

SOFTBALL SOUTH AFRICA



TECHNICAL and PROCEDURAL CODE

Prepared by the Technical Division of S.S.A.

INTRODUCTION

These rules have been compiled from suggestions made in the "ISF Official Rules of Softball" under the paragraph "ISF Technical and Procedural Code"

ACCREDITATION

The final team roster must be submitted to the Secretary General prior to the Pre-Tournament Meeting for accreditation of all team members. When the roster is received the team member's registration will be verified.

PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING

This meeting will be held a day prior to the tournament, and the official agenda and attendance should be as follows:

ATTENDANCE

S.S.A. Executive Committee, team delegates, umpires, scorers, local organizing committee and special guests, as invited by Softball South Africa, shall attend the pre-tournament technical and procedural meeting.

AGENDA

1. The Secretary General of S.S.A. does a roll call of participating affiliates, introduces special guests, the SSA in attendance, head of delegates and SSA organizing committee.
2. Opening address by the President of SSA.
3. Announcement of Appointments by the SSA President:
 - Technical / Protest Commission.
 - Disciplinary Commission.
 - Appeals Commission.
 - Chief and Assistant Chief Umpire.
 - Chief and Assistant Chief Scorer.
 - SSA Statistician -
 - Any other appointments or announcements.
4. Technical
 - Team Roster and Eligibility - Secretary General
 - Fixtures and Competition Method - Technical
 - Game Regulations and Procedures -Technical
 - Uniform / Equipment - Technical
 - Ground Rules - Technical
 - Playing Rules - Technical

5. SSA Organizing Committee

- Parking
- Catering
- Security
- Ablutions
- Opening and Closing Ceremonies or Functions
- Other

6. Toss for home and away for round robin games only.

Close Meeting

TOURNAMENT RULES

The official rulebook will be the ISF Rulebook 2014 - 2017

COMPETITION

1. PLAYERS

Not more than seventeen (17) and no less than twelve (12) individual players per team shall participate in the tournament. Team roster and eligibility of players will be adhered to.

2. TEAM ENTRANCE

All provinces / units shall fill out a Team Roster Form and register by 31 January each year.

3. TEAM MANAGEMENT (Guideline)

Each team's management can consist of the following persons:

Manager

Assistant Manager

Head Coach

Assistant Coach

Team Scorer / Statistician

Team Doctor / Physiotherapist

Team Management shall be dressed in colour of the Team whilst in the dugout.

EACH PROVINCE / UNIT SHOULD APPOINT A HEAD OF DELEGATION AND BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TECHNICAL MEETING WITH THE CONTACT DETAILS.

4. TEAM UNIFORMS

All players participating in his / her team must be uniformed alike. Numbers must be on the back of uniforms and should be **15.2cm in height**. Caps worn must be all alike with the same colour and badge. Men **MUST** all wear caps.

5. EQUIPMENT

BALLS – the official game ball for the tournament is MIZUNO ball. Two game balls will be supplied by S.S.A. Technical to the participating teams and will be the responsibility of the team to bring a game ball to the game. If lost, the teams will replace the game balls at their own cost. After the tournament all teams must submit their game balls to SSA technical, failing which the province will be billed for the missing game balls.

BATS - Each teams shall supply its own bats and they will be checked by the umpires prior to the start of their first game, and thereafter, if necessary. The umpires will confiscate any cracked or defaced bats. These can only be claimed after the tournament is complete for the team.

SHOES – Metal spikes may be used, but no rounded spikes.

BATTING HELMETS - There shall be a **minimum of five batting helmets per team and should all be of the same color and in good safety condition (padding included) as per the playing rules.** The umpires will check all helmets prior to the start of the first game, and thereafter, if necessary. The umpire will confiscate any cracked or defaced helmets. **Logo, team name and or number is permitted, not extra stickers on the helmet.**

ANY EQUIPMENT THAT DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE RULES WILL BE CONFISCATED AND CAN ONLY BE COLLECTED AFTER THE TOURNAMENT, NO EXCEPTIONS.

N.B. THE SSA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WILL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY UNCLAIMED OR LOST EQUIPMENT DURING THE TOURNAMENT.

6. EQUIPMENT ON GROUND

This shall be the responsibility of the team. Umpires should see that no equipment is left in any way that will obstruct playing of the game or present a hazard to the players or umpires.

METHOD OF COMPETITION

As per the ISF Rule Book: FORMATION OF SECTIONS AND METHOD OF COMPETITION (FAST PITCH)

7. RESOLUTION OF TIES

A tie shall be resolved by the following, in order, the procedure set out below:

Within round robin section

- Rank the tied teams by the results of the games among themselves; a winner is placed ahead of the loser
- Rank the tied teams in order of their runs against record in games with themselves; the team with the lowest runs against record is first.
- Rank the tied teams in order of their runs against record in all round robin games; the team with the lowest runs against record if first.

8. COMPLETION OF GAME

All games will be played 7 innings or 2 hours, whichever comes first. No new inning may be started if there is **10 minutes or less remaining**. (The scorer / s are the official timekeepers). Once the new innings has started it must be completed, unless the team second at bat is leading. **All games will have to be played to a minimum of 5 innings unless the run ahead rule applies.**

9. RUN AHEAD RULE

A game must be called a regulation game if one team leads the other by **15 runs or more after 3 innings, 10 runs or more after 4 innings, or 07 runs or more after 5 innings have been played**. Both teams must complete the same number of innings at bat unless the home team leads by the required number of runs; the game is called at that point.

10. TIE BREAKER (Applicable only to Playoff games)

If, after the completion of 7 innings of play, the score is tied, the following tie breaker will be played to determine the winner;

Starting with the top of the eighth innings, and each half innings thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is schedule to bat ninth, in that respective half innings being placed on second base.

11. LEGAL GAME

In the case of inclement weather, a game shall be regulation if 5 or more innings have been **completed** or if the "home team" has scored more runs than the "visiting team" has scored in 5 or more innings.

12. MAJOR DISRUPTION TO PLAYING SCHEDULE / FIXTURES

- Where there has been a major disruption to the playing schedule / fixture (rain) during the round robin or playoff rounds, the determination of placing and winners of the medals shall be decided by the S.S.A. or S.S.A. Representative.
- **Any rained out game the two teams will share the points, there will be no makeup games.**
- The following guidelines are for assistance in making such determination:
 - i. Every attempt should be made to determine a winner through the playing of games (i.e. complete the round robin matches as a minimum).
 - ii. If the round robin matches cannot be completed, the placing should be decided on the games actually played. However, consideration should be given to the number of games each team has played.
 - iii. If any of the playoff games cannot be played or continued due to any circumstances, the following method will be used to determine the placing:

A. No playoff games played:

Placing and medal winners will be determined by the final rankings at the completion of the round robin. Rankings to be determined in accordance with the Method of Competition under item No 7 (Resolution of Ties).

B. Playoff rounds have commenced and cannot be completed:

- 1) Any game where a team has been defeated and eliminated from the remaining playoff round robin games will be deemed legal.
- 2) An undefeated team (including round robin and playoff round games) will be declared the winner.
- 3) In the event of there being more than one undefeated team (including round robin and playoff round games) the winner will be determined in accordance with the Method of Competition under item No 7 (Resolution of Ties).

13. STARTING LINE-UPS

A supply, for the tournament, of Team Returns / Official Batting Order will be given to the team manager / coach at the technical meeting. Managers / coaches shall submit their teams' line-up to the official scorer / s **at least 20mins before the schedule start of the game.** This shall include the name (**surname first then first name NO nick names**), uniform number and field position of each player in batting order. Should there be a DP (designated player) he / she should be in the starting line-up. All other players will be considered possible substitutes for the game and written under the section for substitutes with their uniform numbers (players must keep their uniform for the duration of the tournament, makes it better for data/Stats capturing). The plate umpire will distribute the copies as per the Note at the bottom of the Team Return / Official Batting Order. The plate umpire must be advised of all the substitutes being brought into the game, he in turn will notify the official scorer / s.

14. CHOICE OF INNINGS AND DUGOUT

To be decided by the toss of a coin, team first on the fixture / schedule will be entitled to call. The "home team" will be assigned to the third base dugout and the "visiting team", who will bat first, will be assigned to the first base.

15. USE OF DIAMOND

Prior to their first game on a diamond, each team may have a 5 minutes warm-up on the diamond. The "home team" shall have last warm-up and shall remain on the diamond for the start of the game.

16. SMOKING

No smoking is permitted on the field of play, or in the dugout at any time.

17. USE OF CELLULAR PHONES

Cellular phones will not be allowed during the game. If used, this will result in the ejection of the Manager / Head Coach listed on the lineup card/team return together with the offender.

18. PROTESTS

All protests on playing rules must be settled on the playing field. No protests will be considered following the completion of the game, or on a judgment call. Protests on eligibility will be handled through the Protest Committee present at the competition.
An appeal or protest fee must accompany protest.

19. DISCIPLINARY

The disciplinary committee shall have the authority to deal with and take the appropriate action against any player or official whose on or off-diamond actions or conduct are reported as being detrimental to the sport of softball.

Serious violation that warrants an ejection will be dealt with immediately after the game. The ejected player / official shall not take the field for the next game until the matter has been resolved at a disciplinary hearing. **All ejections which are unsportsmanlike like will warrant an immediate one game suspension then the hearing will decide if there is further punishment.**

Records of all offences will be recorded by the SSA Disciplinary Committee and will remain in the records of S.S.A.

The player / official shall be permitted to be accompanied by the Team Manager / Administrator to the Disciplinary hearing.

20. GENERAL

No team player or management member will be allowed into the official technical room / s. This area is out of bounds.

Ball players are warned not to use STRONG LANGUAGE and throw their equipment in anger.

Managers and coaches are not allowed to address the members of the opposition, if it is unsportsmanlike the perpetrator will be ejected from the game and appear at the hearing of SSA.

Jewelry deemed dangerous will not be allowed at all SSA sanctioned tournaments.
NO JEWELRY WILL BE ALLOWED.

GROUNDNS

The Official Diamond should be laid according to the ISF Rule Book:

21. FIELDS

The number of fields required for a S.S.A. National Championship will be liaised between S.S.A. and the host province.

It is the host province responsibility to mark the playing fields for tournaments; supply bases, home and pitching plates.

A delegation of umpires will inspect the playing fields prior to the pre-tournament meeting.

22. GROUND RULES

Ground rules shall relate to the host province conditions of the fields and shall be reported at the pre-tournament meeting prior to the start of the tournament.

The host is to make provision for boundaries on all the fields. All fields to be marked for both men and women distances.

23. FIRST AID

The host province will be responsible for ensuring that medical and / or first aid attendants are present at the fields all times during the tournament at the cost of the host if there any cost involved for the service.

OFFICIALS

23. UMPIRES AND SCORER

Every umpire and scorer officiating must be registered with S.S.A. and approved by the S.S.A. Technical Committee to his / her ability and knowledge of the rules.

All umpires and scorers assigned to the tournament will be allocated to games and will be part of the S.S.A. Technical staff and not his / her province, **this does not mean they will be assigned to their own province games.**

All duties preformed will be carried out in a dignified and sober manner and all irregularities must be reported to the umpire / scorer in chief.

Official umpires and scorers will all be required to be at the fields an hour before the scheduled games in the morning. All officials to report when they have to leave the field for other reasons in case they are needed for the game.

Umpires will be given feedback on the games they have officiated and the report will be provided at the end of the championship to the region and the UIC

Should an umpire have a bye he / she is requested to change into civvies. Change of clothing must be done in a change room and not in the official technical room / s or in the ball park.

Team scorers / statisticians are NOT part of the SSA Technical and therefore will not be allowed into the official technical room / s. This area is out of bounds. Team scorers / statisticians are restricted to the dugout only and may not go onto the field of play.

No smoking is permitted whilst on duty for all the officials.

24. RADIO and TELEVISION COVER

The Head of Technical will only release information, after consulting with S.S.A. and the President, for the media to the official S.S.A. P.R.O. / Media delegate. All other media personal will receive information from the official delegate.

25. SELECTORS

The tournament selection committee shall be responsible for and in control of all selection duties at the tournament. The scorer in chief will **NOT** release statistics to the selectors. All stats will be signed off by the statistician and the head of Technical before release.

STANDINGS / LOGS / STATISTICS

26. AWARDING OF POINTS

The winning team shall be awarded with 2 points, the losing team, nil and teams that play a draw will get 1 point each. **Rained out games will be 1 point each**, these are games scheduled and did not play. Ruling on games started and not completed will be guided by the ISF rules in terms of legal game or not.

27. STANDINGS AND LOGS

Team standings and logs will be displayed on a bulletin board every morning for viewing to the public.

28. STATISTICS

Top Batter and pitching statistics will be done on the round robin competition and not on the playoff games.

Copies of the statistics on the previous days games will be available at midday each day to team's management via pigeonholes situated in a place of convenience.

All original score sheets and statistics are the property of S.S.A. and therefore are NOT released to any person / s without permission.

AWARDS

29. The winners of the championship will be presented with a floating trophy by S.S.A.

30. Twenty-five (25) individual gold, silver and bronze medals will be prepared by the host province with approval of S.S.A. and will be awarded to each player on the Team Roster of the first, second and third place teams and members of the delegation as shown on the said Roster, this is just a guide.

31. The President of S.S.A or his / her nominee, will present the championship trophy and individual medals to the first place team; he may invite the vice-president and / or the president of the host organizing committee to make presentation of the second or third place awards, and if desired, a distinguished person of the host province.

PROTOCOL

32. There shall be opening and closing ceremonies at all championships.
33. The Secretary General together with the EXCO shall determine the form of such ceremonies and advise the organizing committee.
34. No other ceremonies, presentations or similar events shall be held except with the prior approval of the President of S.S.A and the EXCO.
35. Gifts to be presented must be declared to S.S.A.

FIXTURES / SCHEDULES

36. The fixtures / schedule of the tournament will be released by S.S.A. to the provinces before the Championship.
37. Standing achieved by teams at the previous tournament is used as a basis for forming the next tournament grouping.
38. Teams, which enter a tournament without a standing, shall be included at the end of the established standings in the order in which their entries are received.

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