



www.martensvillesoftball.ca



www.warmanminorball.ca

2023 U11 Softball Guidelines

Welcome to the 2023 softball season! We are encouraging competitive game play but want to ensure that players learn and understand the game. We are adding a pre and regular season. From May 9 to May 23 games are “pre-season”. This allows coaches to assist players on the field and batting during the game to help players develop in all areas. Rules listed below will still be followed as this will help players learn the game and prepare for regular season-There are specific rules outlined for pre-season. There will also be alternating innings between player pitcher, coach or pitching machine. ***Recommendation to use pitching machine*** May 30-June 27 games are “regular season”. This will provide a competitive edge. Score will be kept. No coaches permitted on the field during game play. No pitching machine or coach will pitch-Player’s pitch only.

- Softball players and coaches are to arrive at the ball field by 6:00pm for diamond set up and to allow a 20min pregame warm-up.
- All games start at 6:30pm
- Games will take place on Tuesday evenings in Warman and/or Martensville
- One practice a week will be scheduled separately by your Association
- The season will run from **May 9– June 27**
- **Pre-Season games-May 9-May 23**
- **Regular Season games-May 30-June 27**
- **Tournament/Jamboree-Date June 4th-In Warman-More details to come**
- All games are to be 5 innings or 75mins unless terminated by darkness or bad weather. Players should be off the field no later than 8:00pm. No new inning shall start 1hr and 15 after the scheduled start time.
- Teams field 9 players. If a team doesn’t have enough to field, there will be no automatic outs. Team will field with what they have or borrow from opposing team, IF agreed upon
- All players are encouraged to play a variety of positions. However not every position is suitable for all players. Max 2 consecutive innings in the **outfield. Max 2 consecutive innings in each position EXCEPT** catchers and pitchers-**See catcher and pitcher rules**
- No player is to sit more than 1 consecutive inning. Ensure that every player sits out

one inning before any player sits out 2 innings.

- All U11 players playing infield must wear a facemask (Not a batting helmet)-This is required by both associations-Facemasks listed in mandatory equipment for this season.
- All U11 players to wear cleats (rubber)
- All U11 players to have their own helmet/glove/bat
- Players willing to Catch **MUST** wear the full catching gear and **be able to throw the ball back to the player in the pitching position.**
 - Coaches and parent helpers must take responsibility for the equipment, keeping the players on the bench and safe, for moving the game along.
- Coaches or parents are allowed to be in the outfield to assist with teaching proper outfield positioning **for pre-season games-May 9-May 23**
- **11" indoor ball will be used for pre-season games-May 9-May 23.** Encourage introducing the 11" Red Dot during practices to prepare for Regular Season Games.
- **Regular season games-May 30-June 27. 11" Red Dot will be used. No coaches or parents to be on the field.** Score to be kept by home team which will be outlined in the schedule.

DIAMOND SET-UP

- Baselines: 50' (13.70m)
- Pitching distance: 33' (10.67m)- Front edge and center of pitching rubber to the APEX of home plate
- Softball Pre-Season- **May 9-May 23**-11" indoor balls. Encourage using 11" Red Dot in practices to prepare for Regular Season Games
- Softball-Regular Season- **May 30-June 27**-Rawlings 11"Red Dot will be used
- Fence distance-*If applicable*-Min-Max- 160'-225'-Measure from apex of home plate and mark with a cone at LF, CF and RF

BATTING and BASE RUNNING

- Coaches are to write up a batting order and it is to remain the same the entire game
- All batters, on deck batters and base runners must wear helmets that have an attached face mask and chin strap
- Designated batter is not permitted
- Strikes, fouls and balls will be counted, but a player cannot be struck out on foul balls. There is no limit to the number of foul balls they're allowed to hit. Unless it's a tick ball caught and controlled by the catcher or fly ball caught in foul territory and controlled. They can only strike out on a swing and miss or a ball they fail to swing at in the strike zone.
- The batter is out on the third strike, regardless of ball being caught or not, the ball remains live
- If a batter strikes out or is put out defensively on their hit, they are out and are to return to the bench.
- 3rd strike rule is not in effect (player cannot run to 1st base if the catcher does not catch the

pitch)

- The inning is complete when there are **3 outs** or **batting order is finished** or **5 runs scored**.
- **NO bunting in Pre-Season play- Learn the mechanics in practice.**
- Bunting **permitted** in REGULAR SEASON– Ensure to practice avoiding injuries in game play
- There are no intentional walks
- U11 can continue to round the bases until the ball is returned to an infield player
- Infield fly rule **does not** apply
- Sliding is allowed- encouraged to learn mechanics and techniques in practice
- If the ball is hit over the outfield fence territory it is considered a home run or a grand slam if the bases were loaded.
- If a player is hit by a pitch this is considered a walk and the player advances to 1st base.
- A batter is **OUT** if the player hits the ball and it's caught while it's in the air, including a ball hit and caught in foul territory
- Players cannot advance to home on a steal, passed ball, or wild pitch. The player must be batted in or forced home by a walk
- Runners may leave the base when the ball has **crossed** the plate. If they leave early, they will be called out
- Stealing permitted-only can advance 1 base *remember no stealing home*
- **A per Softball Canada rules a runner is considered out in the following scenarios:**
 - 1) if the fielder tags her with the ball if not on the base**
 - 2) when a fielder with the ball tags a base at which there is a force play before the forced runner reaches the base.**
 - 3) Player fails to tag up on a caught fly ball and is thrown out at their base**
 - 4) A Double play occurs (2 players are out on the same play)**
 - 5) A runner overruns 2nd or 3rd base and is tagged out**
- **The coach must declare the last batter to the umpire before the first pitch. When the last batter has hit, the ball must be returned to the catcher or other defensive player who must be touching home plate. If the last batter is put out through normal play, the inning is complete.**

PITCHING-Pre-Season May 9-May 23

- Alternating Player pitch one inning, Pitching Machine next or coach if confident and continuing so forth
- The pitcher will pitch **windmill**. ***Underhand pitch not permitted*** The goal is to get the ball over the plate so the game can proceed.
- Player pitching to opposing team until the batter receives a 4th pitch that has gone unhit. After the 4th pitch, the hitter's coach, pitching machine or designate for the offensive team, will come to pitch to his/her own batter. 3 PITCHES MAX by the coach for the player to hit or be struck out.
- under the coach's discretion for the batter, the tee can be used instead of the 3 pitches.
ONLY IF THE PLAYER NEEDS MORE DEVELOPMENT WITH BATTING
- To help develop the pitchers, coaches and parents are encouraged to practice with the

pitcher on the sidelines during games while not batting or on the field. Most importantly, at home and/or clinics

- Pitcher **MUST** wear a facemask-No helmets
- It is the responsibility of the coach/parent responsible for keeping track of pitchers.
- Pitchers may pitch a **maximum** of three (3) innings in **ALL GAMES**. Should a pitcher throw one (1) pitch this is classified as a complete inning pitched.
- **NO** walks in pre-season games

PITCHING-Regular Season Games-May 30-June 27

- To help develop the pitchers, coaches and parents are encouraged to practice with the pitcher on the sidelines during games while not batting or on the field
- Pitcher **MUST** wear a facemask-No helmets
- It is the responsibility of the coach/parent responsible for keeping track of pitchers
- Pitchers may pitch a maximum of three (3) innings in ALL GAMES. Should a pitcher throw one (1) pitch this is classified as a complete inning pitched.
- Walks are **allowed** *No intentional walks*
- **No alternating with pitching machine/coaches-PLAYER PITCHER ONLY**
- **The Conference Rule-timeout- (regarding pitchers) in U11 will allow one (1) conference per pitcher per inning and the second (2) conference (timeout) will result in the pitcher being removed from the pitching position but may remain in the game in another position**

CATCHERS

- **Catchers may catch a maximum of three (3) innings per game**

UMPIRES

- A coach or parent will be the umpire for their own pitcher-Facemask required
- A coach or parent is allowed to be at 1st base and 3rd base.
- The coach or parent who are umpiring are to keep count of the pitches and make the safe/out/foul calls when necessary.
- Umpires are encouraged to increase the size of the strike zone ***marginally*** to help develop pitchers and encourage batters to swing, general guideline for the umpires should have the strike zone be between the shoulders to the knees.

- Coaches must communicate to each other to discuss rainouts and rescheduling of games.
- Rescheduled games in Warman must be booked through Michelle
- Rescheduled games in Martensville must be booked through Rychelle
- Coaches will be notified by their division coordinator if a game is cancelled due to rain and poor field conditions by 4pm-Inclement Weather Policy
- Games will end on the first sign of lightening
- Most importantly the kids are out there to have fun, and to learn and develop their softball skills. Coaches, please promote teamwork, comradery and proper skill technique

