



DUBBO CITY SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION INC

Competition Regulations Version 2

September 2016

1 COMPETITION

1.1 GENERAL

1.1.1 The competition will be conducted under the official rules of softball as adopted by Softball Australia (SA), Softball New South Wales (SNSW) and under the Competition Regulations (CR) published by Dubbo City Softball Association (DCSA).

1.1.2 The interpretation and administration of the Competition Regulations is the responsibility of the DCSA Committee of Management (Committee).

1.1.3 The Committee reserves the right to vary any of the competition regulations if special circumstances warrant such action. Any substantial variation to the competition regulations will be notified to club representatives prior to the next competition fixture.

1.1.4 Any team/club wishing to appeal a decision made by the committee please refer to Competition Regulation 13.

1.2 STRUCTURE

1.2.1 The competition format will be determined at the September Board Meeting.

1.2.2 Divisions will be determined by the Board by 30 September

1.2.3 A new team may only be entered into the competition prior to completion of Week 2 with the majority of the players **not** being currently registered. Any single players can register (up to 6 weeks) after the start of the competition, at the discretion of the committee.

1.3 TRIAL COMPETITION REGULATIONS

1.3.1 The Committee may implement new regulations(s) on a trial basis.

1.4 PLAYING REGULATIONS

1.4.1 Game duration shall be one hour fifteen minutes (1hr 15min), 07.30pm (19.30) finish, whichever comes first with a minimum of 3 innings

1.4.2 Each team shall have a minimum of seven (7) Fielders on the diamond during the Defensive Innings.

1.4.3 To avoid a forfeit during the normal competition rounds, a team may borrow only enough players from the opposition to allow a minimum number of seven (7) players to take the diamond. If other players from that team arrive at that game, they must replace a borrowed player who is then removed from their line up and can be placed on their original team's line. With two teams from the same club opposing each other – this rule will still apply – this rule will still apply but subject to approval by both Captains and Umpires.

1.4.4 The batting team continues through the batting order until three (3) outs are made. If seven (7) runs are scored before this time the innings is complete for all grades regardless of outs.

1.4.5 The offensive team may declare its innings at bat at any stage of the game.

1.4.6 If the innings has been completed and there are less than five (5) minutes remaining before the specified finish time the game shall be considered regulation.

1.4.7 If the bottom of the innings is started before the last five minutes of the game, the bottom of the innings shall be played out.

1.4.8 If uneven innings result the score reverts back to the previous even innings (even if it does not change the outcome of the game).

1.4.9 Abandoned games shall not be replayed but shall be ruled drawn games.

2 COMPETITION SUMMARY

2.1 SENIOR DIVISIONS

2.1.1 Any player playing in a senior representative competition that has been selected in one of the following teams during the past three (3) years must only play Open Division: -

- (a) DCSA open representative teams (male or female)
- (b) State teams (U16's to Open, male or female)
- (c) State League (male or female)
- (d) Any Australian team or squad (male or female)

2.2 SENIOR WOMEN

2.2.1 Normal Softball rules as specified by SNSW.

2.2.2 SNSW Pitching distances: -

- (a) All other divisions – 40 feet

2.2.3 Shall use a regulation SNSW ball

2.2.4 Minimum age to play softball for Senior Women's is 12 years with parental consent and also accompanied by a parent. This is open for both males and female junior players. A child of 14 and above does not require accompaniment however still requires parental consent to play juniors. Of 14 years and above are eligible to play the social mixed competition.

SENIOR MIXED DIVISION

2.3.1 Normal Softball rules as specified by SNSW

2.3.2 SNSW Pitching distances: -

- (a) Males – 46 feet
- (b) Females – 43 feet

2.4 EXCEPTIONS TO REGULATION 2.3

2.4.1 There must be a minimum of two (2) females, but no more than five (5) males on the diamond or in the batting line-up at any one time. The batting line up will have alternating male and female batters with the females listed at the top of the order.

2.4.2 Each team shall have male/female or female/female pitcher/catcher battery

2.4.3 Shall use a regulation NSW ball

2.4.4 Minimum age to play for Social Mixed is 14 years with parental consent and also to be accompanied by a parent. A child of 16 and above does not require accompaniment however still requires parental consent to play. If a child is less than 14 years but no less than 13 years and is deemed competent by the committee to play in this division they will be restricted to playing in the outfield.

2.4.5 Games shall be one hour fifteen minutes (1hr 15min), 07.30pm (19.30) finish, whichever comes first with a minimum of 3 innings **OR** a lesser time should this competition be played mid-week during Daylight Saving or at the discretion of the Committee.

OPEN MIXED

2.5.1 There must be a minimum of two females but no more than six (6) males on the diamond or in the batting line up at any one time with the females at the top of the order

2.5.2 Games shall be one hour fifteen minutes (1hr 15min), 07.30pm (19.30) finish, whichever comes first with a minimum of 3 innings **OR** a lesser time should this competition be played mid-week during Daylight Saving or at the discretion of the Committee.

2.5.3 Minimum age to play Open Mixed - males must be of 16 years of age with parental consent and females be 18 years both must be deemed competent by the committee to play opens.

3 REGISTRATIONS OF PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

3.1 GENERAL

3.1.1 All persons entering the diamond, either at training or during competition, must be a registered member of a team/club or DCSA Committee.

3.2 MEMBERS ON PERMISSION

3.2.1 Refer to DCSA Administration Regulation

4 ACCREDITATION OF OFFICIALS

4.1 ON FIELD COACHES

4.1.1 Any member that is over the age of 18, is on the score card and deemed competent is allowed to stand in the coaches' box. Anyone in the Coaches box must wear a helmet

5 UNIFORMS

5.1 GENERAL

5.1.1 As per Softball Australia Hot Weather Guidelines.

5.1.2 Sun Protection must be worn by all players.

5.2 EXCEPTION TO REGULATION 5.1

5.2.1 Players may wear team shirts

5.2.2 Metal cleats, cricket spikes and screw-ons' will not be allowed.

5.2.3 Wet weather jackets of any colours may be worn by players/officials in inclement weather.

5.2.4 Players are not permitted on the field wearing jewellery of any kind.

5.3 EXCEPTION TO REGULATION 5.2.4

5.3.1 Medical alerts will be allowed but must be taped.

6 GRADING

6.1 GENERAL

6.1.1 Grading/re-grading is at the discretion of the Committee.

6.1.2 Requests for changes and re-grades to individual member registrations must be lodged with the Registrar. Such changes will not take effect until approved by the Committee at an extraordinary meeting.

6.2 FINES & PENALTIES

6.2.1 If any ineligible player plays in a semi-final, final or grand-final, the team in which they played shall be considered to have lost on a forfeit without notice and to be eliminated from the finals.

6.2.2 All scorebooks to be submitted to DCSA official at the conclusion of the game

7 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

7.1 PRELIMINARY SERIES

7.1.1 No player shall play in a lower grade unless the Committee have approved a re-grading.

7.1.2 When a club fields more than one team in the association, players may be transferred from Ladies division to mixed but not vice versa at the discretion of the Committee.

7.2 FINAL SERIES

7.2.1 To be eligible for any final series games, a player must have played a minimum of four (4) competition games in the preliminary series with their registered team.

7.2.2 In the event of a re grade by the Committee, games played in their original grade will count towards eligibility to play in the final series.

7.2.3 A player is eligible to play in any mixed team participating in semi-finals, finals and grand finals providing that they: -

(a) Have played in games set down for their registered team/s on at least four (4) different fixtures (fixtures shall mean four (4) different competition dates) during the competition which shall NOT include any fixture cancelled due to wet weather AND (b) Providing that such player plays the majority of their available games in their nominated team to qualify for semi-finals. Should they have played the majority of available games in a higher grade, they will automatically be regraded to that higher grade the following season. (c) No player shall be re-graded by the Committee five (5) weeks prior to the semi-finals HOWEVER should a player be found to be either deliberately or inadvertently mis-graded after this period such player shall be automatically suspended from that grade for the remainder of the season

8 PRELIMINARY SERIES MATCH REGULATIONS

8.1 GENERAL

8.1.1 Home Team - the first named team on the draw shall be nominated as the home team, shall occupy first base bench.

8.1.2 Starting Line Up - The defensive team must have seven (7) players on the diamond to start or continue a game. The batting (offensive) team may play with 6 players. A team not having seven (7) players by the turn of the inning, the game shall be declared a forfeit and no points awarded

8.1.3 At 6.15pm the game will start and a horn will hoot. If a defensive team does not have 7 players, then the game will be declared a forfeit

8.1.4 Should a team commence a game with less than nine (9) players, other team members arriving during the game shall be permitted to enter the game in the next position in the batting order.

8.1.5 Vacant positions shall be listed together in the line up with only the first vacancy being declared an automatic out in Open Division only. There will be no automatic outs for the other divisions, e.g. Ladies or mixed.

8.1.6 Match Balls – Two (2) game balls are provided in the umpire's kit. These balls shall be presented by the plate umpire at the start of play.

8.2 THROWN BAT

8.2.1 The batter may be ejected from the game without warning if in the opinion of the plate umpire the bat is thrown with deliberate intent to cause interference or injury to other players, officials, umpires or spectators.

8.2.2 If in the opinion of the plate umpire, a batter releases a bat in a manner which is dangerous, the batter will be:

- ☐ Warned for the first offence (coach/captain notified)
- ☐ Declared out for the second offence (Ball is dead)
- ☐ May be ejected from the game for subsequent offences

8.3 HOME RUN

8.3.1 A ball hit over any boundary fence on the full will be considered an automatic home run.

8.3.2 On all non-enclosed diamonds any ball hit on the full past what is reasonably considered men or women's distance will be awarded a home run. In the event the ball becomes blocked, the ball will be declared dead and the batter will advance one base. Land marks for this home run distance will be indicated in the Fixtures Book on the Diamond Layout Plan.

8.3.3 The ball is alive off all fences and nets in fair territory.

9 FINAL SERIES MATCH REGULATIONS

9.1 GENERAL

9.1.1 The format of the final series will be determined by the Committee.

9.1.2 DCSA is to provide new official leather match balls for the grand final.

9.2 TIE – BREAKER IN A FINAL SERIES

9.2.1 In the event of a tied game at the completion of the innings, a tie breaker shall be played until a result is achieved.

9.2.2 Starting with the top of the next innings and each half innings thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat ninth (9th) in that respective half- innings being played on second base. The player who is running can be substituted in accordance with the substitution rules.

9.3 WEATHER CANCELLATION

9.3.1 In the case of a weather cancellation, the higher ranking team will progress to the next level

10 GROUNDS

10.1 GENERAL

10.1.1 Glass receptacles (bottles, containers etc) will not be permitted on the grounds

10.2 GROUND CONDITION

10.2.1 The fitness of the ground for a day's play shall be decided by a committee consisting of two (2) Committee members and a DCSA grounds person before the commencement of the first game.

10.2.2 If during a game the plate umpire considers a diamond has become unsafe, they are to call time and refer the matter to the grounds person.

10.2.3 If the grounds person considers any diamond unsafe then all games scheduled for that diamond shall be moved until that diamond is again declared safe.

10.2.4 If a game is not a regulation game as per the Competition Regulations the game shall be abandoned.

10.3 DIAMOND MARKING & EQUIPMENT

10.3.1 The home team are to ensure that prior to the start of play each competition day the diamond equipment has been put out (diamond equipment shall be bases, home plate mat, pitching plate and back net) and nets are securely pegged.

10.3.2 At the conclusion of each competition day the Away team is responsible to pull down the diamond, return all equipment to the gear shed and store same in a neat and tidy condition.

10.3.3 The procedure for setting up and pulling down of diamonds will be in the Fixtures Book

10.4 FINES & PENALTIES

10.4.1 Repeated failure of a team to correctly set up or pull down a diamond and return the equipment to its designated area will result in a fine of competition points for each offence.

10.5 NETS/FENCES

10.5.1 Climbing on and throwing balls into nets/fences is not permitted.

10.6 INCIDENT/INJURY

10.6.1 An incident book will be maintained by the executive officer and kept with the first aid equipment. This will be stored in the equipment shed or in the No1 dugout at 1st base during games.

10.6.2 The manager or coach of the team concerned must record all injuries/incidents in their scorebook and be reported to the executive officer.

10.6.3 The injured player/official is to arrange the appropriate insurance forms (Available from a committee member)

10.7 ALCOHOL/DRUGS

10.7.1 No alcohol/drugs are to be consumed on the diamond or in the dugouts.

10.7.2 Any player/official/umpire that is deemed under the influence of alcohol/drugs will not be permitted to participate in any scheduled fixture until they have been cleared by the Committee.

10.8 RUBBISH

10.8.1 Teams are to clean up their rubbish after each game.

10.9 WEATHER

10.9.1 Refer to Softball Australia Hot weather policy

10.9.2 In the event of weather cancellations, the DCSA Grounds Person will contact a Committee member and cancellations for all weather conditions shall be sent out to all team captains to communicate to their players by 5.00 pm for Twilight Competitions.

10.9.3 Umpires may suspend or abandon play if conditions appear to be unsafe and their decision shall be final and binding on all registered players.

10.9.4 In the event that a game is abandoned (or suspended and not resumed) the game shall be deemed to be a scoreless draw.

10.9.5 When part of a round is washed out, all games in the division/s affected will be deemed to be washed out unless the Board reschedules the games. Where the round is deemed to be weather affected the game will be declared a scoreless draw.

10.10 SMOKING

10.10.1 Smoking is **NOT** permitted on Jubilee Oval. Smoking is permitted outside the park boundary which is outside the fenced area.

11 SCORING AND RESULT SHEETS

11.1 OFFICIAL RESULT SHEET

11.1.1 Sufficient result sheets for all teams entered will be provided at the beginning of the game.

11.1.2 Coaches and captains must print in block letter their first and last names and sign the result sheet prior to commencement of the game

11.1.3 Umpires and team scorers are to print their first and last names in block letters and sign the result sheet at the conclusion of the game and verify the score

11.1.14 The date shall be recorded in the top right hand corner of the result sheet

11.1.5 The plate umpire is to deliver the completed and signed result sheet to a central collection point as nominated by the Committee.

11.2 POINTS AWARDED

11.2.1 Win - 3 Points

11.2.2. Team receiving forfeit - 3 Points

11.2.3 Bye - 2 Points

11.2.4 Draw – 2 Points

11.2.5 Abandoned game – 2 Points

11.2.6 Loss – 1 Point

11.2.7 Forfeiting team – 0 Points

12 FORFEITS

12.1 GENERAL

12.1.1 Any team who forfeits five (5) times will automatically be withdrawn from the competition

12.1.2 Any team may appeal to the Board in regards to Competition regulations 14.1.1

12.2 NOTIFIED FORFEITS – PRIOR TO 24 HOURS OF FIXTURE

12.2.1 A team must notify the DCSA Registrar or the executive officer who will then notify the opposing team.

12.2.2 A team who receives a notified forfeit is not required to lodge a Result Card/ lineup pad with the DCSA Registrar.

12.2.3 The registrar will allocate one (1) game played for each registered player of the team receiving the forfeit.

12.3 FORFEIT WITHOUT NOTICE – LESS THAN 24 HOURS OF FIXTURE

12.3.1 The team who receives the forfeit without notice is to advise the DCSA Registrar or Executive Officer by Result Card/ Lineup Pad, verbally or by other means on or before the day.

12.3.2 Confirmation of the forfeit without notice is also to be advised to the DCSA Registrar or Executive Officer by the forfeiting team.

12.3.3 In the event of a joint forfeit without notice both teams must advise the DCSA Registrar or Executive Officer.

13 PROTESTS (UMPIRES' DECISIONS IN MATCHES)

13.1 GENERAL

13.1.1 When a coach/captain is not satisfied with an umpire's interpretation of a playing rule (either a Softball Australia rule or DCSA competition regulation) they are entitled to lodge a protest. If this occurs, one of two procedures will be followed as set out in regulations 13.2 and 13.3 below.

13.1.2 Protests will not be accepted if they are based solely on a judgment call of the umpire.

13.1.3 No protests will be accepted if the protesting team subsequently wins the game.

13.2 PROTESTS – AT THE GAME

13.2.1 If the Umpire in Charge (or his appointed deputy) is close at hand:

(a) The UIC (Umpire in Charge) hears from the protesting coach or captain. While this is happening, the plate umpire should call all umpires in ready for the UIC.

(b) UIC hears from umpires on game, and a decision is made.

(c) Decision is conveyed to the protesting coach by UIC.

(d) If necessary, UIC explains situation to opposing coach and the game continues

(e) If the protest is handed to the Executive Officer the UIC or the board member immediately after the game, every endeavour will be made to hear the protest as soon as possible.

13.3 PROTESTS – AFTER THE GAME

13.3.1 If the UIC (or his appointed deputy) is not close at hand the protest will be heard by the board:

(a) Protest is to be noted in both scorebooks prior to the next pitch. The following information must be shown:

☒ Exact time protests was lodged (according to the umpire)

☒ What rule is involved

☒ Number of outs

☒ Position of any runners on base

☒ Count on the batter if applicable

(b) The game (being played under protest) will then continue to a result.

(c) The protesting coach or captain shall within 48 hours submit the protest to the executive officer or the UIC IN WRITING. This must contain all the information set out above, as well as the name of the opposing team, grade of game, names of umpires officiating and a written version of what happened in the game to cause the protest. Scorebooks must accompany any protest.

(d) If the protest is handed to the Executive Officer the UIC or the board member immediately after the game, every endeavour will be made to hear the protest as soon as possible.

13.3.2 The Managers, Scorers and Coaches of both teams as required by the Board must attend the protest hearing, along with the Plate Umpire and any base umpire directly involved in the matter under protest

14 DISPUTES (BREACHES OF COMPETITION REGULATIONS)

14.1 GENERAL

14.1.1 Refers to Competition Regulations only.

14.1.2 Disputes relating to the interpretation of the competition regulations must be lodged on the Disputes form.

14.1.3 Disputes will be heard by the Committee and the decision of the Committee concerning such a breach shall be final.

14.1.4 Hearings shall be held prior to its next scheduled fixture and the decision made notified to the team submitting the breach

15 CODES OF CONDUCT AND ZERO TOLERANCE

15.1 GENERAL

15.1.1 DCSA has adopted the Codes of Conduct and Codes of Ethics as specified by Softball Australia. Any person acting outside of these Codes of Conduct will be subject to penalties which may be imposed by the Committee in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of DCSA. These Codes are on the Softball Australia website. [www.softball.org.au/Policies/Codes of Behaviour](http://www.softball.org.au/Policies/Codes%20of%20Behaviour).

15.1.2 Any player/official who is ejected from a game or reported for misconduct or breach of rules will face the Committee at a time specified by the Committee.

15.1.3 The team captain will be notified by the end of that day's play of a report being lodged with the Committee.

15.1.4 It is the responsibility of the team captain to notify any ejected person of their attendance at the tribunal as set out in Regulation 15.1.3.

15.1.5 The umpires present at any game where an ejection takes place must fill in the appropriate report form available from the UIC immediately following the completion of the game. The reporting umpires should attend at the independent tribunal as per regulation 15.1.2

16 UMPIRES

16.1 GENERAL

16.1.1 All umpires must be a registered member of a club or association within Australia.

16.1.2 All umpires will be required to wear a minimum uniform and enclosed footwear. Shorts may be worn in lieu of long pants.

16.1.3 No junior under fourteen (14) years of age, unless accredited (including Association) is to plate or base umpire a senior game.

16.1.4 Any junior under fourteen (14) years of age who is in the process of being assessed for a Level one (1) umpire NSWWSUA umpiring accreditation may apply to be Committee of levelled umpires or the UIC for exemption to regulation 16.1.3

16.2 NUMBER OF UMPIRES REQUIRED ON GAMES

16.2.1 In all senior games a minimum of one (1) plate umpire is required if available.

16.2.2 Any exceptions to this regulation must be approved by the Committee.

16.3 FINAL SERIES

16.3.1 Umpires for the final series will be allocated by the Committee in conjunction with the UIC

16.3.2 All umpires will be required to wear uniform as per SNSWSUA

17 EXECUTIVE OFFICER OR BOARD MEMBER (OR THEIR NOMINEE)

17.1 GENERAL

17.1.1 A Board member will receipt any moneys paid to DCSA.