



SCHOOL SPORT VICTORIA

SOFTBALL – SECONDARY

These rules apply to State, Region and Division competitions. Any variations to these rules at Region and Division levels will be found on the relevant page on the SSV website.

Match Format:	For Regions and Division match format, please consult the relevant page on the SSV website or contact the relevant Coordinator.
State Format:	Split Round Robin, Final
State Match Schedule:	There will be a Pre-Championships Briefing for all teams prior to the first round of matches. See the Softball Draw, on the SSV website, for the Match Schedule.
State Match Format:	Matches to be played over 7 innings or 75 minutes
State Round Robin Winner:	Points will be allocated for Round Robin matches as follows: 4 points for a win, 2 point for a draw and 0 for a loss. If at the end of the round robin two teams are equal on matches won, then the winner of the face-to-face match will be declared the winner. If their face-to-face match was a draw, then total percentage from all their games will be used to determine the winner. If more than two teams are tied on matches won, percentage from the matches involving the other tied teams will be calculated to determine the winner.
State Final Winner	If the final is tied when time is called, or at the end of the 7 innings, extra innings will be played until one team scores more than the other in an equal number of innings.
Conditions:	See the School Sport Victoria 'General Conditions of Competition'. All players, teachers, spectators and officials are bound by the 'SSV Codes of Conduct' The level of competition chosen by a student at Division level remains binding through to Region and State level.
Team Size:	A maximum of twelve (12) players may be used in one day. Teams are permitted to bat through the line up to the maximum of twelve (12) players. Nine (9) players are only permitted to field with up to three (3) substitutes to be named for each game. Substituted players are permitted to return to the field of play. Only twelve (12) SSV medallions plus one (1) for the team coach will be awarded to placegetters. Extra medallions will NOT be available.
Rules:	Softball is conducted under the Softball Australia Official Playing Rules unless otherwise stated. All levels will play a fast pitch format.
Playing Area:	Dimensions for all levels will be Square 18.3m and Pitch Distance 12.2m.
Mercy Rule:	15 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, 7 runs after 5 innings
5 Minute Rule:	A 5-minute rule will operate only in the final: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If at the conclusion of equal innings from the call of 'side out' there is less than 5 minutes before the scheduled end of the game, a further innings will not be played. • Once an innings is started it is to be completed.
Fully Loaded Format (Year 7 & 8 only):	At the beginning of each inning, the last 3 batters in the batting line-up will begin on base. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last person to bat in the inning will begin on first base • The second last person to bat in the inning will begin on second base • The third last person to bat in the inning will begin on third base.
Ninth (9th) Batter Rule:	An inning is completed when either three (3) outs have been made or the ninth (9th) batter of the inning has completed their turn at bat & the subsequent plays have been concluded.

Infield Fly Rule:

The Infield Fly Rule does not apply in this competition.

Line-Up Sheet:

Each team must submit to the umpire before each game commences a completed [Line-Up sheet](#).

Score Sheets:

Team Coaches and the Umpire are required to sign the score sheets at the conclusion of each game.

Officials:

Umpires will be provided at State Final.

Dress:

All teams must wear softball uniforms with matching tops and same colour pants.

No jewelry is to be worn. Navel rings must be taped.

All batters, baserunners & base coaches must wear approved helmets.

Senior players only are permitted to wear metal cleats.

It is recommended that all players wear protective gear e.g., Shin guards, mouth guards. The catcher must wear a helmet, mask, throat, chest protector and shin pads.

The wearing of a mouth guard by catchers is recommended.

Players not correctly dressed will not be permitted to compete.

The catcher must use a designated runner and put on her gear immediately she returns to the bench.

Lateness Penalty:

If a team is late for the start of their match for reasons beyond their control and the team communicates with the convener, then the convener will try to accommodate the team as best he/she can.

If a team is more than 10 min late without notice or communication **or** in the convener's opinion their lateness makes the draw impracticable, then they will be penalised one run for every 10 minutes late, or part thereof.

Equipment to Bring:

Senior & Intermediate - 2 new 12" solid core leather balls.

Year 7 & 8 - Competing teams must provide a new ball [The 11" (Easton Softcore ball or Ausport Primary Softball) Synthetic leather softball (with SOFT polycore centre)].

Match balls will be supplied for State Finals, but teams will need to bring their own practice balls.

All playing and protective equipment, including bats, which must be official softball bats

An official scorebook and a competent scorer.

A first aid kit.

Sports Tape **MUST** be supplied by the student/competing team if pre-game strapping for injury prevention by the qualified sports trainer (if present) is required.

NOTE: An up to date team sheet must be handed to the convener on the day of competition. This team sheet must include players' uniform numbers.