

Canadian Native Fastball Championships



OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

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I. INTRODUCTION

Since 1974, native athletes across Canada have been competing in an all 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.

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 comprised of First Nation representatives across Canada: BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba*, collectively determines which native community or organization will host the games in the following year.

The following is a list of the CNFA Executive Board of Directors.

II. CNFA EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a. **Mr. Randy Potskin, President**
randy.potskin@nativefastball.ca
- b. **Mr. Alik Moore, BC Rep.**
alex.moore@nativefastball.ca
- c. **Ms. Joni Miller, BC Rep.**
joni.miller@nativefastball.ca
- d. **Mr. Tony Alexis, Alberta Rep.**
tony.alexis@nativefastball.ca
- e. **Ms. Leiha Crier, Alberta Rep. *New – July 2009**
leiha.crier@nativefastball.ca
- f. **Mr. Joey Basaraba, Saskatchewan Rep.**
joey.basaraba@nativefastball.ca
- g. **Mr. Calvin Campeau, Manitoba Rep.**
calvin.campeau@nativefastball.ca

III. DEFINITIONS

1. **“Abuse”** means any physical or verbal act of aggression, disrespect, and unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. **“CNFC Dispute Resolution Committee”** means the body established by the CNFC National Board: independently adjudicate the eligibility of players by ruling on their Aboriginal status and any off-field conflicts.
3. **“CNFC National Board”** means the Canadian Native Fastball Championships National Board, President Randy Potskin, et al.; whereas the *Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Host Tournament Committee* will forward all matters pertaining adjudicate rulings for any issues or conflicts arising from play (on-field) in the tournament.
4. **“CNFC Host Committee”** refers to the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Host Tournament Committee (comprised of Directors delegated roles and responsibilities to ensure tournament success), who will be hosting the 2009 Canadian Native Fastball Championships in Whitecourt, AB. CNFC Host Committee and Host Tournament Committee are used interchangeably.
5. **“International Rule”** means the Official International Softball Rules and any subsequent changes as set out by the International Softball Federation Playing Rules Committee. (See www.internationalsoftball.com/english/rules_standards/Rulebook_2002.pdf)
6. **“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 C-31, Non-Status, Treaty, Non-Treaty Métis, and Inuit.
7. **“Parental Waiver”** refers to the “Parental Waiver Form” that can be found at www.nativefastball.ca. 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.
8. **“Player Ineligibility”** means the determination by the CNFC National Board that a player will not be allowed to play because they are unable to prove or establish their Aboriginal ancestry and therefore, their valid Aboriginal or Native status of Canada.
9. **“Player Sign in Form”** refers to the “Player Sign in Form” that can be found at www.nativefastball.ca. 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 CNFC Host Committee completes these forms preferably during the Player-Coaches Meeting and at the main gates of each field. Players and Coaches are responsible for signing the “Player Sign in Form” before they play.
10. **“Softball Canada Rules”** shall mean the Softball Canada Official Guide and Rule Book; the Official Playing Rules for slo-pitch and fast pitch softball, plus Special Operating Rules that include Canadian Championship play (see <http://www.softball.ca>).

IV. OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

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

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

2. Player Eligibility

- a. All players must be of "Canadian Native Ancestry" either by Treaty Status, Band Membership Status or by Métis Status;
- b. All players will have to show proof of their "Canadian Native Ancestry" **before** their name is put onto the Player Sign in Form. *Native Ancestry Letters* are not acceptable forms of identification—IDENTIFICATION CARDS only. NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.
- c. Players are expected to carry with them their Indian, Band Membership and/or Métis Status Cards at every game. In case of a protest, players without valid identification **will not** be allowed to participate in the tournament;
- d. It is recommended that players be at least 18 years of age or older to compete in the tournament; however, teams registering players are responsible to ensure that all under age (17 years of age and younger) have a "Parental Waiver" signed and attached to roster when registering their team;
 - i. This waiver concludes that all parties including Parents/Guardians, Coaches and Managers assume the full responsibility of the underage player for the duration of the entire tournament.
- e. Any player who is challenged on "Native Ancestry" must show their Treaty/Band Membership Status or Métis Cards to the "CNFC National Board" within 30 minutes after the game has been completed;
- f. If a player does not produce "Native Ancestry" I.D. within 30 minutes after the game has been completed, the team in question will automatically forfeit that game;

- g. Regardless of who knows who, players must carry their identification cards at all times;
- h. Photocopies **will not** be accepted as proper “Native Ancestry” identification;
- i. It is strongly advised that not only “Native Ancestry” I.D. be produced but additional accompanying photo identification (i.e., driver’s license, Provincial ID.)
- j. The Master Division;
 - i. age limit is set at 40 years prior to January 1st of current year;
 - ii. each team may have at least two under age players 35 – 40 years;
 - iii. under age players are not permitted to pitch in any games;
 - iv. under age players are not permitted to play in both divisions;

3. Tournament Schedule and Game Time

- a. Senior Division is a double knockout format with a consolation;
- b. Masters Division is a true double format, sudden final;
- c. Games are 7 innings with run rules of: 7 run spread after 5 innings;
- d. Games are 1 hour and 45 minutes and no new innings will begin after this time has expired;
- e. International rule will apply. When the game is tied after 7 innings starting in the top of the eighth or as soon as a time has expired;
- f. Game start time has 15 minutes 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 game length of 1 hour and 45 minutes.

4. Umpires

- a. Umpires will conduct games in accordance with Softball Canada Rules; with the exceptions outlined within these rules;
- b. Any abuse of an umpire or official 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(ii).

- c. The umpire will have final say when the games officially start.

5. Roster and Line-Ups

- a. The first game line up will be the “Official Team Roster”;
- b. Official Team Rosters shall have a maximum of 18 players;
- c. 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 game time supervised by the scorekeeper or umpire;
- d. Line up cards must be complete with first and last legal names, numbers and positions of all players that will participate in that game;
- e. The Official Team Roster must match the “Player Sign in Form”. **NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**

6. Team Equipment and Uniforms

- a. It is a **mandatory** requirement that all participating 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;
- b. All teams must wear their own double ear batting helmets;
- c. Metal cleats are allowed;
- d. **ASA Bat Testing & Certification Program:** The official bat in ASA Championship Play must meet all of the requirements of Rule 3, Section 1 and:
 - 1. must bear **either** the ASA approved 2000 certification mark **or the ASA 2004 certification mark** as shown below, and must not be listed on an ASA non approved list, **and**



2. must be included on a list of approved bat models published by the ASA National Office; or
 3. must, in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, have been manufactured prior to 2000 and if tested, would comply with the ASA bat performance standards then in effect.
- e. ***Beginning January 1, 2004, all bats in ASA Championship Play must pass the ASA 2004 bat standard. All bats having the 2004 certification mark will be allowed in ASA Championship Play. Bats that have the 2000 certification mark will not be allowed in ASA Championship Play unless they are listed on an approved bat list on the ASA website. For convenience, the ASA website has a listing of bats that do not pass the ASA 2004 bat standard.***
- f. **2004 and Beyond Approved Bats (Updated:6/10/2009)** For a list of bats that have been tested and found to comply with the ASA bat performance standards, and therefore are authorized to bear the **ASA 2004 certification mark** and/or are authorized for use in ASA Championship Play beginning January 1, 2004, please click on the manufacturer below. Manufacturers continue to submit additional bat models for testing, and the ASA will update this list as test results become available.

7. Procedures

- a. Ejections:
 - i. Players may be ejected for excessive unsportsmanlike conduct or demonstrating unsportsmanlike behavior as deemed so by the officiating umpire;
 - ii. Players ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or demonstrating unsportsmanlike conduct in any form will automatically be reviewed by the "CNFC National Board";
 - iii. Incident reports and all cases of unsportsmanlike conduct must be reported in writing.

b. Protests:

- i. There will be no protests involving the decision of an umpire;
- ii. There will be no protests involving the tournament format;
- iii. Protests involving "Player Eligibility" will revert to the "Official Scorekeeper" in written form accompanying a \$300.00 (cash) non-refundable "Protest Fee" to be submitted to the Umpire and/or the Division Director/scorekeeper and proper protocol will be taken there forward. Protest Fees are subject per (1) player, per game.
- iv. 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 and a decision will be made by the "CNFC National Board";
- v. An ineligible player will be ejected from the tournament and the team will lose that game that is under protest;
- vi. The "CNFC National Board" will make all decisions regarding "Player Eligibility".

8. Decisions

- a. To be certain, for any reason, all decisions decided by the members of the 2009 CNFC National Board and/or together with the Host Tournament Committee will be final.

9. Alcohol and/or Drugs

- a. Alcohol or illicit drugs will not be permitted on the premises.
- b. Tournament vicinities are patrolled and under the jurisdiction of the local RCMP.
- c. Players or coaches found to be in violation of rule 9. a. *or charged by the RCMP in accordance with rule 9. b.* may be ejected from the tournament. Ruling shall be at the discretion of the CNFC Host Tournament Committee.
- d. Social activities are designated and established by the 2009 CNFC Host Tournament Committee. See social events.

10. Appropriate Forms and Payment of Entry Fee

- a. All Teams registering must include all relevant and complete documentation (i.e., Team Registration, Official Team Rosters & Parental Waivers) by the deadline date of July 15, 2009.
- b. Failure to have payment in full to the 2009 CNFC Host Tournament Committee by the deadline date may result in the team being refused the ability to play in the tournament.
- c. 50% deposit must be forwarded with your registration form, none refundable.
- d. 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 tourney. The first (8) Masters 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 tourney (minimum of 8 teams required for this division).
- e. If there are not enough teams for the Masters Categories this division will be cancelled without delay.
- f. Disclaimer: the Canadian Native Fastball Championships no longer offer Men A or B Divisions, as of August 3, 2008.

11. Indemnification of Host Committee/Society

- a. The Host Committee/Nation, 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 Nation tolerate any harassment or abuse by teams, players or coaches.

12. Gate Admissions

- a. From July 31, 2009 all gate admission rates will apply.
 - i. Daily Rate:
 - Regular - \$10.00
 - Elders - Free
 - Children & Youth (12 & Under) - Free
 - ii. Weekend Rate:
 - \$25.00 per pass

iii. Player Weekend Passes:

- 10 passes @ \$200.00
- Additional passes \$20.00/each
- Purchase players passes at the Coaches Meeting - Registration Table Thursday - ONE TIME EVENT.

1. Amendments

- a. Amendments of the Tournament Rules and Regulations will be conducted annually completed by the CNFC Executive Committee.
- b. Reviewed and revised July 28, 2009, ANSN.

THESE RULES ARE EFFECTIVE:

July 28, 2009

APPROVED BY:

Randy Potskin, CNFC President

LOCATION:

Whitecourt, Alberta