



## **Softball Napanee participation in Eastern/Western Canada Softball Championships and National Championships Policy**

### **Purpose**

This policy outlines the guidelines for the attendance of Softball Napanee teams and players when they qualify for the Eastern or Western Canadian Softball Championships or the National Championships hosted by Softball Canada in age divisions U15 and above. It also ensures that players and families have clear expectations regarding participation, while maintaining respect for personal decisions.

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- **Note: OASA and PWSA require every team to state their commitment to attendance at Eastern/Western Canadian Champions and National Championships by a May deadline.**
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### **1. National Championships Attendance:**

#### **Mandatory Attendance:**

If a Softball Napanee team qualifies for the National Championships by finishing in a qualifying position at a provincial qualifier or elimination tournament, attendance at the National Championships is mandatory for all players and team staff.

- The head coach must confirm that the team is in a position to participate and immediately inform all players and their families about the qualification.
- Players who are unable to attend the National Championships due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., medical issues, family emergencies, or other unavoidable events) must notify the coach as soon as possible.
- A replacement option may be sought to the Provincial governing body or via pickup, as necessary, to maintain the integrity and competitiveness of the team.

If more than 4 players off the original Napanee roster cannot attend the National Championships, this information should be relayed to the Softball Napanee Board for communication and decision on attendance. The team is responsible for paying any fine for non-attendance.

**Invitation Attendance (Optional):**

If a team receives an invitation to the National Championships without having qualified (e.g., via a wildcard or other discretionary selection), attendance is optional.

- The decision to attend will be made by the players and their families, without any pressure or influence from coaches or team staff.
  - The team and coach must communicate the invite clearly to the players and families, allowing them to make an informed decision.
  - If the team has enough available players, the invite may be accepted. If not, the team may fill the roster spots with pickups or additional players as permitted by the Provincial governing body.
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**2. Eastern/Western Canada Softball Championships Attendance:****Team Decision to Participate:**

At the beginning of the season, prior to the OASA/PWSA May deadline for team commitment, the head coach and team manager must canvass the availability of all players. Once player availability has been confirmed, the head coach, team manager, and Softball Napanee Board will review the team's readiness and commitment to participate in the championship. Only after receiving confirmation from the players and the team can the official commitment be made to OASA/PWSA. If a team commits and does not attend, the team is responsible for paying any fine for non-attendance.

**Qualification:**

- The coach and manager will communicate the available tournament details to the players and their families within 24 hours of qualification.
- All players must confirm their availability within a reasonable timeframe, ensuring that the team can field a full roster. If a player is unavailable, the team may consider seeking a replacement within the organization or by pickup, depending on the circumstances.
- The head coach will provide the Softball Napanee Board with a list of players who have confirmed their participation and plans to maintain a reasonable player roster that meets the demands of the tournament schedule.

**Invitation Attendance (Optional):**

If a team receives an invitation to an Eastern Canadian or Western Canadian Championship without having qualified (e.g., via a wildcard or other discretionary selection), attendance is optional.

- The decision to attend will be made by the players and their families, without any pressure or influence from coaches or team staff.

- The team and coach must communicate the invite clearly to the players and families, allowing them to make an informed decision.
  - If the team has enough available players, the invite may be accepted. If not, the team may fill the roster spots with pickups or additional players as permitted by the Provincial governing body.
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### **3. Non-Interference with Family Decisions:**

No coach, team staff member, or volunteer shall attempt to influence, pressure, or sway any player or family regarding their decision to attend either the Eastern/Western Canada Softball Championships.

- All decisions about participation in these events must come from the players and their families without any coercion or external pressure from team staff or coaches.
- Coaches and team staff should provide information and context about the event to allow families to make an informed choice, but should never exert undue influence on the decision-making process.

### **Respect for Personal Circumstances:**

Coaches and team staff must respect the personal circumstances and reasons that may lead to a player or coach's decision not to attend a championship event, whether it is the National Championships or the Eastern/Western Canada Championships. Families must be assured that no negative consequences will result from their decision.

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### **Review and Compliance:**

#### **Policy Adherence:**

All team staff, coaches, players, and their families must adhere to the provisions outlined in this policy. Any violation of the policy may result in a review by the Softball Napanee Board and could lead to disciplinary action.