



RULES OF PLAY

(updated 2022)

GENERAL RULES

- 1) All teams are encouraged to complete all of their league games.
- 2) Other than inclement weather, games canceled with less than 24 hours' notice will be considered a forfeit and the canceling team will be responsible for any umpire and diamond fees incurred.
- 3) U5, U7 and U9 – See attachment regarding rules of play.
- 4) Unlimited Substitutions & Everyone Bats – All Divisions
- 5) **All Centers are responsible for implementing and maintaining all required documentation to adhere to federal regulations with respect to Rowans Law**

EQUIPMENT

- 1) The safety base will be used in all divisions.
- 2) Players in U20 division & under, all minor aged offensive players and bat handlers must wear a helmet with a cage. This includes U5, U7 and U9.
- 3) U11 & U13 will use the 11-inch size softball. U15 and up will use the 12-inch size softball.
- 4) All pitchers are required to wear a protective face mask in U17 categories and below. The game cannot be played unless a pitcher has a mask on.

GAME LENGTH

- 1) All league games will be regulation 7 innings.
- 2) All innings to be completed (except for walk off win) and no innings are to be stopped mid play due to time limit.
- 3) No new innings – U15 & Under - to start after 90 minutes of play & U17 & above – to start after 120 minutes of play
- 4) It is understood that due to local diamond restrictions teams/umpires may agree at ground rules to no new inning to start after 80/110 minutes.
- 5) Umpires must confirm start/end times at ground rules. Agreements made at ground rules prior to the start of the game will stand.
- 6) Games called early due to unsafe playing conditions – 5 innings or 60 minutes of a 90 minute game or 90 minutes of a 120 minute game will be considered a complete game. Incomplete games will be replayed (following Softball Canada rules) , unless both teams agree otherwise.

MERCY RULE

- 1) All Divisions – Runs limited to 5 max per inning. If the 5th run is scored by a steal, the batter at bat returns to bat first in the next inning.
- 2) All Divisions – Unlimited Runs allowed in the 7th Inning. No run limit per inning.
- 3) U15 & Under – Mercy rule is 15 runs after 5 innings.
- 4) U17 & above – Mercy rule is 10 runs after 5 innings.

OF PLAYERS

- 1) 7 Players will be considered a team with no penalty. The 8th & 9th players are NOT counted as outs.

OFFICIALS

- 1) The league will provide 2 Softball Ontario registered or carded umpires. (scheduled by the league umpire scheduler)
- 2) Umpires should be older than the division playing.
- 3) In the event that a game has only one umpire the game will play on.
- 4) Coaches are encouraged to remain calm and approach the umpire for quiet conversation if a call is in question.

SOFTBALL CANADA AGE AND PITCHING DISTANCE CHART starting 2022

MALE				
Category	Age (prior to January 1st of current year)	Ball	pitching	Baselines
U11	Under 11	11"	35'	45'
U13	Under 13	11"	38'	55'
U15	Under 15	12"	42'	60'
U17	Under 17	12"	46'	60'
U20	Under 20	12"	46'	60'
U23	Under 23	12"	46'	60'

FEMALE				
Category	Age (prior to January 1st of current year)	Ball	pitching	Baselines
U11	Under 11	11"	35'	45'
U13	Under 13	11"	38'	55'
U15	Under 15	12"	40'	60'
U17	Under 17	12"	43'	60'
U19	Under 19	12"	43'	60'
U23	Under 23	12"	43'	60'

HEFL U5 RULES

- 1) Rotate through the batting order once per inning. All players bat.
- 2) Last Batter in each inning runs all the way to home.
- 3) All players go onto the field.
- 4) Must have a mixed team – boys & girls.
- 5) Games to be no longer than 1 hour. Usually 2 innings per game.
- 6) All batters must wear a helmet with a cage and a chin strap.
- 7) Catcher, 1 st Base, & Pitcher positions must wear a helmet with a cage while on the field.

- 8) There is no minimum # of players required. Play with the # of players you have . Try to keep teams small so there is more playtime for all.
- 9) Please be courteous and inform the opposing team when you have a strong batter coming up.
- 10) An 11 inch RIF (softcore) ball is required for all games.
- 11) In the event of lightning coaches MUST end the game and players MUST leave the playing field.

HEFL U7 RULES

- 1) Maximum 5 pitches per batter (coach pitch).
- 2) Maximum 5 runs per inning or 3 outs.
- 3) Maximum 10 players on the field.
- 4) Must have a mixed team (Boys & Girls)
- 5) Approximately 1 hour time limit.
- 6) Helmets with cage & chin straps are a must for all players while batting.
- 7) There is a Dead Zone in front of home plate. If the ball lands there it is a pitch. If the ball lands here on the fifth pitch the batter is out.
- 8) Hitting the pitcher counts as a pitch, except on the fifth pitch then the batter is out.
- 9) If the batted ball hits their own player who is running to a base the runner is out.
- 10) Tagging is allowed.
- 11) The runner is to stop at the base they are running to once the ball is released from the defensive player (anywhere on the field).
- 12) Please be courteous and inform the other coach and players if you have a strong batter coming up.
- 13) An 11 inch softcore ball will be used for all games.
- 14) Pitching Circle – use normal 8 foot circle around atom (30 feet) pitching rubber ... coach must start to pitch from within the circle or in effect from a minimum 22 feet from home plate.
- 15) Bases will be set at 45 ft
- 16) In the event of lightning coaches MUST end the game and players MUST leave the playing field.
- 17) Pitchers, Catchers and 1st Baseman will wear a helmet with a cage (catchers may wear full gear)
- 18) No base stealing or leadoffs

HEFL U9 RULES

- 1) Maximum 2 defensive coaches on the field.
- 2) 30 Ft Pitching distance, 45 ft base distance
- 3) 11 inch hardcore ball will be used
- 4) Maximum 5 runs per inning or 3 outs
- 5) Must be a mixed (boys and girls) team.
- 6) No base stealing (ball has to be hit to run).
- 7) There are no walks allowed.
- 8) A batter can not run on his or her dropped third strike.
- 9) Pitchers in the U9 division only will pitch a maximum 4 pitches to the batter. (this will be a pitcher from the defensive team) If the batter strikes out or hits the ball the play stands. If the batter has not struck out or hit, the offensive coach can pitch up to 2 (two) pitches If the batter is hit by a pitch no base will be awarded
- 10) Offensive Coach may remain in the pitching circle during the inning.
- 11) The runner is to stop at the base they are running to once the ball is released from the defensive player (anywhere on the field).

- 12) No pitcher can pitch more than 2 consecutive innings.
- 13) No player shall sit out consecutive innings.
- 14) Coaches may use up to 4 fielders (10 players on the field)
- 15) Time Limit of 1 hour and 15 minutes.
- 16) In the event of lightning coaches MUST end the game and players MUST leave the playing field.
- 17) Tagging is allowed.
- 18) Umpires are optional. If no umpire is available, the offensive coach will call balls and strikes
- 19) All batters must wear a helmet with a cage
- 20) Catchers must at minimum wear a helmet with a cage
- 21) 1st baseman must wear a helmet with a cage
- 22) Pitchers must wear a pitching cage or a helmet with a cage
- 23) No lead offs will be permitted. The runner must remain on the base until the batter has made contact with the ball.