

## U19 International Men's Softball Championships – Information Package

**Note – 2009 Softball Canada Official playing rules will be followed as per the 2009 Softball Canada Rulebook unless noted below.**

### **Participants**

- Male - Under 19 prior to January 1, 2009 (Date of Birth is 1990 or later)
- Maximum team size is 17 players and 3 coaches
- Rosters/Official Players Lists to be submitted by June 1st to Softball Canada and released to all Provincial/Territorial Associations.
- Rosters for Canadian Teams to be verified by the Provincial/Territorial Association.
- Changes are allowed up to the Coaches meeting with approval from the respective P/T and accepted by Softball Canada
- A player/coach must be a bona fide resident of the P/T that he will represent by the official residency date of the year of competition. The residency date is May 1, 2009. The only exception to this rule is that NWT will be allowed up to 6 pick - ups from other provinces after those provinces have made their selections.
- No other province is allowed pick – ups.
- Note - Canadian Teams only - One of the coaches must be fully certified Level II – Softball (theory, technical, practical) or Competition – Introduction Trained + “Make Ethical Decisions”

### **Residency / Eligibility (Canadian Teams Only)**

- Residency requirements exist to provide an orderly registration of participants in this Championship. In simplest terms, the participant must be a legal resident of the P/T that he/she will represent at the championship.
- Legal residency for Softball Canada purposes shall require the participant to reside in his/her province of participation on the official residency date. In determining residency, Softball Canada must be satisfied that the participant has shown a substantial connection to the province or territory. Establishment of residential status may be demonstrated by, but is not limited to, the following factors:
  - i) Proof of employment in the Province/Territory;
  - ii) Proof of medical insurance coverage in the Province/Territory, issued by said Province/Territory, in the form of a health care card. An application for a health card will not suffice;
  - iii) Proof of a domicile, mailing address and telephone listing in the Province/Territory of the player or legal guardian;

- iv) In the case of participants 16 years of age or over, proof of possession of a driver's license from the Province/Territory;
  - v) In the case of participants 18 years of age or over, proof of registration as a voter in the Province/Territory; and/or
  - vi) Proof of other factors that convincingly demonstrate a strong social or economic connection to the Province/Territory as requested by Softball Canada.
  - vii) Proof of full time attendance at an elementary school, high school or related work/study program in the Province/Territory.
- One of the major intents is to ensure that Minor softball players play in the Province/Territory where they are bona-fide residents and attend elementary school, high school, a related work/study program or work full-time.
  - Softball Canada shall make the determination as to legal residency.
  - Note - Out of country Teams are only allowed players from within their country and each player is required to show official documentation (passport) for age/status verification.

### **Protests**

- Protests regarding eligibility for the Championship will be acted upon by the Association representative provided they are lodged in writing and signed by the coach or manager before June 15th. Eligibility protests made after that time will be dealt with after the Championship.

### **Game Procedures**

- In the Qualifying Round, the home team will be determined by a coin toss at the Coaches/Managers meeting prior to the start of the championship. In the Championship Round, the home team will be determined by the round robin standing, the higher placing team will have a choice of inning. If two divisions, the highest placed team from either division will have choice of inning. If teams are ranked equal, a coin toss will determine the higher placing team. Exception: In the Championship Game, the undefeated team in the Championship Round will have choice of inning (i.e., home or away).
- In all games, 7 innings will constitute a legal game, except if tied after 7 innings, it must be continued until a winner is declared

### **Pitching**

- Before commencing the delivery (pitch), the pitcher:
  - a. May not take the pitching position on or near the pitcher's plate without having the ball in his possession.
  - b. Shall not be considered in the pitching position unless the catcher is in position to receive the pitch.
  - c. Must have both feet on the ground within the 61.0 cm (24 inch) length of the pitcher's plate. The hips shall be in line with first and third bases and both feet must be in contact with the pitcher's plate.
  - d. Must, while standing on the plate and with the ball in either the glove or the pitching hand, take the signal, or appear to be taking a signal, from the catcher with the hands separated.
  - e. Must, after taking the signal, bring his whole body to a full and complete stop with the ball held in the hand or glove with both held together in front of the body. This position must be held for not less than one (1) second and not more

than ten (10) seconds before releasing the ball.

## **Starting The Pitch**

- The pitch starts when one hand is taken off the ball or the pitcher makes any motion that is part of his wind-up.

## **Legal Delivery**

- a. The pitcher must not make any motion to pitch without immediately delivering the ball to the batter.
- b. The pitcher must not use a pitching motion in which, after having the ball in both hands in the pitching position, he removes one hand from the ball, takes a backward and forward swing, and returns the ball to both hands in front of the body.
- c. The pitcher must not use a windup in which there is a stop or reversal of the forward motion.
- d. The pitcher must not make two revolutions of the arm on the windmill pitch. However, he may drop his arm to the side and to the rear before starting the windmill motion. This allows the arm to pass the hip twice.
- e. The delivery must be an underhanded motion, with the hand below the hip and the wrist not farther from the body than the elbow.
- f. The release of the ball and follow through of the hand and wrist must be forward and past the straight-line position of the body.
- g. Both feet must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate and the pivot foot must remain motionless at all times before the start of the pitch.
- h. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate at all times before the forward drag, leap or hop.
- i. In the act of delivering the ball, the pitcher may take one step with the leading, non-pivot foot simultaneous with the release of the ball. The step must be forward toward the batter and within the 61.0 cm (24 in.) length of the pitcher's plate. It is not a step if the pitcher slides his foot across the pitcher's plate, provided contact is maintained with the plate and there is no movement backwards. Lifting the pivot foot off the pitcher's plate and returning it to the plate, creating a rocking motion, is an illegal act.
- j. The pivot foot must remain in contact with, or push off and drag away, or be airborne prior to the stepping (non-pivot) foot touching the ground.  
NOTE: It is legal to drag, leap or hop and then land and throw as long as the original push starts from the pitcher's plate. It is not legal to step off with the pivot foot and then drag, leap, or hop and throw.
- k. The pitcher must not continue to wind up after releasing the ball.
- l. The pitcher shall not deliberately drop, roll, or bounce the ball in order to prevent the batter from hitting it.
- m. The pitcher has twenty (20) seconds to release the next pitch after receiving the ball, or after the umpire indicates, "Play Ball".

## **Competition** - Please refer to draft schedule

- 2 divisions of 7 teams.
- Guarantee of 6 games plus playoffs.
- Top 4 teams of each division advance to Championship and bottom 3 to City Championship.
- The top 2 teams in each division will receive a double life while the next 2 will receive a single life.
- There will be no tie breaking games as standings will be determined by criteria in the event of a tie.

## **Mercy Rule**

- Games will end after 2 ½, 3, 3 ½ or 4 complete innings of play if there is a difference of fifteen (15) runs.
- Games will end after 4 ½, 5, 5 ½ or 6 innings of play if there is a difference of seven (7) runs.

## **Extra Innings / Tie Breaking Rule**

- The tiebreaking rule shall be used in all tied games after 7 full innings have been played. All games will be played until a winner is declared. No ties occur in softball, and if for any reason a game is stopped, it shall resume from the exact point it left off.
- Starting in the top of the eighth inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player scheduled to bat ninth in that respective half-inning being placed on second base.

## **Tournament Format - Ranking in Qualifying Round**

- Final standings in the qualifying round shall be established using the following criteria:

- i) Won/Lost records. If still tied, then:
- ii) Winners of games between tied teams (NOTE: In order to use this criteria, all subject tied teams must have played each other and one team must have defeated all the teams they are tied with to be ranked higher). The remaining teams then go to next criteria with no reverting back:
- iii) Difference PLUS or MINUS of total runs scored, with a limit of 7 PLUS or MINUS per game allowed. NOTE: When using criteria iii) full team records of the entire qualifying round, and only 4, 5, 6, etc. FULL innings in 4 1/2, 5 1/2, 6 1/2, etc. inning games are to be used.
  - a) If teams are still tied within iii) then the least (fewest) amount of runs scored against in all games will be used. If still tied, then:
  - b) The total runs scored in all games, with a maximum of 10 runs scored per game, will be used. If still tied then:
  - c) Positions will be settled by a coin toss.

## **Unfinished Championships**

- If for any reason, the Championship cannot be finished, the following formula shall be applied to determine final standings and medal awards:
  - a) If the qualifying round cannot be completed, medals will be awarded on the basis of the standings at that time.
  - b) If the qualifying round is completed and no games were played in the double life section of the championship round, the qualifying round standings shall be used to award medals.
  - c) If games 1 and 2 of the championship round have been played, the A side finalists will receive the gold and silver medals, with the gold going to the team finishing higher in the qualifying round. The bronze medal will go to whichever of the remaining B side teams finished highest in the qualifying round.
  - d) If after game 7 of the A side final, and before game 9, the winner of game 7 will receive the gold medal and the loser the silver medal. The bronze medal will go to whichever of the remaining B side teams finished higher in the qualifying round.
  - e) If after game 9, the gold medal will go to the winner of game 7, the silver medal to the winner of game 9, and the bronze medal to the loser of game 9.

## **Awards**

- Medals will be awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams at the conclusion of the Championships.
- A plaque will also be awarded to the top 3 finishers as well as to the winner of the City of Charlottetown Championship.

## **Official Softball**

- Worth Optic K- Master - X120RYCAH - COR .47 - 375 lbs. - 12"

## **Dress and Equipment**

- All players participating in the Championship must play in identical uniforms.
- The Softball Canada representative in consultation with the tournament Umpire-in-Chief shall judge the acceptability of uniforms. Players unacceptably uniformed will be dealt with as follows:
  - a) If possible a player will be warned before a game appearance.
  - b) A player participating in a game will be instructed to immediately correct the uniform deficiency.
  - c) A player failing to correct the deficiency will be ejected from the game.
- Coaches appearing on the field must wear either uniforms identical to the players or sweat suits or slacks as near to the team colours as possible. If, in the judgment of the Softball Canada official representative, the coach or manager's uniform is not to the representative's satisfaction, this coach or manager shall not be permitted to coach.
- All players appearing on a game sheet must wear a uniform number on the back of their uniform shirt/sweater. NO number may be repeated.
- Each team must have at least two sets of uniform tops (one dark coloured and one light coloured). The home team will wear their dark coloured uniform. The away team will wear their light coloured uniform. If a team fails to wear the proper uniform colour, they will lose the game.
- The catcher while receiving warm-up pitches prior to and during a game, must wear their mask, throat protector and helmet.

## **Accommodations**

- All teams will be housed at New Residence or Bernadine Hall at UPEI as space permits arriving July 6 (pm) and departing July 13 (am).
- Teams are required to contact Gary Petitpas at UPEI at [grpetitpas@hotmail.com](mailto:grpetitpas@hotmail.com) or 902.892.3301 to make their pre-paid reservations as soon as possible so we can verify the number of rooms required.
- A maximum of 17 players and 3 coaches.
- Rodds Royalty Inn and Suites (3 Charlottetown properties) is currently the second hotel and will be housing Tournament Personnel – please see attached for special tournament rates and booking instructions for family and friends.

## **Travel**

- All Teams will be picked up at the airport and transported back to UPEI.
- A shuttle service to/from the ball park is provided.
- All teams will be transported back to the airport at the conclusion of the event.
- All teams should be arriving/departing at the same time and will be asked to complete an arrival/departure form.
- Note - No individual rides provided.
- Transportation is for Teams only, parents/fans are only welcome if there is room.

## **Meals**

- All meals will be provided for the teams beginning with supper on July 6 and concluding with breakfast on July 13.
- Meals will be served at UPEI's Wanda Wyatt Dining Hall.
- Box lunches will be provided for teams on the go.

## **Coaches Meeting**

- A mandatory meeting will be held on Monday July 6 at 7pm at UPEI.
- All teams are required to send at least 1 representative.
- A \$500 fine will be assessed to any team not represented at the meeting.
- The fine must be paid prior to the team's first game.