

# Softball

## Technical Package



2017 Special Olympics BC Summer Games  
Kamloops, British Columbia  
July 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## **2017 SPECIAL OLYMPICS BC SUMMER GAMES Technical Package - Softball**

Technical Packages are a critical part of Special Olympics BC (SOBC) Games. They guide the selection of athletes by describing the age and eligibility requirements, assist the organizing committees by detailing tournament formats and scoring procedures, assist Chef de Missions in verifying eligibility, help with budgeting by describing the number of participants permitted, advance coaching certification by stating minimum requirements.

Every Games' Coach, Manager, Sport Chairperson and Mission Staff has an obligation to read and understand every aspect of the Technical Package. Failure to do so could cost an athlete his or her eligibility for the Games, affect final standings or the conduct of the competition. If someone does not understand an aspect of a Technical Package, he or she is to seek clarification from the Games Organizing Committee or Special Olympics BC through his or her Chef de Mission.

Technical Packages are developed primarily by SOBC, in consultation with Summer Sport Organizations (where applicable), following the principles, guidelines and requirements of SOBC. As the overall governing body of the Games, SOBC has the ultimate authority for Technical Packages however the information contained is only valuable if understood by all Coaches and Regional Team Members.

If an individual wishes to initiate a change to a Technical Package leading up to a Games, the desired change should be directed to the Chef de Mission. The Chef de Mission will evaluate the merits of the change and will, if it has merit, submit the requested change and the rationale for the change to Special Olympics BC on the individual's behalf. The Technical Package does not govern age groups, eligibility requirements, team sizes, or staff complements. Minor corrections will be considered at almost any time, but will be increasingly difficult to achieve within one month of the Games. These time frames reinforce the importance of a complete understanding of the Technical Package early.

**Venue:** Tournament Capital Ranch

**Location:** 1245 Rogers Way, Kamloops

**Details:** Tournament Capital Ranch has 8 brand new regulation softball fields. All diamonds will have bleacher seating on both sides of dugouts for spectators, access to washrooms, flip scoreboards, covered dug-outs, and a covered eating area. There will also be concessions available to spectators. Not that the spectator bleachers are not covered so fans should plan accordingly.

## I. Participants

### a. Competitors:

Quotas for Softball were calculated using the procedures outlined on the SOBC website.

<b>Co-ed Team Competition</b>		<b>Individual Skills Contest</b>	
<b>Final Athlete Quotas:</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>Final Athlete Quotas:</b>	<b>0</b>
Region One	15	Region One	0
Region Two	15	Region Two	0
Region Three	60	Region Three	0
Region Four	15	Region Four	0
Region Five	30	Region Five	0
Region Six	45	Region Six	0
Region Seven	0	Region Seven	0
Region Eight	0	Region Eight	0

### b. Staff:

Coach and Mission Staff quotas were allocated as per Special Olympics Canada Policy.

For every team (12-15 players), three coach positions were allocated, for every four individual skills athletes, one coach position was allocated, unless an application was made by a Team for an additional coaching position.

<b>Final Coach Quotas: 36</b>		<b>Final Coach Quotas: 18</b>	
Region One	3	Region One	0
Region Two	3	Region Two	0
Region Three	12	Region Three	5
Region Four	3	Region Four	2
Region Five	6	Region Five	3
Region Six	9	Region Six	8
Region Seven	0	Region Seven	0
Region Eight	0	Region Eight	0

## II. Age Category

All softball athletes must be 13 years of age or older as of the first day of the games.

## III. Eligibility

### a. Coaches

Any coaches listed on the official registration form must obtain the following certification no later than 60 days prior to the Summer Games (May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017).

- NCCP Special Olympics Canada - Competition Sport Workshop
- Make Ethical Decisions Workshop
- Make Ethical Decisions Online Evaluation – **Competition** – Introduction

### Exemption Process

Individuals who have coached at the Regional Qualifier for their sport and who meet all selection requirements for advancement to the Summer Games will be given the first opportunity to advance to the Summer Games. In the event a Region cannot fill their quota of coaches for advancement to the Summer Games, a Region may select from other coaches within their Region provided the following:

1. Those coaches who attended a Regional Qualifier for their sport were given the first opportunity to move forward to the Summer Games.
2. ONLY those coaches who have completed their coaching certification (see above) may be considered.
3. Those coaches being considered for selection must meet all other criteria established for selection of coaches to the Summer Games.
4. All Summer Games coaching quotas given to a Region will be for Team Coaches. If Regions require a Team Volunteer (i.e. 1-1) they must make that request in writing no later than two months prior to the Games to the Leadership Council. SOBC will provide each Region with a quota for Team Managers separate from that given for coaching positions.

### a. Competitors

- 1) Athletes must be registered with an accredited Special Olympics BC Local, and be active in a Special Olympics program.
- 2) Only athletes that are registered with Special Olympics BC for two consecutive seasons prior to Summer Games are eligible.

- 3) Only athletes that are training in that sport for a minimum of one sport season before Summer Games are eligible.
- 4) Only athletes that take part in qualifying events sanctioned by the Region are eligible.
- 5) Athletes must be 13 years old for Summer Competitions as of July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to be eligible.
- 6) After quotas are established by SOBC, teams will be selected on a standard of performance at a sanctioned Regional Qualifier, completed before July 15, 2016. When qualifiers are complete, SOBC will announce the quotas based on the number of teams that attended each qualifier.

b. Team:

Softball Teams must meet all eligibility requirements outlined below to be eligible to participate in a Summer Games. In addition to meeting these team requirements each athlete on that team must also adhere to the athlete eligibility requirements, as outlined in Policy- Athlete Selection – Team Sport from Regional to Summer Games/championships

1. Each team must be an accredited registered sport club with a Special Olympics Local.
2. All athletes must be registered with the team that they are playing on.
3. Each team must participate in a Regional level qualifying tournament/meet in the program year prior to the Summer Games.
4. Any team player who qualifies to advance on to a Summer Games shall have participated with that same team at the Regional qualifying competition within the year preceding the Summer Games (with the exception of the player pick-up rule)
5. A team registration form for each team participating at the Summer Games, adhering to the minimum and maximum number of players per team must be submitted to the Games Organizing Committee by the established deadline date.
6. A *final team roster\** consists of a minimum of twelve (12) players and a maximum of fifteen (15) players. All players listed on the *final team roster\** must have an opportunity to play during the course of the tournament.  
(\* NOTE: A *final team roster* is a complete list of all players registered with a team.)
7. Teams, who arrive at the Summer Games with either:
  - i) Less than minimum number of players
  - ii) Arrive with the minimum number of players yet drop below the minimum number of players for the duration of the tournament shall only be eligible to play in an exhibition division of the Games and would not qualify for awards or placement points in the tournament, and are therefore ineligible to advance to higher level competition.



8. No additional players shall be permitted to the team registration sheet after it has been submitted to the Games Organizing Committee, with the exception of athlete deletion and/or addition to a maximum of three (3) players (as outlined in the player pick-up rule) to meet the number of athletes on the team roster that was submitted to the Games Organizing Committee.

Medical Scratch Exemption: If an athlete is injured or falls ill while at the games the team coach has the option of filling out a medical scratch form. The medical scratch form must be signed by medical personnel onsite and the decision of this person will take precedent over that of a regional medical person. If an athlete is granted the exemption the team will continue to compete however if this forces the team below the minimum it will be disqualified from awards and will not be considered for selection to Team BC for the National Games. The athlete does have the option of returning to competition if the medical personnel onsite at the sport venue clears the athlete.

For individual sports, if a medical exemption is granted, the athlete will not be penalized for missing events and those events will not count towards selection to Team BC. If the medical situation forces an athlete below the minimum number of events required for that sport the athlete will not be considered for Team BC and the National Games.

The medical scratch Exemption Form is included in this package.

9. Teams will not be required to adhere to a male/female player ratio.

c. Player Pick-up Rule

1. If a team qualifies for the Summer Games with less than the maximum number of players on their roster they have the option to pick up a maximum of three (3)\* players from another team that participated in their Regional qualifying event to fill out their team quota prior to registration.
2. These additional 'pick-up' players must meet the athlete eligibility criteria (as outlined in Policy- Athlete Selection Regional to Summer Games/championships).

If a team requires more than three (3) players to meet the player requirement (as established by their team roster used at the qualifying event) the team will then be rendered ineligible to attend the Summer Games.

## IV. Competition

### a. Rules

The competition will be run according to Softball Canada's rules, except when they are in conflict with Special Olympics Canada (SOC) rules. In such cases SOC rules shall apply.

### b. Events

1. Slo-Pitch Team Competition
2. Individual Skills Contest

### c. Schedule

The Softball competition will take place over a two (2) day period.

Tentative Schedule:

Day 1, Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Slo-Pitch Team Competition - Divisioning Round  
Slo-Pitch Team Competition - Tournament Round  
Day 2, Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Slo-Pitch Team Competition - Tournament Round  
Slo-Pitch Team Competition - Finals  
Individual Skills Competition – Finals

### d. Practice/Warm-Up

Due to time constraints practice time will not be made available prior to the start of competition.

The competition schedule will allow for appropriate warm-up time for all athletes. Exact warm-up times will be made available once the competition schedule is finalized.

### e. Seeding Rounds

#### 1. Number of Games

There will be a minimum of two (2) seeding games per team.

The Seeding Committee can request a team to play additional games if they feel that they do not have consensus on a team's skill level.

## 2. Schedule

A draft seeding round schedule will be provided prior to the competition.

## 3. Seeding Games Rules of Play

All seeding games will be run according to Softball Canada's and Special Olympics Canada (SOC) rules with the following modifications:

- i) Each game will be two (2) innings.
- ii) An inning will not end until all scheduled players come to bat.
- iii) All players registered on the official roster must have one turn at bat and in the field.
- iv) All players are to play in their regular positions in the field.
- v) Half the team will bat in the first inning and half will bat in the second. If a team has an uneven number of players then the higher number will bat in the first inning. For example, if a team has thirteen (13) players, seven (7) will bat the first inning, and six (6) will bat the second inning. Ten (10) players will play defense at one time, all players must play defense.
- vi) The umpire and the Seeding Committee have the authority to stop a seeding game between innings.

## 4. Seeding Appeals

If a team feels that they have been placed in an incorrect division they have the option of requesting an additional game against a team that is in a division that they feel is more appropriate. If the request is granted, the Seeding Committee will select the teams for the additional game(s).

Regardless of the outcome of the appeal game the Seeding Committee is the final authority on divisioning. Divisioning cannot be challenged through protest procedures. **Teams will have 30 minutes after the divisions are posted to make an appeal to the seeding committee. An appeal must be endorsed by the Chef de Mission and submitted in writing by the Head Coach to the Seeding Committee.**

### f. Game Time

A regulation game shall consist of seven innings or one and one half-hours (1 ½ hrs), with no new inning beginning after one hour and thirty minutes (1hr 30 min).

### g. Tournament Formats

Each team will play a maximum of four games throughout the competition, excluding games played during the divisioning round. Teams are expected to play all scheduled games despite their relevance on the outcome of the tournament.



#### Point System:

- Single Game Round Robin
  - Win – 2 points
  - Tie – 1 points
  - Loss – 0 point
- In the case of a tie in a division following the round robin games the following will be used:
  - Head to Head Result
  - Least Runs Scored Against
  - Most Runs Scored For
  
- In the event that two (2) teams are tied after the completion of regulation play in a medal game an additional inning of overtime will be played. If the teams are still tied another inning will be played and so on until a winner is determined.

#### h. Skills Assessment

Each team will be required to submit the following skill assessments to the Special Olympics BC Summer Office by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

1. Batting
2. Throwing
3. Fielding
4. Base Running

A step by step outline on how to run and score each of these skill assessments is included. It is very important that the testing procedures for each of these skills are followed because the information obtained is used as a part of the initial team classification (seeding).

Each Region will receive a skill assessment form in their registration packages.

#### i. Technical Officials

The Game's Host Society will select technical officials that are certified at the Provincial level.

#### j. Protest Procedures

All protests must be endorsed by the Chef de Mission and submitted **in writing** by the **Head Coach** to the **SOBC Sport Tech or Venue Manager for Softball** within 30 minutes following the posting of results. Note that games can be played under protest as long as the protest is signalled to the umpire following the incident.

All protests must be accompanied by the protest fee of **\$50.00 cash**.

Any discrepancies in results (as posted) should first be checked with the **Results Coordinator** (located in the Results area at the venue).

Divisioning cannot be protested.

Please find attached a copy of the Protest Form to be utilized for the 2017 Special Olympics BC Summer Games.

## V. Head Coaches Meetings

### a. Schedule

The first head coaches meeting will take place approx. 2 weeks prior to the Games via conference call. Subsequent Head Coaches meetings will take place at the competition venue and will be called only if necessary. **Agenda items must be in possession of the SOBC Sport Tech or Venue Manager for Softball by 10:00pm on the evening prior to the next day's competition.**

### b. Meeting Attendance

Regional Teams are limited to 1 coach for each team to send to the coaches meetings.

## VI. Results

Results will be posted in a designated area immediately following competition. A full results package will be provided to all Head Coaches and Chef de Missions within thirty days after Games.

Once results are made official they will be made available to the media and posted on-line.

## VII. Award Presentations

Award presentation for Softball will be done at the sport venue on Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 after the final medal rounds. Gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams respectively in each division. Coaches will not receive medals for their team's placement.

The team who have been judged first, second and third shall stand in their official uniforms with the third place award presented first and awards then progress in ascending order to the first place award.

For athletes in the individual skills competition, gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded to the first, second, and third place athletes respectively in each division based on their all-around score. Note that medals will not be given for each event.

# MEDICAL SCRATCH FORM

Athlete Name:	
Sport:	Region:
Reason for Medical Scratch:	
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Do you feel this athlete could be cleared to re-enter the Games. If yes, when:	
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Signed by: (Medical Staff)	Date:

## SOFTBALL VENUE LAYOUT





## Slo-Pitch Softball

The Special Olympics Canada (SOC) Sports Rules shall govern all SOC Slo-Pitch Softball competitions. As a national sports program, CSO has established these rules based upon Softball Canada's Rulebook. The Softball Canada Rulebook shall be employed except when it is in conflict with the SOC Official Rules and National Policies and Procedures. In such cases, the following SOC Official Slo-Pitch Softball Rules shall apply.

### **SECTION A**

#### **Official Events**

1. Co-Ed Slo-Pitch Softball.

### **SECTION B**

#### **Rules of Competition**

1. Teams will not be required to adhere to a male/female player ratio.
2. In the classification (seeding) round, teams will play one or more games. The "game" shall consist of one full inning for both teams. Each team will be required to play all players whose names appear on the *final team roster*.
3. A *final team roster* consists of a minimum of twelve (12) players and a maximum of fifteen (15) players. All players listed on the *final team roster* must have an opportunity to play during the course of the tournament.

**\*NOTE: A final team roster is a complete list of all players registered with the team.**

A line-up is a list of players scheduled to play during a specific game. A line-up shall consist of ten (10) players, unless the extra player (EP) rule is in effect. Ten players shall be on the field at one time. Only the players listed on the line-up sheet will play during the specific game.

4. A regulation game shall consist of seven innings (with only the final inning being open) or one and a half hours (1 1/2 hrs) with no inning beginning after one hour and thirty minutes (1 1/2 hrs). A team may only score a maximum of 5 runs per inning.

A mercy rule shall be imposed, if after five full innings of play, one team leads another by ten runs or more, the game will be called.



The distance between home plate and the pitching rubber shall be between 40' and 50'. Therefore, a moveable pitching rubber is required.

5. A designated runner is allowed for the catcher in a two (2) out situation. The player in the catcher position will bat and must advance to at least first (1<sup>st</sup>) base before a courtesy runner can be put in. The last (2<sup>nd</sup>) out in the current inning shall be the courtesy runner.
6. The following rule from Softball Canada (2011-2012 – Rule 8. Sec. 1b-5) shall not apply in Special Olympics Canada competitions.  
CO-ED: If a male is walked on four pitches or fewer, he is awarded second base and the female batter has the option of batting or accepting a walk up until the delivery of a pitch.

## **SECTION C**

### **Equipment and Safety**

1. The ball shall be eleven and three quarter inches and marked with the “official softball” on the cover. A red stitch, restricted flight ball will be used at National Games.
2. Helmets must be worn by batters and base runners.
3. A catcher is required to wear a face mask, helmet and throat protector. Leg pads are optional.

## **SPECIAL OLYMPICS BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Exceptions to the SOC Rules:

Please note that these rule exceptions only apply to Local, Regional and, where noted, Provincial Games. Athletes and coaches must be aware that all competitions outside of the above will be governed by SOC rules and the rules of the Sport's Governing Body.

1. Scorekeepers must have coaches sign score sheets at the end of each game in a tournament. The director of tournament play will oversee all umpires, timekeepers, and scorekeepers at the competition. This will ensure that both teams agree upon scores before the score is made final. Once the score sheet is signed a protest CANNOT proceed.



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS BC  
2017 SUMMER GAMES**



**SOFTBALL PROTEST FORM**

Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name and number of athlete(s) involved:**

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**List of Rule(s) Alleged To Have Been Infringed:**

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**Statement of Facts:**

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**Request of the Umpire:**

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**Signed by:**

\_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_  
Chef de Mission (or designate)      Region

**Received by:**

\_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_  
SOBC Rep for Softball      Time      Date

**PROTEST COMMITTEE USE ONLY**

**Protest Fee Paid:**      Yes      \_\_\_\_\_      No      \_\_\_\_\_

**Protest Committee Decision:** Accepted      \_\_\_\_\_      Rejected      \_\_\_\_\_

**Protest Committee Initials:**      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Note:** A protest, signed by the Head Coach, must be made to the SOBC Sport Tech or Venue Manager for Softball within 30 minutes following the posting of results and/or the end of a game. A protest fee of \$50 cash must accompany all written protests.