

SOFTBALL NEW ZEALAND

2021/22 NATIONAL FASTPITCH CHAMPIONSHIP

Rules and Explanations



10/11/2021

National Fastpitch Championship

Introduction and Key Dates

Softball New Zealand (SNZ) has a responsibility to ensure that all softball participants in New Zealand are provided with the opportunity to participate and maximize their potential within the sport of softball.

The National Fastpitch Championship (NFC) for the 2021/22 season is to be based on the following principles:

1. Association based with no restrictions on numbers entered
2. Format to be a 4 day tournament
3. To be held 10 Feb – 13 Feb 2022 in Christchurch

Important Dates

Fri 17 December, 2021	Entry form due along with half the entry fee
Mon 10 January, 2022	Rosters due for each team
Mon 17 January, 2022	Full payment of entry fee due
Wed 9 February, 2022	Managers meeting at Mizuno Ballpark at 8pm
Thurs 10 February, 2022	NFC Tournament starts

Entry Fee

Participation fee for the tournament is \$560 (incl GST) per team.

Regions

For the NFC, Auckland, Wellington, Hutt Valley, and Canterbury Associations are not allowed pick up players of any sort, they can only have players affiliated to their own respective association.

Players whose Association enters or does not enter a team in a National Tournament are eligible to be selected by another association (except Auckland, Wellington, Hutt Valley, and Canterbury) within their region, as defined below:

1. Auckland.
2. Northland, North Harbour, Franklin, Counties Manukau, Waikato, Western Bay of Plenty.
3. Taranaki, Wanganui, Manawatu, Horowhenua, Hawkes Bay, Tairāwhiti.
4. Wellington, Hutt Valley.
5. Canterbury.
6. Nelson, Marlborough, South Canterbury, Mid Canterbury, Central Otago, Otago, Southland.

Team Eligibility

One team from each Association (or combination Associations) shall be eligible to participate in the NFC. A second team is encouraged from associations however must be selected on a genuine A and B team basis.

Note:

No NZ based player shall play for any association at the tournament unless that player meets the following criteria at least **28 days** prior to the commencement of the tournament;

- **The player is affiliated to the specific association.**
- **The player has completed any Inter-Association clearance forms.**

Pick Up Rules.

Associations may pick up a total of four (4) players from anywhere in the country, provided that their registered association does not require them. Auckland, Hutt Valley, Wellington and Canterbury are excluded from this pick up rule, they must select players affiliated to their own respective association.

Players may be eligible as regional pick-ups for regional teams even though their association has entered the respective tournament (This means teams can use unlimited regional pick ups from their own region – see previous Page 2 for regions). For example, Counties Manukau can only have regional pick ups from their region (#2) – Northland, North Harbour, Franklin, Waikato, & Western Bay of Plenty. Southland can only have regional pick ups from their region (#6) - Nelson, Marlborough, South Canterbury, Mid Canterbury, Central Otago, Otago.

- The player must, in the first instance, be available for selection for the association or association regional team they are registered with.
- Players not listed on their association's lodged return schedule by the due date for the applicable tournament are granted automatic and irrevocable release for the period of the tournament.
- It is compulsory for the parent association to be notified of all pick up players, whether it is a standard pick up or a regional pick up.

Imports

Only one overseas player can participate in each Association team (this means any player who is not a NZ Citizen, does not have NZ Residency status, or has not represented NZ from U19 and over). They must be registered by way of completing and submitting the appropriate forms. The overseas player must have played a minimum of 3 premier club games (Top 2 divisions within a local association competition) within the season (tournaments do not count) before the start day of the NFC.

NZ Players Overseas

NZ Players who wish to play in the tournament who are based overseas and who are not affiliated to a NZ association, can register to play for the association they were registered with before they left to be based overseas. For this tournament, a NZ Player is defined as a New Zealand Citizen, or NZ Resident, or a player that has played for a Softball NZ National team from U19 and over.

Team Numbers & Designated Runners

All games in the NFC will involve a maximum of 15 players per team. Designated runners are allowed.

Points

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.

Seven Innings Games

All games will be standard regulation games. The finals day may be restricted to time games so as to keep to strict Sky TV live coverage.

Replacements

Teams will be permitted replacements up until the end of the managers meeting the night before the tournament starts. Once a player has been replaced as above, they may not return to the team.

Dress code and behavior

Coaches and players must at all times be dressed appropriately where they can be identified as representatives of an NFC team. On diamond dress shall be as prescribed in the SNZ Rule Book with all players attired in uniforms alike in colour, trim and style. Coaches must be neatly attired and dressed in team uniform or in suitable clothing in accordance with the team colours.

Any action or behavior that brings the game into serious disrepute will not be tolerated. In the first instance a report will be sent to the Association by the STR after the tournament for them to take appropriate action. However if the behavior should continue this may result in a loss of points if the STR deems this appropriate. Both Coaches and players **MUST** abide by their respective SNZ codes of conduct (See appendix A). The manager should report any breaches of the codes to the association to take appropriate action. The association should then provide SNZ with a written account of the action taken.

Appendix A

SNZ Coaches Code of Conduct

- 1. Respect the rights, dignity and value of every individual athlete as a human being**
 - Treat everyone equally regardless of sex, disability, ethnic origin or religion.
 - Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each athlete in order to help each athlete reach their full potential
- 2. Maintain high standards of integrity**
 - Play within the rules of softball and in the spirit of fair play, while encouraging your athletes to do the same.
 - Advocate a sporting environment free of drugs and other performance enhancing substances within the guidelines of the New Zealand Sports Drug Agency and the World Anti-Doping Code.
 - Do not disclose any confidential information relating to athletes without their written prior consent.
- 3. Be a positive role model for softball and your athletes. Act in a way that projects a positive image of a coach**
 - All athletes deserve equal attention and opportunities
 - Ensure the athlete's time spent with you is a positive experience
 - Be fair, considerate and honest with athletes
 - Encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle – refrain from smoking and drinking alcohol around athletes.
- 4. Professional Responsibilities**
 - Display high standards in your language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation. Display control, courtesy, respect, honesty, dignity and professionalism to all involved within our sport - this includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators.
 - Encourage your athletes to demonstrate the same qualities.
 - Refrain from criticism of other coaches and athletes.

 - Be reasonable in your demands on your athletes time and ensure there is an appropriate balance between sporting involvement, family, education and career objectives
- 5. Commit to providing a quality service**
 - Seek continual improvement through ongoing coach education, and other personal and professional development opportunities.
 - Provide athletes with planned and structured training programmes appropriate to their needs and goals.
 - Seek advice and assistance from professionals when additional expertise is required.
 - Maintain appropriate records.
- 6. Provide a safe environment for training and competition**
 - Adopt appropriate risk management strategies to ensure that the training and/or competition environment is safe.
 - Ensure equipment and facilities meet safety standards.

- Ensure equipment, rules, training and the environment is appropriate for the age, physical and emotional maturity, experience and ability of the athletes.
- Show concern and caution toward sick and injured athletes.
- Allow further participation in training and competition only when appropriate.
- Encourage athletes to seek medical advice when required.
- Maintain the same interest and support toward sick and injured athletes as you would to healthy athletes.

7. Protect your athletes from any form of personal abuse

- Refrain from any form of verbal, physical and emotional abuse towards your athletes.
- Refrain from any form of sexual and racial harassment, whether verbal or physical.
- Do not harass abuse or discriminate against athletes on the basis of their sex, marital status, sexual orientation, religious ethical beliefs, race, colour, ethnic origins, employment status, disability or distinguishing characteristics.
- Any physical contact with athletes should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the athlete's skill development.
- Be alert to any forms of abuse directed towards athletes from other sources while in your care.

Softball New Zealand Players' Code of Conduct

As a participant in any activity held by or under the auspices of Softball New Zealand you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any such activity or event

1. Be a positive role model for Softball at all times, and accept responsibility for your actions.
2. Must not Smoke or drink alcohol in 'on Diamond' Softball Uniform
3. Participate within the competition conditions and rules, and in the spirit of fair play.
4. Respect opposition players and officials and treat them with proper regard for their rights, obligations and position held in Softball or the community.
5. Refrain from offensive or abusive language and gestures.
6. Comply with Umpires' decisions in a professional manner.
7. Cooperate with all official requests to promote and market Softball in a professional manner.
8. Must not make derogatory or demeaning remarks about any athletes, coaches or participants.
9. Do not commit acts of aggression.
- 10.** Perform any duties and responsibilities where you are a representative of Softball New Zealand in a mature, fair and professional manner.