

# 2020 CONSTITUTION &

**BYLAWS**

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS NOTICE OF MOTION # 1**

**Constitution and Bylaws**

**Submitted by:** Softball Canada Board of Directors and Softball Canada ODC

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

**REFERENCE :** (Section, article, number, page, etc.)  
Softball Canada Rule Book

**WHEREAS** (Article as currently written.)

The Article 3.1.e of the Softball Canada Constitution (Page 213 of the rule book) require the Association to establish a set of uniform playing rules that are to be based on the playing rules of the WBSC (with national federation amendments), and whereas the WBSC has recently re-organized, simplified and reformatted the structure of their playing rules beginning with the 2018-2021 rule book;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** (Motion. State whether revision, addition, deletion)

The AGM support the adoption of the newly structured WBSC rules – with domestic rule amendments - as the basis of the Softball Canada rulebook (FP and SP) beginning in 2022-2023.

**RATIONALE**

This is not a proposal to adopt the WBSC rules in their entirety, but to simply adopt the simplified WBSC rules as the core of our rules code. Softball Canada would retain the current rule deviations from WBSC for domestic competition and would continue to be able to add / modify rules as deemed appropriate by the membership. A traditional, paper-based rulebook would continue to be published for members.

***See Appendix A – Memorandum – Considerations on the Future of the Playing Rules / Rule Book (below) for details.***

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** (Softball Canada, Provincial/Territorial, Individual)

Translation costs for WBSC FP & SP Rules into French (Softball Canada).

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**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**    \_\_\_ Carried    \_\_\_ Amended    \_\_\_ Withdrawn    \_\_\_ Defeated

## Appendix A - Memorandum

To: **P/T Associations**

Re: **Considerations on the Future of the Playing Rules / Rule Book**

In 2018 the WBSC completed a multi-year project that resulted in the delivery of a newly structured rule book for international competition. Except for Softball Canada and USA Softball, this new rule book is used by all national federations around the world. The new WBSC rule book uses more common language, is more concise, less repetitive and is much easier to comprehend by all participants.

Article 3.1.e of Softball Canada's Constitution establishes the rules of the WBSC – *with amendments* – as the standard rules for softball under the jurisdiction of Softball Canada. As we continue towards a more international focus in the sport, the ODC believes that we are best served by adopting the new structure of the WBSC rules as the basis for Softball Canada's rules going forward.

The new simplified WBSC code is reorganized into just five rules.

Softball Canada	WBSC
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Definitions</li><li>2. The Playing Field</li><li>3. Equipment</li><li>4. Coaches, Players and Substitutes</li><li>5. The Game</li><li>6. Pitching Regulations</li><li>7. Batting</li><li>8. Batter-Runner and Runner</li><li>9. Dead Ball -Ball in Play</li><li>10. Umpires</li><li>11. Protests</li><li>12. Scoring</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Game</li><li>2. Playing Field and Equipment</li><li>3. Participants</li><li>4. Pitching</li><li>5. Batting and Baserunning</li></ol>

It is important to note that we are not proposing that Softball Canada adopt the WBSC rules code in whole, but rather use the WBSC rules as a basis for a reorganization of our rules. ***All current rule deviations would remain intact and we would continue to manage our domestic rules.*** Adoption of the WBSC code structure would have many benefits, including a simpler rulebook for participants, a smoother transition for teams, athletes and umpires who transition to international competition and a better awareness of the continued development of the sport around the world.

The new Softball Canada rulebook would be loosely modelled after Softball New Zealand and structured as follows.

- TOC, Introductions & Contacts
- ***WBSC Slow Pitch Rules***
- Softball Canada Specific Slo-Pitch Rule Deviations from WBSC
- Canadian Slo-Pitch Championships Age Categories & Distance Tables
- ***WBSC Fast Pitch Rules***

- Softball Canada Specific Fast Pitch Rule Deviations from WBSC
- Canadian Fast Pitch Championships Age Categories & Distance Tables
- Constitution
- By-Laws
- Special Operating Rules
- Special Olympics Rules
- Minor Rules

The Board has approved the ODC's request to present a motion at the 2020 AGM supporting the adoption in principle of the structure of the new WBSC rules beginning with the new Softball Canada rulebook in 2022-23.

The proposed project timeline is as follows:

- **AGM 2020** – Membership supports the reorganization of our rulebooks – Fast Pitch and Slo-Pitch – to match the new format of the WBSC. (note there are NO rule changes being accepted in 2020)
- **December 2020** – Two working groups would be established (FP & SP) to identify all rule deviations between Softball Canada and WBSC rules. These would be itemized and rewritten into a series of specific rule deviations. Project timeline 6 months.
- **Summer 2021** – Current WBSC Rules submitted for translation.
- **Fall 2021** – WBSC Rule Changes for 2022-25 noted (WBSC Congress may be delayed to March 2022 but rule change proposals will hopefully be considered in 2021) and translations updated; Report from the Working Groups presented to the Softball Canada AGM, approved rule changes from Softball Canada 2021 AGM integrated into the Working Group's product. Final approval from AGM.
- **February 2022** – Softball Canada publishes a new 2022-23 rule book, which would include updated WBSC Rules for 2022-25 and a Softball Canada specific rules section for 2022-23 along with the other sections as currently in our rulebook.

While this is a large project and the timeline could be extended to an adoption date of the 2024-25 rulebook, we are confident the working groups efforts can be completed in time. If this proposal is approved, the working groups would be struck by the Board (based on recommendations of the NDU) to complete the tasks necessary for the implementation process noted above.

Jeff Whipple  
National Director of Umpires

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS NOTICE OF MOTION # 2**

**Constitution and Bylaws**

**Submitted by: Softball British Columbia**

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

**REFERENCE :** (Section, article, number, page, etc.)  
Article 8.2 page 223

**WHEREAS** (Article as currently written.)

A special meeting of the association may be called by the President, the Board of Directors, or upon the written requisition of members who hold five percent (5%) of the votes of the Association, and twenty-one (21) days prior, written notice shall be given to the membership of any Special Meeting, and such notice shall set forth the entire business to be conducted at that meeting.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** (Motion. State whether revision, addition, deletion)

**Revision:**

A special meeting of the association may be called by the President, the Board of Directors, or upon the written requisition of members who hold ten percent (10%) of the votes of the Association ...

**RATIONALE**

Under the current model, any individual province or territory would have enough votes to call for a special member meeting without needing support from the Softball Canada Board of Directors or another P/T. This could lead to frequent special member meetings, which would be potentially costly and time consuming. With a 10% threshold of votes required, a P/T would require support from at least one additional P/T or from board members, thus reducing the possibility of abuse of this privilege. As well, a majority of the Softball Canada voting board members would be required if the Special member meeting were initiated by the board.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** (Softball Canada, Provincial/Territorial, Individual)

Cost of holding a special member meeting, travel and expenses for PT to attend a meeting.

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**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**    \_\_\_ Carried    \_\_\_ Amended    \_\_\_ Withdrawn    \_\_\_ Defeated

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS NOTICE OF MOTION # 3**

**Constitution and Bylaws**

**Submitted by:** Softball Canada Board of Directors

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

**REFERENCE :** (Section, article, number, page, etc.)

Constitution & Bylaws: Article 11, Section 11.4, a & b, new, Renumber current 11.4 to 11.4, c Page 225

**WHEREAS** (Article as currently written.)

11.4 Notice of the proposed amendments to these bylaws and the constitution shall be provided to the relevant voting Members at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the Members Meeting. Notice may be waived in accordance with section 13.4

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** (Motion. State whether revision, addition, deletion)

**Addition: 11.4, a.** Submission to change the Playing Rules of the Association must be received in writing by the National Office of the Association by October 1st **in odd numbered years only**. The National Office of the Association will forward copies of all proposed Playing Rule changes to the membership by October 7th. **A simple majority (50% + 1) of the votes cast from the Voting Members** is required to enact or repeal Playing Rule change proposals at the Rules Forum **and the Annual General Meeting**. **The voting strength at the Rules Forum will be one voting delegate from each Provincial/Territorial Association in good standing with the Association and 2 Softball Canada Board Members.**

**Addition 11.4, b.** Notice of the proposed amendments to the Playing Rules of the Association shall be provided to the relevant voting members of the Association by October 7th prior to the Members Meeting. Notice may be waived in accordance with section 13.4

**11.4, c** Notice of the proposed amendments to these bylaws and the constitution shall be provided to the relevant voting Members at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the Members Meeting. Notice may be waived in accordance with section 13.4

**RATIONALE**

Softball Canada is delaying the next edition of the Rule Book until 2022 to allow use of a current backlog of rulebooks. By moving to odd numbered years Softball Canada will align with one cycle of the WBSC Rule Book. Since the revision of the Softball Canada Bylaws to align with the Not For Profit Act it now only requires a simple majority to pass rule changes, SORs & Bylaws except for Fundamental changes.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** (Softball Canada, Provincial/Territorial, Individual)

**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**    \_\_\_ Carried    \_\_\_ Amended    \_\_\_ Withdrawn    \_\_\_ Defeated

# 2020 SPECIAL OPERATING

**RULES**



## 2020 SOFTBALL CANADA CONGRESS Special Operating Rules Motion

### SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 1

#### Special Operating Rules

**Submitted by:** Softball Canada Board of Directors

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

**REFERENCE :** (Section, article, number, page, etc.)

Page 238, Canadian Slo-Pitch Championships Age Category & Distance Table (Slo-Pitch)

Page 249, Canadian Fastpitch Championships Age Category & Distance Table (Fastpitch)

**WHEREAS** (Article as currently written.)

See complete table on above pages

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** (Motion. State whether revision, addition, deletion)

**DELETION:**

See complete table on above pages

#### **RATIONALE**

Many years ago the rule book was changed and the SORs and Constitution were removed. When the SORs and Constitution were returned to the rule book the Age Category and Distance Table was placed in the SORs as well as the Rules with no motion ever passed. The Age Categories, Distances and Ball Sizes are very important rules and should only be eligible to be changed every two years. As such they should appear in the Playing Rules only.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** (Softball Canada, Provincial/Territorial, Individual)

**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** \_\_\_\_\_ Carried \_\_\_\_\_ Amended \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated





## 2020 SOFTBALL CANADA CONGRESS Special Operating Rules Motion

### SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 2

#### Special Operating Rules

**Submitted by:** Ontario (Slo-Pitch Ontario Association)

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

**REFERENCE :** (Section, article, number, page, etc.)

PART THREE – CANADIAN SLO-PITCH CHAMPIONSHIPS – ARTICLE 1.2 Participants a) Team Representation  
(Page 239)

**WHEREAS** (Article as currently written.)

a) Team Representation

i) All Canadian Championships will be filled to a maximum of twenty-four (24) teams, subject to hosting capacity. In the event that more than twenty-four (24) teams, or greater than the host's capacity, indicate their intent to participate, then entry will be awarded as follows:

- a) Initially to each province/territory in good standing, a host team and the previous year's champion.
- b) On a pro-rata system based upon provincial/territorial registrations in the respective categories.
- c) No province/territory be allowed more than 4 teams except in the event that a province/territory hosting Canadian Championship would be or a province/territory sending the defending champion allowed up to 3 additional.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** (Motion. State whether revision, addition, deletion)

**Revision:** c) No province/territory be allowed more than 4 teams including the Host Team.

**ADD:** d) The defending champion does not count as one of the 4 provincial/territorial teams.

#### RATIONALE

Allows provinces/territories to stay consistent with their Qualifying Criteria every year.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** (Softball Canada, Provincial/Territorial, Individual)

**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** \_\_\_\_ Carried \_\_\_\_ Amended \_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_ Defeated



## 2020 SOFTBALL CANADA CONGRESS Special Operating Rules Motion

### SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 3

#### Special Operating Rules

**Submitted by:** Softball Saskatchewan

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

**REFERENCE :** (Section, article, number, page, etc.)

Slo-Pitch SOR's, Article 1, 1.2 Participants, f, & g, page 241

**WHEREAS** (Article as currently written.)

- f) Any team from Manitoba attending the Canadian Slo-Pitch Championships can pick up to five players from Saskatchewan, providing Saskatchewan does not have a team entered, with the release of that province.
- g) Any team from Saskatchewan attending the Canadian slo-Pitch Championships can pick up to five players from Manitoba, providing Manitoba does not have a team entered, with the release of that province.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** (Motion. State whether revision, addition, deletion)

**REVISE TO READ:** Any team from Manitoba or Saskatchewan attending the Canadian Slo-Pitch Championships can pick up to five (5) players from each others Province with the release of the players home province. All releases must be handled as per the Softball Canada Guidelines.

#### RATIONALE

The rationale of the proposed rule change is multi faceted, firstly it would allow for the fielding of more teams from both provinces. This proposal would be extended to both the men's and women's championship which based on our small softball playing population base would allows both provinces to excel in leadership, development, and participation in Slo-pitch softball. We would like to have fair and inclusive access to either province in the hopes of growing the game and moving forward with the vison and mission of Softball Canada.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** (Softball Canada, Provincial/Territorial, Individual)

None

**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** \_\_\_\_\_ Carried \_\_\_\_\_ Amended \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated



## 2020 SOFTBALL CANADA CONGRESS Special Operating Rules Motion

### SOR NOTICE OF MOTION # 4

**Special Operating Rules**

**Submitted by:** Softball Saskatchewan

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

**REFERENCE :** (Section, article, number, page, etc.)

Part Seven – Amendments, Article 1 – Amendments a), iv), Page 263

**WHEREAS** (Article as currently written.)

Approved changes to the Special Operating Rules, excluding Part Six – Softball Canada Hall of Fame and the Special Olympics Canada Rules, may not be reversed or changed at a subsequent Annual Meeting prior to the approved change being implemented for at least a period of two (2) years.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** (Motion. State whether revision, addition, deletion)

**REVISE TO READ:** Approved changes to the Special Operating Rules, excluding Part Six – Softball Canada Hall of Fame and the Special Olympics Canada Rules, may not be reversed or changed at a subsequent Annual Meeting or Special General Meeting prior to the approved change being implemented for at least a period of five (5) years.

### RATIONALE

Given some potential changes to age categories we believe there needs to be an extended period of time for major rule changes to be properly evaluated and assessed regarding their impact on our sport.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** (Softball Canada, Provincial/Territorial, Individual)

None

**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** \_\_\_\_ Carried \_\_\_\_ Amended \_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_ Defeated

# 2020 RULE CHANGE

**PROPOSALS**

**PROPOSAL 1**

**PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FOR:** 2021 (year)

**Submitted by:** Softball Canada Board of Directors

<b>TYPE:</b>	FAST PITCH	<b>X</b>	SLO-PITCH	<b>X</b>	ORTHODO X	<b>X</b>	ALL	<b>X</b>
<b>Rule:</b>	Introduction	<b>Page:</b> 41	<b>Page:</b> 128	<b>Number:</b>		<b>Letter:</b>		

**CHANGE IS:** **DELETION**

**CHANGE:** **Delete:** Submission to change the Playing Rules of the Association must be received in writing by the National Office of the Association by October 1st in even years only. The National Office of the Association will forward copies of all proposed Playing Rule changes to the membership by October 7th. A two thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast from the Provincial/Territorial Associations is required to enact or repeal Playing Rule change proposals at the Rules Forum.

**RATIONALE:** Softball Canada is delaying the next edition of the Rule Book until 2022 to allow use of a current backlog of rulebooks. By moving to odd numbered years Softball Canada will align with one cycle of the WBCS Rule Book. Since the revision of the Softball Canada Bylaws to align with the Not-for-Profit Act it now only requires a simple majority to pass rule changes, SORs & Bylaws except for Fundamental changes. This will place changes to the Rules under the Constitution & Bylaws Section and remove it from the Introduction area of Fastpitch, Slo-Pitch and Orthodox Rules

**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** \_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_ Rejected \_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_ Postponed