

Newcastle & District Softball Association Inc.



Competition Regulations

**Edition 14
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1. Competition

1.1 GENERAL

- 1.1.1 The competition will be conducted under the official rules of softball as adopted by Softball Australia Limited (SAL), Softball New South Wales (SNSW) and under the Competition Regulations (CR) published by Newcastle & District Softball Association Inc. (NDSA).
- 1.1.2 The interpretation and administration of the Competition Regulations is the responsibility of the NDSA Board of Management (Board).
- 1.1.3 The Board 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 clubs wishing to appeal a decision made by the Board must be made in writing within 7 days of notification to the Club to the NDSA Executive Director.

1.2 STRUCTURE

- 1.2.1 The competition format will be determined by the 30th September by the NDSA Board.
- 1.2.2 Divisions will be determined by the Board by 30 September.
- 1.2.3 Any Club who has a team withdrawn after the 30 September and/or after the competition commences will be fined the sum of Five hundred dollars (\$500.00) + GST. U9 to U11 will be exempt from this Regulation.
- 1.2.4 A new team may only be entered into the competition prior to completion of Week 4 with the majority of the players not being currently registered.

1.3 TRIAL COMPETITION REGULATIONS

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

1.4 PLAYING REGULATIONS COMMON TO JUNIOR & SENIOR DIVISIONS UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

- 1.4.1 Game duration shall be one and half (1½) hours or seven (7) innings.
- 1.4.2 Minimum time to constitute a game will be forty five (45) minutes or three (3) completed innings. If the team batting second in the third inning has more or the same runs then it also constitutes a game.
- 1.4.3 Each team shall have a minimum of seven (7) Fielders on the diamond during the Defensive Innings.
- 1.4.4 A team may borrow players from the opposition or another team to only achieve the number of seven (7) fielders and therefore avoid a forfeit with no re-grade penalty to the fill-in players. If other players from the team turn up to make the minimum of seven (7) players, then the borrowed players must leave the game. Regulation 14.4.1 will apply to any team borrowing players for five (5) consecutive weeks.
- 1.4.5 The batting team continues through the batting order until three (3) outs are made. If seven (7)

- runs are scored the innings is complete for all grades except senior 1st Grade.
- 1.4.6 The offensive team may declare its innings at bat at any stage of the game.
- 1.4.7 If the innings (top & bottom) has been completed and there are less than five (5) minutes remaining before the specified finish time the game shall be considered regulation.
- 1.4.8 At time if the team second at bat **IS AT BAT AND EQUAL OR BEHIND**, the game will continue until a result is obtained or the innings is completed.
- 1.4.9 If uneven innings result the score reverts back to the previous even innings (even if it does not change the outcome of the game).
- 1.4.10 Abandoned games shall not be replayed but shall be ruled drawn games.
- 1.5 FINES & PENALTIES**
- 1.5.1 Procedures for payment of moneys and the consequences of not doing so including but not limited to fines and loss of points as determined by the Board.
- 1.5.2 Failure of clubs to pay fines may result in the Club concerned being refused entry of teams in current or future competitions run by NDSA and may result in all members of that Club being declared unfinancial, and therefore ineligible to register with any SNSW or SAL affiliated association.

2. Competition Summary

2.1 TEEBALL – T20

- 2.1.1 Normal T20 rules apply as specified by the NDSA Board.
- 2.1.2 Minimum time to constitute a sub junior game will be thirty [30] minutes.

2.2 SUB JUNIOR DIVISIONS (U/11 & U/13)

- 2.2.1 Normal Softball rules apply as specified by the NDSA Board.
- 2.2.2 Minimum time to constitute a sub junior game will be thirty [30] minutes.
- 2.2.3 There shall be no Intentional Base on Ball rule allowed.

2.3 JUNIOR DIVISIONS (U/15)

- 2.3.1 Normal Softball rules as specified by SNSW
- 2.3.2 Each team playing in this division may only use the Intentional Base on Balls rule once per game.
- 2.3.3 Will be played with an 12inch Softball
- 2.3.4 SNSW pitching distances:-
- (a) U15 Females – 43 feet (this applies to all female pitchers participating in this division)
- (b) U15 Males – 46 feet (this applies to all male pitchers participating in this division)

2.4 YOUTH DIVISION (U/18)

- 2.4.1 Normal softball rules apply as specified by SNSW
- 2.4.2 SNSW Pitching distance – 43 feet (females), 46 feet (males)
- 2.4.3 Registered players playing State League (male or female) are not permitted to pitch and/or catch.
- 2.4.4 A player may pitch and or catch no more than two (2) innings in a game. For the purpose of this rule, one (1) pitch shall constitute an inning. The offending player is changed from the pitching/catching position. Failure of a coach to adhere to this rule will result in a forfeiture of the game and score 7-0 to the non-offending team.
- 2.2.5 Age eligible U18 players must take the diamond before U15 aged players. Failure of a coach to adhere to this rule will result in a forfeiture of the game and score 7-0 to the non-offending team.
- 2.2.6 Each team playing in this division may only use the Intentional Base on Balls rule once per game.

2.5 SENIOR DIVISIONS

- 2.5.1 Any player playing in a senior competition that has been selected in one of the following teams during the past three (3) years must only play first Division:-
- (a) NDSA or any other softball association open representative teams (male or female)
 - (b) State teams (U18's to Open, male or female)
 - (c) State League (male or female)
 - (d) Any Australian team or squad (male or female)

2.6 SENIOR WOMEN

- 2.6.1 Normal Softball rules as specified by SNSW.
- 2.6.2 SNSW Pitching distances:-
- (a) 1st Division – 43 feet
 - (b) All other Divisions – 40 feet
 - (c) Each team playing in this division may only use the Intentional Base on Balls rule once per game.

2.7 SENIOR MEN

- 2.7.1 Normal Softball rules as specified by SNSW
- 2.7.2 SNSW Pitching distances:-
- (a) All Divisions – 46 feet
 - (b) Each team playing in this division may only use the Intentional Base on Balls rule once per game.

2.8 SENIOR MIXED DIVISION

- 2.8.1 Normal Softball rules as specified by SNSW
- 2.8.2 SNSW Pitching distances:-
- (a) Males – 46 feet
 - (b) Females – 43 feet

2.9 Exceptions to Regulation 2.8

- 2.9.1 There must be two (2), but no more than five (5) males on the diamond or in the batting line-up at any one time.
- 2.9.2 Each team shall have male and female pitchers and pitch no more than two (2) innings per game.

- 2.9.3 Games shall be one and half (1½) hours or seven (7) innings **OR** a lesser time should this competition be played mid-week during Daylight Saving or at the discretion of the Board.

3. Registration of Teams

3.1 GENERAL

- 3.1.1 For the purpose of registration, a team shall constitute no fewer than nine (9) players and at least one (1) coach and one (1) scorer. The board recommends that clubs appoint managers to assist with the administration of the team. Any exception to this shall be determined by the Board.
- 3.1.2 When a club cannot register a team of one (1) gender (Juniors) a mixed team can enter the male competition if the majority of the team consists of males. If the majority of the team consists of females they have a choice of the male or female competition. (E.g. seven (7) boys and two (2) girls - must enter the male competition, seven (7) girls and two (2) boys have a choice of entering either the male or female competition). Any exception to this regulation shall be determined by the board.
- 3.1.3 Should the board determine that Junior Divisions be mixed then notwithstanding regulation 3.1.2 in any mixed Junior or Youth competition a maximum of six (6) males on the diamond is allowed at any one time unless otherwise approved by the Board.
- 3.1.4 Junior players must be nominated and registered with the junior and senior team in which they will be playing.

3.2 Exception to rule 3.1

- 3.2.1 1st Division Men and 1st Division Women may be allowed to register seven (7) members.

4. Registration of Players and Officials

4.1 GENERAL

- 4.1.1 All persons entering the diamond, either at training or during competition, must be a registered member of a club or NDSA.
- 4.1.2 Any registered member of a club may officiate and/or play for another club so long as their registered club commitments are filled. (Member on Consent) must be entered as a local interchange on the data base by both clubs involved and approved by the NDSA G & F prior to taking the field. This regulation does not apply to any players being used to prevent a forfeit.

4.2 Exception to rule 4.1.2

- 4.2.1 Any registered statistician may score for any other Club providing they can fulfill their own club commitments.

4.3 TRANSFERS

- 4.3.1 Transfer from Club to Club is automatic unless a player or official is declared unfinancial or a defaulter (i.e. has not paid fees or returned uniform or equipment) by the Club with whom the member was previously registered. All transfers must be done on the CRM data base and approved by the NDSA Registrar prior the player/official taking the field.
- 4.3.2 Any Club playing an uncleared member shall be fined ten dollars (\$10.00) + GST and lose the points gained for each match in which such uncleared member participates.

4.3.3 Any club withholding a release of a member must give the Board good and sufficient reason for doing so within seven (7) days of a request being submitted by the Board to the club.

4.3.4 No such transfer of a member registered in the current season shall be granted after half the competition rounds have been completed.

4.4 MEMBERS ON PERMISSION

4.4.1 Any member of the Association wishing to play with another Association or Associations must, each year, apply for such permission on line. This process must be finalized online prior to such member participating with another Association or Associations.

4.4.2 Failure to comply with regulation 4.4.1 will result in such member being liable for suspension as imposed by the Board.

4.5 MEMBERS ON CONSENT

4.5.1 If an affiliated club does not enter a team in any senior or junior division then players from such affiliated clubs may play with another affiliated club provided that Local Interchange is completed online and approved by the NDSA Registrar the players name can then be submitted on the other team club entry form

4.6 FINES & PENALTIES

4.6.1 Failure to register a member correctly on or before the day he/she first participates shall result in the club being fined the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) + GST for each member not correctly registered.

4.6.2 If such a member is not correctly registered within 7 days:- An unnotified forfeit shall be given to the non-offending team for the original match and each subsequent match that such member takes part while not correctly registered.

If both teams infringe this rule no points will be allocated.

4.6.2 Deliberately playing an unregistered player shall carry a fine of \$50.00 (plus GST) per player, per offence AND forfeiture of the match.

4.6.3 Incorrectly transferred – Any club playing an uncleared member shall be fined ten dollars (\$10.00) + GST and lose the points gained for each match in which the uncleared member participates.

5. Accreditation of Officials

5.1 GENERAL

5.1.1 All Team Officials must have completed and passed the Australian Sports Commission “Play By The Rules” on-line module. The Play by the Rules Module can be accessed via www.softball.net.au left hand column menu. Clubs must keep a register of all team official’s “Play by the Rules” certificates Team officials must also obtain RMS (volunteer) Working with Children’s Check and provide a copy with their registration.

5.1.2 To enter a team in the competition, Officials for that team must have the following accreditation: -

(a) A Head coach and assistant coach must be an accredited coach.

(b) A Scorer must be an accredited scorer.

5.2 ACCREDITATION LEVELS

- 5.2.1 First Grade Head Coaches must have a minimum Level 2 accreditation
- 5.2.2 Head Coaches must have minimum Level 1 accreditation
- 5.2.3 Assistant Coaches must have minimum Level 1 accreditation
- 5.2.4 Scorers must have minimum Level 1 accreditation

5.3 ON FIELD COACHES

- 5.3.1 Any listed player that is over the age of 18, or a suitably accredited softball coach who is on the score card and is part of the game and deemed competent is allowed to stand in the coaches' box.
- 5.3.2 No other team official is allowed on the diamond except for the Head Coach and Assistant Coach.

5.4 FINES & PENALTIES

- 5.4.1 Failure of a club to nominate the required accredited officials may result in the team not being accepted into the competition
- 5.4.2 Failure of an official to produce proof of accreditation shall result in a fine of ten dollars (\$10.00) + GST per week to the club until such time as the Registrar receives such proof of accreditation.

6. Uniforms**1 GENERAL**

- 6.1.1 As per Softball Australia Hot Weather Guidelines
- 6.1.2 All players must wear their registered club shirt and club colours.
- 6.1.3 All players must wear a club cap/visor or club coloured cap (if not wearing a face mask).

6.2 Exception to Regulation 6.1

- 6.2.1 Players must wear registered club colour shorts or long pants.
- 6.2.2 All players and team officials must be in the correct uniform as submitted by the participating club and approved by NDSA. Denim jeans in any form are not permitted. No board shorts, lycra or active wear is permitted.
- 6.2.3 All players registered on a first grade team sheet must be in full club uniform.
- 6.2.4 Where two (2) teams from the one club are playing against each other in the competition the AWAY team is to use an alternate shirt for that game providing all players wear the same style and coloured shirt.
- 6.2.5 Players not wearing club colours after the fifth (5th) week of competition without the approval of the Board will incur a loss of one (1) run per player for each week out of club colours. This is to be noted on the card by the umpire or NDSA Board member at the commencement of the game or prior to a player entering the game (at the time) and any adjustment to the score will be made by the G & F.

- 6.2.6 All teams competing in the final series must conform to competition regulation 6.1.2.
- 6.2.7 Team official must be in official club colours and wear closed in shoes.
- 6.2.8 Metal cleats and screw-ons will not be allowed.
- 6.2.9 Wet weather jackets of any colours may be worn by players/officials in inclement weather.
- 6.2.10 Players are not permitted on the field wearing any distracting adornments, including jewellery, judged by the umpire to be distracting to opposing players. The umpire shall require the item to be removed or covered. Medical alert bracelets and/or necklaces, if deemed distracting, shall be required to be taped to the body in such a manner that the medical alert information remains visible (SAL Official Playing Rules v1.3 Sec 8g)
- 6.3 Exception to Regulation 6.2.9**
- 6.3.1 Medical alerts and wedding rings will be allowed but must be taped.

7. Grading

7.1 GENERAL

- 7.1.1 Grading/re-grading is at the discretion of the Board.
- 7.1.2 Requests for changes, deletions and re-grades to individual member registrations must be lodged with the NDSA G & F on form (APPENDIX H). Such changes will not take effect until approved by the Board.
- 7.1.3 All junior players wishing to play in a senior division must be approved by a Level 3 coach from their club (APPENDIX I) and accepted by the board. No junior NDSA representative player is permitted to play in 5W (social women) or 4M (social men).
- 7.1.4 All junior players must have turned 13 *prior to 31st March of the current summer season* or older to be eligible to play in a senior division.

7.2 FINES & PENALTIES

- 7.2.1 If any player plays in a grade below that in which they are eligible to play according to the above regulations for grading and re-grading of players and playing out of registered teams, the team in which they played shall be considered to have lost on an unnotified forfeit.
- 7.2.2 If a player who has played for one team then participates in their club's other team/s in the same senior grade the second team in which they played shall be considered to have lost any points gained from such game.
- 7.2.3 If any ineligible player plays in a semi-final, final or grand final, the team in which he played shall be considered to have lost on an unnotified forfeit and to be eliminated from the finals.
- 7.2.4 All clubs failing to provide all scorebooks requested by the Board Committee within 48 hours of such request shall result in the team or teams for whom the scorebooks are requested being allocated nil points until such times as the scorebook/s have been examined.

8. Eligibility of Players

8.1 PRELIMINARY SERIES

- 8.1.1 No player shall play in a lower grade unless the Board have approved a re-grading.
- 8.1.2 When a club fields more than one team in any one grade, players may be transferred from one team to the other, only at the discretion of the Board.
- 8.1.3 Any player playing in a higher grade than currently registered will automatically be regarded to the higher grade after 8 games (inclusive). For the purpose of this rule – one pitch constitutes a game.
Score books may be called for by the Board at anytime during the season to make sure this rule is being adhered to.
If the 8th game happens to be the last game for the current season the player will be automatically regraded to the higher grade for the following season.

8.2 SUB JUNIOR and JUNIOR COMPETITIONS

- 8.2.1 Players participating in age divisions must be under the age group as at Thirty- first (31st) December in the year of the tournament. Any exceptions to this will be determined by the Board.
- 8.2.2 Junior Players may only play up one (1) age division. Any exceptions will be determined by the Board.

8.3 FINAL SERIES

- 8.3.1 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.
- 8.3.2 In the event of a re grade by the Board, games played in their original grade will count towards eligibility to play in the final series.
- 8.3.3 A player is eligible to play in a higher graded team participating in semi-finals, finals and grand finals providing that they: -
- (a) Have played in games set down for their registered team on at least six (6) different fixtures (fixtures shall mean six (6) different competition dates) during the competition which shall NOT include any fixture cancelled due to inclement weather
 - (c) No player shall be re-graded by the Board five (5) weeks prior to the semi-finals (**Exception: 8.1.3**) HOWEVER should a player be found to be either deliberately or inadvertently mis-graded after this period such player shall be automatically suspended for the remainder of the season.
 - (d) Any exceptions to rule 8.3.1 and 8.3.2 will be determined by the Board.

9. Preliminary Series Match Regulations

9.1 GENERAL

- 9.1.1 Home Team - the first named team on the draw shall be nominated as the home team, shall occupy third (3rd) base bench and shall field first.
- 9.1.2 Starting Line Up - A team must have seven (7) players to start or continue a game. A team not having seven (7) players after 10 minutes from the scheduled starting time shall forfeit the game. If neither team has seven (7) players then a double forfeit shall be declared and no points awarded.
- 9.1.3 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.

9.1.4 Vacant positions shall be listed together in the lineup with only the first vacancy being declared an automatic out in senior 1st Grade divisions. There will be no automatic outs for junior grades and remaining senior grades.

9.1.5 Match Balls - Each Junior and Senior team is to provide one leather match ball in good condition for each game played. This ball shall be presented to the plate umpire at the start of play.

9.2 THROWN BAT

9.2.1 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.

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

- (i) Sub Junior [excluding up to U9]
 - Warned for the first offence (coach notified)
 - Declared out for the second and subsequent offences (Ball is dead)
- (ii) Junior
 - Warned for the first offence (coach notified)
 - Declared out for the second offence (Ball is dead)
 - May be ejected from the game for subsequent offences
- (iii) Senior
 - Warned for the first offence (coach notified)
 - Declared out for the second offence (Ball is dead)
 - May be ejected from the game for subsequent offences

9.3 BLOCKED BALL

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

9.3.2 On all non-enclosed diamonds any ball hit pass what is reasonably considered men or women's distance is to be played out or in the event the ball becomes blocked the batter will be awarded a home run. Blocked ball land marks for this home run distance will be indicated in the Fixtures Book on the Diamond Layout Plan.

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

9.4 RUN AHEAD RULE (MERCY RULE)

9.4.1 Fifteen [15] runs after three [3] innings

9.4.2 Ten [10] runs after four [4] innings

9.4.3 Seven [7] runs after five [5] innings

10 Final Series Match Regulations

10.1 GENERAL

10.1.1 The format of the final series will be determined by the Board.

10.1.2 NDSA is to provide new official leather match balls for the grand final.

10.2 TIE- BREAKER

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

10.2.2 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.

10.3 WEATHER CANCELLATION

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

11. Grounds

11.1 GENERAL

11.1.1 Throwing or pitching balls on or in the amenities area is not permitted (i.e. concrete areas).

11.1.2 No Bicycles, skateboards, scooters, roller blades, roller skates etc are permitted to be used on the diamonds or on the concrete areas surrounding the Cripps Clark Softball Centre.

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

11.1.4 No animals (including dogs) are permitted within a radius of 20 metres from the canteen and are not permitted inside the Cripps Clark Softball Complex building.

11.2 GROUND CONDITION

11.2.1 The fitness of the ground for a day's play shall be decided by a Board member and/or the UIC before the commencement of the first game.

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

11.2.3 If the UIC consider any diamond unsafe then all games scheduled for that diamond shall be moved until that diamond is again declared safe.

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

11.3 DIAMOND MARKING AND EQUIPMENT

11.3.1 Each club will be allocated ground duties at the start of the summer season by the Grounds Convenor.

11.3.2 Ensure that at least half an hour prior to the start of play each competition day the diamond equipment has been put out (diamond equipment shall be bases, home plate mat, home plate, pitching mat, pitching plate and back net; all securely pegged, benches, scorers' table and chair).

11.3.3 At the conclusion of each competition day pull down the diamond, return all equipment to the gear

shed and store same in a neat and tidy condition.

- 11.3.4 The procedure for setting up and pulling down of diamonds will be in the Fixtures Book and displayed on the back of the gear shed door.

11.4 FINES & PENALTIES

- 11.4.1 Repeated failure of a club to correctly set up or pull down a diamond and return the equipment to its designated area will result in a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) + GST for each offence.

11.5 NETS/FENCES

- 11.5.1 Climbing on and throwing or batting balls into nets/fences is not permitted.

11.6 INCIDENT/INJURY

- 11.6.1 An incident register will be maintained by the executive officer and kept in the office.
- 11.6.2 The manager or coach of the team concerned must record all injuries/incidents on the Result Sheet.
- 11.6.3 The injured player/official is to arrange the appropriate insurance forms where applicable as well as the NDSA Injury Form. (Available from the executive officer)

11.7 ALCOHOL/DRUGS

- 11.7.1 No alcohol/drugs are to be consumed on the diamond or in the dugouts.
- 11.7.2 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 Board.

11.8 RUBBISH

- 11.8.1 Teams are to clean up their rubbish after each game.

11.9 FINES & PENALTIES

- 11.9.1 Failure of a team to clean up their rubbish after their game will result in a fine of thirty dollars (\$30.00) for each offence and shall be reported to the Board.
- 11.9.2 The team entering an unclean area must have this validated by the Plate Umpire for competition regulation 11.9.1 to be applied.

11.10 WEATHER - The NDSA board will notify each club's secretary by SMS. It will also be posted on the NDSA Facebook page.

- 11.10.1 Refer to Softball Australia Hot weather policy.
- (a) By 7.30 am for Morning Competitions.
- (b) By 11.00 am for Afternoon Competitions.

- 11.10.3 Where teams and/or registered players elect to play after games are cancelled, a fine shall be levied against each team at a sum at least sufficient to pay for the repair of the ground.
- 11.10.4 UIC and or DUIC's may suspend or abandon play if conditions appear to be unsafe and their decision shall be final and binding on all registered players.
- 11.10.5 In the event that a game is abandoned (or suspended and not resumed) the game shall be deemed to be a scoreless draw.
- 11.10.6 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 Nil all draw.

11.11 SMOKING

- 11.11.1 Smoking is NOT permitted on Stevenson Park. Smoking is permitted outside the park boundary which is outside the coppers logs. Members seen smoking inside the perimeter fencing may face disciplinary action by the board.

12. Scoring and Result Sheets

12.1 OFFICIAL RESULT SHEET

- 12.1.1 Sufficient result sheets/lineup pads for all teams entered by each club will be provided at the beginning of the season.
- 12.1.2 The home team will be responsible for providing the result sheet in junior grades.
- 12.1.3 The result sheet/lineup pad is to be completed in block letters and include the first and last name for all players and substitutes for each team. The coach is responsible for ensuring the players taking the field match the names on the result card. Players and/or Officials under false names will incur a fine of \$100 to the coach.
- 12.1.4 Coaches must print in block letters their first and last names and sign the result sheet prior to the commencement of the game.
- 12.1.5 Umpires, managers and team scorers are to print their first and last name in block letters the result sheet at the conclusion of the game and verify the score.
- 12.1.6 Scorers and Managers must remain in the dugout area for the duration of the game.
- 12.1.7 The plate umpire is to deliver the completed and signed result sheet to a central collection point as nominated by the Board.

12.2 POINTS AWARDED

- 12.2.1 Win 3 points
- 12.2.2 Team receiving forfeit 3 points
- 12.2.3 Bye 2 points
- 12.2.4 Draw 2 points
- 12.2.5 Abandoned game 2 points

12.2.6	Loss	1 point
12.2.7	Forfeiting team	0 points

12.3 FINES & PENALTIES

- 12.3.1 Failure to complete the result card as set out in 12.1.3, 12.1.4 and 12.1.5 will result in a two dollar (\$2.00)+ GST fine with the exception of T20. SNSW Regulation fines still apply.

13. Deferred Games

13.1 GENERAL

- 13.1.1 Any team that will be disadvantaged due to players and/or officials participating in representative fixtures must make application on form (APPENDIX U) to the Board for such deferment.
- 13.1.2 Any team granted a deferment and is unable to play the deferment will have the game treated as a notified forfeit and points allocated as per Competition Regulation 12.2.7.
- 13.1.3 If both teams agree that a deferment is unable to be played, it is deemed a draw.

13.2 REPRESENTATIVE FIXTURE

- 13.2.1 A Divisional event.
- 13.2.2 A SNSW event (including 35 and over and slow pitch).
- 13.2.3 A Softball Australia event (including 35 and over and slow pitch).
- 13.2.4 Any other event that may be approved by the Board.

13.3 GRANTING OF DEFERMENT

- 13.3.1 Four (4) registered members (including officials) of the team will be absent due to the representative fixture.
- 13.3.2 Such absent members to be named in Appendix U.
- 13.3.3 A date, time and place for the deferred game has been confirmed with the opposing team and specified in the request.
- 13.3.4 The Board will notify the clubs concerned if the request is granted.
- 13.3.5 The result card from such deferred game must be lodged by the Club granted the deferment with the NDSA G&F on the date of the deferred game or no points will be awarded for such game.

14. Forfeits

14.1 GENERAL

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

14.1.2 Any team may appeal to the Board in regards to competition regulation 14.1.1.

14.2 NOTIFIED FORFEITS – PRIOR TO 48 HOURS OF FIXTURE

14.2.1 A team must notify the NDSA G & F in writing, who will then notify the opposing club and umpires.

14.2.2 A team who receives a notified forfeit is not required to lodge a Result Card with the NDSA G & F.

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

14.3 UNNOTIFIED FORFEITS – LESS THAN 48 HOURS OF FIXTURE

14.3.1 The team who receives the unnotified forfeit is to advise the NDSA G & F by Result Card/Lineup Pad, verbally or by other means on or before the day.

14.3.2 Confirmation of the unnotified forfeit is also to be advised to the NDSA G & F by the forfeiting team.

14.3.3 In the event of a unnotified joint forfeit both teams must advise the NDSA G & F Director as per 14.2.1

14.4 FINES & PENALTIES

14.4.1 Any teams forfeiting a match giving 48 hours notice to the NDSA G & F Director shall receive a penalty of Twenty dollars (\$20.00) plus GST.

14.4.2 Any teams forfeiting a match without giving 48 hours notice to the NDSA G & F Director shall receive a penalty of Fifty dollars (\$50.00) plus GST.

15. Protests (Umpires' decisions in Matches)

15.1 GENERAL

15.1.1 When a coach is not satisfied with an umpire's interpretation of a playing rule (either an Softball Australia rule, SNSW rule or NDSA competition regulation) they are entitled to lodge a protest. If this occurs, one of two procedures will be followed as set out in regulations 15.2 and 15.3 below.

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

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

15.2 PROTESTS - AT THE GAME

15.2.1 If the UIC (or his/her appointed deputy) is close at hand:

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

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

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

(d) If necessary, UIC explains situation to opposing coach.

(e) Game continues.

15.3 PROTESTS - AFTER THE GAME

- 15.3.1 If the UIC (or their appointed deputy) is not close at hand the protest will be referred to the Board.
- (a) Protest is 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 shall within 48 hours submit the protest to the NDSA Executive Director and 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 Director, the UIC or the Technical Development Director immediately after the game, every endeavour will be made to hear the protest as soon as possible.
- 15.3.2 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.
- 15.3.3 A fine will be imposed on the Club submitting a protest if the Protest Committee determines that the protest was either frivolous or invalid.

16. Disputes (Breaches of Competition Regulations)**16.1 GENERAL**

- 16.1.1 Refers to Competition Regulations only
- 16.1.2 Disputes relating to the interpretation of the competition regulations must be lodged on the Disputes form with a fee of \$20 (plus GST), (which shall be refunded if the dispute is upheld) within three (3) days of the alleged breach.
- 16.1.3 Disputes will be heard by the Board and the decision of the committee concerning such a breach shall be final.
- 16.1.4 Hearings shall be held prior to its next scheduled fixture and the decision made notified to the team submitting the breach.

17. Codes of Conduct and Zero Tolerance**17.1 GENERAL**

- 17.1.1 NDSA 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 Board in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of NDSA. These Codes are

on the SNSW web site www.softball.net.au/Policies/Codes of Behaviour.

- 17.1.2 Any player/official who is ejected from a game or reported for misconduct or breach of rules will be required to submit a written report to the board upon request. The board will determine whether Zero Tolerance Policy or Judicial Procedures will be implemented.
- 17.1.3 The club president [or their nominee] of any reported person will be notified within 48 hours of a report being lodged with the Board.
- 17.1.4 It is the responsibility of the club to notify any ejected/reported person of their attendance if required at any meeting or tribunal as set out in Regulation 17.1.3.
- 17.1.5 The umpires present at any game where an ejection or misconduct 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 meeting or tribunal as per regulation 17.1.2.
- 17.2 ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**
- 17.2.1 NDSA has adopted a Zero Tolerance Policy. Any person acting outside of this Policy will be subject to penalties which may be imposed by the Board in accordance with that Policy and the Rules and Regulations of NDSA.

18. Umpires

18.1 GENERAL

- 18.1.1 All umpires must be a registered member of a club or association within Australia.
- 18.1.2 Umpiring duties will be rostered to clubs at the discretion of the Board on the draw.
- 18.1.3 All umpires will be required to wear a minimum uniform of pale blue shirt and enclosed footwear. Navy Blue shorts may be worn in lieu of long pants.
- 18.1.4 No junior under fourteen (14) years of age, unless accredited (including Association) is to plate or base umpire a senior game.
- 18.1.5 Any junior under fourteen (14) years of age who is in the process of being assessed for a Level one (1) NSWSUA umpiring accreditation may apply to the NDSA Board in consultation with the UIC for exemption to regulation 18.1.4.

18.2 NUMBER OF UMPIRES REQUIRED ON GAMES

- 18.2.1 In 1st Division senior games two (2) base umpires and one (1) plate umpire is required. A two (2) man system may only operate if both umpires are NSWSUA accredited unless otherwise specified by the Board.
- 18.2.2 In all other senior games a minimum of one (1) base umpire and one (1) plate umpire is required.
- 18.2.3 In junior games a minimum of one (1) base umpire and one (1) plate umpire is required.
- 18.2.4 In Benny the Ball or T20 games there will be one (1) competent plate umpire **OR** one (1) plate umpire plus one (1) base umpire
- 18.2.5 Any exceptions to this regulation must be approved by the Board

18.3 FINAL SERIES

- 18.3.1 Umpires for the final series will be allocated by the UIC in conjunction with the Board.
- 18.3.2 All umpires will be required to wear uniform as per SNSWUA regulations.

18.4 FINES & PENALTIES

- 18.4.1 Failure to carry out umpiring duties as assigned in the seasons competition Fixtures Book shall carry a fine of \$20.00 (plus GST) EACH base umpire not provided and a fine of \$40.00 (plus GST) for a Plate Umpire not provided. Maximum fine \$80.00 (plus GST).
- 18.4.2 Breach of Rule 18.1.4 will result in a fine or suspension to the Club/Person to be determined by the Board.

19. NDSA & Canteen Duties**19.1 GENERAL**

- 19.1.1 The procedure for Club Duties will be in the Fixtures Book and displayed in the Canteens, Cripps Clark Softball Centre and on the website.
- 19.1.2 All clubs are expected to assist in the running of the canteens and keeping our amenities clean and tidy.

19.2 NDSA & CANTEEN DUTIES

- 19.2.1 Clubs listed to be on canteen duty must provide helpers of at least 14 years of age to assist with serving and other duties as directed by canteen administrator.
- 19.2.2 Enclosed shoes must be worn in the canteen.
- 19.2.3 The canteen and NDSA duties roster is printed in the Fixtures Book.
- 19.2.4 Clubs who are sharing a day with another club should arrange between themselves the provision of helpers at the allocated times. Canteen Supervisor and the board must be notified prior to the day.

19.3 FINES & PENALTIES

- 19.3.1 Clubs who fail to carry out their NDSA duties and canteen rosters are liable for a monetary penalty (fine) for each offence of \$30.00 (plus GST) upon the report of the Canteen Supervisor or the Executive Director.

20. Duty Officer – NDSA Member [or their nominee]

- 20.1 The Duty Officer will collect Protest Forms
- 20.2 The Duty Officer will collect Dispute Forms
- 20.3 The Duty Officer will receipt any moneys paid to NDSA
- 20.4 The Duty Officer will report on non-compliance with NDSA duties and canteen rosters
- 20.5 The Duty Officer will hand out and/or collect Risk Management, Injury and Insurance forms