

18

SLO-PITCH



CHAPTER 18 - SLO-PITCH

1. TEAM COMPOSITION

- 1.1. A team shall be composed of a minimum of twelve (12) participants and a maximum of fifteen (15) participants. One (1) additional spot may be awarded to teams with a [qualified coach](#) to a maximum of sixteen (16) participants.
- 1.2. Each base (for Regionals) or region (for Nationals) may enter one (1) men's and one (1) women's slo-pitch team in the CAF Slo-pitch Championship. The regional team shall be declared champion at the CAF Regional Championship.
- 1.3. The regional team may augment three (3) players from another B/W/U within the region who have the approval of their Commanding Officer.

2. OFFICIALS

- 2.1. A three (3) person official system will be used through the entire championship when feasible.
- 2.2. Minor and/or officials that are not officiating on the field will assist as off-field officials, scorekeepers, and/or timekeepers throughout the championship as required by the host base.

3. RULES

- 3.1. Play shall be conducted in accordance with the current rules of the [Softball Canada \(SBC\) Rulebook](#) with the exception of [para 6](#) listed below.
- 3.2. As per SBC rules the following ball/strike count will apply;
 - a. Men 1 - 1; and
 - b. Women 1 – 1.
- 3.3. This paragraph relates to the play format for the CAF Slo-Pitch Championships, which shall include the following rules where:
 - a. Home Run Rule Limit: A limitation shall be applied to the number of over the fence home runs that may be credited to each team in a game. The rule shall be applied as follows:
 - A batter hitting an over the fence home run in excess of the limit shall be ruled out. The ball is dead, no runs will be scored and all runners must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.
 - Any ball that goes over the fence in fair territory after being touched by a defensive player shall be a four (4) base award and not considered a home run.
 - The home run limit per team per game shall be seven (7).

4. SUSPENSIONS

- 4.1. The minimum suspensions listed below will be applied when the following infractions occur during a Championship:

Rule	Description	Penalty
4-1	Players and/or coaches using language or other type behaviour that is reflecting negatively on the game, players, umpires or spectators. (Unsportsmanlike conduct to include throwing of equipment in a manner that could cause harm to others)	Offending player or coach is ejected from game, plus one game
4-5	Illegal Extra Player (or use of)	Offending player is ejected from game
4-6	Illegal re-entry (Appeal play)	Illegal player and coach are ejected from the game
4-8	Continuing to dispute calls made by officials	Ejection from game
5-9	Additional charged offensive conference	Coach ejected from game
6-4	Defensive player deliberately taking a position in order to distract the batter.	Defensive player ejected from game
6-11	Illegal pitcher returns to game	Pitcher is ejected from game
7-1	Continuation to use non-approved warm up bats or like material	Player is ejected from game
7-6	Batter entering the batter's box or is discovered using an altered bat or non-approved bat	Batter ejected from game
8-7	Fielder obstructs with a fake tag (2nd time for team) <i>after a team warning has been issued</i>	Fielder is ejected from game
8-9	Offensive runner deliberately makes <u>contact</u> into a defensive player	Runner ejected from game, plus one game
10-9	Refusal to be removed or ejected from game	Forfeiture of game
n/a	Fighting or physical contact (non-accidental) between players, coaches or officials.	Offending player or coach is ejected from game, plus one game

4.2. Reference [Chapter 5 – Suspensions](#), for infractions that may be applied to any sport.

5. CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

5.1. Home vs Away

- a. Home team will be identified by wearing dark uniforms and visiting team will be identified by wearing light uniforms;
- b. On the schedule, the home team will be listed second. (i.e. 1 vs 3, team 3 is home team); and
- c. Home team will take the dugout on the third base line, the visiting team will take the dugout on the first base line;

5.2. There shall be a two (2) hour time limit for all round-robin games or;

5.3. Seven (7) innings will constitute a legal game, except if tied after seven (7) innings. The game must be played until a winner is declared with the international tiebreaker rule coming into effect in the eighth inning.

5.4. Practice

- a. If practice fields are available, there will be a thirty (30) minute warm-up prior to each game. The visiting team will warm-up on the field first, the home team will warm-up on the field second.
- b. If practice fields are not available, there we will have a five (5) minute infield/outfield warm-up prior to the game. The visiting team will go outfield, followed by the home team.

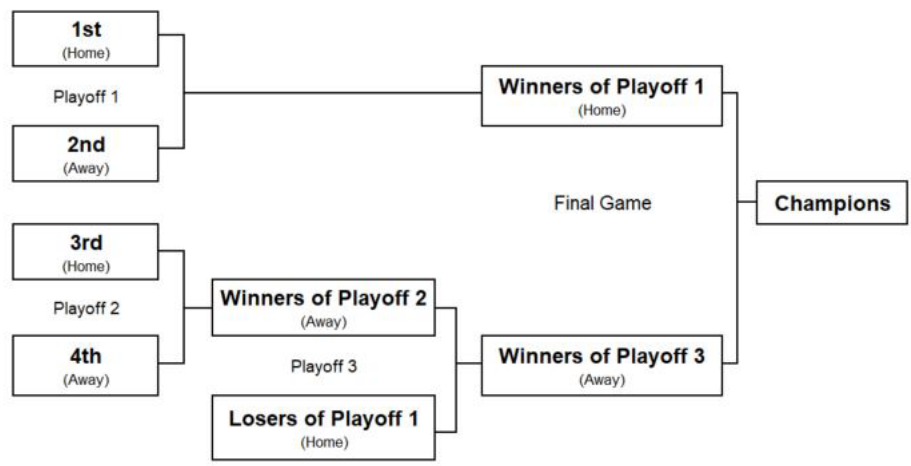
5.5. Mercy Rule:

- a. Games will end after 2 ½ innings of play if the home team is winning by twenty-five (25) or more runs or three (3) complete innings if the visiting team is winning by twenty-five (25) or more runs.
- b. Games will end after 3 ½ innings of play if the home team is winning by twenty (20) or more runs or four (4) complete innings if the visiting team is winning by twenty (20) or more runs.
- c. Games will end after 4 ½ innings of play if the home team is winning by fifteen (15) or more runs or five (5) complete innings if the visiting team is winning by fifteen (15) or more runs.

5.6. The CAF Championships shall be conducted as a single round-robin tournament, followed by a modified page system playoff. The final team standings from the round-robin will determine play in the playoffs.

5.7. Home field status will be given to the team that finished higher in the round-robin for quarterfinals and semi-finals. Final home field will be given to the winner of playoff one (1).

5.8. Upon completion of the round-robin, three (3) play-off games will be played. Playoff one (1) will consist of the first (1st) place team vs the second (2nd) place team with the winning team advancing directly to the final game. Playoff two (2) will consist of the third (3rd) place team vs the fourth (4th) place team. Playoff three (3) will consist of the winner of playoff two (2) playing the losers of playoff one (1). The winners of the playoff one (1) and the winners of playoff three (3) will advance to the final game.



6. TIE-BREAKING PROCEDURES

6.1. Ties in the final round-robin standings that affect advancement to the playoffs shall be broken as follows:

- a. If two (2) teams are tied, the winner of the game between those two (2) teams during the round-robin shall advance to and/or be awarded the higher position, among the tied teams, in the playoff round;
- b. If three (3) or more teams are tied, the team with the best win/loss record, in the round-robin games played between the tied teams shall advance to and/or be awarded the higher position, among the tied teams, in the playoff round;

Note: In order to use criteria [6.1.b](#), all subject tied teams must have played each other and one team must have defeated all the teams they are tied with to be ranked higher. The remaining teams then go to next criteria with no reverting back:

- c. If a tie remains, the difference plus or minus of total runs scored in games played between the tied teams, with a limit of fifteen (15) plus or minus per game allowed. The team with the best run differential shall advance to and/or be awarded the higher position, among the tied teams, in the playoff round.

Note: When using criteria [6.1.c](#) if game ended prior to completing an inning the scores will be used at the last complete inning.

- d. If the tie still remains, the total runs scored in all games in the round robin will be used. The team with the best bases touched differential shall advance to and/or be awarded the higher position, among the tied teams in the playoff round.
- e. If the tie still remains, the team with the least (fewest) amount of runs scored against in all games in the round robin will be used. The team with the best bases touched differential shall advance to and/or be awarded the higher position, among the tied teams in the playoff round.
- f. If a tie still remains, the jury of appeal in consultation with the chief official shall determine the most appropriate method of breaking the tie (i.e. extra game toss of coin, etc.)

Note: When using the criteria in paragraph [6.1.c](#), [6.1.d](#), [6.1.e](#), or [6.1.f](#) for six (6) and a half inning games go back to six (6) full innings.

- g. After the completion of step [6.1.a](#), [6.1.b](#), [6.1.c](#), [6.1.d](#), [6.1.e](#), or [6.1.f](#), which determines the seeding / ranking of a team, if necessary, repeat the tie-breaking procedures from [6.1.a](#).

7. EQUIPMENT

- 7.1. The official ball for the CAF Championships shall be in accordance with the [Softball Canada rules](#).

- 7.2. All members must wear the following equipment listed in the table below:

MANDATORY	RECOMMENDED
Players (on base / on deck)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Double ear flapped helmet shall be worn properly, while running the bases, at bat, and on deck to bat; <i>Note: Metal cleats are strictly forbidden</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pelvic protector;
Pitchers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitchers must wear a helmet & face mask when on the pitcher's mound; and <i>Note: Metal cleats are strictly forbidden</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pelvic protector; Pitchers are permitted to wear protective shin guards on the outside of their clothing only while on defense.
Catchers	
<p><i>Note: Metal cleats are strictly forbidden</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catchers are permitted to wear a mask, throat protector & helmet. An extended wire protection attached to the mask can be worn in lieu of the throat protector. The ice hockey goalie style face mask is approved for use by catchers, provided the model being used has not been disapproved by Softball Canada because of

	failure to meet safety standards and/or lack of protection of the throat area; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Catchers are permitted to wear shin guards on the outside of their uniform but only while on defense.
Officials	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nil

7.3. Any physical alteration to protective equipment is prohibited;

7.4. Bats:

- a. Only Bats approved by Softball Canada, [USSSA Bat Certification Program](#) (the logo for USSSA is known as the “Thumbprint” and shown to the right) and/or the CAF Sports Office will be eligible for use in the CAF Slo-pitch.
- b. Due to the increase of allowable bat standards available to players at the CAF Championships, teams will be limited to 15 approved bats at any one time.



7.5. Strike Mat / Bases:

- a. The strike mat shall be 2’(0.61m) x 3’(0.91m) rubber mat with a “V” shaped cut-out 17” across the top and 12” on the other two sides, centered 3 ½” from the edges of the mat. This mat shall be placed behind the plate so the “V” cut-out fits around the back point of the plate.
- b. All bases will be breakaway bases, in addition to the double base (Safe-base) used at first base for all games.

8. INJURY PREVENTION

8.1. It is important that injury prevention strategies are reviewed by all members of the team, coaches, officials, athletic trainers, and organizers. Please refer to [Chapter 6](#) for further injury prevention.

9. AWARDS

- 9.1. At the end of each National Championship game, the Jury of Appeal will select two (2) game MVP’s, one (1) from each team.
- 9.2. The winning teams, in the Men’s and Women’s competition shall be awarded a banner and a trophy. Individual medals shall be presented to the members of the winning and runner-up team.
- 9.3. At the end of the National Championships, the Jury of Appeal will select a Tournament MVP for each of the Men and Women Championships.
- 9.4. At the end of the National Championship, each team will select a Team MVP for each of the Men and Women Championships.
- 9.5. At the end of the National Championship, each team, men and women, will nominate a player that has exhibited the highest level of sportsmanship including ethical & responsible behaviour, fair play, integrity and respect combined with a high standard of playing ability. The Jury of Appeal/Chief Official will select the recipients based on the nominations brought forward.

9.6. See awards breakdown in the table below;

<u>Awards / Recognition</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Nationals</u>	<u>Regionals</u>
Trophy	2	✓	TBD by regional constitution
Championship Banner	2	✓	TBD by regional constitution
Gold Medals	32	✓	✓
Silver Medals	32	✓	✓
Tournament MVP	2	✓	✓
Team MVP	8	✓	n/a
Game MVP	2 / game	✓	TBD by regional constitution
Sportsmanship	2	✓	TBD by regional constitution
Officials	11	✓	TBD by regional constitution
Trainers	3	✓	TBD by regional constitution
Jury of Appeal	6	✓	TBD by regional constitution
VIP's / Patrons	1	✓	TBD by regional constitution