

Softball Victoria Kids Classic 2018-19 – Playing Conditions

**Rule changes made since the 2017/18 Under 12 Spectacular events are highlighted in yellow*

Age

- All players must be under the age of 12 at midnight on the date of the event
- Individuals over the age of 12 participating in their first season of softball may be approved to participate following an application via email to the Softball Victoria CEO

Rules

- All games shall be played under the current Official Rules of Softball Australia unless otherwise stated in these rules.

<http://www.wbsc.org/wp-content/uploads/ENGLISH-2018-2021-WBSC-Fast-Pitch-Playing-Rules-A4-1.pdf>

- To ensure the games are played in a timely manner and in the spirit of the tournament, any apparent time wasting or breaches by teams is to be reported by the time keeper to the tournament convener for review. If after review and consultation with the coach the behavior continues loss of points may be enforced.
- All Softball Victoria policies which include but are not limited to the Zero Tolerance and the Members Protection Policy will be enforced.

Teams

- Teams must consist of a maximum of twelve (12) players, who are registered with Softball Victoria, for the duration of the tournament.
- Teams must have a minimum of nine (9) players to enter a team (Note: if teams have insufficient players, please consult with Softball Victoria at info@softballvic.org.au about players from a pool that can be added to your team or the joining of teams).
- Special consideration will be given to rookie (1st year) 12 year olds to make up the 9 players required. However clubs must apply in writing to Softball Victoria.
- As this is a mixed tournament, it is desirable that the ratio of males to females is comparable.
- Teams may borrow players from the opposition or other teams to equal playing numbers.
- A Designated Player (DP) shall NOT be permitted.
- ALL players must bat and field in every game, except when subject to illness or injury.

Pre-Game Rules

- First named team on the draw, to take third base and field first.
- All teams to take their score cards to the registrar.

Time Rules

- Games are 45 minutes in duration. All games must finish at the scheduled finish time even if they start late.
- Each team bats for ten (10) minutes per inning – regardless of the number of outs. The time of each innings shall be controlled by an official central timekeeper. This will be confirmed at the manager's meeting.
- Teams have 1 (one) minute for change over. If it is reported that a team is continually taking too long between innings, this team may incur a loss of 2 match points. (At the discretion of the event conveners)
- The game consists of two (2) complete innings (each team bats and fields twice per game)
- For the round robin games, a draw will stand and the points evenly distributed. Should there be a scheduled grand final, in the event of a draw, one extra inning will be awarded (consisting of 5 minutes each) until a result is obtained.
- Pitchers may warm up during the 1-minute changeover but must be ready to play at recommencement of time.

Batting

- All players' names are to appear on the scoresheet in batting order.
- If any player is removed from the game, the batting sequence continues to the next batter.
- Each team continues to bat for ten (10) minutes regardless of the number of outs. All runs WILL score if they cross home plate safely before time is called. Any runners left on base, at the end of the batting innings, DO NOT score.
- All players on the team bench must bat throughout the game. Batting line up continues to bat until the full 10 minutes is completed.
- If a batter bunts foul after two strikes there shall be no penalty. 'Foul Ball' shall be called by the umpire and the batter told not to bunt again.
- After three (3) balls are called on the batter, the batting team's coach is called in to pitch and must wear a fielding glove and closed shoes. (M.R. rule)

Batting off a coach While the coach is pitching, the junior pitcher shall remain behind the pitching plate and off to the side of the coach pitcher and can still field the ball.

- 3 pitches only will be delivered by the coach to the batter. (No balls or strikes called.) Common sense should be applied when the coach is pitching to the batter; if one pitch is wayward, another should be permitted. The object is to give the batter a fair chance to hit the ball.
- While batting off the coach, if they do not hit the ball after 3 pitches they are considered **retired** (not out) for scoring purposes.

Base Running

- Batters and runners may only run a maximum of two (2) bases on a ball hit off the pitching of a coach.
- Runners may not run home from 3rd base on a pitched ball not stopped by the catcher.



(Note: this is to eliminate contact at home plate and to encourage teams to bat their runners in).

Scoring of Runs

- All runs will score, regardless of the number of outs, if they cross the plate safely during their batting innings. Runners left on base DO NOT score.

Game Management Rules

- There is NO intentional walk.
- There is NO DR permitted.
- The run ahead rule CANNOT APPLY.
- Teams CANNOT declare their innings closed.
- If a ball is batted through the cones, the player is awarded 3 bases. If batted over the cones on the full, the batter is awarded a home run. Cones will be in place at a distance of 190' bringing distance in from 220' to encourage home runs.
- There IS a Catcher Speed-up rule.
- The dropped third strike rule DOES apply (this point is included in the rules for *emphasis*, given this rule has not been invoked in previous years)
- The Infield Fly rule does NOT apply.
- The 'Hit by Pitched Ball' rule does NOT generally apply. Instead, it will be considered a ball on the batter. (However, if the batter is hurt they can be permitted to occupy 1st base)

Fielding

- A maximum of nine (9) players must be on the field when fielding.
- NO player is permitted to **pitch and catch** in the same game.
- Pitchers/catchers can only pitch/catch for a maximum of one inning per game.
- A player cannot field in the same position for an entire game.
- Fielding substitutions to be made at change of innings, only unless there is an injury.
- No player, unless injured or unwell, can sit on the bench for the entire game.

Playing Field and Equipment

- The base paths shall be 60 feet.
- The pitching distance shall be 35 feet.
- The outfield cones distance shall be 190 feet.
- A soft core 11" ball will be used, and is to be supplied by Softball Victoria.
- Batting helmets must be worn by all batters, runners and on-deck batters and must fit properly. It is preferable for batting helmets to have chin straps and face guards.
- Fielding masks are allowed.

Coaches

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- A maximum of two (2) coaches from the defensive team are permitted on the field to guide their players. They MUST be positioned behind the base lines.
 - Coaches are only permitted on the field to verbally assist their players in defense. They must not physically assist their players.
 - Coaches/officials must wear the club shirts and closed shoes.
 - Any coach under the age of 19 at the time of the tournament must wear a helmet with ear pieces while on the diamond.

Umpires

- Each team must nominate at least two (2) novice umpires for the tournament.
- Novice umpires will umpire the games within the philosophy of the tournament with senior umpires assisting with mentoring during the game.
- Coaches are not to approach the junior umpires during the game under any circumstance. All queries should be directed to the senior umpire.

Uniforms

- ALL players registered with their respective clubs must be in correct uniforms.
- All junior players must wear hats while playing.
- Be sunsmart and ensure players have access to sunscreen, shade and water.
- In the event of inclement weather, players ARE permitted to wear jackets.

Match Points

- A team will be awarded four (4) points for a win, two (2) points evenly distributed for a draw, and zero (0) points for a loss.
- If no grand final is scheduled, as per SV Championship rules, the team with the highest points at the end of the tournament will be declared the winner. If multiple teams are equal on points, the team with the highest percentage will be declared the winner.

Inclement Weather

- The Plate Umpire (under joint direction of the senior umpire and event conveners) will SUSPEND play if it is felt unsafe to play.
- The tournament convener will make the decision on cancelling the tournament in the event of inclement weather.

Protests

- Teams are NOT permitted to protest. However, any problems at the diamond can be resolved by the senior umpire who is helping the junior umpire administer the game.
- Please note that the Softball Victoria Zero Tolerance Policy and Member Protection Policy applies to all individuals participating and attending this event.



Notes to Associations who play U12 Rules during their season.

Associations should be flexible in applying the competition rules and work within the intent of junior softball. Namely, the intent is to encourage maximum participation within a flexible environment for the enjoyment of all players. Thus, there will be NO forfeits in regards to lack of players. Teams will be permitted to play with fewer players or borrow without restriction from other teams. Moreover, the main consideration is to determine the most suitable game for each individual and to play them in a game that best meets their level of competence. While always adhering to the duty of care owed to young people, opportunities should be provided for the self-improvement and appropriate development of participants.

Any questions, issues or comments, please contact Softball Victoria CEO Nick Frayne at eo@softballvic.org.au