



# AROUND the HORN

## A SOFTBALL CANADA PUBLICATION

### ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

April 2011

Softball Canada  
NEWS

Canadian  
Championships

Officiating

Softball Canada  
Staff

## POINTSTREAK

### Partners with Softball Canada

Pointstreak Sports Technologies Inc. and Softball Canada are pleased to announce they have reached an agreement which will see Pointstreak provide advanced scoring, official statistics and tournament administration services to Softball Canada's Canadian Championships. "Softball Canada is extremely pleased to work with Pointstreak to deliver consistent and advanced statistical information for all of our Canadian Championships. Pointstreak's track record and experience in delivering scores and statistical programs to leagues and events are second to none. We look forward to offering this solution to our Canadian Championship hosts, and it will allow us to provide a powerful tool to our members across the country", said Mike Branchaud, Manager of Canadian Championships and Competitions for Softball Canada.

Pointstreak Stats' softball platform will streamline the process of capturing and delivering game statistics for Softball Canada and deliver those game events to Softball Canada's Canadian Championship Microsites for the benefit of players, fans and media partners. A unique feature of Pointstreak's softball statistical solution is Game Live, a flash application that streams play-by-play softball results over a 3-D graphical image of a softball diamond. Softball Canada will offer its hosts the opportunity to use Pointstreak's real-time scoring component where diamond capabilities permit. Pointstreak Stats for Softball is also geared towards the needs of media sources, providing Associated Press (AP) formatted box scores, allowing for easy reproduction of softball stats into print media.

"We are very excited to be partnered with Softball Canada for the 2011 season. They have done an outstanding job in creating rich online tools for their Canadian Championships which will increase their exposure and accessibility tremendously. We are honoured to be a part of their technological mix. To have the ability to provide scores and official statistics to their fans and media partners in true real-time is very exciting", said Paul Pettipiece, Vice President of Softball Operations of Pointstreak Sports Technologies Inc.

## About Pointstreak Sports Technologies Inc

Pointstreak Sports Technologies Inc.'s mission is to provide innovative technologies to enhance the experience of the global sports community.

Pointstreak provides innovative solutions for sports organizations such as associations, leagues, clubs and teams that are geared towards streamlining operations and improving the



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www.

SOFTBALL.ca



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experience of the sports participant, fan and media. Pointstreak's major brands include: Pointstreak Stats, a real-time scoring & official league statistics system; Pointstreak Registration; an online registration & payment processing system; Pointstreak Sites; a website content management system; Team Locker Room, a free team-based social network; and STEVA Sports; sports video indexing and analysis software. More information about Pointstreak Sports Technologies Inc. can be found at [www.pointstreak.com](http://www.pointstreak.com) or through the product information website [www.pointstreaksolutions.com](http://www.pointstreaksolutions.com)

### For further information contact:

Paul Pettipiece, Vice President of Baseball/Softball Operations,  
Pointstreak Sports Technologies, [ppettipiece@pointstreak.com](mailto:ppettipiece@pointstreak.com), (905) 731-9867



### Pointstreak Stats

- ▶ Is a real-time scoring and official league record keeping software system designed for all levels of league and tournament operations including amateur, recreational, junior, collegiate and professional leagues.

Live scores and all batting/pitching/fielding/situational statistics are captured instantly at the game by using Pointstreak's user-friendly scoring software solutions and then are delivered directly to your website in true real-time.

All game and league information can be accessed instantly by interested stakeholders such as players, fans, media and league administrators from any internet-connected computer world-wide.

Allow your fans to follow along with your games live and get your top players recognized by college scouts.

Utilize our marketing and communications tool to send off automated emails that include end game box scores and standings. Additionally you can create extensive bios with game by game and seasonal statistics for each member of your team.

Official stats and scoring system of 



**Contact Us** ▶ (905) 731-9867  
▶ [ashaw@pointstreak.com](mailto:ashaw@pointstreak.com)  
▶ [www.pointstreaksolutions.com](http://www.pointstreaksolutions.com)

# WHAT'S NEW ON THE SOFTBALL CANADA WEBSITE?

**Softball Canada Directory:** The Softball Canada Directory has been updated with new contact information and committee members.

**Women's National Team Schedules:** The 2011 schedules for the Junior and Senior Women's National Teams have been posted.

**Canadian Championships Dates and Locations:** The General Information page has been updated with 2011 dates and locations, as well as information on the 2012 Canadian Championships.

**Canadian Championship Event Contacts:** The 2011 Canadian Championship Event Contacts file has been updated.

**Canadian Championship Microsites:** The NEW Softball Canada Canadian Championship Microsites will be available through the Canadian Championships section very shortly.

**Rule Interpretations:** The Rule Interpretation page in the Officials section has been updated with new 2010 interpretations.

### Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!!

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The Calgary Herald published an interesting article about Sheena Lawrick's (Calgary, AB) career plans following retirement from the Women's National Team program: <http://www.calgaryherald.com/health/Lawrick+leaving+Team+Canada+Softball/4421945/story.html>
- USA Softball has announced the schedule for the KFC World Cup of Softball VI, which will take place from July 21-25, 2011 in Oklahoma City, OK. Canada will once again compete at the event, joining Australia, the Czech Republic, Great Britain, Japan, and the United States. The third edition of the Men's Slo-Pitch Border Battle will also be held in conjunction with the Women's Fastpitch event: <http://www.usasoftball.com/folders.asp?uid=1>
- A new softball complex has been built at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, BC. SFU has produced many players who have gone on to play for the Women's National Team program over the years. The Junior Women's National Team will hold its final Selection camp at the new complex from July 5-10, 2011: <http://www.burnabynow.com/Burnaby+Beedie+family+built+hopes+come/4386292/story.html>

## AROUND the HORN

# FEATURED WORTH BALL



**WORTH**  
OFFICIAL SOFTBALL OF  
**SOFTBALL CANADA**

<b>K-Master</b>	<b>Red Dot</b>	<b>Red Dot</b>	<b>Sof-Dot</b>
<b>C120YCC</b> 12" Optic K-Master	<b>PX2RYLC</b> 12" Optic Red Dot	<b>PX11RYLC</b> 11" Optic Red Dot	<b>SR10RYSC</b> 10" Learn to Play
SENIOR MEN JUNIOR MEN MIDGET BOYS	SENIOR WOMEN JUNIOR WOMEN MIDGET GIRLS BANTAM GIRLS PEEWEE GIRLS	SQUIRT BOYS SQUIRT GIRLS	INDOOR TRAINING LEARN TO PLAY

*Official Softballs of Softball Canada National Teams and Canadian Championships*



**PX11RYLC**  
11" / .47 COR / 375 lbs  
88 Red Stitch

The Worth 11" Red Dot PX11RYLC is not used in any of Softball Canada's Canadian Championships, but it is the ball of choice for youth and recreational leagues. The 11" ball has exactly the same specifications as the 12" Red Dot (.47 COR, 375lbs compression, 88 stitches), so it is an easy transition once the players' hands grow enough to handle the 12" ball.

## Softball Canada Hall of Fame Member

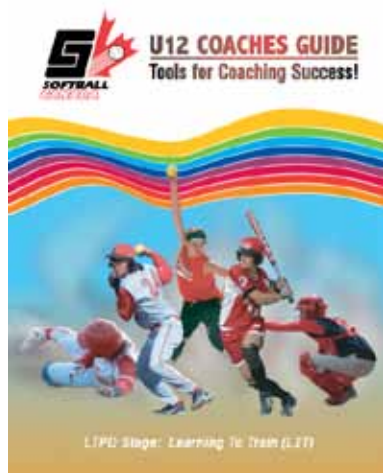
# RAYNALD VÉZEAU

# PASSES AWAY

Raynald Vézeau (Quebec), who was inducted to the Softball Canada Hall of Fame in 1981 as a Sportsman, passed away on March 21st, 2011 at the age of 69 following a battle with cancer. Raynald founded Softball Québec in 1970, and was recently on hand to celebrate the federation's 40th anniversary in November. Softball Canada offers its sincere condolences to the Vézeau family.

# COACHING

## U12 Coaches Guide



Softball Canada is pleased to announce that it has released the first of a series of coaching guides. The U12 Coaches Guide: Tools for Coaching Success! has been created by Softball Canada to increase the knowledge of coaches and improve the development of players. Additional Coaches Guides for other age categories are currently being developed.

“Softball Canada is extremely proud of our new U12 Coaches Guide” stated Kevin Quinn, President of Softball Canada. “This is a fine example of what can be accomplished when Softball Canada and its Provincial and Territorial partners work together to improve our sport. A very deep and profound congratulations goes out to all who took part in developing this exceptional coaching tool for our current and future coaches. This tool will also allow coaches to add their own drills as they further develop their coaching skills.”

The information in the U12 Coaches Guide: Tools for Coaching Success! is based on the Learning to Train Stage (L2T) of Softball Canada’s Long-Term Player Development (LTPD) model, ensuring it is both age and stage appropriate. The guide

contains a season’s worth of practice plans divided into four training phases, with each phase having its own objectives and outcomes. This will assist softball coaches with the critical skill of developing and conducting sequential and well-organized practices. The practice plans are laid out in a manner that is very easy to follow and to work with. Each drill is described in detail, including a list of equipment that is required and a time limit to ensure that the practice is kept on track. Each guide is contained in a binder which allows the coach to remove the appropriate practice plan and bring it to the field with them.



Coaches can use the information in the “Key Teaching Points” section of the guide to ensure that the players are not simply doing the drills, but are instead learning the skills and game. Each drill also contains a clearly illustrated diagram to allow for easy understanding of the drills. Beyond these valuable practice plans, the guide contains sections on practice planning, dynamic warm-up routines, cool-down routines, and key teaching points for each skill. This fantastic new resource means that age-appropriate practices and information are now at the fingertips of every softball coach in Canada.

Beginner coaches can simply follow the practice plans as they are laid out, and rest assured, the players and the team will improve the skills prioritized for their age category and LTPD stage over the course of the season. Experienced coaches can use these practice plans as a guideline and modify them to meet the individual needs of their players and team.

For more information on how to purchase the U12 Coaches Guide: Tools for Coaching Success!, please contact your local Provincial or Territorial Softball Association.

## OFFICIATING

### **Brian Van Os re-appointed as Softball Canada National Director of Umpires**

Softball Canada is extremely pleased to announce that it has re-appointed Brian Van Os as Softball Canada's National Director of Umpires through the 2013 season. Van Os took over the position from Bob Stanton, who was named the International Softball Federation's Director of Umpire in 2008. Under Van Os' direction over the past two years, the Officiating Development Committee (ODC) has increased umpire registration and opportunities for both Slo-Pitch and Fast Pitch umpires, held a successful Blue Convention in Regina, and maintained strong national and international relations in the umpiring community, among many other highlights.

"I am pleased to be part of the Softball Canada umpire program for the next three years" stated Brian Van Os. "I am very fortunate to work with a great team on the ODC and with Donna Ozarko, our Officiating manager. Together with our team and the provincial partners we have been successful in creating a first class umpire program. We all know we have to continue to work in bringing new umpires into the ranks to keep the sport healthy."

Van Os began his umpiring career in 1971 and became a registered Softball Canada umpire in 1981. He was both a Fast Pitch and Slo-Pitch official throughout his umpiring career. He has also been involved administratively with Softball British Columbia and Softball Canada since 1985, serving in numerous different positions. He was involved in umpiring at the international level from 1986 to 2001, including the 1988 ISF Senior Men's World Championships and the 2001 ISF Junior Men's World Championships. He served as Softball BC's Umpire-in-Chief from 1989 to 1997 and later joined Softball Canada's Officials Development Committee (ODC) in 2002, notably working on the evolution of the rulebook and offering rule interpretations to the umpiring community.

"I am extremely pleased to have Brian Van Os returning as Softball Canada's Director of Umpires for the next three years" said Softball Canada President Kevin Quinn. "Brian has worked aggressively to obtain international opportunities for both Fastpitch and Slo-Pitch officials. He is highly respected around the world which opens the doors for Canadian umpires to receive numerous international assignments."

## LEVEL IV UMPIRES

### CLINIC GOES ON-LINE

Softball Canada's first on-line delivery of the Level IV National Umpires Certification Clinic became a reality on March 06, 2011.

There were seven participants from across Canada that chose to take part in this inaugural clinic that spans over five Sundays.

By having the ability to participate via Adobe Connect Virtual Classroom, participants that would otherwise find it difficult to attend a weekend classroom clinic have the ability to attain their Level IV theory.

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE FOLLOWING:  
2011 SOFTBALL CANADA  
INTERNATIONAL UMPIRE SELECTIONS**

**Fast Pitch**

ISF IX Junior Women's World Championship – December 6-12 (Cape Town, South Africa)

1 – Genevieve Gaudreau (QC)

2 – Tonya Ribalkin-Zanon (AB) (pending second spot availability)

Pan American Men's Qualifier, (Dates and location TBD)

1 – Tim Lederman (BC)

Japan Cup (Japan) – Tentative dates July 26 - August 1

1 – Susan Strafford (BC)

World Cup of Softball VI – July 21-25 (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)

1 – Ian Brown (BC)

ISC World Tournament - August 14- 20 (Moline, Illinois)

1 – Greg MacCallum (NS)

**Slo-Pitch**

Europe SP Exchange - July 19-23 (Dupnitsa, Bulgaria)

1 – Stephen Doyle (ON)

Border Battle - July 21-23 (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)

1 – Lance Davidson (AB)

ASA SP Exchange (dates and location TBD)

1 – Ben Clements (ON)

2 – Terry Wolowiec (MB)

World Senior Master's Games - June 10-12, Salem VA

1 – Steve Camus (ON)

2 – Ron Moses (NB)

**CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTIONS**

U14 Girl's Jamboree (Vaughan, ON – Aug 17-21)

TBD

U16 Girl's (Winnipeg, MB - Aug. 17-21)

(UIC) Joyce Bellini, QC

(DUIC) Brent Chadwick, SK



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U19 Women's (Winnipeg, MB - Aug. 14-21)

(UIC) Grant Hood, NWT

(DUIC) Frank Fargey, MB

U19 Men's (Fredericton, NB - Aug 8-14)

(UIC) Lou Davis, NS

(DUIC) Brian Sharples, ON

U23 Women's (Windsor, ON – Aug. 10-14)

(UIC) Noreen Atkinson, ON

(DUIC) Terry Richter, AB

U23 Men's (Napanee, ON - Aug. 8-14)

(UIC) Mitch Zuk, ON

(DUIC) Aaron Poulin, BC

Senior Women's (Montreal, QC – Aug. 3-7)

(UIC) Bonnie Gostola, AB – ODC

(DUIC) Daryl Way, ON

Senior Men's (Owen Sound, ON - Aug. 28-Sept. 4)

(UIC) Doug Cundall, ON – ODC

(DUIC) Gary Skjerven, SK – ODC

Senior Men's and Women's SP (Dorchester, ON - Men Aug. 7-13; Women Aug. 9-13)

Men's (Aug 7-13)

(UIC) Dave Drake, ON

(DUIC) Jack Van Bynen, ON

(DUIC) Benoit Marquis, QC

Women's (Aug 9-13)

(UIC) Mike Robinson, AB

(DUIC) Len Gorgei, ON – ODC

# BLUE CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP

## **Awarded to Justin Greatrix (ON).**

"I am more than thrilled to be picked for this award and honour. It has made me respect the fact that none of this would have happened without first becoming an umpire and learning from the best of Zone 10."

"I feel it is necessary to recognize my mentors, the late Dave Hone and my friend and guide Greg Beach, both of which have made me the respected umpire I am now, however I have a long way to go."

"Thank you so much for the award and being able to represent Softball Ontario for the Blue Convention Scholarship" said Justin Greatrix.

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# 2011 SENIOR WOMEN'S CANADIAN FAST PITCH CHAMPIONSHIP

Softball Canada is pleased to announce that we will be adding a Senior B / Intermediate event to the 2011 Senior Women's Canadian Fast Pitch Championship in Montreal. With all Championships going to an open concept beginning in 2012, this pilot event will allow Softball Canada to gather further feedback and continue to make changes to the Canadian Championship structure to encourage more participation.

The goal of this Championship is to attract some teams from Provinces that may not have participated in the original format. This new format will provide Senior B, Intermediate, and Tier II teams the chance to play in a Canadian Championship against teams at their own level. It will further allow a team that does not make the Championship round of the A division, to play more games and compete in the B division.

**Details:**

Where – Montreal, QC

When – August 3-7, 2011

Host – Softball Quebec

Cup Championship – "A" Teams

- 5 day event with a maximum of 12 teams
- 6 game guarantee – 2 per day
- Championship Round begins on Saturday for 8 teams
- Umpires per current format
- All stats kept
- Medals, trophies, prizes
- \$500 entry fee
- June 7th Confirmation of Participation deadline

Plate Championship – "B" Teams (Intermediate, Senior B, Tier II)

- August 5-7 (Friday late afternoon to Sunday late afternoon)
- 8 team event plus up to 4 teams from A side for a Maximum of 12 teams
- Entry fee of \$400
- Teams that do not make the Championship round in "A" will stay and participate in "B" free of charge (Minimum of 3 extra games)
- Standings / scoring only – no individual stats
- Play begins Friday – total of 5 games guaranteed per team
- Medals, trophies, prizes
- June 7th Confirmation of Participation deadline

### Notes

- The event will follow Softball Canada SORs and Rulebook
- The format for the Plate event will be presented once the exact number of teams are confirmed
- \$1000 hotel bond is also due at registration
- All registrations will be through the P/T associations

## 2011 Senior Men's "B" Championship

Softball Canada is pleased to announce that we will add a Senior B / Intermediate event to the 2011 Senior Men's Canadian Fast Pitch Championship in Owen Sound, ON. With all Championships going to an open concept beginning in 2012, this pilot event will allow Softball Canada to gather further feedback and continue to make changes to the Canadian Championship structure to encourage more participation.

The goal of this Championship is to attract some teams from Provinces that may not have participated in the original format. This new format will provide Senior B, Intermediate, and Tier II teams the chance to play in a Canadian Championship against teams at their own level.

### Details:

- 8 team event split into 2 divisions of 4
- Each team plays 3 round robin games
- After round robin the top 2 teams from each group move into the Plate division and the bottom 2 go to the Bowl division
- Each division will then play a double elimination tournament
- Total games for the round robin is 12 plus 6 in each division of the playoffs for a total of 24
- Teams guaranteed minimum of 5 and maximum of 7 games each
- Play would begin Friday morning and conclude Sunday late afternoon
- Medals for top 3 finishers in Plate Division
- Trophy/plaque for Plate Champion and Bowl Champion
- Champion / Finalist prizes for Plate division
- Gift for each participant
- Scores/standings on tournament website
- Worth K-master optic balls supplied by Softball Canada
- Teams to declare their intent to participate through their Provincial/Territorial Association by June 7th
- Registration fee of \$500

### Notes

- The events will follow Softball Canada SORs and Rulebook
  - \$1000 hotel bond is also due at registration
  - All registrations will be through the P/T associations

## AROUND the HORN

# NOVA SCOTIA'S

## Learn to Play in Cyberspace

One of Nova Scotia's goals is to find new ways to promote the Learn to Play (LTP) program. In order to do that more effectively, we ventured forward into the realm of social media. The project was to tape a LTP session and post the video on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/user/SoftballCanada1>) and Softball Canada's Facebook page. LTP is now "out there"! We hope that other provinces post videos so that parents surfing the net can get a snapshot of how the program works to see how their child could be involved.

Another successful project was the publication of a parent volunteer brochure for LTP. One of the concerns that we hear from many minor associations and LTP groups is the lack of volunteers. The more volunteers on the field with the players, the more skill repetitions each one can receive. This brochure was designed to target the parents that sit and watch. One of the goals in producing this pamphlet was to have it in a form that would be easy and economical to reproduce. It is now available to be downloaded from Softball Nova Scotia's website.

These projects could not be successfully completed without the assistance of many local volunteers and technical guidance from Softball Canada's staff.

Learn to Play continues to grow and Softball Nova Scotia is pleased to welcome the aboriginal community of Indian Brook to the LTP program.

It has been an exciting year.

# CANPITCH - ONLINE SURVEYS

Softball Canada's CANpitch program has been having tremendous success and with another season currently underway, we are looking to get your feedback! Let Softball Canada know about your experience with the CANpitch Program by filling out the following surveys:

**Parental Feedback Survey**

**Participant Feedback Survey**

Surveys are also available through your Master Pitching Instructors, Regional Pitching Instructors and P/T Association or online at [www.softball.ca](http://www.softball.ca).

### Softball Canada Supplier Pool Partners



# FUTURE

## CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

### 2011

U14 Girls Jamboree	Vaughan, ON	Aug. 17-21
U16 Girls	Winnipeg, MB	Aug. 17-21
U19 Women	Winnipeg, MB	Aug. 14-21
U19 Men	Fredericton, NB	Aug. 8-14
U23 Women's	Windsor, ON	Aug. 10-14
U23 Men's	Napanee, ON	Aug. 8-14
Senior Women's	Montreal, QC	Aug. 3-7
Senior Men's	Owen Sound, ON	Aug. 28-Sep. 4
Senior Men's and Women's SP	Dorchester, ON	Men Aug. 7-13 Women Aug. 9-13

# FUTURE

## CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

### 2012

U14 Girl`s Jamboree	Open	TBD
U16 Boys	Open	TBD
U16 Girl`s	Open	TBD
U18 Women`s	Montreal, QC	TBD
U18 Men`s	Fredericton, NB	TBD
U21 Women's	Open	TBD
U21 Men's	Open	TBD
Senior Women's	Jarvis, ON	Aug. 8-12
Senior Men's	Open	TBD
Senior Men's and Women's SP	Dorchester, ON	Men: TBD Women: TBD

If you are interested in bidding on any of the open Championships, please contact Mike Branchaud, Manager of Canadian Championships and Domestic Services, at [mbranchaud@softball.ca](mailto:mbranchaud@softball.ca) or 613-523-3386 ext 3103. Please note that all bids must be approved by your local Provincial/Territorial office.

# **SOFTBALL CANADA**

## **STAFF CONTACTS**

**Chief Executive Officer – Hugh Mitchener** – [hmitchener@softball.ca](mailto:hmitchener@softball.ca)  
Phone: 613.523.3386 ext. 3106

- General Management
- Board and Provincial/Territorial Liaison
- Strategic and Operational Planning
- Financial Management
- Policy Development
- Liaison with external funding partners (Sport Canada, COC)
- International Liaison and Hosting

**Manager – LTPD/Coaching Services – Lise Jubinville** – [ljubinville@softball.ca](mailto:ljubinville@softball.ca)  
Phone: 613.523.3386 ext. 3108

- Long Term Player Development
- Coaching

**Manager – Officials/Publications Services – Donna Ozarko** – [dozarko@softball.ca](mailto:dozarko@softball.ca)  
Phone: 613.523.3386 ext. 3101

- Officials
- Blue Convention
- Newsletters (Around the Horn, Between the Lines, Canadian Indicator Newsletter)
- Rule Book
- Volunteer recognition
- Publications

**Manager – Financial Services – Kathy Stewart** – [kstewart@softball.ca](mailto:kstewart@softball.ca)  
Phone: 613.523.3386 ext. 3104

- Budget preparation
- Financial Monitoring/reports
- Accounts receivables/payables
- Tax receipts
- National Teams financial reporting to external funding bodies
- Annual General Meeting organization

**Manager - Canadian Championships/  
Domestic Services - Mike Branchaud** – [mbranchaud@softball.ca](mailto:mbranchaud@softball.ca)  
Phone: 613.523.3386 ext. 3103

- Canadian Championships
- Slo-Pitch
- Canada Games/Male equivalent
- University/College initiatives
- Competition review follow-up, national implementation and associated rule changes
- Technical standards

## AROUND the HORN

**Operations Manager – National Teams – Harvey Stevenson –** [hstevenson@softball.ca](mailto:hstevenson@softball.ca)

- Men's and Women's Teams program management
- Liaison with organizers/hosts of national team events
- COC Major Games liaison

**Manager – Marketing/Communications Services – Gilles LeBlanc –** [gleblanc@softball.ca](mailto:gleblanc@softball.ca)  
Phone: 613.523.3386 ext. 3105

- Revenue Generation
- Sponsor/Supplier liaison
- Development of promotional programs
- Media Relations
- Web site
- Hall of Fame and awards
- Ball Approval Program

**Manager – Domestic Programming – Angela Ballantyne** [aballantyne@softball.ca](mailto:aballantyne@softball.ca)  
Phone: 613.523.3386 ext. 3107

- Manager, Domestic Programming
- Learn to Play
- After Learn to Play (curriculum guides, skills tests, school programs)
- CanPitch
- Adapted softball - Wheelchair/Blind/Special Olympics
- Future initiatives



### Softball Canada

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**Providing Softball  
Opportunities to all Canadians**

**[www.softball.ca](http://www.softball.ca)**