthsoftballwinter@gmail.com](mailto:perthsoftballwinter@gmail.com) by both Clubs involved.
- 3.4. Both teams are required to email team sheets to [perthsoftballwinterresults@gmail.com](mailto:perthsoftballwinterresults@gmail.com) by no later than **Tuesday 5pm** after a Sunday game, Sunday 5pm after a Friday game. File format shall be PDF or JPEG and scanned, photographs are not acceptable.
- 3.5. Team sheets/line up cards **MUST** match the Revolutionise SPORT online games result.

- 3.6.** Players must be listed on the team sheet in their batting line up, with the bench players listed at the bottom of the sheet. If a player does not take the diamond, cross out their name so the name is still legible (i.e., ~~John Snow~~).
- 3.7.** It is compulsory in division 1 to supply the plate umpire with a yellow card before the commencement of the game. Where possible divisions 2 to 9 should also adhere to this rule but will not be penalised for not doing so. Yellow card needs to be supplied by the HOME team only.
- 3.8.** During finals, ALL home teams will need to supply a yellow card to the plate umpire before the game's commencement.

***Failure to comply with Rule 3 will result in:***

***1<sup>st</sup> offence – Loss of 2 match points***

***2<sup>nd</sup> and every offense there after - Loss of 4 match points***

**4. UNIFORMS**

- 4.1.** Clubs have a 4-week allowance for all players to be in correct uniform from the start of the season. After this date, email notification is required to [perthsoftballwinter@gmail.com](mailto:perthsoftballwinter@gmail.com).
- 4.2.** All team uniforms must be consistent and have a unique number of no more than three digits.
- 4.3.** All club coaches, scorers and umpires must wear enclosed footwear.
- 4.4.** Jackets can be worn but only in Club colours.
- 4.5.** No state apparel to be worn on the diamond.

**5. UMPIRES**

**5.1. FRIDAY NIGHT GAMES**

- 5.1.1.** Friday night games at Mirrabooka, blue umpires will be rostered by the Softball WA Umpires Association (SWAUA) Each team will be invoiced 50% for the cost of umpires.

**5.2. SUNDAY GAMES**

- 5.2.1.** Division 1 and where possible Division 2 games umpires will be rostered by the SWAUA. Each team will be invoiced 50% for the cost of umpires.

**Teams who do not wish to pay the umpires fee can notify PSLW and cover their own umpiring duties.**

## 6. GAMES

- 6.1.** Two (2) points shall be awarded for a win. One (1) point will be awarded to each team for a draw. Zero (0) points shall be awarded for a loss.
- 6.2.** Sunday game times are 9am, 11am, 1pm, 3pm, and 5pm. These may be changed by the PSL Competitions Committee.
  - 6.2.1.** The PSL Competitions Committee will allow games to be started 30 minutes early or 30 minutes later than scheduled time if agreed by both club Presidents, to get all players to games.
- 6.3.** Friday night games (if required) are: 7pm and 9pm at Mirrabooka Softball Complex and 6.30pm and 8.30pm at Kingsway.
- 6.4.** The team mentioned first in the fixtures is the 'Home Team', shall occupy the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) base dugout, field first and supply two (2) quality match balls of the same brand.
- 6.5.** For ALL games other than division 1, game time will be one and a half hours or 7 innings, whichever comes first.
  - 6.5.1.** Division 1 are 7 innings game – no time limit applies (unless playing a double header or regular season night game in the early timeslot).
    - 6.5.1.1.** In case of a drawn game at the completion of 7 innings, WBSC tie break rules to apply.
    - 6.5.1.2.** Division 1 time limit for first (1st) game of a double header is set to 1 hour and forty-five minutes (1:45). No new innings shall start if five (5) minutes or less remain to the scheduled completion finish time of the game. Final score to stand at the completion of the elapsed time or completed innings. Drawn games are possible.
    - 6.5.1.3.** Game 2 of a Division 1 double header will be a 7 innings game.
- 6.6.** Three (3) warm up pitches only are to be taken if a pitcher is relieved or changed within the last fifteen (15) minutes of the game.
- 6.7.** Mirrabooka games – Home teams are responsible for raking the diamonds between fixtured games.
- 6.8.** Friday night regular season fixtures – The Division 1 time limit is set to 1 hour and thirty minutes (1:30) for the 7.00pm game slot. No new innings shall start if five (5) minutes or less remain to the scheduled completion finish time of the game. Final score to stand at the completion of the elapsed time or completed innings. Drawn games are possible.
- 6.9.** Temporary Runner is optional for both the Catcher and/ or Pitcher with 2 outs. Temporary runner is the player scheduled to bat last and who is not on base at the time the option is taken. If the player scheduled to bat last is on base, then go to the next player in order.
- 6.10.** A designated runner (DR) may be assigned at the beginning of the game. This player may come on to run once per innings for any member of the team occupying a base. This player may not take the field in another position. On the game sheet, "DR" must be written as the player's position.
- 6.11.** Games shall be played as per the fixtures on Rev Sports website Perth Softball League Revolutionise SPORT. Times and venues may be changed with permission of the PSL Winter Committee and agreement between the effected Clubs. However, the teams who are fixtured shall not change.

***Games which are NOT played in accordance with the supplied fixtures are deemed non-sanctioned games by Softball WA and therefore have no standing result. Players and officials who take part in non-sanctioned games are not covered by insurance. Further penalties may apply at the discretion of the PSL Winter Committee.***

- 6.12.** Metal cleats can be worn by players participating in Senior games only by permission of the home club. Clubs to notify Perth Softball League if metal cleats are not allowed to be worn on their home ground. This information will be shared on the Perth Softball League website.
- 6.13.** Divisions 8 and 9 may have a batting line of up to 12 players of which 3 batters are not required to have a fielding position. Batters may be substituted with a bench player or removed from the line-up at any time during the game.

## **7. RUN AHEAD RULE**

- 7.1.** Division 1, 2, 3 and U/18:
- 7.1.1.** 15 runs after 3 innings / 10 runs after 4 innings / 7 runs after 5 innings or at innings 2 ½, 3 ½ or 4 ½ if team batting second (2nd) is ahead.
- 7.2.** For all other Divisions, including Juniors and Sub Juniors:
- 7.2.1.** 20 runs after 3 innings / 15 runs after 4 innings / 10 runs after 5 innings or at innings 2 ½, 3 ½ or 4 ½ if team batting second (2nd) is ahead.

## **8. JUNIORS**

### **8.1 Under 12 – Mixed gender competition**

- 8.1.1.** Sub Junior players shall be aged under 12 years of age as of 31<sup>st</sup> December of the current season year.
- 8.1.2.** 11" ball shall be used.
- 8.1.3.** Pitching distance is forty (40) feet.
- 8.1.3.1.** The PSL Competitions Committee may introduce modified pitching rules as they see fit.
- 8.1.4.** Game time is 1 ½ hours or 7 innings, whichever comes first.
- 8.1.5.** No new innings shall start five (5) minutes or less remain to the scheduled completion finish time of the game.
- 8.1.6.** Players need to participate in five (5) games with their Club during the regular season before being eligible for Finals.
- 8.1.7.** Regardless of number of players, all players on the line-up card shall bat in order each innings.
- 8.1.8.** No player shall remain on the bench for more than one (1) consecutive inning unless due to illness or injury.
- 8.1.9.** Re-entry rule does not apply.

- 8.1.10.** Except for the pitcher and catcher, no player may field for more than two (2) consecutive innings in the one (1) position (this is to encourage both the Coach and Player to develop skills across multiple positions).
- 8.1.11.** No player may field in the outfield for more than two (2) consecutive innings (this is to prevent Coaches from keeping younger or lesser skilled players in the outfield).
- 8.1.12.** To improve the standard of male pitching in the Men's Competition (PSL Winter Competition):
- 8.1.12.1.** Male pitchers MUST commence the game, start and pitch a minimum of six (6) outs (2) in the first two innings in each game.
  - 8.1.12.2.** There is a restriction in place for both male and female pitchers – Maximum of 60 pitches. Should the pitch count be achieved during the middle of an at bat, the pitcher is entitled to finish the current hitters at bat.
- 8.1.13.** There is no innings limit for the catcher due to the skill development required.
- 8.1.14.** The automatic out rule does not apply if a team has only eight (8) players.
- 8.1.15.** Drop third (3<sup>rd</sup>) strike does not apply (hitter is automatically out).
- 8.1.16.** Infield fly rule does not apply.
- 8.1.17.** One (1) warning per player per game for leaving base early. The second (2<sup>nd</sup>) occurrence results in the base runner being called out.
- 8.1.18.** Two (2) coaching conferences per innings with an aim is to support and encourage pitchers and players.
- 8.1.19.** If a player is injured at time of at bat or whilst running bases, a runner may be substituted to complete the play.
- 8.1.20.** Innings shall end after three (3) outs, or six (6) runs have been scored in that innings. Exception being if a clear home run has been hit. The higher score shall stand should this occur.
- 8.1.21.** Temporary Runner is optional for both the Catcher and/ or Pitcher with 2 outs. Temporary runner is the player scheduled to bat last (9<sup>th</sup> batter) and who is not on base at the time the option is taken. If the player scheduled to bat last is on base, then go to the next player in order.
- 8.1.22.** May have a batting line of up to 15 players of which 3 batters are not required to have a fielding position. Batters may be substituted with a bench player or removed from the line-up at any time during the game.
- 8.1.23.** Junior aged players (U12) are not allowed to play in the Senior Competition.
- 8.1.24.** Junior players can play in two (2) games in one (1) day – one (1) Under 12, one (1) Under 14 or Under 16 and/or one (1) U/18's (respective gender competition only).

**8.1.25.** Face masks are mandatory for pitchers.

**8.1.26.** The Coach Pitcher Rule:

- 8.1.26.1.** Is nominated at the start of the game and does not need to be the coach.  
The same person can pitch for both teams and may be changed if required.
- 8.1.26.2.** Will come into pitch after the 4th ball has been thrown by the team pitcher.
- 8.1.26.3.** Will have three (3) pitches to enable the batter an opportunity to hit the ball.  
These pitches will **not** count toward the strike/ball count on the batter.  
If the batter does not hit the ball they are retired to the bench.
- 8.1.26.4.** There is no stealing on the 'elite' pitcher – this includes advances where the coach misses a ball thrown to him by the catcher, umpire or other person.
- 8.1.26.5.** Batter/runners and runners may not advance more than one base off the at bat/plate appearance, once the elite pitcher is called into pitch.
- 8.1.26.6.** The Coach Pitch Rule will cease at completion of the first round of fixtures.

**8.2. Under 14 (Mixed Gender) and Under 16 (Gender Specific)**

To improve the standard of male pitching in the Men's Competition (PSL Winter), PSL have aligned the pitching/catching rules with the SAL National Competitions.

**8.2.1. The following rules apply for U14s:**

- 8.2.1.1.** U14's Junior players shall be aged under 14 years as of 31<sup>st</sup> December in the current season year.
- 8.2.1.2.** 11" ball shall be used.
- 8.2.1.3.** Pitching distance is forty-three (43) feet.
- 8.2.1.4.** To improve the standard of male pitching in the Men's Competition (PSL Winter), Male pitchers **MUST** commence the game, start and pitch a minimum of six (6) outs (2) x innings in each game.
- 8.2.1.5.** There is a 3 innings limit for ALL pitchers in U14's.
- 8.2.1.6.** Innings shall end after three (3) outs, or six (6) runs have been scored in that innings.  
Exception being if a clear home run has been hit. The higher score shall stand should this occur.
- 8.2.1.7.** Face masks are mandatory for pitchers.
- 8.2.1.8.** No new innings shall start five (5) minutes or less remain to the scheduled completion finish time of the game.
- 8.2.1.9.** May have a batting line of up to 15 players of which 3 batters are not required to have a fielding position. Batters may be substituted with a bench player or removed from the line-up at any time during the game.

**8.2.2. The following rules apply for U16s Boys:**

- 8.2.2.1.** U16's Junior players shall be aged under 16 years as of 31<sup>st</sup> December of the current season year.
- 8.2.2.2.** 12" ball shall be used.
- 8.2.2.3.** Pitching distance is forty-six (46) feet.
- 8.2.2.4.** Each innings shall end after 3 outs – there is no limit on runs scored.
- 8.2.2.5.** No new innings shall start five (5) minutes or less remain to the scheduled completion finish time of the game.

**8.2.3. The following rules apply for U16s Girls:**

- 8.2.3.1.** U16's Junior players shall be aged under 16 years as of 31<sup>st</sup> December of the current season year.



- 8.2.3.2.** 12" ball shall be used.
- 8.2.3.3.** Pitching distance is forty-three (43) feet.
- 8.2.3.4.** Each innings shall end after 3 outs – there is no limit on runs scored.
- 8.2.3.5.** Teams are permitted to borrow players when short to prevent a forfeit and play with 9 players.
- 8.2.4.** Temporary Runner is optional for both the Catcher and/ or Pitcher with 2 outs. Temporary runner is the player scheduled to bat last and who is not on base at the time the option is taken. If the player scheduled to bat last is on base, then go to the next player in order.
- 8.2.5.** Players need to participate in four(4) games during the regular season before being eligible for Finals.

### **8.3. U18 MEN**

- 8.3.1.** U/18's players shall be aged under 18 years as of 31st December of the current season year.
- 8.3.2.** 12" ball shall be used.
- 8.3.3.** Pitching distance is forty-six (46) feet.
- 8.3.4.** Temporary Runner is optional for both the Catcher and/ or Pitcher with 2 outs. Temporary runner is the player scheduled to bat last and who is not on base at the time the option is taken. If the player scheduled to bat last is on base, then go to the next player in order.
- 8.3.5.** Players need to participate in four(4) games with their Club during the regular season before being eligible for Finals.
- 8.3.6.** U18 players may participate in three (3) games in the one (1) day – two of which may be senior games. Where an U18 player plays across clubs, it is the responsibility of the coaches to communicate about the 3 games in a day rule.
- 8.3.7.** U18 players can only pitch 2 games in a day.
- 8.3.8.** Games to be played as per Winter Competition Season 2023 Competition Ground Rules
- 8.3.9.** No new innings shall start five (5) minutes or less remain to the scheduled completion finish time of the game.

### **8.4. U18 DEVELOPMENT**

- 8.4.1.** U18 Players who are listed in the current Under 18 State team are permitted to play in two senior teams in any senior division on the same day in divisions 1 to 4, including finals. The player shall be selected as a primary player in the two selected senior teams prior to their first senior game of the season.
- 8.4.2.** U18 Player(s) who are not listed in the current Under 18 State team are permitted to play in two senior teams in any senior division on the same day unrestricted, including finals. The player shall be selected as a primary player in the two selected senior teams prior to their first senior game of the season.

**8.4.3. U18 Player senior finals qualification criteria**

**8.4.3.1.** A U18 Player shall have played for their selected senior team for a minimum of 5 games of more than 2 innings in the season to qualify for senior division finals.

**8.4.3.2.** A U18 Player shall only play finals for a maximum of two senior teams.

Teams can be any two teams above the highest qualified division.

Or

The highest qualified division team and the next club division team lower

Or

The highest qualified division team and the next club division team higher

**8.4.3.3.** Once the player has played in the qualified teams in finals, that player shall not play finals for any other club senior team.

**8.4.3.4.** U18 Player qualification shall be determined by rule 16.6.2.

**8.5. U18 WOMEN'S**

**8.5.1.** Rules as specified by PSL Summer Rules (as agreed by competing by participating clubs).

**8.5.2.** Players need to participate in four(4) games with their Club during the regular season before being eligible for Finals.

**8.6. EXEMPTIONS**

Clubs have the right to apply for exemptions if they feel a player is eligible. However, the Perth Softball League Competition Committee reserves the right to reject the proposal. Exemption requests should be emailed to perthsoftballwinter@gmail.com. Please do not be offended when exemptions for playing outside of age groups are rejected – the committee is governed by duty of care rules in these circumstances. When applying for exemptions based on medical conditions, the committee may request medical documentation to support the exemption request.

***Failure to comply with Rule 8 shall result in a 7-0 forfeit. In the case of a loss of more than 7 runs the result shall stand.***

**9. SENIOR PLAYERS**

**9.1.** In all divisions (except Division 1) games may start and/or finish a game with eight (8) players.

**9.1.1.** Automatic Out Rule applies for 9<sup>th</sup> batter, unless to comply with rule 10, then the automatic out is vacant batting position.

**9.2.** Division 1 must start and finish the game with a minimum of nine (9) players.

**9.3.** Players may move up and down divisions all season with the following rules:

**9.3.1.** One Club division down only. With the exception being to enable a Club to use, rule 10 Additional Game and Fill in Game, If other Club divisions playing a far distance away or travel distance is too excessive for players to arrive at the game before the schedule start time.

**9.3.2.** Where a Club has two (2) teams in the same division, moving between teams is considered the same as players moving down divisions and is set to the same conditions as Rule 9.3.1

**9.4.** Players need to participate in five (5) games with their Club during the regular season before being eligible for Finals.

**9.4.1.** Shift or remote workers (drive in-drive out/fly in-fly out) may request an exemption to this rule. Clubs must seek approval by the Perth Softball League Committee. Evidence of a work roster, or terms of employment, may be required to be presented to the Perth Softball League Winter Committee.

**9.4.1.1.** All clubs to supply FIFO list to PSL Competitions Committee by 31<sup>st</sup> May of the current season year they wish to use rule 9.4.1.

**9.5.** Any player who has played Open Men's State Representative softball in the previous playing or current season must play in the highest club division only.

**9.6.** Player shall be selected in one primary team in Revolutionise Sport

**9.7.** U14, U16, and U18 junior aged players may participate in three (3) games in the one (1) day if one (1) of those games is played in a junior competition. If only playing in senior divisions then a maximum amount games in one day is two (2).

**9.8.** Players who are aged under 13 as of 31st December of the current season year cannot play in the Senior Men's Competition.

***Failure to comply with any rule under Rule 9 will result in a 7-0 forfeit. In the case of a loss of more than 7 runs the result shall stand.***

## **10. Additional Game (Two Games in a Day) and Fill in Game (One Game in a Day)**

### **10.1. Additional Game**

To field a team of nine (9) players at the start of the game, players can play two (2) games in one (1) day, an Additional Game. An Additional Game is defined as the game played by a player in a division which would reasonably be considered an alternative division and plays two (2) games in one (1) day.

This rule also needs be read in conjunction with rule 9.

**10.1.1** Teams that require players to play an Additional Game in one (1) day can use up to a maximum of three (3) players from their Club. Players are to be used from one (1) club division team up or any club division team below to field a team of nine (9) players only. A player(s) playing a second game in one day can be removed from the game once an eligible player arrives at the game.

Use as a Flex, Designated Player, Designated Hitter or Designated Runner is not permitted.

**10.1.2** Player(s) are permitted to play 2 games in a day for the purpose only of complying with Rule 10.1.1. Player(s) are not permitted to play in a second (2<sup>nd</sup>) game in a round where an eligible player is available.

**10.1.3** Player(s) playing an Additional Game can be named as a substitute but shall only enter the game if replacing an injured player who requires medical treatment. A medical certificate shall be provided to the Competitions Committee if requested by the Committee. When using 10.1.3 then 10.1.7.1.2 does not apply in respect to the batting position only, the fielding position shall comply with 10.1.7.1.2.

**10.1.4** When playing an Additional Game, player(s) shall have 'Additional Game', or 'AG' included at the end of their name when submitting the online scorecard/team sheet. It should also be noted which division that player(s) usually plays in.

**10.1.5** No player(s) shall play an Additional Game on more than four occasions during the regular season.

**10.1.5.1** Unless aged under 18 as of 31 December of the current season year and are not named the current Under 18 State Squad.

**10.1.5.2** Players aged under 18 as of 31 December of the current season year and are named the current Under 18 State Squad, are exempt from 10.1.5 in divisions 1 to 4 only and may play a maximum of four additional games in divisions 5 and lower.

**10.1.5.3** A U18 Player selected in a team under rule 8.4.1 or 8.4.2 are not considered as an Additional Player.

**10.1.6** No player(s) shall play an Additional Game in the Finals Series, unless exempt under rule 8.4.

**10.1.7 Definitions of Additional Game Players**

Players who play an additional game are defined as restricted and unrestricted and shall conform to the rule below when used.

**10.1.7.1 Restricted Additional Player Definition**

**10.1.7.1.1** A player who are playing a second game down from their regular division or the same division. A player's regular division is defined as the division that player has played the most games to date. If a player has played an even number of games in two (2) or more divisions, then the highest division is counted.

**10.1.7.1.2 First Restricted Additional Player Required**

Required to bat at position nine (9) in the batting line up and play right field for the duration of the game.

**Second Restricted Additional Players Required**

Required to bat at position eight (8) in the batting line up and field centre field for the duration of the game.

**Third Restricted Additional Players Required**

Required to bat at position seven (7) in the batting line up and field in left field for the duration of the game.

**10.1.7.2 Unrestricted Additional Player Definition**

**10.1.7.2.1** Player(s) who are playing a second game up from their regular division. A player(s) regular division is defined as the division that player has played the most games to date. If a player has played an even number of games in two (2) or more divisions, then the highest division is counted.

**10.1.7.2.2** Player(s) who is aged under 18 as of 31 December of the current season year.

**10.1.7.2.3** Are permitted to play in any position and bat in any position, however, shall also comply with 10.1.7.2.4.

**10.1.7.2.4** Are not permitted to pitch twice in the same day in any senior division unless pitching in a double header game.

**10.2. Fill In Game**

A player from another team in games when that player will play only one game that day. This rule also needs be read in conjunction with rule 9.

**10.2.1.** Players who play a fill in game are defined as Restricted and Unrestricted

**10.2.2.** Teams that require players to play a fill in game can use up to a maximum of three (3) Restricted Fill In Players, or any amount of Unrestricted Fill in Players from their Club, Players shall be used from one (1) club division team up only or any club division team below. When using more than one Restricted Fill in Player, the team size shall not exceed nine players otherwise the team size can be any amount. Restricted Fill in Players cannot be used if the team they play in normally is the subject of a forfeit by their own club.

**10.2.3.** Where a team in a division below a team that requires Fill in Players has a bye, forfeit by the opposition, or is not scheduled to play. A maximum of (2) Restricted Fill in Players can play in any team above and below that team.

**10.2.4.** Unrestricted Fill in Players can be used to field a team of any size.

**10.2.5. Definitions of Fill in Players**

**10.2.5.1. Restricted Fill in Player Definition**

**10.2.5.1.1.** A player(s) who are playing a game down from their regular division or the same division. The player shall also comply with rule 9.3.1. A player's regular division is defined as the division that player has played the most games to date. If a player has played an even number of games in two (2) or more divisions, then the highest division is counted.

**10.2.5.1.2.** Restricted Fill in Players shall not pitch when their team has a bye, forfeited, or not scheduled to play.

**10.2.5.1.3. First Restricted Fill in Player Required**

Are required to bat nine (9) in the batting line up and can play in any position, but shall also comply rule 10.2.5.1.2.

**Second Restricted Fill in Players Required**

Required to bat at position eight (8) in the batting line up and field right field (9) for the duration of the game.

**Third Restricted Fill in Players Required**

Required to bat to at position seven (7) in the batting line up and field in centre field (8) for the duration of the game.

**10.2.5.1.4.** If being used in conjunction with 10.1.2.1, Restricted Additional Game Player

**One Restricted Fill in Player and One Restricted Additional Game Player**

**Restricted Additional Game Player** is required to bat at position nine (9) in the batting line up and play right field (9) for the duration of the game.

**Restricted Fill in Player** is required to bat at position eight (8) in the batting line up and can play in any position, but shall also comply rule 10.2.5.1.2

**One Restricted Fill in Player and Two Restricted Additional Game Players**

**Restricted Additional Game Player 1** is required to bat at position nine (9) in the batting line up and play right field (9) for the duration of the game.

**Restricted Additional Game Player 2** is required to bat at position eight (8) in the batting line up and play centre field (8) for the duration of the game.

**Restricted Fill in Player** is required to bat at position seven (7) in the batting line up and can play in any position, but shall also comply rule 10.2.5.1.2

**Two Restricted Fill in Players and One Restricted Additional Game Players**

**Restricted Additional Game Player 1** is required to bat at position nine (9) in the batting line up and play right field (9) for the duration of the game.

**Restricted Fill in Player 2** is required to bat at position eight (8) in the batting line up and play centre field (8) for the duration of the game.

**Restricted Fill in Player 1** is required to bat at position seven (7) in the batting line up and can play in any position but shall also comply rule 10.2.5.1.2.

**10.2.5.2. Unrestricted Fill in Player Definition**

**10.2.5.2.1.** Player(s) who are playing a game up from their regular division. A player(s) regular division is defined as the division that player has played the most games to date. If a player has played an even number of games in two (2) or more divisions, then the highest division is counted.

**10.2.5.2.2.** Player(s) who is aged under 18 as of 31 December of the current season year. With exception of, if the U18 Player is falls under rule 8.4.1, is unrestricted in divisions 1 to 4 only

“8.4.1 U18 Players who are listed in the current Under 18 State team are permitted to play in two senior teams in any senior division on the same day in divisions 1 to 4, including finals. The player shall be selected as a primary player in the two selected senior teams prior to their first senior game of the season”

**10.2.5.2.3.** Are permitted to play in any position and bat in any position, however, shall also comply with 10.2.5.2.4.

**10.2.5.2.4.** Are not permitted to pitch twice in the same day in any senior division unless pitching in a double header game.

**Table 10.2**

**Fill in Player Table Example for Bye Forfeit or Unscheduled, More than Two Senior Team Club**

Note Bye is considered the same as unscheduled.

Table 10.2A All Senior Teams Playing.

Division Team	Scheduled Status	Number of Restricted Fill in Players	Maximum Team Size	Number of Restricted Fill in Players	Maximum Team Size	Restricted Fill in can pitch Yes/No
Highest Division	Playing	N/A	Unlimited	N/A	Unlimited	NA
Next division lower than above	Playing	1	Unlimited	2 or 3	9	Yes
All divisions lower than above	Playing	1	Unlimited	2 or 3	9	Yes

Table 10.2B Highest Senior Team not Scheduled.

Note

1. If more than one team is unscheduled then the table resets and is applied again using Table 10.2B as a reference

Division Team	Scheduled Status	Number of Restricted Fill in Players	Maximum Team Size	Number of Restricted Fill in Players	Maximum Team Size	Restricted Fill in can pitch Yes/No
Highest Division	Unscheduled	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA
Next division lower than above	Playing	1	Unlimited	2	9	No
All divisions lower than above	Playing	1	Unlimited	2	9	No

Table 10C Second Highest Senior Team not Scheduled.

Notes

1. If more than one team is unscheduled then the table resets and is applied again using Table 10B as a reference

Division Team	Scheduled Status	Number of Restricted Fill in Players	Maximum Team Size	Number of Restricted Fill in Players	Maximum Team Size	Restricted Fill in can pitch Yes/No
Highest Division	Playing	N/A	Unlimited	N/A	Unlimited	NA
Next division lower than above	Unscheduled	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
All divisions lower than above	Playing	1	Unlimited	2	9	No

Table 10D Third Highest Senior Team not Scheduled.

Notes

1. If more than one team is unscheduled then the table resets and is applied again using Table 10B as a reference

Division Team	Scheduled Status	Number of Restricted Fill in Players	Maximum Team Size	Number of Restricted Fill in Players	Maximum Team Size	Restricted Fill in can pitch Yes/No
Highest Division	Playing	N/A	Unlimited	N/A	Unlimited	NA
Next division lower than above	Playing	1	Unlimited	2	9	Yes
All divisions lower than above	Unscheduled	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

***Failure to comply with any rule under Rule 10 will result in a 7-0 forfeit for any senior games the Additional Player or Fill in Player has played in. In the case of a loss of more than 7 runs the result shall stand.***



## 11. GROUNDS and CONDITIONS

### 11.1 Home run fences are mandatory for all Divisions.

A home run fence shall be:

- Set at a minimum of 237 feet from the home plate apex.
- Be a minimum of 900mm high.
- Touching the ground so that no ball can pass beneath it.
- Be provided by the Home team on who's ground the game is being played.
- Shall NOT be the same colour as the match ball.

**11.1.1** Plastic cones are acceptable for all divisions as an alternative for 11.1, expect division one.

### 11.2 Diamonds must be marked in all divisions.

**11.2.1** Batting boxes must be marked, except where cut outs apply.

### 11.3 Back nets are Compulsory for ALL divisions and shall be a minimum of five (5) metres wide and three (3) metres in height.

### 11.4 Pitching mats are compulsory for all divisions and must be provided by the home team on whose ground the game is being played and MUST be a minimum of three (3) metres in length (from the front of the pitching plate).

For safety reasons the plate umpire may authorise removal of the pitching mat. Local Shire Rules and Regulations need to be taken into consideration.

### 11.5 Pitching Distances:

**11.5.1** Senior Men's – 46 feet.

**11.5.2** U18 Women's – 43 feet.

**11.5.3** U14s Juniors – 43 feet.

**11.5.4** U16s Juniors – 46 feet.

**11.5.5** U12s – 40 feet. Modified Pitching Rules may apply.

***Failure to comply with Rule 11 will result in a 7-0 forfeit. In the case of a loss of more than 7 runs the result shall stand.***

## 12. INCLEMENT WEATHER OR UNSUITABLE CONDITIONS

**12.1.** In the event of inclement weather, the PSL Winter Committee has the power to suspend, delay, cancel or postpone fixtured games prior to their commencement. Once the game has started it becomes the responsibility of the Plate Umpire to temporarily suspend a game.

**12.1.1.** "Time and game" is to be called if conditions have not improved after 30 minutes.

**12.2.** Division 1 must complete five (5) innings to constitute a game. 4 and ½ innings if the team second (2<sup>nd</sup>) at bat is ahead. If more than five (5) innings have been completed and the team second (2<sup>nd</sup>) at bat is behind, the score will revert to the last completed even innings.

**12.3.** All other divisions, if three (3) innings have been completed, or 2 and ½ if the team second (2<sup>nd</sup>) at bat is in front, the score will stand.

**12.4.** Time lost through injury will not be made up.

- 12.5.** All games cancelled due to inclement weather that have not completed the required innings, shall result in being a nil all draw. One (1) point will be awarded to each team. Exception being if the game is a Final – See Finals Rules.
- 12.6.** If the pitching mat becomes a safety concern, but conditions are still determined to be safe to continue play, consideration may be given for the pitching mat to be removed by agreement between both Coaches and Umpires. NOTE – the pitching mats at Mirrabooka State Softball Complex on diamonds 1 and 2 cannot be removed. Local Shire Rules and Regulations need to be taken into consideration.
- 12.7.** Game qualification will not count where clubs have provided sufficient time of a notified wash out
- 12.8.** A game that has been called after the first pitch due to a washout or weather conditions will count to a player's game qualification tally.

### **13. WITHDRAWALS, FORFEITURES and BYES**

- 13.1.** When a team withdraws after the commencement of the Season, all points and runs scored in all games involving that team prior to its withdrawal shall be cancelled. Exception being when the withdrawal occurs after a completed round of fixtures. ALL Clubs are to notify the Competitions Committee as soon as possible via [perthsoftballwinter@gmail.com](mailto:perthsoftballwinter@gmail.com) informing them of their intention to withdraw a team from the current playing Season.
- 13.2.** If a Club has more than one (1) team in the Competition and withdraws a team after nominations have closed, the LOWER division MUST be the withdrawn team.
- 13.3.** ALL teams forfeiting a game during the Season shall notify the Competitions Committee as soon as possible via [perthsoftballwinter@gmail.com](mailto:perthsoftballwinter@gmail.com)
- 13.4.** If a Club has more than one (1) Division, the highest Division can forfeit on no more than 2 occasions in a season.
- 13.5.** Where no game is played by a team on a day (Forfeit/Bye), players can play for other teams in other divisions but must comply with rule 10.2-
- 13.6.** Players will not be accredited with a game when a forfeited game has been notified.

***Failure to comply with Rule 13 will result in a 7-0 forfeit (result) for every Division in the Club. In the case of a loss of more than 7 runs the result shall stand.***

### **14. PROTESTS**

- 14.1.** Intention to protest must be notified to the Plate Umpire before the next pitch. The Plate Umpire must notify the opposing Coach and Scorers so that details of the incident will be recorded in both Score Books and the scoresheets.

- 14.2.** The protest must be noted when submitting the Team Sheet.
- 14.3.** Formal written protests are required to be completed as per WSBC rules 1.2.8 to 1.2.13.
- 14.4.** For the protests to be considered, the protest is to be forwarded to [perthsoftballwinter@gmail.com](mailto:perthsoftballwinter@gmail.com) within 72 hours of the incident. Any submissions outside the 72-hour deadline will not be considered.

***Failure to submit all relevant information within the required time constraints will result in the protest being denied (not heard).***

## **15. PROTESTS and DISPUTES COMMITTEE**

- 15.1.** The Protests and Disputes Committee shall consist of three (3) neutral members appointed by the Perth Softball League Competitions Committee. All matters are to be referred to the Perth Softball Competition Chairperson. Decisions of the Protests and Disputes Committee shall be communicated to the Clubs concerned within seven (7) days.

## **16. FINALS SENIORS AND JUNIORS**

- 16.1.** All Finals games for all divisions shall have a resultant winner.
- 16.2.** Division 1 shall play seven (7) innings. No time limit will apply. Tie breaker inning/s to be played if scores are tied after seven (7) innings. Should the tie breaker extend into the top of the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) innings, the WBSC tie breaker rules are to apply – runner starts at third (3<sup>rd</sup>) base, not second (2<sup>nd</sup>) base.
- 16.3.** All other divisions shall play 1 and ½ hours or seven (7) innings, whichever comes first. Even innings for both teams. Tie breaker will commence at the top of the next innings if the game is a draw at the completion of time or seven (7) innings. Should the tie breaker extend into the top of the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) innings, the WBSC tie breaker rules are to apply – runner starts at third (3<sup>rd</sup>) base, not second (2<sup>nd</sup>) base.
- 16.4.** In the event of inclement weather, innings requirements are the minimum requirement that constitutes a completed game. (Refer match rules above). The Winter Competitions Committee makes the decision on whether games are cancelled or postponed. If possible, finals shall be rescheduled to a later time and/or date if less than the minimum requirement of innings has been completed.
- 16.5.** Sub-Junior, Junior and U/18's may play in three finals on the same day if eligible.
- 16.6.** Player qualification for finals:
- 16.6.1.** Players need to play in 5 club games to be eligible for finals.
- 16.6.2.** The Division a player qualifies to play finals games is determined by where the player has played the higher percentage of games. I.e., if a player has played seven (7) games in Division 3 and six (6) games in Division 4, then the player qualifies to play in Division 3 finals. Should a player play an equal number of games across multiple Divisions, then the player qualifies for the higher Division.

**16.6.3.** A player may play Finals in a higher division than they have qualified for. Once a player takes the field for a higher division in Finals, that player is not permitted to drop to a lower division or team in the same division for the remainder of the Finals series. Play in this Rule is defined as batting, fielding, or running in a game. Being named on the Team Sheet as a reserve is not defined as playing.

**16.6.4.** Multiple teams in the same age group or division. No players shall play for another team in the same grade once their team has been eliminated or has not qualified for finals.

**16.6.5.** No player shall play two (2) Senior Finals in the one (1) day/round.

**16.6.5.1.** Unless complying with rule 8

**16.6.5.2.** Unless playing in a higher division than qualified and the team the player played for has been eliminated in a game prior.

**16.6.6.** FINALS ONLY (Fly in-fly out/Drive in-drive out/Shift workers):

To encourage the best competition available in Finals, should a Club/team be required to use a player, or players, from a lower division to fill a team due to having players away caused by fly in-fly-out/drive in-drive out/shift workers, that Club will be allowed to use players from a lower division to play up in a higher division. These players may play one (1) game only in that round of Finals (Exception being Under 18 players). The nominated player/s may return to their original division the following week without restriction, (e.g., pitcher A from Club A, grade/division 1, works as a fly in-fly out worker and is rostered away during Semi Final weekend. Pitcher B from Club A, division 2 can play up and pitch in Division 1 for the Semi Final round of Finals. Pitcher B can then return to division 2 for the Preliminary Final and pitch – no restriction).

This rule applies only to players who have had their applications approved by the Perth Softball League Winter Committee.

***Failure to comply with Rule 16 will result in a 7-0 forfeit. In the case of a loss of more than 7 runs the result shall stand.***

## **17. PROMOTION/RELEGATION/GRADING**

**17.1.** At the conclusion of the previous completed playing season, the team finishing on top of the ladder in their respective division, at the completion of the regular season, will be promoted up a minimum of one (1) division. If the Club already has a team in the higher division, the team **may** not be promoted.

**17.2.** The team that won the grand final will be **considered** for promotion to the next available higher division.

**17.3.** A team that plays off in the grand final and is the runner up in their respective division, will also be **considered** for promotion to the next available higher division.

**17.4.** At the conclusion of the previous completed playing season, the team finishing on the bottom of the ladder in their respective division, at the completion of the regular season, **may** be relegated down a minimum of one (1) division.

**17.5.** Clubs that nominate teams in higher divisions will be accepted.

- 17.6.** Where possible, divisions will contain an even number of teams. This is to avoid having a bye.
- 17.7.** Teams within a division that do not finish in a promotion or relegation position shall remain in the same division however the Competitions Committee reserves the right to move teams within the competition for the overall benefit on the competition.
- 17.8.** The Competitions Committee reserves the right to award teams with promotion or relegation based upon the previous season's results or upon relevant information supplied to the Committee.
- 17.9.** More than one (1) team can be promoted, or relegated, from a division. This is at the Competitions Committee's discretion.
- 17.10.** If Clubs already have teams in the higher or lower division, the team may not be promoted or relegated.
- 17.11.** Nominations received after the closing date will be graded at the Competitions Committee discretion.

## **18. BATS**

It is the individual player's responsibility to ensure that they are using a legal bat. A legal bat is defined as per the current edition of the Softball Australia (SAL) Rule book.

## **19. APPEALS**

Please follow Section 15 of the current Softball WA constitution regarding any, and all, appeals.

## **20. CODES OF CONDUCT**

The Codes of Conduct for ALL participants are clearly set down in the Softball Australia and Softball WA Member Protection Policy. These have been made available to Clubs for distribution and are located on the Softball WA website.

**The PSL Winter Softball Committee requests that all Club Secretaries forward the Code of Conduct to all Members, parents, spectators, coaches, and players. The Codes of Conduct will be strictly adhered to over the current playing season.**

## **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 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 or club.

1. Be a positive role model for softball 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 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 or club to promote your own beliefs, behaviours or practices where these 01 Member Protection Policy 12011 SAL SWA FINAL Adopted: May 2011 Page 24 of 60 are inconsistent with those of Softball Australia, the Member State or an affiliated association 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.