

Softball

The planning considerations that are common to all curriculum activities can be found in the [CARA generic template](#). These must be considered as well as the activity-specific considerations outlined below.

Activity scope

This guideline relates to student participation in softball as a curriculum activity, including skills development, training and competitions.

Mandatory/special requirements

Mandatory requirements must be met for the activity to be conducted. Special requirements are to be considered in the planning and delivery of this activity.

Modified versions of softball may include additional and/or alternate risks and equipment that should be considered in planning this activity. For further information on softball modifications, refer to [Softball Australia](#).

Risk level

- **Medium** risk: Teaching of softball skills, training and competitions.

Minimum supervision requirements

- Covered in the Planning Considerations section as outlined in the [CARA generic template](#).

Minimum qualifications for supervisors

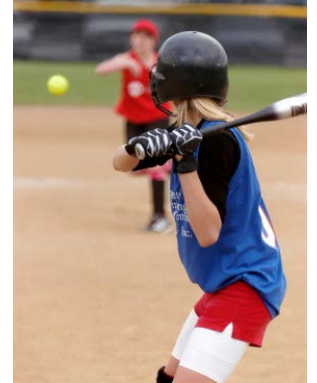
- A registered teacher with competence (knowledge and skills) in the teaching of softball.

OR

- A registered teacher or other activity leader with [Level 2](#) coaching accreditation from Softball Australia. This course may be undertaken through the [Get Active Queensland Accreditation Program](#).

Minimum requirements for equipment/facilities

- Facilities that adhere, as close as practicable, to [International Softball Federation \(ISF\) regulations](#).
- A clearly defined playing area (including boundary clearances).
- Regulation softball bats that have taping or grip and have not been altered in any way.
- Protective equipment including:
 - helmets that are in good condition and cover both ears, for batters and base runners
 - helmets, face masks, throat and chest protectors, and leg guards for the catcher for both warm-up and game play. Note: The same equipment applies to the umpire if they are standing behind the catcher.
 - protector/box for all catchers in fast-pitch environments.
- Closed footwear appropriate to the playing surface, type of activity (i.e. training or match) and age of participants.



Hazards and controls

Hazards	Control measures
Body contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruct students that they must avoid intentionally clashing with an opponent.
Environmental conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly define the playing and clearance areas prior to play commencing. A clearance of 7.62m outside the foul boundary line is recommended. Refer to ISF Technical and Venue Manual. • If the recommended boundary clearance is not met, provide instructions to the officials/supervisors and players about the limited clearance zone and the steps they could take to ensure safety, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reduce the size of the playing field to achieve an adequate clearance zone - remove spectators/dangerous obstacles within the clearance zone - station supervisors near any obstacles within the clearance zone - pad any obstacles located within the clearance zone. • Ensure playing fields do not have overlapping outfields and there is a distance between the outfield on each diamond and between the dead ball lines where diamonds are placed parallel to each other. • Ensure drink breaks occur regularly (i.e. drink breaks are recommended every 30 minutes in conditions of extreme temperature) and drinks are available for individual players between drink breaks.
Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all equipment is suited to the size, strength and ability of the students. • Ensure that, wherever possible, bases are pegged firmly to the ground with rounded over pegs. The base at first base should be a double base and coloured. • Where possible, ensure diamonds are orientated in a direction to avoid sun affecting the line of sight of fielders and batters. • Check equipment for damage before and during use. Do not use bats, helmets, face masks and catcher's protective equipment with cracks, dents or damage. • If the umpire is not wearing protective equipment, ensure that he/she stands behind the pitcher. • Ensure underage coaches (i.e. under 18) wear a helmet in the coaching box. • Ensure students are all wearing closed shoes (smooth soles or rubber cleats). • Where possible use protective screens and a back net.
Student considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position the batting team at least 10m back from either the first or third base line where possible, and well clear of the catching area. • Instruct students to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - drop, not throw, the bat before running. The dropped bat (and tee, if present) should be removed as soon as possible. - run through first base on a single base hit (i.e. the batter/runner should not slide or dive head first into first base) - watch play at all times when warming up. • Instruct students in proper fielding techniques. • Instruct students in safe sliding technique and when sliding is permitted.

Hazards	Control measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, ensure the warm-up batter practises in a designated area, preferably at least 10m from the catcher, and preferably on the less dominant side for each batter (i.e. first base side for right-handed batters and third base side for left-handed batters). • Ensure all players warming-up a pitcher who is throwing/pitching under-arm, are fully dressed in catcher's protective gear, as detailed in the minimum requirements for equipment/facilities.

Additional links

- Queensland School Sport Unit
<https://queenslandschoolsport.eq.edu.au/Pages/default.aspx>
- Sports Medicine Australia Injury Fact Sheets
<http://sma.org.au/resources-advice/injury-fact-sheets/>

Disclaimer:

This document is developed and distributed on this website by the State of Queensland for use by Queensland state schools.

Use or adaptation of, or reliance on, this document or information in this document by persons or organisations other than the State of Queensland is at their sole risk. All users who use, adapt or rely on this document or any information in this document are responsible for ensuring by independent verification its accuracy, currency and appropriateness to their particular circumstances. The State of Queensland makes no representations, either express or implied, as to the suitability of this document or the information in this document to a user's particular circumstances.

To the full extent permitted by law, the State of Queensland disclaims all responsibility and liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs arising from the use or adaptation of, or reliance on, this document or any information in this document.

Links in this document to external websites are for convenience only and the State of Queensland has not independently verified the information on the linked websites. It is the responsibility of users to make their own decisions about the accuracy, currency, reliability and correctness of the information at these external websites.