

Queensland School Sport

13-19 years Softball Competition Procedures

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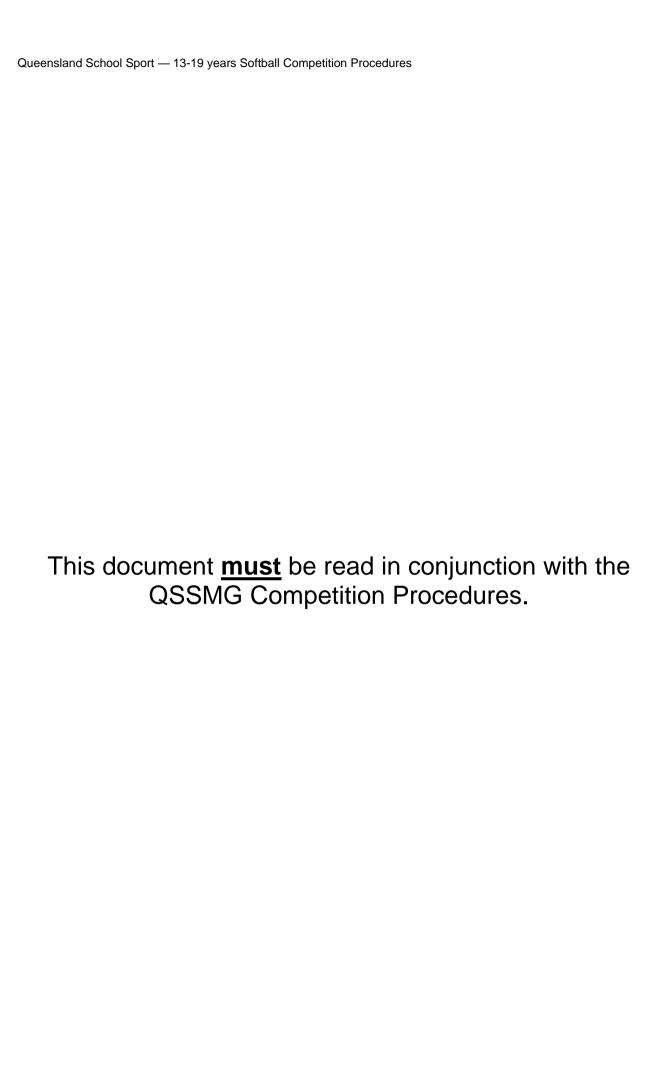


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1 Queensland School Sport Internal Structures

1.1 Sport Specific Committees and Advisory Groups

The Queensland School Sport (QSS) 13-19 years Softball sports specific committee follows:

- Queensland School Sport Management Group (QSSMG) Competition Procedures.
- Queensland School Sport 13-19 years Softball Competition Procedures.

QSS 13-19 years Softball Competition Procedures and QSSMG Competition Procedures must be read in conjunction with one another.

1.2 Registration of New Sports

1.3 Alternative Procedures Enabling Participation at a School Sport Australia Competition

- 1.4 De-registration of Sports
- 1.5 Sport Specific Committee Reports
- 1.6 State Sport Committee Finances

2 Approval of Competitions

3 Competition Programs

3.1 State Championships (Inter-regional Competition)

- 3.1.1 Structure:
 - 3.1.1.1 The Championships shall be conducted:

Girls — over three and a half days

Boys — over three and a half days

- 3.1.2 Team size/uniform numbering:
 - 3.1.2.1 Team Size:

Each Region may be represented by a maximum team size of 14 players.

3.1.2.2 Uniform Numbering:

It is mandatory for each player to have a number on the back of the playing shirt being a minimum of 15 cm in height. It is optional to have a number on the sleeve or side of the playing shorts. This number is to be on the right hand side and a minimum of 8 cm in height.

3.1.3 Age group:

Regional teams must be represented by students who are 13 -19 years.

- 3.1.4 Parental consent, personal details and medical forms, and Principal's Approval form:
 - 3.1.4.1 Team officials must ensure that these forms are completed and brought to the Championships by the Manager.
 - 3.1.4.2 Team officials must provide a completed personal details form and medical form.

3.1.5 Umpires:

Regions are invited to bring student officials to participate. i.e. umpires. This student would be considered as part of the team and in so doing, would become an extra team member but not be included in the playing squad. As a team member that student would be required to pay the levy and abide by the rules and conditions applying to all team members.

It is the policy of Queensland School Sport to encourage suitable qualified student umpires to participate at this level as this provides another avenue for sport education.

3.1.6 Match balls:

The committee will be responsible for the supply of all match balls.

3.1.7 Team Officials:

- 3.1.7.1 Each Regional Team must be accompanied by at least one team official of the same sex to the State Championship.
- 3.1.7.2 All team officials' names and their position/s in the team must be listed on the official team list and ratified by the respective Regional Sports Officer prior to the commencement of the Championships. All regional team officials will be presented to the pre championship meeting by the Convenor for the meeting's endorsement. Only officials listed on this team list are permitted to sit on the bench and to take part in the game.
- 3.1.7.3 Scorers must be nominated to the plate umpire prior to the game commencement.

3.1.8 Championship Draw:

- 3.1.8.1 All regions are invited to compete in the championships but if an uneven number of teams indicate their participation, another team from the host region may be invited to participate.
- 3.1.8.2 The Championship draw will be finalised by the Executive Committee and forwarded to the Championship Convenor for dissemination to the participating teams.
- 3.1.8.3 Where 12 or 11 regions are competing, the draw will be constructed about two pools, determined by the serpentine method from the final placings in the championships of the previous year.

Pool 1	Pool 2
1st	2nd
4th	3rd
5th	6th
8th	7th
9th	10th
12th	11th

- (a) Teams will play a round robin within their pool and at the completion of these games will be placed in:
 - Championship Pool consisting of the top three teams of each preliminary pool and
 - ii) Placing Pool consisting of the bottom five or six teams (dependent on the number of competing regions).
- (b) Both pools will then play a new round robin with no carry –over points from the preliminary rounds.
- (c) The two teams placed highest within the Championship Pool (determined with reference to Rule 3.2.1.6) will play a Grand Final to determine the Champion Team.
- (d) If the Championship or Placing Pools are cancelled, the winner will be determined by the results of the single-round robin or an amended competition.
- 3.1.8.4 Where 10 regions are competing a full round robin will be played.
 - (a) At the completion of the round robin Semi Finals will be played: 1 v 4 and 2 v 3. A Grand Final will then be played between the winning teams of each semi-final.
 - (b) If the round robin is incomplete, the winner will be determined by the results at the completion of the amended competition, with reference to the following:
 - a minimum of five completed rounds by all regions must have been completed. In order to achieve this the following will apply:
 - abandoned rounds will be postponed initially and may be rescheduled if time allows (additional time slots may be considered if possible at the venue)
 - should it be necessary to use the semi-final and grand final time slots to achieve the minimum number of completed rounds, this will receive priority.
 - ii) If 5–9 rounds have been completed, and the semi-final and grand finals abandoned, the champions and runners up will be determined with reference to Rule 3.2.1.6).
- 3.1.8.5 If, due to the loss of a significant portion of the competition on days one and two to inclement weather, it is evident that sufficient rounds may not be completed to achieve an outcome as stipulated in 3.1.8.4 (b); the championship and placing pools (as determined from previous year's placings) will be played for the remaining rounds of the championship, to enable a State Team to be selected

3.1.8.6 Where fewer than 10 regions are competing a full round robin will be played and a final series will be designed to include additional games to make best use of available time. A Grand Final will then be played between the two highest ranked teams to conclude the tournament.

3.2 State Championship Competition Rules

3.2.1 Rules:

- 3.2.1.1 The championships are to be conducted under Softball Australia Limited (SAL) Rules and Interpretations as endorsed by the Queensland School Sport 13- 19 years Softball Committee except wherein stated.
- 3.2.1.2 Games shall be of 1 hour 15 minutes duration or a regulation game of seven innings, whichever is arrived at first. Should the score in a game be tied at the end of the seventh innings, a tiebreaker will be played until a winner is determined or time is called for a "time game".
- 3.2.1.3 If a game ends on an incomplete innings, the winning team shall be the team scoring the most runs at the end of the last completed innings, unless the team actually batting in the bottom half of the incomplete innings has scored the most runs, then that side shall be the winner OR if the number of runs scored by both sides is the same, the game shall be drawn. Exceptions are:
 - Semi-finals 1 hour 30 minutes duration or a regulation game of seven innings. An innings once started must be completed

An innings may not be started within five minutes of the end of the game.

• Grand Final — as for semi-finals

In semi-finals or the grand final, if games are drawn at completion time or seven innings additional tie breaker innings will be played until a result is determined.

- 3.2.1.4 Games will start and finish by the plate umpire's watch.
- 3.2.1.5 The official diamond shall have a pitching distance of:

Boys -14.02m (46ft)

Girls — the official diamond shall have a Girls pitching distance of 13.11m (43ft). However, a distance of 12.19m (40ft) should also be marked so that any pitchers who are 13 or 14 years of age may pitch from the 40ft distance BUT will not be considered for selection as a pitcher in the QSS Softball State Team if pitching from the shorter distance

3.2.1.6 Points shall be awarded as follows:

Win - 2 points

Draw - 1 point

Loss - 0 points

If two or more teams have gained an equal number of points, placings shall be decided by:

- (a) Percentages (Runs scored against/defensive innings played)
- (b) The result of the game played between the two teams
- (c) Runs for/offensive innings played
- (d) The toss of a coin

- 3.2.1.7 The first named team in all matches will occupy first base bench and call the toss.
- 3.2.1.8 In order to speed up play, a runner may enter the game to replace the catcher on base when there are two outs. That runner can be anyone in the playing line up that is not in the next four batters. Using a runner for the catcher does not constitute as a substitution.
- 3.2.1.9 A "Designated Runner", referred to as a "DR", may be used for any baserunner once only in any offensive innings, provided it is made known prior to the start of the game and the player's name is indicated on the line-up sheet:
 - The "DR" may be used as a substitute for any fielder or batter during the game, and/or
 - The "DR" may be substituted for at any time by a player who then becomes the "DR". The substitute must be a player who has not been in the game
 - If at the time of the "DR" entering the game as a substitute a replacement "DR" is not named, the position of "DR" shall lapse.
- 3.2.1.10 The designated enclosed fence distances will be within the range of 200–225ft. The exceptions to this will be in the advent of a pre-existing fence. In this case the fence will remain and the enclosed fence distance will be as exists. Should a fence not be erected for the championships, and where it is possible for all diamonds to have the same unobstructed playing surface an open diamond will be played. However should an open diamond be obstructed, all diamonds are to have a marked boundary and a ground rule double shall apply for balls which are hit through this boundary.
- 3.2.1.11 Rule 6 Section 8 Intentional Walk as detailed in the SAL Rulebook will not apply in this competition.
- 3.2.1.12 In all games the batting team may declare an innings closed. This rule can only be invoked when coaches from both teams agree that it is in the best interests of the game.
- 3.2.1.13 No metal cleats or shoes are permitted.
- 3.2.2 Interruption of games:
 - 3.2.2.1 For all interrupted games, the recommencement of play will be from the point of the interruption unless determined otherwise by the Disputes Committee.
 - 3.2.2.2 If a regulation game of three innings OR a minimum of one hour has been completed, the game will not be recommenced unless time within the normal allocated timeframe permits.
 - 3.2.2.3 In the event of a protest, the umpire will note the time taken for the protest to be heard and decided. This time will be added to the finishing time for the game to ensure full time allocation for the game.
 - 3.2.2.4 In the event of an injury to a player extending beyond five minutes, the umpire will note the time taken for the treatment of the injury. This time will be added to the finishing time for the game to ensure the full time allocation for the game.
 - 3.2.2.5 If the injury time extends beyond 15 minutes, the Tournament Chief Umpire may declare the game to be an 'Interrupted Game'.

3.3 School Based Competitions

3.3.1 Golden Glove Softball Challenge

3.3.1.1 Rules:

3.3.1.1.1 Eligibility:

3.3.1.1.1.1 This competition is open to girls and boys Softball teams in a girls only and a boys only Open Division from all affiliated schools.

3.3.1.1.2 Team Competition:

- 3.3.1.1.2.1 Teams are restricted to 14 players on the day of competition.
- 3.3.1.1.2.2 All players must be full time bona fide secondary students who must be under 20 years of age at 31 December of year of competition.
- 3.3.1.1.2.3 All players must wear the correct school softball uniform or sports uniform.

3.3.1.1.3 Competition Rules:

- 3.3.1.1.3.1 The competition will be played under current ISF rules and Interpretations unless otherwise stated below.
- 3.3.1.1.3.2 All matches will be of 1 hour 15 minutes duration or a regulation game of seven innings, whichever is arrived at first. However, an innings once started must be completed. An innings cannot be commenced within five minutes of the scheduled finishing time of the game i.e., after the 1 hour 10 minute mark.
- 3.3.1.1.3.3 A game that is tied at the end of seven innings or at the end of a completed innings at the end of 1 hour 15 minutes shall be continued by playing additional tie breaker innings.
- 3.3.1.1.3.4 Declaration in all games the batting team may declare their innings closed. This declaration may be made for each innings if so desired.
- 3.3.1.1.3.5 A "Designated Runner", referred to as a "DR", may be used for any baserunner once only in any offensive innings, provided it is made known prior to the start of the game and the player's name is indicated on the line-up sheet.
 - The "DR" may be used as a substitute for any fielder or batter during the game, and/or
 - The "DR" may be substituted for at any time by a player who then becomes the "DR". The substitute must be a player who has not been in the game.

- If at the time of the "DR" entering the game as a substitute a replacement "DR" is not named, the position of "DR" shall lapse.
- 3.3.1.1.3.6 Pitching distances are:

Girls 40ft (12.19m)

Boys 46ft (14.02m)

3.3.1.1.3.7 Tie breaker rules are:

Starting at the top of the next innings, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat ninth in that innings i.e., the last player 'out', being placed on second base. The same is repeated at the bottom of the innings for the other team. The game is continued in this way for additional innings until a result is reached.

- 3.3.1.1.3.8 Each game must have a result. No drawn games.
- 3.3.1.1.3.9 No metal cleats or shoes are permitted.
- 3.3.1.1.3.10 Each school will supply one regulation leather softball (in suitable condition) for each game. All regulation equipment (this includes leggings for all catchers) must be used during the game.
- 3.3.1.1.3.11 Games should be controlled by official 'badged' umpires where possible. The home (non-travelling) team should arrange for the supply of umpires.
- 3.3.1.1.3.12 Umpires are responsible for keeping the match time and score.
- 3.3.1.1.3.13 The official team sheet, as supplied by the organising committee, must be used for all matches. The completed score sheet, signed by both schools, must be faxed to the Convenor within three days of the completion of the game

3.3.1.2 Structure:

- 3.3.1.2.1 Structure of Competition
 - 3.3.1.2.1.1 All schools which nominate will be organised according to Education Queensland's regions as near as possible.
 - 3.3.1.2.1.2 Within each region there will be a competition organised on a single elimination knockout basis.
 - 3.3.1.2.1.3 In special circumstances the organising committee will organise a one day round robin

tournament to decide the winner for that region or zone.

- 3.3.1.2.1.4 The organising committee will arrange the draw.
- 3.3.1.2.1.5 Matches in each round must be played by the nominated date. Failure to do so may result in exclusion from the competition.

3.3.1.2.2 Match Venues and times

- 3.3.1.2.2.1 For all matches up to but excluding the finals series, the venue is to be arranged by mutual agreement. If schools cannot mutually agree, the organising committee will arbitrate.
- 3.3.1.2.2.2 After the first round, the school which has travelled most in that round will be deemed, in most cases, to be the home team.
- 3.3.1.2.2.3 All matches are to be arranged at a time mutually acceptable to both schools. In most cases this will be outside school hours. Where school time is available, it must be with the approval of both principals.
- 3.3.1.2.2.4 School convenors are asked to contact the local Softball Association for assistance in relation to umpires and/or facilities. A list of Association contacts is provided to each competing school.

3.3.1.3 Responsibilities:

3.3.1.3.1 School Responsibilities-

- 3.3.1.3.1.1 The competition will be known as the Golden Glove Softball Challenge (herein referred to as 'The Challenge').
- 3.3.1.3.1.2 All efforts must be made by team officials to seek publicity in the local press and softball publications.
- 3.3.1.3.1.3 A team nomination fee of \$44 must be made promptly and should be paid by cheque made payable to QSS 13-19 years Softball. All payments must be received prior to the Regional Competition Day.

3.3.1.3.2 Organising Committee Responsibilities-

- 3.3.1.3.2.1 Trophies.
- 3.3.1.3.2.2 Both State Champions teams (i.e. girls and boys) will receive a trophy.
- 3.3.1.3.2.3 The winning school in each Area will receive an appropriate memento of their participation in the Final Series.

3.3.1.3.2.4 Players in all participating teams will be presented with a certificate.

3.3.1.3.3 Enquiries

3.3.1.3.3.1 All enquiries should be directed to the Convenor.

3.4 Sponsorship

4 Access to State Championships

- 4.1 Eligibility
- 4.2 Centres of Athletic Development
- 4.3 Guidelines for Gender Equity in Sport

5 Conduct of State Championships

- 5.1 Championship Host
- 5.2 Participation
- 5.3 Finance
 - 5.3.1 Team Levy

A team levy will be set to help offset the cost of conducting the Championships. This levy will be determined each year by the committee in consultation with the host region and follow the levy and budget guidelines from Queensland School Sport.

- 5.4 Accommodation Framework
- 5.5 Event Officials

5.6 Complaints Management

5.6.1 Disputes:

Disputes are to be lodged in writing within 10 minutes of the completion of the game.

The Secretary will receive all disputes and forward them to the Disputes Committee. The decision of this Committee is final.

5.6.2 Disputes Committee:

At the pre-Championship Management Meeting a Disputes Committee of three people, will be selected. The committee will consist of the Tournament Chief Umpire, a selector and the championship Convenor or one team official, appointed from the floor of the meeting.

5.7 Meetings

5.7.1 Annual General Meeting:

The Annual General Meeting will be held prior to the commencement of play of the girls championship. The Annual General Meeting will be followed by a Management Committee Meeting. These meetings are held on the Wednesday evening with play commencing on Thursday morning. All Regional officials must attend these meetings.

- 5.8 Health and Safety
- 5.9 Excursions and Functions
- 5.10 State Team Selections
- 5.11 Host Report
- 5.12 Travel Subsidy
- 5.13 Requests for Access to Students
- 5.14 Loss or Damage of Equipment at State Championships
- 5.15 Photography

5.16 Trophies and Presentations

- 5.16.1 Major Trophy
 - 5.16.1.1 The winning team (Girls Championship) will be presented with the *Chris Thornton- Corrie Knight* Trophy.
 - 5.16.1.2 The winning team (Boys Championship) will be presented with the *Queensland School Sport Softball Championship* trophy.
 - 5.16.1.3 The winning region will be responsible for engraving the trophy after each championship.
- 5.16.2 Winning Teams Awards
 - 5.16.2.1 Medallions are to be presented individually to the members of the Champion Team and also members of the Runner Up Team.
 - 5.16.2.2 Medallions are to be engraved -

QSS 13 - 19 years Softball State Championship

"Year"

"Champion / Runners up"

- 5.16.2.3 There will be a maximum of 17 Medallions presented to each Grand Final team.
- 5.16.3 Player Awards

5.16.3.1 An award will be presented to any player who has represented a region/s for five years.

For the Girls Championship this award will be the:

"Corrie Knight Service Award"

and for the Boys State Championship this award will be the:

"Russell Miller Service Award"

- 5.17 Areas of Responsibility
- 5.18 Minimum Venue Standards
- 5.19 Regional Delegates Role

6 Queensland Teams

6.1 State Team Selection Policies

- 6.1.1 Girls State Championship:
 - 6.1.1.1 The number of selectors will be three.
 - 6.1.1.2 Applications for the position of selector must be submitted on the official form and must be received by the Secretary by the advertised date which will be no later than one week prior to the State Championships. Late applications will not be accepted.
 - 6.1.1.3 The election of selectors will be by preferential ballot either at the State Championship preliminary meeting or by postal ballot if the number of nominations exceeds three.
 - 6.1.1.4 Preference should be given to competent independent selectors who are employed in the Queensland Education System where they are available.
 - 6.1.1.5 Chairperson of Selectors:
 - At the pre-Championship Management Meeting a Chairperson of Selectors will be appointed from the three selectors.
 - 6.1.1.6 The appointed State Team Coach will consult with the appointed selectors in the final selection of the team.
- 6.1.2 Boys State Championship
 - 6.1.2.1 An Executive Member of the QSS 13-19 years Softball Committee is to be Chair of the selection panel and is to convene meetings as required.
 - 6.1.2.2 The selection panel is to comprise one person from each participating region/team, each having one vote. Members of the selection panel are to be nominated at the pre-championship meeting
 - 6.1.2.3 If the selection panel has an even number of voting members the appointed Queensland Coach, if not a Region/Team Official, will have a casting vote. If the Queensland coach is a Team Official, the Chair of the selection panel will have this casting vote. The casting vote will only be

exercised as an option after all other methods of resolution have been exhausted.

6.1.3 A Queensland Open Girls and Boys team will be chosen at the Championships. These teams will participate in the School Sport Australia 17 years and Under Softball Championships.

6.1.4 Queensland Team:

- 6.1.4.1 To be eligible for the Queensland Team, players must be 17 years and under on 30 June in the year of competition.
- 6.1.4.2 Each team will consist of 13 players. A 14th player (e.g. pitcher) may be selected if it is determined as a requirement for the number of games to be played at the national competition in that year.
- 6.1.4.3 Shadow players will be selected but may not be announced.

6.1.5 Selection Procedures:

- 6.1.5.1 The selectors must meet on a regular basis on each day of the competition.
- 6.1.5.2 The selectors may meet with the coaches of competing teams to give the coaches the opportunity to put forward the names of and comment on the players considered worthy of selection. Coaches should make themselves aware of the standards necessary for selection of a player in a Queensland Team.
- 6.1.5.3 Team coaches may submit a written report to the selectors.
- 6.1.5.4 At least one member of the selection panel should be present at each game.
- 6.1.5.5 The selectors should maintain a written report of each game viewed for selection purposes.
- 6.1.5.6 Players nominating for the Queensland team must complete a Players Nomination form prior to the commencement of the Championships.
- 6.1.5.7 The Chair of the Selection Panel may provide feedback to students upon written request at the completion of the Championships.
- 6.1.5.8 In the event of the Championship's cancellation due to wet weather or another cause beyond the control of the organisers, the selectors will be responsible for naming a Queensland team. Criteria involved in this situation will be performances in any games played at the Championships or any relevant recent performances.

6.1.6 Announcement of the Queensland Team:

- 6.1.6.1 The selectors must submit the final team, and shadow players, to the Executive members in attendance for ratification before the announcement.
- 6.1.6.2 A member of the Executive will announce the Queensland team to the Queensland team officials prior to the general announcement on the understanding that the selections are not to be made public.
- 6.1.6.3 The Queensland team will be announced at the Closing Ceremony of the State Championships.

6.1.7 Announcement of the Queensland Talent Squad:

At the State Championship Closing Ceremony a Queensland Talent Squad, chosen by the selectors, will be announced and presented with a certificate. Two players from each region who have shown noteworthy softball and/or team skills, a positive attitude and good behaviour on and off the diamond, will be chosen.

6.2 Selection Policy Guidelines

- 6.2.1 To be eligible for the Queensland Team, players must be 17 years and under on 30 June in the year of competition.
- 6.2.2 Criteria for the Selection of Queensland Teams:
 - 6.2.2.1 The major criterion for selection will be the performance of the player at the State Championships. Areas of performance considered should include:
 - 6.2.2.1.1 The skills level exhibited by the player.
 - 6.2.2.1.2 The performance of the player as a member of the team.
 - 6.2.2.1.3 The attitude and behaviour of the player on and off the diamond.
 - 6.2.2.2 In all events, a player who is ill, injured or for compassionate reasons cannot compete at the time of the State Championships may be considered for selection provided that the Absentee Application for Exemption from QSS Competition form is supplied prior to or at the Pre Event meeting of the championships. Refer to the Absentee Application for Exemption form from QSS.
 - 6.2.2.3 In all events, a player who is representing Australia or Queensland at a higher level in a school sport competition, or representing Australia or Queensland in that same sport and same discipline of that sport, at the time of the State Championships may be considered for selection provided that the Absentee Application for Exemption from QSS Competition form is supplied prior to or at the Pre Event meeting of the championships.
 - 6.2.2.4 A player who has been granted exemption from participating in the State Championships, in writing to the QSS Softball Secretary, prior to the commencement of the Championships, may be considered for selection.

6.3 Participation at National Events

6.4 Appointment of Team Officials

- 6.4.1 Queensland Team Officials will consist of:
 - One Coach
 - One Manager
 - One Assistant Coach
- 6.4.2 The State Team Coach must hold a current Level 2 Coaching Certificate.

6.5 Uniforms

- 6.6 Travel Policy
- 6.7 Queensland Team Preparation
- 6.8 Risk Management
- 6.9 Guidelines for Interstate Exchanges / Non School Sport Australia Events
- 6.10 International Tours
- **6.11 Costs**

7 Accommodation framework

- **8 Codes of Conduct**
 - 8.1 Team Members, Parents and Spectators
 - 8.2 Team Officials
- 9 Team Officials Duty of Supervision
- 10 Procedures for the Investigation and Recording of Misconduct