

PLAYING RULES

GENERAL

Softball Canada Official Guide and Rule Book will apply unless superseded by Softball BC Playing Rules, the SSWRMSA Division Rules, or the applicable interlock rules.

Rule changes will be provided by the CMSA Coordinators for CMSA House Divisions. NO SMOKING, chewing tobacco, or alcoholic beverages, will be allowed on the playing field, in the dugout, or on players benches. A player will not wear exposed jewellery such as rings, earring, bracelets, or chains, etc. nor will they be allowed to have combs protruding from their pockets. However, a medical bracelet will be allowed.

EQUIPMENT

- Masks must be worn by any person receiving warm-up pitches anywhere on or near the playing field. Penalty for failure to do so after warning is ejection from the game.
- A protective cup must be worn by all catchers (Jocks for boys, Jills for girls).
- Helmets are to be worn by all players when batting. They will not be removed until the player has left the field. When running bases, no player will throw off their helmet. Chin straps are to be securely fastened under the chin.
- Catchers must wear a face mask, helmet, chest protector, shin guards, and throat protector that have been approved by the Association.
- All players must wear running shoes or approved RUBBER CLEATS.
- Safe base is in effect. Offense must use orange portion of the bag on the first attempt if play is being made.
- Defence may never use the orange portion of the bag, only the white.
- All equipment will be the responsibility of the Coach. It will be his or her responsibility to see it is kept in good condition and returned at the time and place indicated.

FIELD DIMENSIONS

Division	Age	Ball Size	Pitching Distance	Base Distance
Learn to Play	5-6	11"polysoft	n/a	40'
Mini Mite	7-8	11"polysoft	24'	40'
Mite Girls	9-10	11" optic	30'	45'
Squirt Girls	11-12	11" optic	35'	55'
PeeWee Girls	13-14	11" optic	38'	60'
Bantam Girls	15-16	12" optic	40'	60'
Midget Girls	17-18	12" optic	40'	60'
Jr. Ladies	19-22	12" optic	40'	60'

PLAYING TIME GUIDELINES

House Divisions

Each player from Blastball to Midget will have equal playing time. No player should sit out more than 1 inning in a row, i.e. a players cannot sit out two or three consecutive innings.

Thunder Division (Rep 'B')

Guidelines are being formed at this time. Please contact the President for more information.

PICK-UPS FOR BOTH HOUSE AND THUNDER

Pick-ups for league play.

There are a maximum of 2 pick-ups per game from the same or a lower division. All pickups must have the approval of their Coach & Coordinator. Pickups for house play-offs are not allowed. Please also check your interlock rules regarding pickups.

HOUSE RULES AND POLICIES

Competition, in the sense of winning at all costs, must be minimized. To provide an opportunity for players to experience the competitive side of the sport and to test their acquired skills against others, a playoff weekend is organized as well as tournaments though out the year for all divisions. Medals and trophies will be awarded at these tournaments.

All comments directed towards players, coaches, members of opposing teams, officials, and spectators must be positive and encouraging. A good example of Sportsmanship and cooperation must be set for the youngsters by adults and encouraged in all players at all levels. A schedule of games will be provided for each division indicating the date, location, opponent, and designated home team. Any re-scheduling of games is the responsibility of the coaches involved.

- Evening games begin promptly at 6:30 PM and will have a maximum 7 inning limit. The game shall end at 8:30 PM or at a time the umpire or coaches (for Mite and down) terminate the game because of darkness or inclement weather.
- The umpire will have the sole discretion to terminate the game and should the game be called at the midway point of an inning, the score will revert back to the previously completed inning (Different rules may apply for tournaments.). If weather, light, or any other conditions place safety in jeopardy, the game is to be terminated.
- For insurance purposes, all players participating in a practice or a game must be officially registered with the Association. Using players who are not registered could prove to be financially disastrous to a coach should an injury occur. A Softball Accident Report form is available for download under forms on the sswrmsa.com website to be completed and forwarded to the President of the Association in the event of an injury to a player, coach, or other authorized participant of the association.
- All team members bat in their turn regardless of whether they have played a defensive position or not. Substitution rule shall not apply unless specified. All players should play an equal amount of time per week and be able to play the position they enjoy as much as possible being equal to all players.
- In order to start the game, at least seven players must be available to play on each side. Late comers will be added to the line-up roster as they arrive. Wherever possible, play the game even if it means getting players from another SSWRMSA team of a lower division. The coach should try to have this organized prior to game day.

The designated home team will be responsible for:

- Providing bases, home plate, pitching rubber and game ball
- Arranging for home plate umpire if one is not provided
- If game is cancelled for any reason, calling the umpire(s), if provided, and the other team.

The designated visiting team is responsible for:

- Arranging for a base umpire (if one is not provided)
- Providing a second game ball

MINI MITE GIRLS SUPPLEMENTARY RULES

This is a learning year for the girls in the division. The emphasis should be on FUN! The girls should be learning the basic rules of softball. Therefore, if a girl is called out in the field while running the bases she must leave the field. Also, a fielder should be throwing the ball to the baseman rather than running to the base to get the runner out (for example, the pitcher catching the ball should not run and touch first, but should throw the ball to the first baseman).

- Games are to start at 6:15pm and no new inning should be started after 7:15 to allow enough time for the relay and snacks.
- All players are to play in the field. After playing in the outfield for one inning, the girl should have an infield position the next inning. Coaches are reminded that if in their opinion a girl may be in danger when playing a certain position, the coach should not place that player in the position until the coach has provided ample instruction and practice to alleviate their concern regarding injury.
- Coaches may be on the field with their team to assist in position. However, every effort should be made to discontinue this practice at the earliest possible time and should not continue after the mid-point of the season.
- Stealing is not permitted in this division
- All teams will play T-ball until the last week of April. At that time, a coach or parent will pitch up to five pitches to their own team. If the girl does not hit after five pitches, she will hit off the "T". Adults will not field any balls so the team in the field must provide a girl in the pitcher position to perform the fielding duties. Strict enforcement of the five pitch rule is the responsibility of each coach so the players can get up to bat as many times as possible.
- All players are to hit the ball every inning. Last player on the line-up is to keep running until she is home or put out. Let the fielding team know when the last batter is up.
- For safety reasons players of the offensive team are not permitted on the field without helmet. The batter must keep their helmet on from the time they steps on the field until they are back behind the backstop. If they take their helmet off they will be called out.

MITE GIRLS SUPPLEMENTARY RULES

Games will follow the basic rules of play as printed in the official Softball Canada and Softball B.C. rule books with the emphasis on FUN.

- The home team decides and phones the away team by 5:30 p.m. if the game is to be cancelled due to rain. The home team will set up bases, home plate, and pitching rubber. They will provide the game ball and home plate umpire (parent or older sibling). The away team will provide the base umpire and the second game ball.
- Only nine players will play on the field but all players will bat in their turn regardless of whether they have played a defensive position or not.
- All players must be registered with the Association. After playing in the outfield for one inning, the girl should have an infield position the next inning. The emphasis by the coach should be to give each player an equal amount of playing time. A player can only be benched for one inning per game (unless numbers dictate otherwise).
- The emphasis is to develop pitchers whether they throw orthodox or windmill. Coaches are encouraged to develop at least 3 pitchers. Pitchers are only allowed to pitch 3 innings per week (excluding tournaments).
- Coaches must submit pitching reports to the President every two weeks.
- Stealing is permitted. However, no stealing is permitted until the last week of April. The batter must back out of the batter's box before the runner steals home. If the batter does not back out, the runner must go back to third base. The onus is on the 3rd base coach to bring the girl back to third if the batter does not leave the batter's box.

- Umpire has the final decision.
- All players shall wear the complete uniform supplied to them by the Association. All shirts will be tucked into pants. Helmets with cages attached must be worn by all players from dugout to dugout. Any player acting as base coach must also wear a helmet.
- There will be a four run limit per team per inning.
- All jewellery must be removed prior to playing the game. The only exception will be the medical bracelet, which must be taped to the arm.
- Please let parents know early the dates for opening day, the tournament, and playoffs. Not all of these supplementary rules will be in effect during tournaments.