



WOMENS MASTERS *Invitational*

28/29TH MARCH, 2026

TOURNAMENT RULES

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS BASEBALL CLUB
CNR FLAXMILL RD & PEREGRINE CRES, CHRISTIE DOWNS



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1. ELIGIBILITY

1.1 All participating players must be **35 years of age or older** as at **date of tournament**.

1.2 Permit players aged **33 years** may be granted eligibility upon formal request and approval.

1.3 Approved permit players are **not permitted to pitch or catch** under any circumstances.

2. TEAM DESIGNATION

2.1 The **first-named team** shall be the **Away Team**, occupy the **1st base bench**, and **bat first**.

2.2 The **second-named team** shall be the **Home Team**, occupy the **3rd base bench**, and **field first**.

3. LINE-UPS, SUBSTITUTIONS & RESTRICTIONS

3.1 A maximum of **12 players** may be listed in the batting line-up, subject to scorebook capability.

3.2 A defensive team must field **9 players**.

3.3 A **Designated Hitter (DH)** may be used for the pitcher and/or catcher.

3.4 Pitching Restriction: A pitcher may only throw **3 innings** per game.

3.5 Injury Substitution:

- Unlimited substitutions are permitted in the case of injury.
- Injured players must be removed promptly and safely.

3.6 Umpires reserve the right to **deny substitution requests** deemed to be time-wasting.

4. PLAYER QUALIFICATION – FINALS

4.1 To be eligible for finals, a player must be:

- Officially registered, and
- Have participated in **33% + 1 inning** of all **playable innings** for their team.

4.2 Example: If a team records **18 playable innings**, a player must participate in a minimum of **7 innings** to qualify.

5. GAME FORMAT

5.1 Each game shall be conducted over **100 minutes** or **7 innings**, whichever occurs first.

5.2 No new inning shall commence after **90 minutes** of play.

5.3 If the Home team is trailing at the 90-minute mark, the inning in progress shall be completed.

5.4 A minimum of **75 minutes** constitutes a regulation game in the event of a weather-related abandonment.

5.5 Rain Delays

- If rain is present at the scheduled start time, umpires may declare a **washout** after a 20-minute delay.
- If the commencement of play is delayed by more than 10 minutes, game duration may be reduced to **90 minutes**.
- In the event of a washout: **score recorded as 0-0**, with **1 point** awarded to each team.

5.6 Scoring Rules

- A maximum of **5 runs** is permitted per offensive inning, after which the umpire shall call “**Side**”.
- A **10-run mercy rule** shall apply after **5 innings**.

5.7 Finals Procedures

- If a finals match is tied following the completion of even innings and the expiration of 100 minutes, play shall continue as follows:
 - a. The next inning shall commence with a runner on **second base** (the last recorded out).
 - b. The full even inning shall be completed; no sudden death rule applies.
 - c. If still tied, the subsequent inning shall commence with runners on **second and third base**.
- Each additional inning must be played to completion.

6. BASE RUNNING RULES

6.1 Speed-Up Rule

- May be applied for the catcher (and pitcher if required) when there are **fewer than two outs**.
- Is **mandatory** for the catcher (and pitcher if required) when there are **two outs**.
- Speed-up runners must come from the **bench** if listed; otherwise, the **last batted out** shall be used.
- The speed-up runner must be ready to enter play without delay.

6.2 Courtesy Runner

- One courtesy runner per team per game is permitted.
- May only be used for a batter who is unable to run the bases **after safely reaching first base**.
- Courtesy runners **may not steal bases**.

7. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

7.1 All minor round games shall be conducted in a **Round Robin** format.

7.2 Ladder points shall be awarded as follows:

- Win: **2 points**
- Draw: **1 point**
- Loss: **0 points**

7.3 In the event of teams being tied on points:

- Primary tiebreaker: **Runs For**
- Secondary tiebreaker: **Head-to-Head result**

7.4 Finals:

- **1st vs 2nd**: Gold and Silver Medal Game
- **3rd vs 4th**: Bronze Medal Game

8. DIAMOND SET-UP & EQUIPMENT

8.1 On unfenced diamonds, boundary cones shall mark the home run line.

- A batted ball rolling through the cones is deemed **dead-ball**, with the batter awarded **two bases**.
- A batted ball clearing the cones on the fly is deemed a **home run**.

8.2 Bats:

- Male players: **wood or wood composite bats only.**
- Female players: **wood or aluminium bats** are permitted.

9. PLAYER RESPONSIBILITY & CONDUCT

9.1 All players must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the **spirit of the game**.

9.2 This tournament is strictly **non-contact**; runners must **slide to avoid contact** at all times.

9.3 Abusive, offensive, or unsportsmanlike behaviour toward umpires, opponents, spectators, or team personnel is strictly prohibited.

9.4 Penalties for misconduct:

- **First Offence:** Issue reported to the Tournament Director; discussion and formal warning issued to offender and team coach.
- **Second Offence: Immediate expulsion** from the game and the **entire tournament**.

9.5 Alcohol is not permitted to be brought into the venue. Participants are expected to drink responsibly in designated areas only.

10. TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

10.1 The Home (second-named) team is responsible for ensuring the diamond and benches are left clean after each game.

10.2 All players may be required to assist with raking and diamond maintenance.

10.3 Team sheets must be provided to scorers and opposition management **no later than 10 minutes prior to game start**.

10.4 Scorecards must be completed in full and submitted to the designated Aces Official or results box.

11. EJECTIONS

11.1 Any player ejected from a game shall automatically receive a **one-game suspension**.

11.2 The suspension must be served in the player's **next scheduled match**.

11.3 Ejected players are **not permitted** to participate for any other team during the tournament.

12. RULE PRECEDENCE

12.1 The rules outlined within this document shall take **precedence** over all SABL rules and by-laws for the duration of the event.

12.2 In circumstances not specifically addressed herein, SABL rules shall apply at the sole discretion of the umpire.