



MEMO TO: Associations, Clubs, Players, Umpires, Scorers and other interested parties
FROM: Softball NZ
DATE: Friday 29 August, 2019
SUBJECT: Tournament rules for 2019-20 season

This memo has been prepared to highlight some of the key changes in rules and policies in regards to Softball NZ (SNZ) tournaments for the 2019/20 season and onwards. The Tournament Advisory Group (TAG) met to look at the recommendations and submissions from the stakeholders that were sent in. After debating and discussing the relevant information, as well as seeking submissions about possible rule changes, the TAG finalized their recommendations and sent their rulings to SNZ. SNZ has accepted those rulings and below is the key changes to tournament rules and policy for this upcoming representative season;

- For all SNZ tournaments (U15's, U18's, Secondary School Tournaments, NFC, and Open Clubs), a standard points system will be applied to games that form the standings. Points will be awarded on the basis of 5 for a win, 2 for a tie breaker loss, and 1 for a loss by 2 or less. Where tie breaker points are awarded no other points can be gained.
- For the SNZ Age Grade National tournaments, new players to the National tournaments have to show their original documentation verifying their date of birth to their respective association delegates. The associations will either send through a verified copy of the document to SNZ, or present the documentation at the managers meeting to the SNZ Representative. Eligible documentation includes passports, birth certificates, and School Identification cards that clearly show a photo and date of birth.
- For the Open Club tournaments commencing in March 2020, the TAG re-convened to look at submissions received from various stakeholders in regards to possible restrictions to the number of overseas players a team can have on their offensive or defensive line-up at any one time. Again, after much deliberation it was recommended that there be a restriction to the number of overseas players a team can field 'on the diamond' at any one time. That is, up to three overseas players at any one time will be allowed on the offensive and defensive line-ups during a game. Teams will have no restrictions on the number of overseas players on the overall team list for the tournament, but only a maximum of three overseas players can be on the offensive and defensive line-ups at any one time during a game. Players who have NZ citizenship and/or NZ residency are not classed as overseas players.

- For the National Fastpitch Championship, players who make themselves available for the draft and are selected by a team on draft night must play for that team. If these players are selected by a team (on draft night) and then pull out, they may face a penalty. Only extreme circumstances will allow escape from a possible penalty.

- To be considered for National team appointments, all NZ players are required to play in the National Fastpitch Championships (SNZ Premium National tournament). Only injury or illness allowing possible absence from NFC. However, the reason must be put in writing to SNZ with a medical certificate stating the nature of the illness or injury.

All other rules and policies remain the same from the previous season. Please refer to the TAG minutes sent together with this memo for your interest.

Yours in Softball

Eugene Gilbert