HONG KONG CHINA SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
LOCAL GROUND RULES
2026 – 2027

Appendix I- Group Ranking Calculation and Team's Quality Balance (TQB)

1. During the group stage, a single, double, or triple round-robin format will be played within each group, as designated by the specific division's competition format.
2. The following statistics will be used as reference data for group rankings: Total Runs Scored (RS), Total Runs Allowed (RA), Total Offensive Outs (TOO), Total Defensive Outs (TDO), Total Run Differential (RD), and Team's Quality Balance (TQB).
3. If any team forfeits a game during the group stage:
    a. Game Verdict: The match shall be ruled a 7-0 score in favour of the winning team.
    b. Standing Statistics Assignment: For the calculation of cumulative standings (such as Run Differential), both teams will be credited with 0 Runs Scored (RS), 0 Runs Allowed (RA), 0 Offensive Outs (TOO), 0 Defensive Outs (TDO), and 0 Runners Left on Base (LOB) for this game.
    (Note: This prevents the winning team from gaining an unfair cumulative advantage in runs and TQB due to a forfeit.)
    c. TQB Disciplinary Penalty: Whenever the forfeited game is necessary to be included in the ranking calculation (either total TQB or TQB between the teams with the same win-loss record), the standings system will directly apply a specific division penalty on top of the calculated TQB for the losing (forfeiting) team, while the TQB for the winning team remains unaffected by this game. The fixed TQB penalty values are assigned as follows:
        i. MS and WA divisions: -1.000
        ii. MA and MB divisions: -2.000
        iii. MC and WB divisions: -3.000
        iv. MD and WC divisions: -4.000
    d. Mid-Game Withdrawal (Rule 2.7): The final result will be determined by whichever of the following methods yields a less favourable Run Differential for the withdrawing team:
        i. Maintaining the actual score at the time of withdrawal, including all actual completed outs and cumulative LOB recorded at termination; or
        ii. Applying the standard forfeit rules outlined in 3.a–c above.
4. Team's Quality Balance (TQB) Calculation:
   Each defensive inning is divided into three parts based on outs, with each out representing 1/3 of an inning.
   TQB = [(Total Runs Scored / Total Offensive Innings) - (Total Runs Allowed / Total Defensive Innings)]
   For simplified spreadsheet calculation, the formula is expressed as:
   TQB = 3 * [(RS / TOO) - (RA / TDO)]

   Example:
   In two games, Team A recorded the following statistics:
   Total Runs Scored: 29, Total Offensive Outs: 7 Total Runs Allowed: 12, Total Defensive Outs: 17
   Their TQB is calculated as follows:
   (29 / (7 / 3)) - (12 / (17 / 3)) = 10.31

SCENARIO: A THREE-WAY TIE

Teams A, B, and C all finish the group stage with identical winning percentages, and each team has won one game against the other (Team A beat Team B, Team B beat Team C, and Team C beat Team A). Because the head-to-head criterion cannot break the tie, the ranking is determined by TQB.

THE DATA (GAMES BETWEEN TIED TEAMS ONLY)

TEAM	RUNS SCORED (RS)	OFFENSIVE OUTS (TOO)	RUNS ALLOWED (RA)	DEFENSIVE OUTS (TDO)
Team A	10	39	8	42
Team B	12	42	11	39
Team C	8	42	11	42

THE TQB CALCULATION
Using the simplified formula: **TQB = 3 × [(RS / TOO) - (RA / TDO)]**

- **Team A:**
  - Offensive Rate: 10 / 39 = 0.2564
  - Defensive Rate: 8 / 42 = 0.1905
  - TQB: 3 × (0.2564 - 0.1905) = **+0.1977**
- **Team B:**
  - Offensive Rate: 12 / 42 = 0.2857
  - Defensive Rate: 11 / 39 = 0.2821
  - TQB: 3 × (0.2857 - 0.2821) = **+0.0108**
- **Team C:**
  - Offensive Rate: 8 / 42 = 0.1905
  - Defensive Rate: 11 / 42 = 0.2619
  - TQB: 3 × (0.1905 - 0.2619) = **-0.2142**

FINAL RANKING
The teams are ranked from highest to lowest TQB:

1 **Team A** (+0.1977)
2 **Team B** (+0.0108)
3 **Team C** (-0.2142)

Appendix II- Penalty when team fail to comply with Rule 7.3 and 7.4

Accumulation	Penalties
1st Failure	**Team will receive written warning.**
2nd Failure	**$200 deposit of the team will be forfeited.**
3rd Failure	**$300 deposit of the team will be forfeited.**
4th Failure	**$500 deposit of the team will be forfeited.**

***In cases of force majeure or exceptional circumstances, all penalty decisions remain at the sole discretion of the Hong Kong China Softball Association, whose ruling shall be final.**

Appendix III- Example Case of Rule 8.2

Case 1:

The home team is losing by one run after 4th and a half complete innings. The home team scores (a) one run or (b) two runs, in the bottom of the 4th inning, but the game is called due to weather conditions, before the home team has completed its turn at bat. Who wins the game?

Ruling:

According to Rule 8.2.2, the game is a regulation game.

In (a) the game is a tie, based on Rule 8.2.4, the game shall be continued and rescheduled to play at a later date.

In (b) the home team is the winner. The final score is the score at the time of suspension as the home team has scored more runs than the visiting team in the bottom half of the incomplete inning according to Rule 8.2.2.

Case 2:

The home team is leading by one run after the 3rd innings. The visiting team scores two runs to go ahead, in the top half of the 4th inning. With one out in the bottom half of the same inning, the umpire calls the game due to rain.

Ruling:

According to Rule 8.2.2, This is a regulation game and the home team wins. The score reverts back to the last complete inning because the home team has not completed its turn at bat in the 4th inning and is behind in the score.

Appendix IV- Rule 11

Table of game suspensions: (Adapted from WBSC World Cup Tournament Regulations)

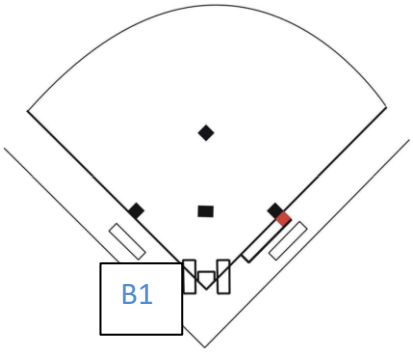
Infraction	**Minimum**	**Maximum**
Player, coach or team member to another:		
Verbal		
Indecent language	1	2
Insulting language	1	3
Threats	1	4
Inciting spectators to abuse another player	1	3
Physical		
Deliberate contact	1	2
Fights	2	3
Fights: Actual injury	3	6
Throwing material	1	2
Spitting	2	4
NOTE: Fights during bench clearing will be handled as fights mentioned above		
Player, coach or team member to official:		
Verbal		
Indecent language	1	2
Insulting language	2	3
Threats	2	4
Inciting spectators to abuse officials	1	3
Physical		
Deliberate contact	1	2
Attempted injury	2	3
Actual injury	3	6
Throwing material at a person	2	4
Spitting	2	4
Other infractions		
Disputing judgement calls	0	2
Displaying influence of alcohol	0	2
Repeated Late submission of line-up	0	2
Carelessly throwing the bat towards players or umpire	0	0
If in the Arbitration and Disciplinary Committee's judgement, the Umpire's Report indicates that the ejection itself was sufficient AND there are no previous incidents on record,		
For repeat infringement(s), the penalty may be increased.		

Appendix V- Rule 11.6: Shek Kip Mei softball fields restricted area for any team member

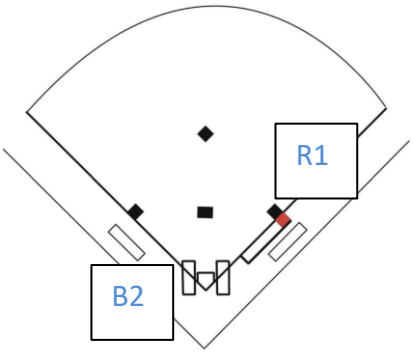
Pitch #3

Pitch #4

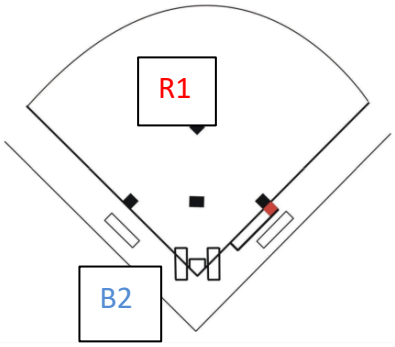
Appendix VI- 9th-batter walk/hit-by-pitch advance examples

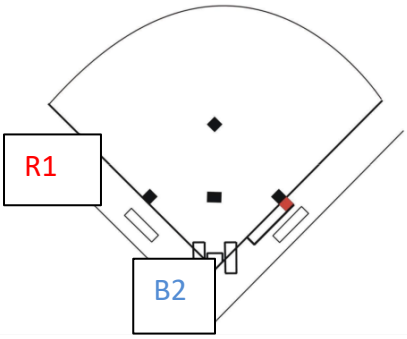


a) B1 advances to 2nd base, no run scores.



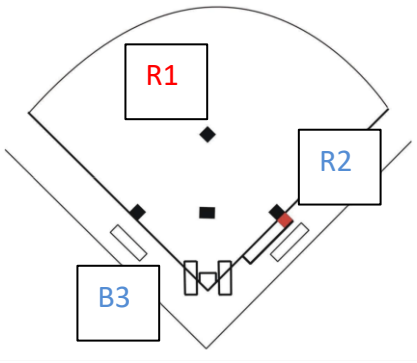
b) R1 advances to 3rd base, B2 advances to 2nd base, no run scores.

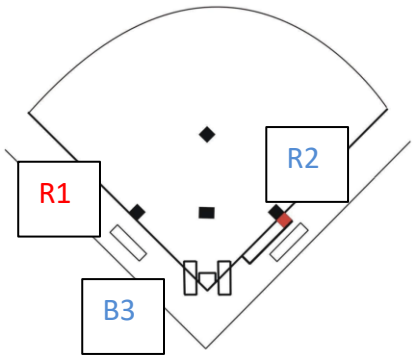




c) R1 scores, B2 advances to 2nd base,

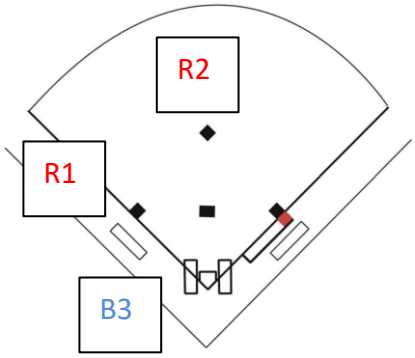
d)





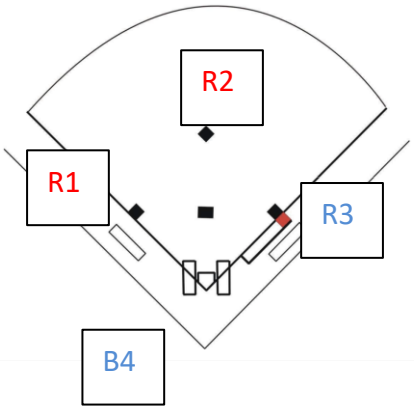
R1 scores, R2 advances to 3rd,
B3 advances to 2nd base

e)



R1 scores, R2 scores, B3 advances to 2nd base

f)



R1 scores, R2 scores,
R3 advances to 3rd base, B4 advances to 2nd base

Note:
If there is proper appeal on the forced runners/ runners in pale blue colour missing the very next base, it is also a forced-out.

【END】

Competition Management Committee