

2026 Edition

Canadian Native Fastball Championships

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS



Updated 2026

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2026 CANADIAN NATIVE FASTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

INTRODUCTION

Since 1974, Native athletes across Canada have been competing in a national softball competition called the “Canadian Native Fastball Championships.” This event has become one of Canada’s most prestigious sporting events in Native communities attracting 1100 athletes and approximately 5,000 visitors annually during the August long weekend.

The games are funded entirely by First Nation communities and organizations. Each year, the games are moved from Province to Province. During the tournament, the Canadian Native Fastball Association (CNFA), a non- profit group of First Nation representatives across Canada: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, collectively determines which Native communities or organizations will host the CNFA Tournament in the following year.

The following is a list of the CNFA Board:

Randy Potskin, President, potskin@shaw.ca

Joni Miller-Koroll, BC Representative, millerjv@hotmail.com

Leiha Crier, Alberta Representative, leiha@ualberta.ca

Melvin Parenteau, Saskatchewan Representative, melparenteau@shaw.ca

Joe Basaraba, Saskatchewan Representative

Patsy Campion, Alberta Representative

Updated 2026

REVISED July 2026

OFFICIAL CNFA TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

DEFINITIONS

1. "Abuse" means any physical or verbal act of aggression, disrespect and unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. "CNFA Board" means the Canadian Native Fastball Association. The Host Tournament Committee will forward all matters pertaining adjudicate ruling for any issues or conflicts arising from play (on-field) in the tournament.
3. "CNFA Host Committee" refers to the Host Tournament Committee (Comprising Directors delegates roles and responsibilities to ensure tournament success). CNFA Board oversees the CNFA Host.
4. "International Rule" means the Official International Softball Rules and any subsequent changes as set out by the International Softball Federation Playing Rules
Committee.www.internationalsoftball.com/English/rules_standards/Rulebook_2022.pdf
5. "Native Ancestry" means an umbrella term that historically referred to the present-day Aboriginal Peoples of Canada as defined in the Canadian Constitution, Constitution Act 1982: Aboriginal Peoples include the First Nations (and inclusion of the various references i.e., Bill-31, Non-Status, Treaty, Non-Treaty Métis and Inuit).
6. "Parental Waiver" refers to the "Parental Waiver Form" that can be found at www.nativefastball.com. This shall mean that players under the age of 18, must have a Parental Waiver form signed and submitted along with the Official Team Registration Form by the deadline dates set out in these rules.
7. "Player Ineligibility" means the determination by CNFA Board that a player will not be allowed to play because they are unable to prove their Aboriginal ancestry.

8. "Player Sign In Form" refers to the "Player Sign In Form" that can be found at www.nativefastball.com this shall mean that all players must show proof of their Native Ancestry by way of a Photo Identification Card before their name is put onto the Player Sign In Form and player passes are issued. The CNFA Host Committee completes these forms preferably during the Player-Coaches Meeting and at the main gates of each field. Coaches are responsible for signing the "Player Sign In Form" before they play.

9. "Softball Rules Canada" shall mean the Softball Canada Official Guide and Rule Book; The Official Playing Rules for slo-pitch and fastpitch softball, plus Special Operating Rules that include Canadian Championship play (See <http://www.softball.ca>)

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1) Softball Canada Pitching Rules will apply with the exception of:

- One foot on the rubber.
- Stealing when the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- "Courtesy Runner" is available for the catcher when there are 2 outs; the last batter batting before the back catcher is the option for a courtesy runner for the catcher.

2) Player Eligibility:

- All players must be of Certificate of Indian status, Provincial Métis Status, or Inuit Status; or have the form Declaration of Aboriginal Ancestry with supporting documentation.
- Players are expected to carry with them their Certificate of Indian status and/or Provincial Métis Status Card at every game. In case of protest, players without valid identification will not be allowed to participate in the tournament.
- It is recommended that players be at least 18 years of age or older to complete in the tournament; however, teams registering players are responsible to ensure that all under age (17 years of age or younger) have a "Parental Waiver signed and attached to roster when registering their team; This waiver concludes that all parties including Parents/Guardians, Coaches and Managers assume the full responsibility of the underage player for the duration for the entire tournament.

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- Any player who is challenged on their "Native Ancestry" must show their Certificate of Indian status, Provincial Métis Card, Inuit Identification, or Declaration of Aboriginal Ancestry form with supporting documentation to the CNFA Board within 30 minutes after the game has been completed.
 - The Coach will notify the Umpire of the name of individual(s) in question of player eligibility: Name, jersey number accompanying \$500.00 (cash) non-refundable "Protest Fee." The Protest Fee is \$500.00 per player/per protest. The umpire will notify the scorekeeper and give a written note and \$500.00 cash on the game sheet. The Scorekeeper will notify the CNFA Board and call to make a decision on eligibility. A minimum of three CNFA Board members will make a decision for protests regarding player eligibility. (See under protests #8)
 - Please note that any athlete that requires the Declaration of Aboriginal Ancestry form is not guaranteed eligibility to compete until the supporting documentation is approved by the CNFA Board. Individuals with Metis cards are encouraged to apply for their Provincial Metis card.
 - It is strongly recommended that not only "Native Ancestry" identification be produced but additional accompanying photo identification i.e. Driver's License or Provincial Identification.

3) Divisions: * ALL players can only play in one division, no exceptions

- Men's & Ladies Senior Divisions: No age limit set. However, refer to Master & Junior Divisions below for rulings
- Men's Master Division: Age limit is 40 years old prior to the first day of the tournament.
- Master Men players can only play in one division.
- Ladies Master Division: Age limit is 40 years old prior to the first day of the tournament.
- Master Ladies players can only play in one division.
- Under 23 Division (U23): Age limit is set at 23 years old prior to the first day of the tournament.

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- U23 players can only play in one division.

4) Tournament Schedule and Game Time:

- First pitch is the official start time.
- All Divisions are a double knockout format, with EXCEPTION OF A MODIFIED ONE GAME FINAL.
 - i. The undefeated team in the finals gets the HOME team.
 - ii. Senior Women's and Senior Men's draw will have a consolation division if they have more than 16 teams (guaranteed 3 games).
- All Master's Division and U23 is a double knockout format with a modified one game final.
- Games are 7 innings with run rules of: 7 run spread after 5 innings. 15 runs after 2 innings.
- Games are 1 hour and 45 minutes and no new innings will begin after this time has expired.
- International Rule will apply. When the game is tied after 7 innings starting in the top of the eighth or as soon as time has expired.
- Game start time has a 15 minute grace period – after 15 minutes, the team unable to field a full team will forfeit their game. Again, teams must field nine (9) players to start the game. Please note: the grace period counts toward the game length of 1 hour and 45 minutes. The Umpire will have the final say when the games officially start.
- Championship Games are "Money Games". Money games are when BOTH teams are guaranteed money. Championship Games have a two (2) hour time limit.
- Umpires will conduct games in accordance with Softball Canada Rules; with the exceptions outlined within these rules.
- Any abuse of an Umpire will not be tolerated from players or coaches. If players excessively harass an Umpire, or coaches who are showing abusive or unsportsmanlike

conduct, they may be ejected from that game at the discretion of the Umpire. If a hostile situation occurs, the game may be forfeited at the discretion of the Umpire. *Please read rule 7.

5) Roster and Line-Ups:

- The First Game lineup will be the "Official Team Roster." Any New Information Must Be provided to scorekeepers and updated on the Official Team Roster Sheet prior to the first game.
- Official Team Rosters shall have a maximum of 18 players.
- A line up must be provided 15 minutes prior to game to the Scorekeepers table; where possible both teams can meet and coordinate the coin toss moments prior to the game time supervised by the Scorekeeper or Umpire. Lineup cards must be completed with first and last legal names, numbers and positions of all players that will participate in that game. The Official Team Roster must match the "Player Sign in Form". NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.

6) Team Equipment and Uniforms:

- It is a mandatory requirement that all participation teams wear numbered uniforms that designate their team. Umpires have the discretion not to allow a team to play if numbers are not on uniforms.
- All Teams Must Wear Double Ear Batting Helmets
- Metal cleats are allowed

7) Ejections: Players may be ejected for excessive unsportsmanlike conduct or demonstrating unsportsmanlike behavior as deemed so by the officiating Umpire. Players ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or demonstrating unsportsmanlike conduct in any form will automatically be reviewed by the "CNFA Board." Incident reports and all cases of unsportsmanlike conduct must be reported in writing.

8) Protests:

- There will be no protests involving the decision of an umpire.

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- There will be no protests involving tournament format.
 - Protests must be made after the first pitch and before the last out being recorded; no protest will be honored before or after that. Games under protest will continue as scheduled as a decision will be made by the "CNFA Board."
 - An ineligible player will be ejected from the tournament and the team will forfeit that game that is under protest.
 - When a protest on status is prompted, the CNFA Board has final say whether a player is eligible or not for the tournament based on the provided information.

9) Decisions:

- Any players/ players who have been suspended by their provincial affiliation will also be ineligible to play in the CNFA until the suspension is lifted.
- The "CNFA Board" will make all decisions regarding "Player Eligibility."
- To be certain, for any reason, all decisions decided by the members of the CNFA Board and/or together with the Host Tournament Committee will be final.
- Alcohol and/or Drugs: Illicit drugs will not be permitted on the premises.
- Tournament vicinities are patrolled and under the jurisdiction of the local RCMP or City Police.

10) Appropriate Forms and Payment of Entry Fee:

- All Teams registering must include all relevant and complete documentation (i.e. Team Registration, Office Team Roster, Parental Waivers and Declaration of Native Ancestry) by deadline date set by Host.

Failure to payment in full to the CNFA Host Tournament Committee the deadline date may result in the team being refused the ability to play in the tournament.

- Entry (non-refundable) must be paid in full and forward with your registration forms. Payable by bank draft, certified cheque, direct deposit, and/or e transfer.

i. Please note: the first (32) Senior Teams of both Men's and Women's divisions to register and pay their entry fee in full will be guaranteed a spot in the tournament. The first (8) Master's Teams of both Men's and Women's divisions to register and pay their entry fee in full will be guaranteed a spot in the tournament.

The first (8) U23 Teams to register and pay their entry fee in full will be guaranteed a spot in the tournament.

ii. If there are not enough teams for the Master's Categories or U23 Division Host can cancel without delay (minimum four (4) teams). Host will refund entry fees and weekend passes if paid.

11) Indemnification for Host Committee/Society: The Host Committee, or any of its Committees, representatives, partners or volunteers, shall not be held responsible for any personal injuries, including death, or lost/stolen property, nor shall the Host Committee tolerate any harassment or abuse by teams, players or coaches.

12) Gate Admissions: All gate admissions rates will apply:

a. Daily Rate: Regular \$15, 65 years and older & Children under 12 are free

b. Weekend Rate: \$40 each

c. Player Weekend Passes: \$400 for a Team Roster to a max of 20 people. Player's Passes can only be purchased at the Coaches Meeting – Registration Table on Thursday. This is a ONE-TIME EVENT.

13) **Tournament Draw:** Will be done no later than Wednesday prior to the tournament with one CNFA members witnessing along with the Host Committee. Minimum top four (4) Championship Teams from the previous year in Men's and Ladies will be ceded (unless approved by CNFA and Host to do draw earlier with a Provincial CNFA Representative. No changes shall be made after all the prepaid teams have been put in the draw bracket (no refunds on entry fee money). No team shall be put in the draw bracket if they have not paid their entry fee. Last minute entry fees must be verified by fax, bank deposit receipt, money order and copies sent to the host.

The prize payout must be signed by Host and CNFA Board members female and male and presented at the coaches meeting by Host Committee and posted at Tournament Draw. No changes shall be made during the tournament. All prizes shall be paid out accordingly.

- Use of illegal bats will be confiscated, put name of player and contact number on bat and umpire give it to the scorekeeper (host committee) to hold until the end of the tournament. If any illegal bats are used once the official umpires have checked both participating teams, it will result in player/coach ejection for that specific game.
- Please see below the Softball Canada Bat Standards that will be enforced.
- Amendments: CNFA Tournament Rules & Regulations will be conducted annually by the CNFA Board.

Reviewed and revised

THESE RULES ARE EFFECTIVE: JULY 2026 APPROVED BY: CNFA

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PLAYERS TO CHECK IF THEIR BATS ARE ILLEGAL. THE

UMPIRE IN CHIEF WILL HAVE AN UPDATED LIST FOR 2026.

BAT CERTIFICATION

UPDATED SEPTEMBER 2021

Softball Canada does not currently have its own bat certification program, but endorses the following bat standards for Canadian Championships.

Softball Canada recognizes bats certified by both USA Softball and the WBSC for use in Fast Pitch competitions and USA Softball, the WBSC and USSSA for Slo-Pitch play.

FAST PITCH - MALE (UP TO U19) AND FEMALE (ALL LEVELS)

Acceptable Certification Stamps:

Any bat that appears on the WBSC Softball Approved Bat List and has a current ISF certification stamp (2005 only) or WBSC certification (shown above) will be accepted for play at a Softball Canada event or, any bat that appears on the USA Softball Approved Bat List

and has an ASA 2000 or 2004 certification stamp or USA Softball 2019 certification stamp (shown above) will also be accepted for play at a Softball Canada event.

The bat must meet the compression standards outlined by the certifying organization and may be tested to ensure they are in the proper range.

The bat must still pass a visual inspection per the current Softball Canada rulebook.

2026

CNFA GOVERNING RULES

Declaration of Indigenous Ancestry Form

All competitors of Indigenous Ancestry who do not have a Status, Treaty or Provincial Métis Card must complete

this form. This must be filled out and given to a CNFA Board Member with all accompanying ancestry information

with the competitor's registration form.

I, _____ (Athlete's Name) hereby declare that I am of Indigenous Ancestry and

therefore eligible to compete in the Canadian National Fastball Championships.

My Indigenous Ancestry can be traced back to:

A recognized Indigenous Organization must endorse this declaration.

_____ Athlete's name (Print)

Athlete's Signature Date

Indigenous Organization/Community Name: _____ Address:

_____ Signing Authority (Print
Name and Title) _____

_____ Signing Authority Signature

_____ Parent/Guardian's Name (Print) Required if player is under 18

_____ Date

_____ Parent/Guardian's Signature Date

Please ensure that this form is complete in full and all other ancestry information is attached.

_____ Provincial CNFA Board

Member Endorsement Signature Date

Athlete Eligibility

Indigenous Ancestry

All athletes competing in the Canadian Native Fastball Championships (CNFC), must be born of Canadian

Indigenous ancestry. All participants must make proof of ancestry available. The following will be accepted as

proof of ancestry TO BE PROVIDED AT COACHES MEETING

Treaty/Status Cards, Inuit and Inuvialuit identification or Provincial Métis Card.

If none of the above apply (i.e. non-status Indians) the Declaration of Indigenous Ancestry Form (enclosed) must

be completed by the athlete and submitted to your Provincial CNFA Board Member along with all of the

accompanying ancestry information from the athlete.

Governing Rules:

As noted, the Declaration of Aboriginal Ancestry Form must be accompanied by supporting documentation.

Examples of supporting documentation:

A letter from Band or Métis Provincial registrar verifying membership

A letter from AANDC verifying ancestry/status

A copy of front and back of one parent's status card, Provincial Métis card or Inuit and Inuvialuit Identification together with the athlete's long form birth certificate naming the same parent

Please note that any athlete that requires the Declaration of Ancestry Form is not guaranteed eligibility to compete at the CNFC until the Declaration is approved and endorsed by the CNFA Board. For questions regarding eligibility, please email your Provincial CNFA Board member.

Samples:

