



## FUTURES GOLD & FUTURES SELECT PLAYING RULES

1. Tournament rules will be W.B.S.C. 2022-2025 unless otherwise stated.
2. Roster Size: The Canada Cup International Softball Championship will be using an expanded roster of 20 players. This is an elite invitational tournament. There is no residency or citizenship rule in effect.

We request that final rosters be submitted at the Coaches Technical Meeting on Thursday, July 6, 2023 (Futures SELECT) or on Sunday, July 9, 2023 (Futures GOLD). No changes to the Official Roster will be accepted after this point.

PICKUPS: Pickups only from the same classification or lower, where classification includes age group (Showcase being lower age group than Futures) as well as level (Select being lower level than Gold)

FUTURES GOLD players may play in more than one Canada Cup International Softball Championship only as it applies to the Women's Tournament. They may be on a Women's Team Roster as well as a Futures Gold Roster subject to the age eligibility criteria. Any Futures Gold players playing in more than one Canada Cup International Softball Championship must be registered on both rosters before the commencement of the tournament.

FUTURES SELECT players may play in more than one Canada Cup International Softball Championship only as it applies to the Futures Gold Tournament. They may be on a Futures Gold Roster as well as a Futures Select Roster subject to the age eligibility criteria and having no more than **TWO** previously rostered Futures Select Players on a single Futures Gold roster. Any Futures Select players playing in more than one Canada Cup International Softball Championship must be registered on both rosters before the commencement of the tournament.

3. Eligibility and Age Restrictions: Eligible players **MUST** be born in 2004 or more recently. Players born in 2003 or earlier are **NOT** eligible to participate. Players must carry proof of age in the form of a passport, birth certificate, baptismal certificate, or other recognized government identification. Photocopies of proof of age documents are sufficient to meet this requirement. Teams may be asked to present this information to tournament officials.
4. Any bat that meets current ASA or WBSC Bat Standards may be used. Any bat that appears on the WBSC Softball Approved Bat List and has a current ISF certification stamp (2005 only) or WBSC certification (shown below) will be accepted for play at Canada Cup.

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 below) will also be accepted for play at Canada Cup.

**ISF2005**



**WBSC (New)**



**ASA2000**



**ASA2004**



**USA Softball  
(New)**



5. The ball provided for the Canada Cup International Softball Championships will be considered the “official ball” of the Championships and will be exclusively used during all tournament games.
6. Five-minute infields will be allowed before each game -- time permitting. The Games Supervisor will notify teams if infields are discontinued. Nobody can use the infield while the Grounds Crew is working or during the plate conference.
7. Run ahead rule: 15 runs after 3 innings; or 10 runs after 4 innings; or 7 runs after 5 innings
8. One Foot in the Batting Box. Between pitches, the batter must keep one foot in the batter's box to not delay the game. The batter can leave the batter's box on a hit, walk, to get out of the way of a pitch, to avoid a runner, etc.
9. Teams must send a player to warm up the pitcher between innings if the catcher is not ready. If not, the pitcher is limited to 1 pitch.
10. Batting practice will not be allowed in warm-ups on the field.
11. No one, other than team members in uniform, coaches, and managers, will be allowed on the field.
12. Each team can set up a video camera with a tripod to record gameplay for training purposes. The camera must be located immediately adjacent to the home run fence no less than 25 feet (7.62 metres) from the middle of the center field fence. The camera should be labelled with the team's name.
13. The line-up cards must be submitted to the Games Supervisor, at each individual park in the Games Control or Coin Flip area, 60 minutes before the scheduled time for the game and are official at that time. They must be signed (*First Name and Surname*) by the team manager or coach.

All players, including substitutes, must be properly listed with full names and uniform numbers. For the starting lineup, positions must also be identified. A player injured during the warm-up can be replaced in the original lineup by the manager at the home conference, without incurring a substitution.

14. A request for clarification of a rule is not an official protest and can be made to the Umpires on the field at any point during a game.
15. All protests will be managed prior to the next pitch. The protest committee shall consist of a Canada Cup Director, Canada Cup Games Supervisor, Youth UIC, or their assignees. All decisions are final.
16. The WBSC 2022 – 2025 Tie-Breaker rule will be used in all games played. In a tie breaker inning, if an incorrect runner is placed on second base, they shall be called out if a proper appeal is made by the defensive team after a pitch (legal or illegal) or play and is upheld. A proper appeal may be made at any time the incorrect runner is on base. If the offensive team places the correct runner on base before a proper appeal is made, there is no penalty.
17. Uniforms: Light coloured jerseys will be used for the Visiting Team and the Home Team will wear a contrasting or dark-coloured jersey. In the event of a conflict in the colours of uniforms, the Home Team will have the option. The Games Supervisor has the discretion to call for a uniform change if they feel the colours will be too difficult to differentiate for spectators, the media, or athletes. Both teams must have two (2) sets of uniforms at the park for every game.

A coach must be neatly attired, including wearing suitable footwear, or be dressed in team uniform in accordance with the colour code of the team. If a coach chooses to wear a cap, it must conform to WBSC Rule 2.5.1a.

18. Caps, visors, and headbands are optional for female players, and players are free to choose which of these they wish to wear. Each must be of the same colour and style as the team uniform colours. Plastic or hard visors are not allowed.
19. When at any time a defensive team member erases the lines of a batter's box, a ball will be called on the next scheduled offensive team batter or the offensive team batter currently at bat. A pitch does not have to be thrown. When at any time an offensive team member erases the lines of a batter's box, a strike will be called on the next scheduled offensive team batter or the offensive team batter currently at bat. A pitch does not have to be thrown.

20. A temporary runner is legal for a catcher or pitcher of record who is listed in the starting line-up in the top of the first inning or is the catcher or pitcher of record from the previous half inning who is on base with two (2) outs. The following provisions apply:
- a) the use of the temporary runner is optional for the offensive team.
  - b) the temporary runner may be used any time after the second out occurs, and
  - c) the temporary runner is the player scheduled to bat last who is not on base at the time the option is taken.
- If an incorrect runner is used as a temporary runner, the runner shall be called out if a proper appeal is made by the defensive team after a pitch or play is made and the appeal is upheld. A proper appeal may be made at any time the incorrect runner is on base. If the offence places the correct runner on base before a proper appeal is made, there is no penalty.

21. Masks: All catchers must wear a mask, throat protector, chest protector, shin guards and helmet. A catcher (or other members of the defensive team) must wear a mask, throat protector and helmet while receiving warm-up pitches from the pitcher's plate, or in the warm-up area. If the person catching the pitch will not wear the mask, throat protector and helmet, they must be replaced by a person who will do so.

22. Designated Player and Flex Rule will be in effect.

23. **PITCHING REGULATIONS:**

- The pitcher must have the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate and both feet within the 61.0 cm. (24 in.) length of the pitcher's plate. The hips must be in line with first and third bases.
- The pitcher must, after taking the signal, bring their whole body to a full and complete stop with the ball in both hands in front of the body. The stepping (non-pivot) foot must be stationary at the start and during pause. The stepping (non-pivot) foot can only move forward with the start of the pitch. Any backward movement of the stepping non-pivot foot during or after the pause is an illegal action. This position must be held for not less than two (2) seconds and not more than five (5) seconds before releasing the ball. Holding the ball in both hands to the side of the body is considered in front of the body.
- The pitch starts when one hand is taken off the ball, or the pitcher makes any motion that is part of the pitcher's wind up. The pitcher may not use a pitching motion in which, after being in the pitching position with the ball in both hands, they take a backward and forward swing and return the ball to both hands in front of the body.
- The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate prior to the start of the pitch. Lifting the pivot foot off the pitcher's plate and returning it to the plate, creating a rocking motion, is an illegal act.
- In the act of delivering the ball, the pitcher may take one step with the stepping (non-pivot) foot simultaneously with the release of the ball. The step must be forward toward the batter and within the 61.0 cm. (24 in.) length of the pitcher's plate. It is not a step if the pitcher slides either foot across the pitcher's plate, provided contact is maintained with the plate and there is no movement backward off the plate.
- The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate, push off and drag away from the pitcher's plate or be airborne prior to the stepping (non-pivot) foot touching the ground. The pitcher may leap from the pitcher's plate, land and with a continuous motion deliver the ball to the batter. The pivot foot may follow through with the pitcher's continuous action.
- The pitcher's push off to drag, leap or hop must start from the pitcher's plate. The pitcher must not crow hop or push off from any place other than the pitcher's plate.

24. 20-second clock will not be used.

25. Intentional Walk may be used -- no need to pitch to the batter.

*\* Rules are subject to change without notice*