

Media Information Package

SOFTBALL



- A. HISTORY OF THE SPORT**
- B. CANADA GAMES SPORT HISTORY AND PAST RESULTS**
- C. NUMBER OF ATHLETES ON TEAM**
- D. EVENT FORMAT AND RULES OF PLAY**
- E. EQUIPMENT AND TERMINOLOGY**
- F. AGE ELIGIBILITY**
- G. JUDGING / SCORING SYSTEM**
- H. PLAYOFF AND TIE-BREAKING FORMAT**
- I. TECHNOLOGY OF SPORT**
- J. ROLE OF OFFICIALS IN SPORT**
- K. FACILITY DESCRIPTION**
- L. SPORT MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND STRUCTURE**
- M. NOTABLE PAST ATHLETES/ALUMNI**
- N. NOTABLE CANADIAN RECORDS**
- O. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

A. HISTORY OF THE SPORT

The sport 'softball' that we know today is said to have begun - indoors, actually - in 1887 on Thanksgiving Day in Chicago. A group of men had gathered together at Chicago's Farragut Boat Club for the Harvard-Yale football game. There were a lot of bets taking place, and once Yale had emerged victorious, the debts were paid and celebrating began. During the merriment, one of the happy Yale boosters picked up a boxing glove and - playfully - threw it at one of the Harvard fans. The latter noticed the glove coming at him, and picked up a stick and swung it at the glove, hitting it clear over the Yale fan's head. A reporter from the Chicago Board of Trade, George Hancock, was watching this unfold and thought that it could be used as a game. So, he tied up the boxing glove (with its own strings) into a sphere, took a broomstick handle, and, using chalk, marked lines on the floor. That night a game took place with 80 runs scored, and from there our sport had been born. Hancock set up rules and had his friends over to his house every Saturday night to play this new game. From there it spread all over Chicago. The first rulebook is said to have been issued (by Hancock) in 1889.

In 1895, Lewis Rober Sr. moved the game outside in a vacant lot outside of the Minneapolis, Minnesota firehouse he worked at so the firefighters could get some exercise while waiting for an alarm. Leagues began to be formed and the buildup for the game spread all over. It was known at that time as 'kitten league ball,' which was later shortened to 'kitten ball.' In 1922 the name 'kitten ball' was changed to 'diamond ball.' At different times, the name of the game also would include 'mush ball' and 'pumpkin ball.' It wasn't until 1926 that the term 'softball' was used, when Walter Hakanson of the YMCA of Denver, Colorado conceived of it while attending a meeting in Greeley, Colorado to form the Colorado Amateur Softball Association. There have been many variations of the game over the years as well. In 1946, the National Fastball League was established and was considered to be the top male fastpitch league to ever be put together.

Softball continued to spread to the rest of the world, with perhaps its biggest push coming from American servicemen playing and teaching the game on the fields of World War II. In 1952 the first meeting was held for the International Softball Federation (ISF), which would govern the sport around the world.

The first world championship in international play took place in 1965, when women's teams from five countries competed in Australia. One year later, the first Men's World Championship would be played (in Mexico). World (fast pitch) championships for junior men and junior women were first played in 1981, and a Men's World Slow Pitch Championship debuted in 1987.

In 1991, women's fast-pitch softball was selected to debut as a medal sport at the 1996 Olympic Summer Games in Atlanta, Georgia. In 2001 a World Cup competition was introduced for 16-and-under girls from the United States and around the world.

B. CANADA GAMES SPORT HISTORY AND PAST RESULTS

The 1969 Canada Summer Games in Halifax-Dartmouth were the inaugural Canada Summer Games and included men's and women's softball. 2009 will be the first year men's softball is not on the program.

PAST RESULTS

	1969	1973	1977	1981	1985	1989		1993		1997		2001		2005	
	C	C	C	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
AB	3	3	10	11	2	7	5	7	6	8	4	9	2	7	3
BC	2	2	2	4	7	9	2	6	3	2	1	4	3	2	1
MB	4	7	5	5	10	3	3	10	4	5	3	7	5	6	4
NB	7	6	9	8	3	8	4	8	5	9	7	10	7	10	10
NL	7	8	7	9	8	4	7	4	10	3	10	5	10	3	9
NWT	11	11	11	10	11	11	11	11	-	11	-	-	-	-	-
NS	5	9	8	1	5	5	9	2	7	6	8	2	8	4	7
ON	1	4	3	2	1	1	1	5	1	1	2	1	1	1	2
PEI	9	10	6	6	9	10	9	3	9	10	9	8	9	9	8



QC	10	5	1	7	6	2	7	9	8	7	5	6	4	5	6
SK	6	1	4	3	4	6	5	1	2	4	6	3	6	8	5
YK	12	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

C = Mixed M = Male F = Female

C. NUMBER OF ATHLETES ON TEAM

Each province can have 15 females per team.

D. EVENT FORMAT AND RULES OF PLAY

2009 Softball Canada official playing rules for the midget age category will be followed.

Seeding for Competition:

Seeding is based on the results of the Midget Canadian Championships in the year prior to the Canada Summer Games. When a Province/Territory does not compete in the Midget Canadian Championship in the year prior to a Canada Summer Games, their seeding will be determined by their placing in the last Canada Summer Games. They will be placed after the last determined position from the Midget Canadian Championship process.

Ten Teams or Less

In the event of ten (10) teams or less, there will only be one section which will play a complete round robin competition. After the round robin, the top four teams will compete in a page playoff format. The top two teams will have two "lives" in the playoffs and the next two will have a single "life". In the event of a tie between two or more teams, tie-breaking criteria will be used to determine all rankings. No tie-breaking games will be played.

Playoffs:

- Game #1 1 vs 2
- Game #2 3 vs 4
- Game #3 Loser Game #1 vs Winner Game #2
- Game #4 Winner Game #1 vs Winner Game #3

E. EQUIPMENT AND TERMINOLOGY

Equipment:

Ball – The ball is probably the most important piece of equipment used in softball, but unlike the name states, the ball is not soft. The ball is round with a circumference of 30.2cm (12 inches) and a weight of 166.5g (6 oz). It's also optic yellow in color with red stitches to make it easier for the batter to see.

Bat – The bat is probably the most fun piece of equipment because everyone loves hitting the ball with it. Bats are usually made of very high grade graphite, carbon, magnesium, ceramic, or some combination. They can be no longer than 34 inches (86.4cm) and weigh no more than 38 oz. (1077g).

Batting helmet – A batting helmet is used by the batter and all baserunners to protect themselves from any stray balls that might either be thrown or pitched poorly.

Catcher's gear – Catcher's gear is only worn by the catcher and is to protect that player from pitched or batted balls since pitched balls can travel at or near 112km an hour (70 mph).

Glove – A glove is used by every fielder in a defensive position. They are made of leather and have a pocket which is the area between the thumb and first finger that allows for the ball to be caught.

Media Information Package Softball



Terminology:

Backstop – the fence behind the batter's box (the umpire stands behind the catcher with his/her back to the backstop)

Ball – as called by the umpire, a pitch that does not enter the strike zone in flight and is not struck at by the batter

Base on balls (BB) – also called a “walk”; the award of first base to a batter who, during his/her time at bat, receives four pitches outside the strike zone; pitchers may also issue an intentional walk without throwing those four pitches, in which case the umpire is notified and he/she awards the batter first base

Batter's box – a rectangular area beside home plate where the batter must stand to hit the pitch

Batting order – the official list giving the sequence in which members of the (offensive) team must come to bat

Bullpen – the area in foul territory adjacent to the outfield where pitchers wait and warm-up during the game, except the pitcher currently being used in the game

Bunt – an attempt by the batter to tap the ball instead of swinging at it; the bat is lowered to (approximately) chest height, parallel to the ground

Change-up – a pitch thrown deceptively slow to surprise the batter

Curveball – a pitch thrown with a rotation that makes the ball curve

Designated hitter (DH) – a player who bats in place of a designated teammate in the batting lineup

Designated Player (DP) – a player designated to bat for any starting player, without otherwise affecting the status of player(s) in the game. Unlike the DH, this player may play a fielding position for any player in the game.

Earned run – a run for which the pitcher is held accountable

Fair ball – a ball hit into the field of play

Fielder's choice – the act of a defensive player who handles a fair ground ball and, instead of throwing to first base to put out the batter, throws to another base in an attempt to put out the preceding runner.

Fly ball – a ball hit in the air

Forceout – an out made when a baserunner, forced to run because another teammate must run to the base being occupied, cannot reach the next base safely

Foul ball – a batted ball that settles on foul territory

Foul lines – the two straight lines extending from home plate past the outside edges of first and third bases to the outfield fence.

Foul tip – a batted ball that goes sharply and directly from the bat to the catcher's hands and is legally caught. It is not a foul tip unless caught, and any foul tip that is caught is a strike, and the ball is in play. It is not a catch if it is a rebound, unless the ball has first touched the catcher's glove or hand.

Illegal pitch – an act by the pitcher not allowed by rule, with or without a runner on base; if there are runners on base, each advances one base. In every case the batter is credited with one ball.

Interference – an act by a catcher that hinders or prevents a batter from hitting a pitch. On any such interference, the ball is dead and the batter is awarded first base.

Line drive – a ball hit sharply in a straight line, roughly parallel to the ground

Passed ball – a pitch that should have been held or controlled by the catcher

Pinch hitter – a player who bats in place of a teammate

Pinch runner – a player who enters the game at a base to run for another player

Rise ball – a technique used by the pitcher so that the ball goes up as it reaches the batter

Rundown – a baserunner who finds themselves in the baseline between the base they were on and the subsequent base that they're trying to advance to or retreat back from in an effort to not be put out

Slap – performed by mostly left-handed hitters, it is an attempt to hit a ground ball with a controlled short, chopping manner (rather than with a full swing). A slap is not considered a bunt.

Time – term used by the umpire to order the suspension of play

Utility player – a player that may appear at more than one fielding position or strictly as a designated hitter

Wild pitch – a pitch so high, so low, or so wide of home plate that it cannot be handled with ordinary effort by the catcher

F. AGE ELIGIBILITY

Athletes must be under 19 years of age as of January 1, 2009. (Born in 1990 or later)

G. JUDGING / SCORING SYSTEM

Mercy Rule

A mercy rule shall result in the conclusion of a game when:

- 1) In all categories, games will end after 2 1/2, 3, 3 1/2 or 4 complete innings of play if there is a difference of fifteen (15) runs.
- 2) In all categories, games will end after 4 1/2, 5, 5 1/2 or 6 innings of play if there is a difference of seven (7) runs.

Points: Win – 2 Loss – 0

H. PLAYOFF AND TIE-BREAKING FORMAT

Provincial/Territorial Ranking (Flag Points):

Following final rankings, points for the Games Flag will be distributed as follows:

1 st place: 10 points	6 th place: 5 points	11 th place: 1 ½ points
2 nd place: 9 points	7 th place: 4 points	12 th place: 1 point
3 rd place: 8 points	8 th place: 3 points	13 th place: ½ point
4 th place: 7 points	9 th place: 2 ½ points	
5 th place: 6 points	10 th place: 2 points	

Tie-Breaking Rule – Competition:

The Tie Breaker Rule shall be used in all tie games after seven (7) full innings have been played. All games will be played until a winner is declared. No ties occur in softball, and if for any reason a game is stopped, it shall resume from the exact point it left off.

Provincial/Territorial Ranking – Tie-Breaking (Flag Points):

Should ties occur between/among the provinces/territories, division standings or rankings will be decided according to the following priorities:

Won/lost records;

- 1) If 2 teams tied, winner of game between tied teams;
- 2) If 3 or more teams tied, won/lost record between tied teams only;
 - a. If teams still tied within 3), then Least Runs Against in games between tied teams only;
 - i. If two teams tied with Least Runs Against, revert to 2);
 - b. If more than two teams are still tied after i), then Most Runs For in games between tied teams;
 - c. If two teams tied with Most Runs For, revert to 2);
- 3) If still tied, positions will be settled by a coin toss;

* When using criteria only 4, 5, 6, etc. FULL innings in 4½, 5½, 6½, etc. inning games, are to be used.

I. TECHNOLOGY OF SPORT

Softball Canada sets national standards for the safe, fun, fair enjoyment of the sport. This includes the setting of rules, bat and ball approval programs and injury research.

Softball Canada follows the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) bat standards.

J. ROLE OF OFFICIALS IN SPORT

The Canadian officiating program is recognized as the worldwide leader in training and performance. Over 3,000 umpires are registered with Softball Canada and activities include the certification process (Levels 1-5), specialized learning materials and publications and professional development opportunities at all levels.

K. FACILITY DESCRIPTION

Alberton Memorial Field

This venue will host Softball in Week One and is located in the town of Alberton, west of Summerside, and features one lighted softball field with concession stand.

École Évangéline Softball Field, Abrams-Village

This Week One Softball venue is located just behind École Évangéline in Abram-Village, 20 minutes west of Summerside. The facility features one softball field, change rooms and washrooms in the adjacent school, and parking for 120 vehicles.

Lions Club Field, Kensington

Lions Club Field is situated in the centre of the Town of Kensington which is 15 minutes east of Summerside. There are two fields at this location, one of which will be used for Softball in Week One. Change rooms and washrooms are located in the adjacent arena.

O'Leary Softball Field

The community of O'Leary is located 35 minutes west of Summerside. A new softball field will be built for Softball in Week One.

VIV Field, Summerside

This ball field will feature softball during Week One and is complete with lighting, dugouts, concession stand, change rooms, fully enclosed fencing and seating for over 1,500 spectators. Located at Queen Elizabeth Park in the heart of Summerside, VIV Field has hosted numerous national and international softball championships.

L. SPORT MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND STRUCTURE

Softball is one of the largest participation sports in Canada. Over 200,000 players enjoy the sport in registered Fast-Pitch, Slo-Pitch and Orthodox leagues across the country. Many thousands more learn the game in schools across the country and are introduced to the game through the very successful Learn to Play Program.

The scope of the game ranges from the 5 year old child just taking up the sport right to the 65 year old grandparent enjoying a friendly game of Slo-Pitch. In between there are a variety of opportunities that take the sport all the way to the International Level.

Softball Canada just recently released its very own Long Term Player Development model, which will be used as the central document for all decisions made within the sport in the future.

One of the great strengths of softball is that it has become an international game. Currently over 129 countries belong to the International Softball Federation (ISF). The international governing body of softball is the ISF (International Softball Federation) which in turns has over 129 member countries (organizing bodies). The governing body in Canada is Softball Canada, which itself has 13 provincial/territorial members.

M. NOTABLE PAST ATHLETES/ALUMNI

- Sheena Lawrick (2004, 2008 Olympian – Team Alberta, 2001)
- Danielle Lawrie (2008 Olympian – Team BC, 2005)
- Robin Mackin (2008 Olympian – Team Ontario, 2005)
- Jennifer Salling (2008 Olympian – Team BC, 2005)
- Jennifer Yee (2008 Olympian – Team BC, 2005)

N. NOTABLE CANADIAN RECORDS

Canadian teams have experienced tremendous success at the international level, bringing home numerous medals. Our Men's program has consistently generated top 3 results while our Women's program has been a consistent top 8 finisher.

O. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, August 16, 2009

Time	Event Stage	Game No.	Participants	Venue / Site
13:00	Preliminary	1	BC v NL	Alberton
13:00	Preliminary	2	AB v NS	Summerside
15:00	Preliminary	3	MB v NB	Alberton
17:00	Preliminary	4	ON v PE	Summerside
19:00	Preliminary	5	SK v QC	Summerside

Monday, August 17, 2009

Time	Event Stage	Game No.	Participants	Venue / Site
10:00	Preliminary	6	NB v NL	Summerside
10:00	Preliminary	7	BC v PE	Kensington
12:00	Preliminary	8	AB v SK	Summerside
12:00	Preliminary	9	NS v ON	Kensington
14:00	Preliminary	10	MB v QC	Summerside

Media Information Package Softball



16:00	Preliminary	11	AB v NL	Summerside
16:00	Preliminary	12	NS v PE	Alberton
18:00	Preliminary	13	ON v QC	Summerside
18:00	Preliminary	14	MB v SK	Kensington
20:00	Preliminary	15	BC v NB	Summerside

Tuesday, August 18, 2009

Time	Event Stage	Game No.	Participants	Venue / Site
10:00	Preliminary	16	QC v NL	Kensington
10:00	Preliminary	17	ON v SK	O'Leary
10:00	Preliminary	18	MB v PE	Summerside
12:00	Preliminary	19	NS v NB	Summerside
12:00	Preliminary	20	AB v BC	Kensington
14:00	Preliminary	21	ON v NL	Summerside
16:00	Preliminary	22	QC v PE	Summerside
18:00	Preliminary	23	SK v NB	Summerside
18:00	Preliminary	24	MB v AB	Kensington
20:00	Preliminary	25	BC v NS	Summerside

Wednesday, August 19, 2009

Time	Event Stage	Game No.	Participants	Venue
10:00	Preliminary	26	QC v NS	Evangeline
10:00	Preliminary	27	ON v MB	Summerside
10:00	Preliminary	28	BC v SK	Kensington
12:00	Preliminary	29	AB v NB	Summerside
14:00	Preliminary	30	PE v NL	Summerside
16:00	Preliminary	31	BC v QC	Summerside
18:00	Preliminary	32	ON v NB	Evangeline
18:00	Preliminary	33	SK v NS	O'Leary
18:00	Preliminary	34	MB v NL	Summerside
20:00	Preliminary	35	AB v PE	Summerside

Thursday, August 20, 2009

Time	Event Stage	Game No.	Participants	Venue
10:00	Preliminary	36	BC v MB	Kensington
10:00	Preliminary	37	ON v AB	O'Leary
12:00	Preliminary	38	SK v PE	Kensington
12:00	Preliminary	39	NS v NL	Summerside
14:00	Preliminary	40	QC v NB	Evangeline
14:00	Preliminary	41	BC v ON	Summerside
16:00	Preliminary	42	MB v NS	Summerside
18:00	Preliminary	43	AB v QC	Kensington



Media Information Package Softball



18:00	Preliminary	44	SK v NL	Summerside
20:00	Preliminary	45	NB v PE	Summerside

Friday, August 21, 2009

Time	Event Stage	Game No.	Participants	Venue / Site
10:00	Play - Off	46	1st v 2nd	Summerside
13:00	Play - Off	47	3rd v 4th	Summerside
18:00	Bronze	48	W/G 47 v L/P 46	Summerside