PAN PACIFIC MASTERS GAMES GOLD COAST

2026 SPORTS GUIDE

RULES OF COMPETITION

General Rules

1. Softball shall be open to both male and female players - Male rosters shall consist of male players only, and - Female rosters shall consist of female players only.
2. Conditions of Entry shall be as per Pan Pacific Masters Games Rules.
3. Determining age for players shall be as at 31st December 2026. The minimum age is 35 years.
4. There shall be 3 divisions of competition - 35+ & 45+ and 55+
5. The dates and duration of the competition shall commence Friday, 6th November [if required] and conclude on Saturday, 14th November 2026.
6. Each team must register team officials, manager, 10 players and a designated statistician. There will be no age restrictions on non-playing team officials.
7. It is a condition of entry for all teams to register an umpire to cover allocated duties throughout the tournament. Failing to fulfil this requirement may result in: -
    a. Teams being charged $1250.00 to cover accommodation, travel and all expenses incurred finding an umpire to cover team allocations.
    b. Loss of two (2) Competition Points for every allocation not fulfilled.
8. Teams must register a playing uniform, and all players in all games must wear this uniform. Coaches must wear at least a uniform top in team colours. Uniform numbers are optional.
9. Umpires must wear the uniform as detailed in the Softball Australia Rules, or their national uniform.
10. The competition is presented by Gold Coast Softball Inc and is sanctioned by Softball Queensland Ltd and Softball Australia Ltd.
11. Any sports injury incurred during participation must be reported to the Registrar/Recorder on the same day as the injury was incurred or as soon as practicable thereafter. The Injury Report section on the scorecard should be completed with the injured players name, contact details and signed by the umpire and witness.
12. Uniform sponsorship is permitted; lettering should preferably be limited to 6 in (153 mm) by 1.2” (38mm) and logos to 9 sq. ins. (5806.4 sq. mm).
13. No teams are allowed to warm up on the infield of any diamond.
14. The Head Grounds person or representative has permission to enter the field of play at any time to rectify the conditions of the playing ground, to ensure safety to all participant

15. Medal Policy

1. Only fully registered players, team officials (Managers, Coaches, Scorers and Umpires) who have paid the full Games entry fee and relevant sports fee are eligible to receive medals. NOTE: Umpires will also receive medals.

2. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be awarded as per Finals System for each Pool/Divisions.

16. Scorecards

16.1 Scorecards will be distributed to teams at the Managers meetings.

16.2 Scorecards are to be exchanged 10 minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of all games.

16.3 Scorecards will be checked at the Pre-Game meeting with the umpires.

16.4 Completed scorecards, showing the result of the game correctly and accurately and signed by the team's coach and all umpires, shall be returned by the plate umpire to the Umpire in Chief at the conclusion of each game. ***AN ILLEGIBLE or INCORRECT SCORECARD MAY RESULT IN THE LOSS OF ONE (1) COMPETITION POINT***.

17. Meetings

a. A meeting of all participating team managers shall be conducted, at which all team rosters must be submitted, and any substitutes confirmed. The meeting roster will be finalised closer to the commencement of the competition. Attendance at this meeting is compulsory, for at least one (1) representative of each competing team.

b. A technical meeting for umpires will take place prior to the commencement of competition for the purpose of Rules discussion, including any local ground rules. Attendance at this meeting is compulsory for all umpires. The meeting roster will be finalised closer to the commencement of the competition.

Competition Rules

Playing Rules

All games shall be played under the current WBSC Official Rules of Softball Fast Pitch unless otherwise stated in these Rules.

1. Eligibility

1.1 All players and officials must be officially entered in the 2026 Pan Pacific Masters Games.

1.2 Registered players must meet the minimum age criteria, as per the 2026 Pan Pacific Master Games Age Policy, set out in the entry form, for the age group in which they are competing.

1.3 There shall be 3 divisions of competition, 35+ & 45+ and 55+.

1.4 Teams using players found ineligible under the above rules shall have all games in which the ineligible player has participated declared a forfeit.

1.5 Non-playing registered officials are not required to meet the age criteria.

1.6 Player eligibility for all players shall be checked during the week of competition. These checks will be random and at the discretion of the Sports Convenor.

2. Eligibility for Finals (Players)

Players must have completed in a minimum of 30 percent of the games available to a particular team, to be eligible to represent that team in Finals.

Participate means the player must take the field in defence and/or complete a turn at bat. Having the player's name on the scorecard in the bench list does **NOT** count as participation.

If a designated player (DP) is listed on the scorecard, then yes — they are officially counted as having participated in the game.

3. Determination of Home Team

The team named first in the draw shall occupy the third base bench and shall call the toss.

A team official/player from each team shall be responsible for deciding the toss 15 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time.

4. Substitutes

4.1 Substitutes will be accepted (if they meet the age criteria) for a person who is entered but unable to attend.

4.2 Notification and arrangements must be done through the 2026 Pan Pacific Masters Games Registration Office, and appropriate credentials presented to the Softball Records Office prior, to or at, the Managers' meeting.

5. Pick up players

5.1 A pickup player(s) may be used if the team only has 8 team players able to take the field.

5.2 A maximum of two pickup players is allowed.

5.3 A pickup player may be the number 10 player on the bench. This player can only enter the playing field in the case of an injury.

5.4 A team may use a pickup player from a pool/division below the pool/division you are playing in, or from the 45+ pool/division.

5.5 Teams in 45+ pool/division may ONLY utilize players from the 45+ pool/division.

5.6 The pickup player(s) must be identified on the **line-up card with the Letters PU**. The *player's name and registered team must be listed on the back of the line-up card*.

PENALTY: Failure to follow the rules under 5.1 to 5.6 will result in loss of points for that game.

5.7 Pitcher /Catcher Pick Up Player.

Pick-Up players may NOT pitch or catch under any circumstances. **PENALTY:** If a pick-up player pitches or catches (or is listed as such): A forfeit is recorded against the offending team.

6. Balls

Gold Coast Softball will supply the match balls. Umpires will take game balls to each game. These game balls MUST be returned at the completion of the game by the plate umpire.

7. Round Games

7.1 All games shall start according to the game schedule (unless otherwise advised).

7.2 The timing of games shall be the responsibility of the plate umpire.

7.3 Game shall be called precisely 75 minutes from the scheduled commencement time of the game except that, once a batter has started a turn at bat, "game" shall not be called until all plays resulting from that batter have been completed.

7.4 No new innings shall commence with less than five (5) minutes playing time remaining.

7.5 The score shall revert to that of the last even innings, except that, if the team second at bat has scored more runs when time expires. OR in its incomplete inning has TIED the score, then that score shall stand.

7.6 Medal Games

Medal games shall be limited to a regulation game or a time limit of 1 hour 30 minutes (90 minutes) except that once an innings has commenced it must be completed.

Note:

1. If the team second at bat is leading at the competition of 75 minutes, there is no requirement to play the bottom of the innings.

2. If the score is tied at the completion of regulation time and completed innings, the tiebreaker rule shall commence immediately (regardless of the number of innings completed)

3. Tie Breaker Rule: Starting from the top of the eighth (8) innings, and each half inning thereafter the offensive team begins its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat ninth in the respective half inning being placed on second base.

NOTE: Should any Gold medal game, either using the above tiebreaker or not, result in a drawn game, (e.g. Darkness, storm) both teams shall be declared joint winners of the competition.

8. Run Ahead Rule

In all games during the Pan Pacific Master Games, the game shall be called if:

a. a team is fifteen (15) runs ahead after the 3rd innings;

b. a team is ten (10) runs ahead after the 4th innings; or

c. a team is seven (7) runs ahead after the fifth innings.

9. Forfeit

A forfeit shall be declared by the Plate umpire in favour of the team not at fault in the following cases:

a. if a team fails to appear on the field, or being on the field, refuses to begin a game for which it is scheduled.

b. If, after the game has begun, one side refuses to continue to play, unless the game has been suspended or terminated by the umpire.

c. If, after play has been suspended by the plate umpire, one side fails to resume playing (within two minutes) after the plate umpire called “Play Ball”. At the time a forfeit is declared by the plate umpire, the score of a forfeited game shall be 7-0 in favour of the team not at fault unless a higher score was achieved at the time of the forfeiture.

10. Protests

a. Protests relating to playing rules shall be heard on the diamond by the UIC/TCU, or a person appointed by the Tournament Chief Umpire.

b. Play shall be suspended until the result of such protest is known.

c. It is the responsibility of the protesting team to obtain the services of the UIC to hear a protest. NOTE: The time will not be added for that loss of time during a protest.

11. Designated Runner (DR)

a. A **Designated Runner (DR)** may be used during the game for **any base runner**, provided:

- The DR is **declared before the start of the game**, **AND**

- Their name appears in **position number eleven (11)** on the **bench list**.

Once listed in position 11, that player is officially recognised as the team's DR for the game.

NOTE:

- The DR may enter the game **once** in each inning to run for any base runner.
- The DR may neither enter the game, either defensively or offensively.
- When the DR is used as the Temporary Runner (TR) this is counted as the once in the innings and cannot run for any other base runner.
    - **Penalty:** The game will be forfeited to the non-offending team.

12. Temporary Runner for Catcher and/or Pitcher

When there is two (2) out and the Catcher and/or Pitcher is on base, any player listed on the scorecard may replace the Catcher and /or Pitcher on base as the runner. This does not count as a substitute.

13. Diamonds

13.1 On all diamonds, the ball is alive off the fence or net

Open Field Blocked Batted Ball Rule

a) A blocked ball is a batted ball or thrown ball that is touched, stopped or handled by a person not engaged in the game, or which touches any object that is not part of the official equipment or playing field, or which enters unplayable territory.

b) When a diamond is open (i.e. not totally enclosed, or with no home run fence) the following shall apply:

i) When a fair batted ball is **blocked before** 200 feet, (Female), 225 feet (Male), the award will be two bases.

ii) When a fair batted ball is **blocked beyond** 200 feet (Female), 225 feet (Male), the batter runner will be awarded third base, unless they have reached home before the ball becomes blocked, in which case they shall retain the base reached. The Batter/Runner shall govern all other runners.

14. Pitching

Pitching distances shall be:

Women	43 feet	13.11m for Pools A (Divisions 1-3)
Women	40 feet	12.19m for Pools B to G (Division 4-15)
Women 45+	40 feet	12.19m
Men	46 feet	14.02m

15. Metal Cleats

Both male and female players are allowed to wear metal cleats.

16. Protective Equipment

All catchers must wear full protective equipment while receiving warm-up pitchers from the pitcher's plate or in the warm-up area.

17. Ejection of Players/Officials

17.1 Should any player/official be ejected from a game, the umpire(s) concerned shall submit a written report to the Umpire in Chief immediately after the conclusion of the game in question.

17.2 Any player/official ejected from the game for offensive conduct shall appear before the Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee consists of the Sports Convenor, TCU and one other representative from the sport.

17.3 The Disciplinary Hearing shall be conducted as close as possible to the conclusion of the game in question.

17.4 The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to impose one of the following penalties: Reprimand the Player/Official, or, suspend the player/official for any or all of the remaining games in the event.

18. Points

18.1 Points will be awarded in the following manner:

Two points for a win

One point for a draw

No points for a loss

18.2 Teams awarded a forfeit shall be allocated two points, as for a win.

18.3 For any game officially cancelled due to weather or ground conditions, each team shall be awarded one point.

18.4 Teams who are found to have played non-registered players shall forfeit their points for those games played.

19. Finals Position

Men's 35

Teams nominated for **Divisions 1 to 3** shall play 2 rounds in Pool A

- Finals – Teams will be placed into Divisions 1 & 2 after the Pool games.

Division 1

- Final System ○ Team 2 vs Team 3 for Bronze
  - ○ Team 1 vs Winner 2 vs 3 game for Gold & Silver

Division 2

Final System ○ Team 5 vs Team 6 for Bronze
- ○ Team 4 vs Winner 5 vs 6 game for Gold & Silver

Teams nominated for **Divisions 4 – 5** shall play 2 rounds in Pool B

Finals – Teams will be placed into Divisions 4

- Final System ○ Team 3 vs Team 4 for Bronze
  - ○ Team 1 vs Team 2 for Gold & Siver

Teams nominated for **Divisions 6** will play 2 rounds in Pool C

Finals – Teams will be placed into Division 5

- Final System ○ Team 3 vs Team 4 for Bronze
  - ○ Team 1 vs Team 2 for Gold & Silver

Teams nominated for **Division 7-10** will play 2 rounds in Pool D

Finals – Teams will be placed into Divisions 6 & 7

Division 6

- Final System ○ Team 2 vs Team 3 for Bronze
  - ○ Team 1 vs Winner 2 vs 3 game for Gold & Silver

Division 7

Final System ○ Team 5 vs Team 6 for Bronze
- ○ Team 4 vs Winner 5 vs 6 game for Gold & Silver

Men's 45 and Men's 55

- Teams will play 2 Rounds

Finals – Teams will be placed into Men's 45 Divisions 1, 2 and Men's 55

- Men's 45+
  - Team 3 vs Team 4 for Bronze
  - Team 1 vs Team 2 for Gold & Silver
- Men's 55+
  - ○ Team 1 vs Team 2 for Gold and Silver

Women's 35

Teams nominated in **Divisions 1-3** will play 3 rounds in Pool A

Finals – Teams will be placed into Divisions 1

Division 1

- Final System ○ Team 3 vs Team 4 for Bronze
  ○ Team 1 vs Team 2 for Gold & Silver

Teams nominated in **Divisions 4 -6** will play 2 rounds in Pool B

- Finals – Teams will be placed into Divisions 3 & 4
- Final system

Division 3

- Final System ○ Team 2 vs Team 3 for Bronze
  ○ Team 1 vs Winner 2 vs 3 game for Gold & Silver

Division 4

- Final system ○ Team 5 vs Team 6 for Bronze
  ○ Team 4 vs Winner 5 vs 6 game for Gold & Silver

Teams nominated in **Divisions 7** will play 2 rounds in Pool C

- Finals – Teams will be placed into Divisions 5
- Final System ○ Team 3 vs Team 4 for Bronze
  ○ Team 1 vs Team 2 for Gold & Silver

Teams nominated in **Division 8-9** will 2 rounds in Pool D

- Finals – Teams will be placed into Divisions 6 & 7

Division 6

- Final System Team 1 vs Team 2 for Gold and Silver

Division 7

- Final System ○ Team 4 vs Team 5 for Bronze
  ⊂ Team 3 vs Winner 4 vs 5 game for Gold & Silver

Teams nominated in **Division 10-11 and 12** will play 2 rounds in Pool E

- Finals – Teams will be placed into Divisions 8 & 9

Division 8

- Final System ○ Team 2 vs Team 3 for Bronze
  ○ Team 1 vs Winner 2 vs 3 for Gold & Silver

Division 9

- Final System ○ Team 5 vs Team 6 for Bronze
  ○ Team 4 vs Winner 5 vs 6 game for Gold & Silver

Teams nominated in **Division 13** will play a single round in Pool F

- Finals – Teams will be placed into Divisions 10 & 11

Division 10

- Final System ○ Team 2 vs Team 3 for Bronze
  - ○ Team 1 vs Winner 2 vs 3 game for Gold & Silver

Division 11

- Final System ○ Team 5 vs Team 6 for Bronze
  - ○ Team 4 vs Winner 5 vs 6 game for Gold & Silver

Teams nominated in **Division 14** will play 2 rounds in Pool G

- Finals – Teams will be placed into Divisions 12
- Final System ○ Team 3 vs Team 4 for Bronze
  - ○ Team 1 vs Team 2 for Gold & Silver

Teams in nominated in Divisions 15 will play a single round in Pool H

- Finals – Teams will be placed into Divisions 13 & 14

Division 13

- Final System ○ Team 2 vs Team 3 for Bronze
  - ○ Team 1 vs Winner 2 vs 3 game for Gold & Silver

Division 14

- Final System ○ Team 5 vs Team 6 for Bronze
  - ○ Team 4 vs Winner 5 vs 6 game for Gold & Silver

Women's 45A

Teams nominated in **Divisions 1-2** will play 2 rounds

- Finals – Teams will be placed into Divisions 1 & 2

  Division 1

  - Final System ○ Team 2 vs Team 3 for Bronze
    - ○ Team 1 vs Winner 2vs 3 game for Gold & Silver

  Division 2

  - Final System ○ Team 5 vs Team 6 for Bronze
    - ○ Team 4 vs Winner 5 vs 6 game for Gold & Silver

Women's 45B

Teams nominated in **Division 3** will play a single round

- Finals – Teams will be placed into Divisions 3 & 4

Division 3

- Final System ○ Team 2 vs Team 3 for Bronze
  ○ Team 1 vs Winner 2 vs 3 game for Gold & Silver

Division 4

- Final System ○ Team 5 vs Team 6 for Bronze
  ○ Team 4 vs Winner 5 vs 6 game for Gold & Silver

Team Positioning for Finals

The position of teams on equal points at the conclusion of the pool games shall be determined by the calculation of the total runs against.

If teams are equal on points and runs against, the winner of the head-to-head game between the two teams shall be placed the higher.

If a deadlock still exists (the head-to-head game was drawn) the higher position will be the winner of a best of three-coin toss.

20. Weather

20.1 The Venue Disputes Committee (Softball Convenor, TCU, 1 Deputy TCU, Registrar/Recorder and the Deputy Registrar/Recorder) and Head Grounds person and shall determine the fitness of the grounds for play.

20.2 Once the game has commenced, the fitness of the ground for play shall be the sole discretion of the plate umpire.

21. Cancelled Games

21.1 Any game cancelled due to weather and/or ground conditions may be re-scheduled.

21.2 Games that cannot be re-scheduled will be officially cancelled.

21.3 Points for officially cancelled games will be awarded as for a draw.

21.4 Any game started but not completed due to weather and/or ground conditions shall only be considered a legal game if either three (3) innings have been completed, or forty-five (45) minutes of playing time has elapsed.

21.5 Finals In the event that the final games are officially cancelled due to weather and/or ground conditions, the winner of the age group or grade will be determined by the highest placing at the completion of the minor round.

22. Smoking

Only team members are permitted to be in team dugout.

<u>There must be no smoking, use of chewing tobacco in this area. Smoking includes the inhalation of tobacco products including e-cigarettes and vaping.</u>

23. Alcohol & Drugs

23.1 Alcohol is not permitted in the bench areas or on the playing field. The consumption of alcohol is restricted to the licensed areas.

23.2 Any player/official found drinking during the game will be ejected. The ejected player/official will face a Disciplinary Committee Hearing.

23.3 Any player/official displaying behaviour consistent with being under the influence of alcohol or a drug and deemed to be a danger to themselves or a threat to the safety of others and will be ejected from the game. It is possible that the Australian Sports Drug Agency (ASDA) may carry out random drug testing.

24. Blood in Sport Rule In the event of a participant bleeding, the guidelines of the SMA will be followed.

25. Other Matters

25.1 Any matter not specifically covered in these rules shall be referred to the Venue Disputes Committee for a decision.

25.2 This Committee will comprise the Softball Convenor, TCU, 1 Deputy TCU, Registrar/Recorder and the Deputy Registrar/Recorder, any three (3) of whom shall form a quorum for the purposes of hearing and resolving a dispute.

25.3 Any official appointed by the Disputes Committee has the authority to check player/official credentials.

25.4 The Disputes Committee will also act as the Disciplinary Committee and will hear the umpire reports for team personnel ejected from games.

26. Tribunal and Dispute Resolution

26.1 Appeals

1. In the event of an appeal against any decision of the Disputes Committee, in any capacity, such appeal must be lodged in writing with the Sports Convenor, within 120 minutes of the notification of the decision giving rise to the appeal.
2. Appeals shall be heard by a committee comprising a Pan Pacific Games Representative, who will chair the meeting, a member of the Softball Organising Committee, and one other member who may be co-opted. This will exclude all members of the Panel making the disputed decision.
3. Any decision of this Committee shall be final and binding upon all parties.