



**Provincial/Territorial Staff Call
June 25 - 11:30am EDT**

Agenda

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement (Branchaud)

2. New Staff Introductions (Branchaud)

- a. Ben Lungo is Softball Canada's new Communications and Marketing Manager
 - i. You can contact him at blungo@softball.ca or 613-523-5761
- b. Eric Dissanayake is Softball Canada's 2026 Summer Intern
 - i. You can contact him at intern@softball.ca or 613-618-8331

3. Canadian Championships (Beleza/LeBlanc)

a. Team Numbers and Schedules/Formats

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL	NWT	YT	TOT	P/T
U15 W	5	2	3	2	3	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	20	9
U15 M	0	0	2	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	4
U17 W	4	4	3	2	4	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	21	8
U17 M	1	0	2	0	4	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	12	7
U19 W	5	4	2	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	6
U20 M	0	0	2	0	4	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	9	5
U23 M	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	8	4
WOMEN FP	0	3	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4
MEN FP	1	0	4	1	4	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	14	7
MASTER	0	2	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	3
WOMEN SP	3	4	0	0	4	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	14	5
MEN SP	2	4	0	1	6	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	20	7
TOTAL	22	23	26	7	44	15	3	9	2	6	1	1	158	

- i. Confirmation of Participation was due June 7th (May 1 for SP)
- ii. A total of 158 teams will participate in this year's Canadian Championships, with at least one team representing each P/T.
- iii. Schedules are currently being finalized and will be shared with all P/Ts and posted on the website once complete.

- b. Slo-Pitch bats and balls
 - i. A document was sent to all participating teams P/T Executive Directors outlining two new changes for this year's Men's and Women's Canadian Slo-Pitch Championships.
 - ii. The first change is that bats will no longer be provided.
 - iii. Each team may submit up to 34 bats for pre-tournament testing.
 - iv. Any bats beyond the 34-bat limit will be charged at \$10 per bat.
 - v. All bats must meet the 240 lb compression standard and display the new USSSA NTS Tested stamp.
 - vi. The second change is that teams will be responsible for supplying their own game balls.
 - vii. Each team will receive a set number of balls and must provide them to the umpire at the beginning of each half inning at bat.
- c. Official Player List (OPL) Deadline; Men's / Slo-Pitch
 - i. An email has been sent to all P/Ts regarding Official Player Lists (OPLs).
 - ii. OPLs will once again be collected via Google Drive.
 - iii. OPLs must be submitted two weeks prior to the event. Changes can be made online up to two days before the coaches meeting.
 - iv. Men's Fast Pitch and Slo-Pitch are especially important, since Softball Canada distributes rosters to teams ahead of the event.
 - v. Final changes may be made at the coaches meeting.
- d. Streaming payment for U23/Men's
 - i. The additional streaming cost for U23 Men's and Men's Fast Pitch can be sent directly to the host via E-Transfer.
 - ii. The payment email is currently to be confirmed and will be shared with all P/Ts once available.
 - iii. Payment must be submitted two weeks prior to the start of the U23 Men's event (August 7th)
- e. 2027 Championships open for bids
 - i. There are currently five Canadian Championships open for bids for 2027.
 - ii. Men's categories open for bids include: U15, U17, and U20.
 - iii. Women's categories open for bids include: U19 and Women's Fast Pitch.

4. Domestic Programs

(Lamadeleine)

- a. B5
 - i. An application form was sent out in January for anyone to apply for a free B5 kit.
 - ii. The DEI Committee reviewed all submissions.
 - iii. A total of 25 kits were distributed.
 - iv. A feedback survey will be sent to recipients in a few months.

- v. Anyone interested in purchasing a kit can contact Gabrielle Lamadeleine.
- b. DEI Grant
 - i. Gabrielle will follow up with the P/T's that received grant funding from Softball Canada to see how their initiatives are progressing.
 - ii. She will also request photos of the initiatives to help showcase their impact.
- c. Learn to Play
 - i. The Learn to Play videos have been finalized, along with the accompanying activity sheets.
 - ii. We are currently developing a promotion and launch plan, with the goal of releasing the resources by September for the start of the new school year.

5. Men's National Team Program

(LeBlanc)

- a. Men's National Team Head Coach Process
 - i. The selection committee has identified four coaches to advance to the next stage of the process.
 - ii. In this phase, candidates are required to develop and submit a three-year program plan to Softball Canada.
 - iii. Interviews will be held following their submissions.
- b. U18 Men's National Team Selection Camp
 - i. Six identification camps were held across the country in 2025. The coaching staff has compiled and reviewed the data from those camps. Athletes were also scouted at the 2025 U17 and U20 Canadian Championships.
 - ii. The coaching staff will also be scouting the U17 and U20 Canadians this year.
 - iii. The selection camp will take place immediately following the Canadian Championships, from August 10–13.
 - iv. The camp will be held in the Napanee/Kingston area.
 - v. Invitations will be sent shortly, with the possibility of additional athletes being added based on performances at Canadians.
 - vi. The final roster will be named in the fall, allowing the team to prepare and train throughout the winter in preparation for the 2027 World Cup in June.

6. Women's National Team Program

(Ballantyne)

- a. U15 Women's National Team Camps
 - i. The first international event is expected to take place in late winter/early spring 2027
 - ii. Identification camps will be held in September/October.

- iii. More identification camp locations are planned compared to the U18 program.
 - iv. The event location is Montería, Colombia (dates to be confirmed).
 - v. The Continental Qualifier and World Cup will take place in the same year.
 - vi. The team is expected to compete in two international events in 2027.
- b. U18 Women's National Team
- i. A U18 Women's event will be held in El Salvador in November 2026.
 - ii. The U18 Women's World Cup will take place in 2028.

7. Police Record Checks

(Branchaud)

- a. Which P/T's require one for umpires and coaches.
- i. In minor categories at Canadian Championships, a Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) is required, while older categories only require a standard police record check.
 - ii. **Ontario** - a VSC is required for anyone working with athletes. Their updated Sport Integrity policy also requires EPIC certification for umpires attending clinics or in supervisory roles, while working umpires are exempt.
 - iii. **British Columbia** - EPIC is required for umpires, coaches, staff, board members, and any roles involving direct work with minors.
 - iv. **Manitoba** - all coaches require EPIC, and traveling umpires and managers are also required to have EPIC clearance.
 - v. **Quebec** - government regulations mandate background checks; VSC is not recognized under provincial law, so EPIC is used instead. EPIC is required for anyone directly involved with Softball Quebec. All traveling personnel are also screened.
 - vi. **Nova Scotia** - all umpires, coaches, managers, and anyone working with minors are required to have both a VSC and a criminal record check.
 - vii. **Saskatchewan** – SK Sport implemented anyone over the age of 18 requires EPIC.
 - 1. **Will be transitioning to One Badge.** It is a single clearance system that replaces other record checks at the association level. It is free for the organization, but individuals will still pay a \$25 fee for VSC/EPIC. Implementation is expected in the fall.

8. Non-Sanctioned Events

(Ontario)

- a. Umpire and team involvement at non-Softball Canada or P/T events
- i. The only Softball Canada-sanctioned events are Canadian Championships.
 - ii. Each P/T manages non-sanctioned events differently.
 - iii. Participation in non-sanctioned events by P/T members can create insurance issues and may result in a lack of coverage.

- iv. This is a common concern with umpires, as many are not aware that they may not be insured when working non-sanctioned events.
- b. Insurance coverage
 - i. A discussion was held regarding insurance coverage for P/T members.
 - ii. A workshop will be added to this year's AGM to provide a more in-depth discussion on this topic.
 - iii. Suggestions were made to bring in an expert on this topic to lead the conversation.

9. Other Discussion Topics

- a. Saskatchewan has been receiving a high volume of complaints and is requesting a workshop at this year's AGM on initial response steps.
- b. Sport Law is hosting a session in November in Ottawa, which Softball Ontario will attend. Some have requested having a modified version of this session to be presented at the AGM.
- c. The next P/T Call will be scheduled for September (date to be confirmed).