

INNING THREE – COMPETITION WITHIN COHORT GROUPS

LSO's and participants are to follow the Facility and Diamond Protocols included in the previous Innings (except to the extent that they conflict, in which case these Inning Three protocols apply), plus:

- ❖ Indoor and/or outdoor facility protocols in this document are to be followed as appropriate,
- ❖ Volunteer screeners, attendance trackers, sanitizing and distancing champions are required for every softball activity,
- ❖ Home team to set up the diamond and communicate entry/exit points to visitors, as well as any other protocols being observed at that park,
- ❖ Visiting team will be directed to spectator and participant areas which have been adequately marked off and identified for spectator seating, or participant equipment storage,
- ❖ Players and coaches are permitted to be in close proximity while on the field of play. The dugout is considered inside the field of play, so team members may use the dugout during games/practices, but are expected to follow physical distancing when off the field of play,
- ❖ Where possible, a minimum of two umpires should be used for games to assist in physical distancing,
- ❖ Establishing cohorts will limit the number of people that each individual will come in contact with, reducing the risk of transmission and ensuring quicker contact tracing by health authorities if an outbreak occurs,
- ❖ Cohorts should be made up of teams of similar age and competitive skill level,
- ❖ When members of the cohort gather together for games or activities, gatherings may not exceed 50 people per facility (ball diamond), less in an indoor facility, depending on the size,
- ❖ Cohorts should remain together for an extended period of time, however, if looking to change or join a cohort (for either team or an individual) a 14-day break from all softball activities is required,

❖ Face masks for all participants are strongly recommended while off the field of play and required when physical distancing cannot be maintained. Face coverings for virus contagion are mandatory for the plate umpire, provided that should they be unable to wear a face covering due to an underlying health issue or breathing/overheating concerns, the home plate umpire has the option of calling the game from behind the pitcher's circle as an alternative to wearing a face covering,

❖ League play and competitive activities may only occur within the cohort.

Cohort Groups

Cohort groups may be formed based on the following procedures:

1. Minor Teams:

a. Cohorts may be formed, based on the guidelines provided through viaSport, and updated as necessary, within appropriate age and classification.

b. Each LSO will designate an individual(s) to provide to their Minor Coordinator the following information for each team intending to take part in a cohort for softball activities:

i. Team Name

ii. Team contact information, including email and phone number.

iii. Category (U10/U12, etc.)

iv. Classification (A, B, C)

v. Team Birth Year, if applicable (2002, 2003 etc.)

c. The Minor Coordinator will, in consultation with their LSOs, determine options for cohorts with other communities. The Coordinator, or their designate, will meet with all District Coordinators to set the cohorts involving teams from their District. This provincial meeting will be facilitated and chaired by the Minor Director.

d. Cohorts will be formed with a priority to creating a competitive balance by age and ability and within geographical areas which comply with Softball BC and viaSport guidelines.

e. A and B classification teams will also try, as much as possible, to recognize team balance by birth year and the need for meaningful competition by teams throughout the province.

f. Once the Minor Coordinator group has determined the make-up of a cohort and approved that group, this information will be shared with the PSO office and their LSOs.

g. In the case of an appeal by an LSO of the placement or absence/deletion of one of their teams in a cohort, the request for consideration will be sent from the LSO

President to the Minor Director who will have the final decision.

2. Men's and Women's Teams:

a. Cohorts may be formed, within guidelines of viaSport and Softball BC, by the appropriate Men's and Women's Coordinator. Each District Coordinator will obtain the following information from their Men's and Women's leagues:

- i. League Name
- ii. Team Name
- iii. Team contact information, including email and phone number.
- iv. Gender
- v. Classification (A, B, C, D)
- vi. Home Park

b. The Men's and Women's Coordinator will, in consultation with a designated representative from each league, determine appropriate cohorts for softball activity. These cohorts will comply with the current viaSport and Softball BC guidelines. Priority will be given to balancing cohorts to provide meaningful competition within a set geographical area.

c. The Men's and Women's Director will facilitate and chair a meeting for all Men's and Women's Coordinators to review and approve cohorts. The PSO (Softball BC) will be advised of the formation and make-up of the cohorts as will each league representative.

d. In the event of an appeal based on a team being included or excluded from a cohort, the decision will rest with the Men's and Women's Director, and that decision shall be final.

Other procedures regarding Cohorts:

❖ Athletes may be picked up within their respective cohorts only. No participation by anyone from outside a cohort, or by someone who is not duly registered with the League/LSO.

❖ Participants are directed to participate in as few cohorts as possible. Those who have more than one role within Softball BC (player/coach, player/umpire etc.) may take part in up to three cohorts maximum, but only when they have a unique role in each cohort.

❖ Participants and teams who wish to change cohorts or wish to join a cohort as a new member, must quarantine from all softball activities, if an individual, from all organized softball activity and if a team, from softball activity outside of their registered team for a period of at least fourteen (14) days. If during that quarantine period, an individual develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or comes in contact with

someone who has tested positive, they are required to self-isolate and contact their health authority for direction.

❖ When a team leaves their current cohort and are going through quarantine protocol, the registered members of that team may continue to practice together during the quarantine period. In the event two or more teams are leaving the same cohort and area all moving to the same new cohort, those teams quarantining may continue to engage in competitive games among themselves. If during that quarantine period, an individual develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or comes in contact with someone who has tested positive, they are required to self-isolate and contact their health authority for direction.