



# 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.

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## 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**.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.