

## SOFTBALL (women)

2017

AUS Softball competitions are conducted in accordance with the rules of [Softball Australia](#) except where these differ from AUS sports rules; in which case the latter shall take precedence.

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### 1. Team/squad size

- Minimum registered players – 10
- Maximum registered players – 16
- Maximum cross registrations – 3
- Minimum number of players that can take the field without incurring a forfeit – 8

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### 2. Competition format

#### 2.1. Mercy rule (run a head rule)

- a) If after 5 innings or 1 hour, a team is 7 runs or more in front, the game is deemed finished according to the international run ahead rule
- b) If after 4 innings, a team is 10 runs or more in front, the game is deemed finished according to the international run ahead rule
- c) If after 3 innings, a team is 15 runs or more in front, the game is deemed finished according to the international run ahead rule
- d) If after 2 innings, a team is twenty 21 runs or more in front, the game is deemed finished according to the international run ahead rule

2.2. Each team is allowed 1 intentional walk per game. One extra intentional walk will be allowed in the event of a tie breaker

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### 3. Game time/duration

3.1. All games will be 7 innings or a 1 hour 20 minute time limit.

3.2. Medal matches will be a full 7 innings.

3.3. A summary of game time/duration is also available via the [AUS supplement – games time summary](#).

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### 4. Point score

4.1. Points for each match shall be awarded as follows;

- Winning team: 3 points
- Drawn match: 2 points per team
- Losing team: 1 point
- Forfeited team: 0 points

4.2. In the event that two or more teams have the same number of points at the completion of the preliminary rounds, the higher placed team(s) will be decided when the first of the following criteria in order, favours one team:

- a) The team with the total lowest number of runs against in the preliminary rounds taking the high ladder position
- b) The head to head record (between the tied team) with the team with the most wins taking higher position
- c) The head to head record of runs against the tied teams with the lowest runs against taking the higher ladder position

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### 5. Drawn matches

5.1. If preliminary matches are drawn at full time, both teams will be awarded 2 points as per section 4.1.

5.2. If progression or medal matches are drawn at the end of normal time, the international tie breaker rules applies for the 8<sup>th</sup> innings until a result has been achieved.

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## 6. Forfeits

- 6.1. Softball is run under the [AUS Guideline – forfeit of competition requirements](#).
- 6.2. A forfeit will be declared 10 minutes after the scheduled start of play time where either team is unable to commence play.
- 6.3. The forfeit score is 7 runs to nil (0).
- 6.4. Should the commencement of a game be delayed due to no fault of either team (as determined by the competition management or AUS), the game shall be played in its full duration if possible. If full game duration is not possible, the recommended revised game duration will need to be agreed upon by both teams. If resolution between the teams is not possible then the Competition Manager (or their delegate) will make the final decision regarding match format, which will not be subject to appeal.
- 6.5. In the event of a game being abandoned, the [AUS abandonment guideline](#) will be implemented.

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## 7. Uniform requirements

- 7.1. Each athlete shall wear the uniform of their university. The university shall submit a description of its uniform if requested.
- 7.2. The specific uniform requirements for Softball are as per the national sporting organisation standard with the following AUS uniform requirements:
  - Cap/visor, playing shirt and shorts/softball pants
  - No metal cleats allowed
  - All defensive players must wear a cap or visor
  - All catchers must wear catchers helmets, chest protector and leggings
  - Helmets are mandatory for batters, on deck batters, and batter-runners. Any player not wearing a helmet when ordered by the umpire will be declared out
- 7.3. Minimum uniform requirements for AUS events must be met:
  - A competitor must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to him/herself or another competitor (including any kind of jewellery)
  - Long or sharp fingernails are to be trimmed short
  - All participating competitors are to be correctly attired in appropriate, matching team uniforms
  - Exceptions may be made for some sports in cold weather, providing permission is granted by the appropriate officials. Additionally, the exceptions will only be granted providing they are the same colour, and the extra clothing does not cover up any identification numbers or colours
  - All numbers on shirts need to be clearly visible, and in a contrasting colour to the dominant colour of the shirt
  - Mouth guards are strongly recommended for all sports where there is a potential for collision. It is compulsory to wear a mouth guard in those sports where it is stated
  - All participants must retain the one number throughout the tournament (if numbered jerseys are used)
  - Numbers on shirts are restricted to one or two digit numbers
  - Players should not take the field of play in any costume or part of a costume. If they do, players will be asked to remove costume items or incur a code of behaviour report

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## 8. Team duties

- 8.1. Team duty requirements Softball are:
  - One person from each team will be required for the match immediately following theirs for the duties of base umpiring or scoring. Teams that have the second timeslot of the day will be required to provide duty in the first timeslot
- 8.2. The person fulfilling the team duty requirements can be any competent person associated with that team or university and does not necessarily have to be a player e.g. team manager.
- 8.3. Teams that do not fulfil team duties will be fined as per the [AUS Guideline - forfeit of competition requirements](#).

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## 9. Award ceremonies

- 9.1. Medal ceremonies will be held at the completion of the competition.
- 9.2. Gold, silver and bronze medals will be presented to those teams finishing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the competition.
- 9.3. Pennants will be presented at the closing presentation to the following teams:
- For the Australian University Games
    - Overall womens champions
    - Womens champions division 2
- 9.4. The following trophies will be presented to the overall champion team at the Australian University Games (note that trophies are presented at the closing presentation):
- Womens Overall Champions – AUS Softball Champions trophy

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### Previous rule amendments

August 2001 | July 2004 | April 2005 | August 2005 | April 2008 | March 2010 | April 2011 | May 2012 | May 2014 | February 2015 | March 2016 | March 2017