

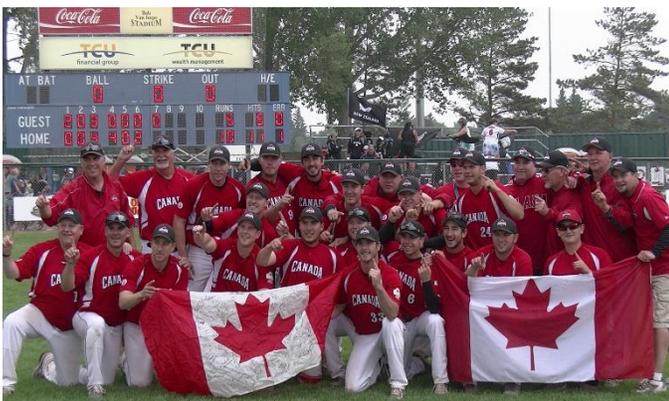
Saskatoon Set to Host First-Ever U14 Boy's Canadian Fast Pitch Championship



With the softball season in full swing in many parts of the country, Softball Canada and its Canadian Championship host committees are focusing on putting on quality events throughout the country in August. One noteworthy event will be the first-ever 2016 CO-OP U14 Boy's Canadian Fast Pitch Championship that is scheduled for August 10-14 in Saskatoon, SK. With the addition of the event, Softball Canada now offers male and female Canadian Championships for all age categories beginning at U14.

recently selected as one of the sports that will be on the program of the 2021 Canada Games.

With the recent success of the Canadian Men's National Team and the increased amount of top-level competitions in Canada and abroad, Softball Canada's Provincial and Territorial Associations have ramped up their efforts in developing and promoting Men's Softball. The addition of the U16 Boy's Canadian Championship in 2014 and this year's U14 Boy's event gives young male athletes the opportunity to compete for a national title while helping to grow the game throughout the country.



The level of excitement around Men's Softball grew tremendously in 2015 with Team Canada claiming both the WBSC Men's World Softball Championship and Pan American Games titles on home soil, captivating and inspiring young male athletes across the country. That excitement should continue to build as Men's Softball will be making its return to the 2017 Canada Summer Games and was

Softball Canada President Kevin Quinn knows this is a key event for male softball in this country. "Softball Canada is extremely pleased that Softball Saskatchewan has stepped up and hosted the first ever U14 Boys Canadian championships. Softball Canada has currently in place a Committee, under the direction of Brian Kosteroski, to put emphasis on the rejuvenation of Boys Softball across Canada. This U14 Boys event is a critical component in helping to grow Male fast pitch in our country. Young athletes need to see that they had the opportunity for high level competition in our sport".



There is no doubt they will see a high level of softball. The event will be held concurrently with the 2016 CO-OP U18 Men's Canadian Fast Pitch Championship, which is

scheduled from August 9-14 also in Saskatoon. This will allow younger male athletes to witness the high calibre of play at the U18 level, which has become increasingly competitive with teams from five different provinces winning the national title over the last ten years. This event has produced many great players at the National team level. The last time this event was here was in 2007. That championship saw last year's World's hero Devon McCullough pitch the Saskatoon Selects to a bronze medal. Joining McCullough from the 2007 championship was the lead off hitter from Team Canada last year Mathieu Roy (seen above) as well 2016 National Team athletes pool member Scot Lieph and Kyle Ezekiel. Many of the

stars of this years U18 event will be representing Canada at the WBSC World Junior Men's Softball Championship in Michigan later in August.

Not only will the newest faces to a Canadian championship experience competition at their level from around Canada and be able to witness U18's, they will do it in a facility that has represented Men's Fastpitch softball in this country for more than 20 years. The 2016 CO-OP U14 Boy's Canadian Fast Pitch Championship will take place at the only complex in the world that has hosted four World Softball Championships, including the 2015 WBSC Men's World Softball Championship in Saskatoon. The facility now known as Gordie Howe Sports complex includes Bob Van Impe Stadium, the Gordie Howe Fastball Field and the six Glen Reeve Fields.

