

SOFTBALL TASMANIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



GUIDELINES

RULES

CHAMPIONSHIP TRIBUNAL

A large, faded background graphic of a softball player in a green and yellow uniform, swinging a bat. The text "STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS GUIDELINES" is overlaid on this graphic.

**STATE
CHAMPIONSHIPS
GUIDELINES**

SOFTBALL
TASMANIA

State Championships – Guidelines, Rules, Championship Tribunal

Contents

SOFTBALL TASMANIA	1
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	1
State Championships – Guidelines, Rules, Championship Tribunal	3
GUIDELINES FOR TASMANIAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	5
1. Championships	5
2. Championship Entries.....	5
3. Timing	5
4. Rotation	6
5. Entries.....	6
6. Team Lists	6
7. Player Eligibility	7
8. Official Eligibility	7
9. Umpires	8
10. Uniforms	8
11. Playing Draw – Preparation.....	8
12. Trophies.....	9
13. Responsibilities of Participating Associations.....	9
14. Responsibilities of Host Association.....	10
15. Rules for the Conduct of Tasmanian State Championships	10
Appendix A - Player's Code of Conduct.....	12
Appendix B – 5 Year Rotation Roster from 2014/15 to 2018/19.....	18
SOFTBALL TASMANIA	19
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	19
RULES FOR TASMANIAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	20
1. Attendance at Ground.....	20
2. Line-Up Sheets	20
3. Balls	20
4. Bases	21
5. Equipment	21
6. Metal Cleats	21
7. Suspension of Play.....	21
8. Disruptions	21
9. Forfeits.....	22

10. Barracking	22
11. Smoking	22
12. Alcohol consumption	23
13. Spitting	23
14. Toss	23
15. Warm-Up	24
16. Introductions	24
17. Bench Area	24
18. Game Times	24
19. Procedures for Round Robin games.....	24
20. Pitching Distance	26
21. Results.....	26
22. Positions for Finals.....	26
23. Finals Format	27
24. Protests.....	28
25. Ejection of Players/Officials from Game.....	28
APPENDIX ONE - POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE FORMATS FOR GAMES	30
SOFTBALL TASMANIA.....	31
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	31
CHAMPIONSHIP TRIBUNAL.....	32
1. Following Game where Player/Official is ejected.....	32
2. The Tribunal Hearing.....	32
3. Conditions Applying to Suspended Player/Official.....	32
4. Advice to Tasmanian Softball Council	33
UMPIRE'S REPORT OF PLAYER/OFFICIAL EJECTED FROM GAME.....	34
REPORT OF TRIBUNAL HEARING	35

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. Championships

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

- 1.1 Open Men and Women Championships (including A, B and any other grade as determined by the Board)
- 1.2 Under 19 Championships
- 1.3 Under 17 Championships
- 1.4 Under 15 Championships
- 1.5 Under 13 Carnival
- 1.6 Any other Championships as determined by the Board of Management.

Note:

Open Championships: if 3 or less teams have been submitted Championships for Men and Women will be over 1 day (being the Sunday). If 4 or more teams have been submitted, Championships shall be held over 2 days (being Saturday & Sunday).

For Open Women and Men Championships – After the completion of the Round Robin, the top 2 teams shall play off for the A Grade title. Teams finishing 3rd and 4th shall play for the B Grade title – as determined by the Board. (refer clause 23- finals under Rules)

2. Championship Entries

- 2.1 Affiliated Associations may enter more than one team in a championship. An affiliated Association should indicate on their team entry if entering more than one team, 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.
- 2.2 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. This entry fee is non-refundable except if Softball Tasmania has to cancel the event due to lack of team entries or inclement weather.

3. Timing

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

4. Rotation

- 4.1 State Championships shall be held in rotation as proposed by the Board.
- 4.2 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. (See Appendix B)
- 4.3 If an Association is not affiliated with Softball Tasmania, they are not eligible to host a Championship. If that Association fails to affiliate the following year, then they are removed from the rotation completely until such time that they may re affiliate. The next Association on the roster will host the Championships.
- 4.4 New affiliated Associations may be added to the rotation roster with a two year waiting period, provided that the Board of Management are satisfied that suitable facilities are available.
- 4.5 Any affiliated Association that is unable to conduct the Championships shall retain their order on the rotation, and the next Association on the roster will be awarded that Championships.
- 4.6 If any Host Association does not enter a team, then the next Association may Host that particular Championships, at the discretion of the Sub-committee.
- 4.7 Four weeks prior to an Association hosting a Championship, the umpiring Co-ordinator or delegated person, shall undertake an inspection of the grounds and facilities and report to the Championship Sub-Committee the suitability or not to host such Championships 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. Entries

- 5.1 Entries shall be on the official Entry Form
- 5.2 There shall be a separate Entry Form for each team entered.
- 5.3 In the event of a team entry not being accepted, the entry fee will be refunded.
- 5.4 Entry Forms shall be completed by the Affiliated Associations and shall be forwarded to the Championship Co-ordinator no later than two (2) weeks prior to the Championship. **No late entries will be accepted.**
- 5.5 The Entry Form must include two (2) named umpires accredited at a level appropriate to the particular Championships. (refer to section 9 for further requirements).

6. Team Lists

- 6.1 Team Lists shall contain names of officials and players, all of whom must be registered with ST (a player or official whose registration fee has been paid to their Affiliated Association shall be deemed to be registered on the proviso that this fee is subsequently forwarded to ST).

- 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 Co-ordinator no later than two (2) weeks prior to the commencement day of the Championship.
- 6.3 Failure to provide Team Lists by the closing date shall result in a penalty to the offending Association as determined at the discretion of the Board of Management.

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 obtained from the association the individual is registered with, and permission must be granted from Softball Tasmania for that person to participate in a team other than their association team.
- 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 1st 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 Championships must be registered with their respective affiliated Associations.
Exception: for Umpires and Scorers that have obtained their level 1 or above accreditation and not registered with an affiliated Association they must be registered with Softball Tasmania.

9. Umpires

- 9.1 Each Affiliated Association must include on their Team Lists the names 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 fulfil these requirements will be required to:
- 1 Liaise with the Director of Umpiring to find a suitable umpire and
 - 2 Pay a fee of \$50.00 per umpire not provided. The Director of Umpiring shall provide Softball Tasmania with the Association that was unable to fulfil these requirements. This will include details of the game being played and times. This fee will be paid to Softball Tasmania.
- 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 Co-ordinator in writing as soon as possible.
- 9.3 All Association/Team Umpires must attend the Umpires Technical Meeting.
- 9.4 The State Director of Umpiring, in conjunction with the Tournament Chief Umpire, shall be responsible for the allocation of Umpires to each game, Including finals.
- 9.5 Failure to provide named Umpires will result in the offending Affiliated Association being penalised. The State Director of Umpiring or Umpire in Chief for the Championships will advise the Championship Sub-committee, who shall advise the Board of an affiliated Association's failure to provide named umpires.

10. Uniforms

- 10.1 Players shall wear the full team uniform and team officials shall wear a uniform, consisting of 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.
- 10.2 Umpires shall wear a blue top, navy slacks/tracksuit and socks/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, protective clothing approximating Association colours may be worn by players and officials on the diamond or on the bench. Permission to wear such clothing must, during a game, be requested of and granted by the plate umpire, or by the Championships Committee before the game.
- 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 closing date of team nominations, and at least one week prior to the Championships, the State Championship Sub-committee 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 Coordinator 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 Sub-committee. The host Affiliated Association may be consulted if deemed necessary.
- 11.5 The Championship Sub-committee shall ensure that time is allowed in the preparation of the championship draw to include:
 - 11.5.1 Team Manager' Meeting – no later than 1 hour 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 Championship Sub-committee. The Championship Sub-committee 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 13 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). Nominations for MVP will be handed to the Championship Coordinator (or their delegate) prior to the presentation ceremony.
- 12.3 All teams and individual members participating at the Championships must 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 Clause 10 – Uniforms

14. Responsibilities of Host Association

- 14.1 Information on the draw and results of matches shall be circulated to the 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, including a 25 foot dead ball line. All equipment such as bases, benches, back nets, carpets, etc. is to be provided and positioned on each diamond prior to the commencement of each game. Affiliated Associations are to ensure that this equipment is in good state of repair and does not represent any safety problems during the conduct of the games
- 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 local ambulance service and its location to 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 Co-ordinator 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 co-ordinator.
- 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 co-ordination 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 four weeks prior to the championship, who will be the championship convenor.

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 persons co-opted annually by the Board member holding the State Championship Portfolio and ratified by the Board. The Sub-committee shall elect a Championship Co-ordinator who shall chair the sub-committee.

- 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 and in the spirit of fair play.
3. Accept victory and defeat with dignity
4. Comply with umpires' decisions in a professional and respectful manner.
5. Cooperate with all official requests to promote softball in a professional manner
6. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people, and refrain from any discriminatory practices against any person regardless of age, gender, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
7. Refrain from making derogatory, demeaning or discriminatory remarks about any administrators, players, coaches or other players.
8. Be professional in your appearance and manner and accept responsibility for your actions.
 - 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.

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

9. Value the individual in sport.
10. Do not tolerate acts of aggression.
11. Encourage inclusivity and access to all areas of officiating.
12. Refrain from engaging in any behaviour that is in breach of Softball Australia's 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 (ie 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.

Appendix B – 5 Year Rotation Roster from 2014/15 to 2018/19

DATE	CHAMPIONSHIP	2014/15	CHAMPIONSHIP	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
2 nd weekend of Nov (Sat & Sun)	Women	STSA	WOMEN	USA	NTSA	STSA	USA
4th Sunday in Nov	Men	NTSA	MEN	STSA	USA	NTSA	STSA
1 st Sunday in Dec	U15 B & G	USA	U13 B&G	STSA	USA	NTSA	STSA
1st Sunday in Feb	U17 B & G	USA	U17 B&G	NTSA	STSA	USA	NTSA
Last Sunday in February	U13 B & G	NTSA	U15 B&G	NTSA	STSA	USA	NTSA

SOFTBALL TASMANIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



RULES FOR

TASMANIAN STATE

CHAMPIONSHIPS

RULES FOR TASMANIAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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, ejection of player(s) or the like then the game can continue and will not be a forfeit except if there is less than 7 players.

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 game sheet and include players uniform numbers.
- 2.2 The first named team shall occupy first base and fill in the game sheet, then hand to the second named team, who will pass to the Official Scorer 20 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time, or ten minutes if playing the second game of a double header. The Official Scorer shall hand the sheet to the plate umpire, prior to the commencement of the game. If there are no Official Scorers, the team scorer will hand the sheet to the plate umpire.

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.

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 Where, for any reason, metal cleats are not permitted at a venue for Men's or Women's Championship, the Host Association shall advise all affiliated Associations at least 4 weeks before the Championship. Metal cleats are **not permitted** to be worn in any Junior Championship.

7. Suspension of Play

- 7.1 In the event of adverse weather (which includes extremely high temperature) 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 Where, due to darkness, rain, extreme temperature, panic or other cause which puts the players or patrons in peril and a game cannot continue, the game shall be regulation if four (4) or more completed innings or 50 minutes has been played.
- 7.3 A game temporarily suspended by the Plate Umpire, for any reason or deferred without a result being determined under Clause 7.2 shall be resumed at the point where it was suspended.

8. Disruptions

- 8.1 Where there has been a major disruption to a Championship the determination of the winner shall be left to the Championship Committee, however the Committee may decide that insufficient games have been played to declare a 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.

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

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)

- 8.2.3 If the final round cannot be played, the winner would be the team leading on points/percentage at the end of the first round.
- 8.2.4 If the final round cannot be completed, the undefeated team in the first round would be declared the winner. If there is more than one undefeated team, the winner would be decided on percentage (as per 22.2) for the first round.

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

11.1 *Public Health Act 1997*

No person may smoke within 20 metres of competition, seating or marshalling areas at outdoor sportsgrounds 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 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, 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.

19. Procedures for Round Robin games

19.1 Open, Under 19 and Under 17

19.1.1 All Open (including A, B and any other Senior grade championship), Under 19 and Under 17 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;

- a) Three (3) outs have been made or;
- b) Seven (7) runs have crossed home plate and any subsequent play has been completed. (N/A Open Men unless combined A/B Competition) A team may score a maximum of ten (10) runs per innings.

19.2 Under 15 and Under 13

19.2.1 All Under 15 (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;

- a) Three (3) outs have been made or;
- b) 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.

19.3 Tie Break Rule

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

19.4 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. This will be decided by the Championship Sub-Committee.

19.5 Speed-Up Catcher Rule

The speed-up catcher rule will apply to all games as this allows the catcher to get ready to field.

If the catcher 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.

20. Pitching Distance

20.1 Pitching distance for

Under 13 shall be 35 feet (ages below this shall be determined by the Championship Committee in consultation with the Board)

Under 15 shall be 40 feet for both Boys and Girls

Under 17, Under 19 and Open Men shall be 46 feet

Under 17, Under 19 and Open Women shall be 43 feet

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:

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

22.2 The positions of teams on equal points shall be determined by a calculation of percentage in accordance with the following formula.

Runs Against

No. of Defensive Innings
(including .333 or .667 of an inning)

As this gives an average of runs against per inning, the team with the lowest percentage will be declared the higher ranked team.

22.3 Match Ratio calculation will only be used IF all round Robin games cannot be completed (refer clause 7.2.)

23. Finals Format

23.1 Open Women and Men (all grades)

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 The next two (positions 3 and 4) shall play for the B Grade title.

23.1.3 Other grades may be played for at the discretion of the Championship Committee in consultation with the Board.

23.1.4 Finals will be seven (7) innings or until a result is achieved.

23.1.5 The 7 Run rule will not apply for finals.

23.1.6 The Run Ahead Rule (as per the official rules of softball) shall apply. (refer clause 18.4)

23.1.7 The Tiebreak Rule shall apply at the commencement of the eighth (8th) innings and continue until a result is achieved.

23.1.8 The Speed-Up Catcher rule shall apply.

23.2 Under 19 and Under 17

23.2.1 In Under 19 and Under 17 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.

23.2.2 Finals will be seven (7) innings or until a result is achieved.

23.2.3 The 7 Run will not apply for finals.

23.2.4 The Run Ahead Rule (as per the official rules of softball) shall apply. (refer clause 18.4)

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

23.2.6 The Speed-Up Catcher rule shall apply.

23.3 Under 15 and Under 13

23.3.1 In Under 15 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.

In Under 13 Carnival – all participants shall receive a pendant or medallion for competing.

23.3.2 Duration of the final shall be one hour and thirty (30) minutes.

23.3.3 A new innings will not be commenced after one hour twenty five (25) minutes unless the game is tied.

23.3.4 Unless the team second at bat is in front, any innings started must be completed.

23.3.5 If the game is tied after 7 innings have been completed the tiebreak rule shall be used at the commencement of the 8th innings until a result is achieved or until two hours thirty (30) minutes have been played whichever comes first. If a result is not achieved in this time the game shall be declared a tie and both teams shall have their names engraved on the winner's shield.

23.3.6 The Speed-Up Catcher rule will apply

23.3.7 The Run Ahead rule will apply.

23.3.8 The seven Run rule will not apply

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 appear before a Tribunal comprising the Championship 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 Tribunal Meeting

25.4.1 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).

25.4.2 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 Representative 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

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.

A large, semi-transparent watermark of the Softball Tasmania logo is centered on the page. It features a stylized figure in yellow and green, with the text 'SOFTBALL TASMANIA' in yellow and red.

SOFTBALL TASMANIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TRIBUNAL

CHAMPIONSHIP TRIBUNAL

RULE 24: EJECTION OF PLAYER/OFFICIALS FROM 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, and
 - 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.





UMPIRE'S REPORT OF PLAYER/OFFICIAL EJECTED FROM 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

Lined area for writing details of the ejection, overlaid with a large watermark logo.

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

REPORT OF TRIBUNAL HEARING

DETAILS OF TRIBUNAL _____

DATE/TIME _____ VENUE _____

MEMBERS OF TRIBUNAL _____

UMPIRE/S ATTENDING _____

OFFICIAL REPRESENTING PLAYER _____

OTHER WITNESSES _____

DETAILS OF TRIBUNAL DECISION AND PENALTY IMPOSED

SIGNED _____ DATE _____
(CHAIRPERSON OF TRIBUNAL)

**PLEASE RETURN THIS REPORT TO THE T.S.C. OFFICE within one week
of championship**