



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Softball Ontario Launches Sanctioned Games and Events Policy to Strengthen Safety, Fair Play, and Insurance Standards**

**April 1, 2025 – Burlington, ON** — Softball Ontario is pleased to announce the implementation of its new **Sanctioned Games and Events Policy**, designed to ensure that all games, tournaments, and softball activities meet the highest standards of safety, insurance compliance, and sportsmanship. This new policy and process has a new dedicated page on the Softball Ontario Website <https://softballontario.ca/sanctioning/>

This new webpage has links to two searchable databases which will display all sanctioned teams and events in Ontario. This will allow teams, officials, and event organizers to verify insurance coverage prior to stepping on the diamond.

This policy clearly outlines the criteria required for a game or event to be recognized as *sanctioned* by Softball Ontario and its four Member Associations — the Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA), Provincial Women's Softball Association (PWSA), Ontario Rural Softball Association (ORSA), and Slo-Pitch Ontario Association (SPOA).

**“The aim for this new policy and process is to ensure everyone on the diamond is protected, through proper insurance coverage and safety standards, while providing a level of transparency as to what is considered a sanctioned event”** said Johnathan Baker, Executive Director of Softball Ontario.

#### **Key Highlights of the Policy:**

- **Sanctioned Event Definition:** A sanctioned game or event is officially reviewed and approved by Softball Ontario or its Member Associations, ensuring compliance with insurance and officiating standards.
- **Sanctioning Criteria:** Events must be organized or endorsed by a Member Association, utilize Softball Ontario registered umpires, provide proof of insurance, maintain safety measures, and promote fair play.
- **Application Process:** Organizers must submit a sanctioning application at least 14 days prior to the event, including insurance confirmation for all participating teams.
- **Benefits of Sanctioning:** Approved events will benefit from comprehensive insurance coverage, promotion through Softball Ontario's communication channels, and access to certified officials.



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- **Non-Sanctioned Events:** Activities without sanctioning will not be covered by Softball Ontario's insurance and cannot claim affiliation.
- **Revocation of Sanctioning:** Softball Ontario reserves the right to revoke sanctioning if an event fails to comply with policy standards.

#### **How to Apply:**

Event organizers can submit an application through their Member Association or directly to Softball Ontario. For full application details and forms, please review the [Sanctioned Events Policy](#)

#### **Contact Information:**

For questions or to submit an application, please contact:

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