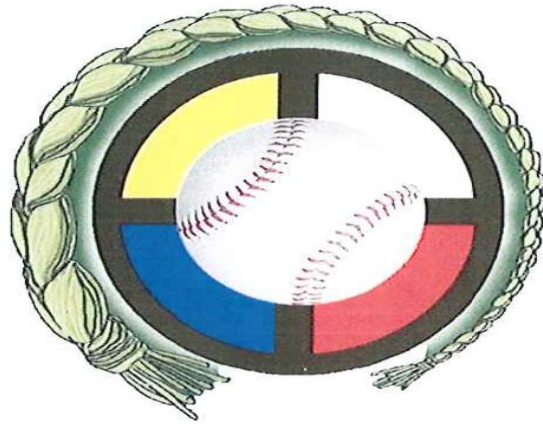


Canadian Native Fastball Championships



OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT

RULES AND REGULATIONS

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I. INTRODUCTION

Since 1974, Native athletes across Canada have been competing in an all national softball competition called the, “Canadian Native Fastball Championships”.

This event has become one of Canada’s most prestigious sporting events in Native communities attracting 1100 athletes and approximately 5,000 visitors annually.

The games are funded entirely by First Nation communities and organizations. Each year, the games are moved from Province to Province.

During the tournament, the Canadian Native Fastball Association (CNFA), *a non-profit group comprised of First Nation representatives across Canada: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba*, collectively determines which Native communities or organization will host the games in the following year.

The following is a list of the CNFA Executive Board of Directors:

II. CNFA EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a. Mr. Randy Potskin, President
randy.potskin@nativefastball.ca
- b. Mr. Alik Morre, BC Representative
alex.moore@nativefastball.ca
- c. Ms. Joni Miller, BC Representative
joni.miller@nativefastball.ca
- d. Ms. Steffenie Alexis, Alberta Representative
sbalexis@hotmail.com
- e. Ms. Leiha Crier, Alberta Representative
leiha.crier@nativefastball.ca
- f. Louie Gardner, Saskatchewan Representative
l.gardiner@sasktel.net
- g. Mr. Calvin Campeau, Manitoba Representative
calvin.campeau@nativefastball.ca

III. DEFINITIONS

1. **“Abuse”** means any physical or verbal act of aggression, disrespect and unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. **“CNFA National Board”** means the Canadian Native Fastball Championships National Board. *The Host Tournament Committee* will forward all matters pertaining adjudicate ruling for any issues or conflicts arising from play (on-field) in the tournament.
3. **“CNFC Host Committee”** refers to the Host Tournament Committee (Comprised of Directors delegates roles and responsibilities to ensure tournament success). CNFC Host Committee and Host Tournament Committee are used interchangeably.
4. **“International Rule”** means the Official International Softball Rules and any subsequent changes as set out by the International Softball Federation Playing Rules Committee.
www.internationalsoftball.com/English/rules_standards/Rulebook_2002.pdf
5. **“Native Ancestry”** means an umbrella term that historically referred to the present-day Aboriginal Peoples of Canada as defined in the Canadian Constitution, *Constitution Act 1982*: Aboriginal Peoples include the First Nations (and inclusion of the various references i.e., Bill-31, Non-Status, Treaty, Non-Treaty Métis and Inuit).
6. **“Parental Waiver”** refers to the “Parental Waiver Form” that can be found at www.nativefastball.ca This shall mean that players under the age of 18, must have a Parental Waiver form signed and submitted along with the Official Team Registration Form by the deadline dates set out in these rules.
7. **“Player Ineligibility”** means the determination by CNFC National Board that a player will not be allowed to play because they are unable to prove or establish their Aboriginal ancestry and therefore, their valid Aboriginal or Native status of Canada.
8. **“Player Sign In Form”** refers to the “Player Sign In Form” that can be found at www.nativefastball.ca this shall mean that all players **must show proof** of their Native Ancestry by way of a Photo Identification Card before their name is put onto the Player Sign In Form and player passes are issued. The CNFC Host Committee completes these forms preferably during the Player-Coaches Meeting and at the main gates of each field. Players are Coaches are responsible for signing the “Player Sign In Form” before they play.
9. **“Softball Rules Canada”** shall mean the Softball Canada Official Guide and Rule Book; The Official Playing Rules for slo-pitch and fast pitch softball, plus Special Operating Rules that include Canadian Championship play (See <http://www.softball.ca>)

IV. OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Softball Canada (pitching) Rules will apply with the exception of:

- a. One foot on the rubber;
- b. Stealing when the ball leaves the pitcher's hand;
- c. "Courtesy Runner" is available for the catcher when there are 2 outs; the **last batter** batting before the bat catcher is the option for a courtesy runner for the catcher.

2. Player Eligibility

- a. All players must be of "Canadian Native Ancestry" either by Treaty Status, Band Membership Status, Métis Status, or Inuit, Inuvialuit Status; or have the form Declaration of Aboriginal Ancestry with supporting documentation.
- b. All players will have to show proof of their "Canadian Native Ancestry" before their name is put onto the Player Sign In Form. Native Ancestry Letters are acceptable forms of identification provided with a birth certificate showing parent(s) have Native ancestry.
- c. Players are expected to carry with them their Indian, Band Membership and/or Métis Status Card at every game. In case of protest, players without valid identification will not be allowed to participate in the tournament.
- d. It is recommended that players be at least 18 years of age or older to complete in the tournament; however, teams registering players are responsible to ensure that all under age (17 years of age or younger) have a "Parental Waiver signed and attached to roster when registering their team;
 - i. This waiver concludes that all parties including Parents/Guardians, Coaches and Managers assume the full responsibility of the underage player for the duration for the entire tournament.
- e. Any player who is challenged on their "Native Ancestry" must show their Treaty/Band Membership Status, Métis Card, Inuit or Inuvialuit Identification, or Declaration of Aboriginal Ancestry form with supporting documentation.
- f. If a player does not produce "Native Ancestry" within 30 minutes after the game has been completed, the team in question will automatically forfeit that game;

- g. Please note that any athlete that requires the Declaration of Aboriginal Ancestry form **is not guaranteed eligibility to compete until the supporting documentation is approved by the CNFA Board.**
- h. Photocopies **will not** be accepted as proper “Native Ancestry” identification;
- i. It is strongly recommended that *not* only “Native Ancestry” identification be produced but additional accompanying photo identification i.e. Driver’s Licence or Provincial ID.
- j. The Master’s Division;
 - i. Age limit is set at 40 years old prior the first day of the tournament start;
 - ii. Each team may have two underage players 35-40 years;
 - iii. Underage players are not permitted to pitch in any games;
 - iv. Underage players are not permitted to play in both divisions;
 - v. Pitchers can only pitch in one division
- k. The Under 21 Division (U21)
 - i. Age limit is set at 21 years old prior to the first day of the tournament start;
 - ii. U21 players can only lay in one division but once eliminated they can play in the Senior Division if they are on the Official Team Roster

3. Tournament Schedule and Game Time

- a. Men’s and Women’s Senior Division is a true double knockout format, with the exception Men’s has a consolation division (guaranteed 3 games)
- b. All Master’s Division and U21 is a double knockout format with a modified one game final;
- c. Games are 7 innings with run rules of: 7 run spread after 5 innings;
- d. Games are 1 hour and 45 minutes and no new innings will begin after this time has expired;
- e. International rule will apply. When the game is tied after 7 innings starting in the top of the eighth or as soon as time has expired;

- f. Game start time has 15 minutes grace period – after 15 minutes, the team unable to field a full team will forfeit their game. Again, teams must field nine (9) players to start the game. Please note: the grace period counts toward the game length of 1 hour and 45 minutes.
- g. Championship games (Money games) have a two (2) hour time limit, only final games have no time limit

4. Umpires

- a. Umpires will conduct games in accordance with Softball Canada Rules; with the exceptions outlined within these rules;
- b. Any abuse of an Umpire will not be tolerated from players or coaches. If players excessively harass an Umpire, or coaches who are showing abusive or unsportsmanlike conduct, they may be ejected from that game at the discretion of the Umpire. If a hostile situation occurs, the game may be forfeited at the discretion of the Umpire. *Please read rule 7 (ii).
- c. The Umpire will have the final say when the games officially start.

5. Roster and Line-Ups

- a. The first game line up will be the “Official Team Roster”;
- b. Official Team Rosters shall have a maximum of 18 players;
- c. A line up must be provided 15 minutes prior to game to the Scorekeeper’s table; where possible both teams can meet and coordinate the coin toss moments prior to the game time supervised by the Scorekeeper or Umpire;
- d. Line up cards must be completed with first and last legal names, numbers and positions of all players that will be participate in that game;
- e. The Official Team Roster must match the “Player Sign in Form”. **NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**

6. Team Equipment and Uniforms

- a. It is a mandatory requirement that all participation teams wear numbered uniforms that designate their team. Umpires have the discretion not to allow a team to play if numbers are not on uniforms;
- b. All teams must wear their own double batting helmets;
- c. Metal cleats are allowed;

- d. Please see below the Softball Canada Bat Standards that will be enforced.



Updated January 2015

Softball Canada Bat Standards

The following document outlines the current bat standards for Softball Canada competition.

Fast Pitch (Men & Women – all levels)

Acceptable Certification Stamps:

ISF 2005



ASA 2000



ASA 2004



- Any bat that appears on the ISF approved bat list and has a current ISF certification stamp (2005 only) will be accepted for play at a Softball Canada event or,
- Any bat that appears on the ASA approved bat list and has an ASA 2000 or ASA 2004 certification stamp will also be accepted for play at a Softball Canada event.
- The bat must meet the compression standards outlined by the ISF and can be tested to ensure that they are in the proper range.
- The bat must still pass a visual inspection per the current Softball Canada rulebook.

7. Procedures

a. Ejections:

- i. Players may be ejected for excessive unsportsmanlike conduct or demonstrating unsportsmanlike behavior as deemed so by the officiating Umpire;

- ii. Players ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or demonstrating unsportsmanlike conduct in any form will automatically be reviewed by the “CNFA National Board”;
 - iii. Incident reports and all cases of unsportsmanlike conduct must be reported in writing.
- b. Protests:
- i. There will be no protests involving the decision of an umpire;
 - ii. There will be no protests involving tournament format;
 - iii. Protests involving “Player Eligibility” will revert to the “Official Scorekeeper” in written form accompanying a \$300 (cash) non-refundable “Protest Fee” to be submitted to the Umpire and/or Division Director/Scorekeeper and proper protocol will be taken there forward. Protest Fees are subject per (1) player, per game.
 - iv. Protests must be made after the first pitch and before the last out being recorded; no protest will be honored before or after that. Games under protest will continue as scheduled as a decision will be made by the “CNFC National Board”;
 - v. An ineligible player will be ejected from the tournament and the team will forfeit that game that is under protest;
 - vi. The “CNFA National Board” will make all decisions regarding “Player Eligibility”.

8. Decisions

- a. To be certain, for any reason, all decisions decided by the members of the CNFA National Board and/or together with Host Tournament Committee will be final.

9. Alcohol and/or Drugs

- a. Illicit drugs will not be permitted on the premises
- b. Tournament vicinities are patrolled and under the jurisdiction of the local RCMP.
- c. Players or coaches found to be in violation of Rule 9.a. *or charged by the RCMP in accordance with Rule 9.b.* may be ejected from the tournament. Ruling shall be at the discretion of the CNFC

Host Tournament Committee.

- d. Social Activities are designated and established by the CNFC Host Tournament Committee.

10. Appropriate Forms and Payment of Entry Fee

- a. All Teams registering must include all relevant and complete documentation (i.e., Team Registration, Office Team Roster, Parental Waivers and Declaration of Native Ancestry) by deadline date set by Host.
- b. Failure to payment in full to the CNFC Host Tournament Committee by the deadline date may result in the team being refused the ability to plan in the tournament.
- c. 50% deposit must be forwarded with your registration forms, which is non-refundable.
- d. Please note: the first (32) Senior Teams of both Men's and Women's divisions to register and pay their entry fee in full will be guaranteed a spot in the tournament. The first (8) Master's Teams of both Men's and Women's divisions to register and pay their entry fee in full will be guaranteed a spot in the tournament (minimum 8 teams required for this division). The first (8) U21 Teams to register and pay their entry fee in full will be guaranteed a spot in the tournament.
- e. If there are not enough teams for the Master's Categories or U21 Division can be cancelled without delay.

11. Indemnification for Host Committee/Society

- a. The Host Committee, or any of its Committees, representatives, partners or volunteers, shall not be held responsible for any personal injuries, including death, or lost/stolen property, nor shall the Host tolerate any harassment or abuse by teams, players or coaches.

12. Gate Admissions

- a. All gate admissions rates will apply
 - i. Daily Rate
 - Regular \$15
 - Elders are free
 - Children under 12 are free

ii. Weekend Rate \$30 each

iii. Player Weekend Passes

- \$400 for a Team Roster to a max of 20 people
- Each additional pass can be purchased for \$20 each
- Player's Passes can only be purchased at the Coaches Meeting – Registration Table on Thursday. This is a ONE TIME EVENT.

13. Amendments

- a. Amendments of the Tournament Rules and Regulations will be conducted annually by the CNFA Executive Committee.
- b. Reviewed and revised

THESE RULES ARE EFFECTIVE:

January 2016

APPROVED BY:

CNFC Executive Board

CNFC GOVERNING RULES

Appendix A: Declaration of Indigenous Ancestry Form

All competitors of Indigenous Ancestry who do not have a Status, Treaty or Métis Card must complete this form. This must be filled out and given to a CNFA Board Member with all accompanying ancestry information with the competitor's registration form.

I, _____ (Athlete's Name) hereby declare that I am of Indigenous Ancestry and therefore eligible to compete in the Canadian National Fastball Championships.

My Indigenous Ancestry can be traced back to:

A recognized Indigenous Organization must endorse this declaration.

Athlete's name (Print) Athlete's Signature Date

Indigenous Organization/Community Name: _____

Address: _____

Signing Authority (Print Name and Title)

Signing Authority Signature Date

Parent/Guardian's Name (Print) Parent/Guardian's Signature Date
Required if player is under 18

Please ensure that this form is complete in full and all other ancestry information is attached.

Provincial CNFA Board Member Endorsement Signature Date

Athlete Eligibility

Governing Rules:

Indigenous Ancestry

All athletes competing in the Canadian Native Fastball Championships (CNFC), must be born of Canadian Indigenous ancestry. All participants must make proof of ancestry available. The following will be accepted as proof of ancestry:

Treaty/Status Cards, Inuit and Inuvialuit identification or Provincial Métis Card.

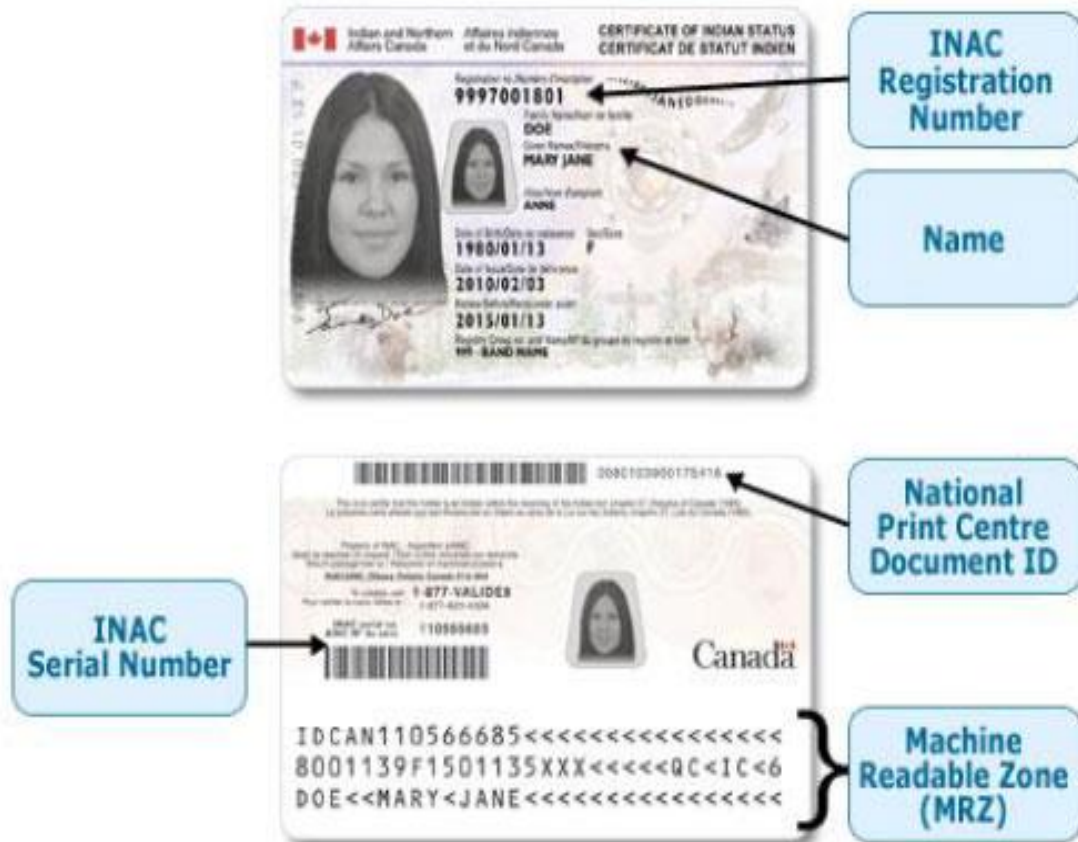
If none of the above apply (i.e. non-status Indians) the **Declaration of Indigenous Ancestry Form** (enclosed) must be completed by the athlete and submitted to your Provincial CNFA Board Member along with all of the accompanying ancestry information from the athlete.

As noted, the Declaration of Aboriginal Ancestry Form must be accompanied by supporting documentation. Examples of supporting documentation:

- A letter from Band or Métis Provincial registrar verifying membership
- A letter from AANDC verifying ancestry/status
- A copy of front and back of one parent's status card, Provincial Métis card or Inuit and Inuvialuit Identification together with the athlete's long form birth certificate naming the same parent

Please note that any athlete that requires the Declaration of Ancestry Form **is not guaranteed** eligibility to compete at the CNFC until the Declaration is approved and endorsed by the CNFA Board. For questions regarding eligibility, please email your Provincial CNFA Board member.

Samples of acceptable identification:



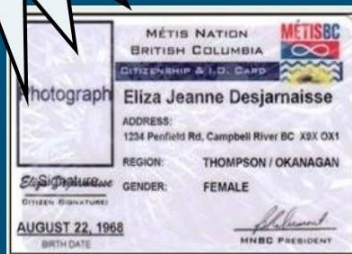


WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET?

MANY MÉTIS PEOPLE IN BC BELIEVE THEY ARE REGISTERED WITH MÉTIS NATION BC BECAUSE THEY HAVE A "MÉTIS MEMBERSHIP CARD" .



MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL CITIZENSHIP CARD



LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP CARD



HOW TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE

- ⇒ MNBC PROVINCIAL CARD IS A HARD CARD LIKE A BANK CARD
- ⇒ MNBC PROVINCIAL CARD HAS A BAR CODE
- ⇒ MNBC PROVINCIAL CARD HAS AN EIGHT (8) DIGIT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
- ⇒ SECURITY FEATURES

IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY REGISTERED WITH MÉTIS NATION BC & WOULD LIKE TO APPLY TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT THE MNBC CENTRAL REGISTRY DIRECTLY AT 1-800-940-1150 TO OBTAIN AN APPLICATION PACKAGE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.MNBC.CA