

WSSA House League Softball Rules of Play



WSSA House League Softball Rule

Version: 04-29-2022

The following rules apply to **ALL WSSA HOUSE LEAGUE SOFTBALL GAMES** unless otherwise specified by the association.

The WSSA provides a fun, community-based softball experience for children and youth in Stouffville and surrounding areas. We promote a healthy and active lifestyle through the game of softball and focus on enhancing the player and family experience. With integrated House League, Select, and Rep Programs at various age divisions, we strive to match skill competency with the level of competition to maximize the “fun factor” for all players and their families.

O.A.S.A and P.W.S.A rules shall apply, except as noted.

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1. Division Outline

U4/5 Co-Ed Division Format & Description

Players will learn the fundamentals of softball through age-appropriate activities. Tees and foam bats are used for hitting and softer, smaller balls for easier handling. Players will have an

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opportunity to bat and players will switch positions on the field throughout the innings. Umpires are not used at this level.

- Week 1: practice & meet team only.
- Week 2 onwards:
 - Practice: 6:30-7:00 pm
 - Modified Game: 7:00-7:30 pm

2. Field Set Up

Rule	U4/5
pitcher's rubber (m/ft)	7.62 m or 25'
Baselines (m/ft)	12.192 m or 40'

It is the responsibility of the home team Coaches or Parent Volunteers to have the bases set up 15 minutes prior to the start of the night of play; however, we encourage coaches and parents to help each other out. Lock box code for equipment and lights will be provided by the WSSA via email.

See Diamond Set Up Link Here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19iXtuydttroxQ9xFFArIAkmK6jcFEJYifiiBEENqfTo/edit?usp=sharing>

3. Equipment

'x' means that the rule is mandatory for division play.

Rule	U4/5
11" 'softies' softballs will be used for games. Special provision balls can be used for practice.	x
Bats will be provided (players may also provide their own bats), and will be of aluminum or composite construction. Sponge bats provided for practice.	x
Catchers must wear shin pads, chest protectors and face masks with a throat guard and catchers helmet.	x

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In addition, all catchers are recommended to wear the appropriate athletic support with a cup (Jill for females).	
Batters/base runners must wear a batting helmet with a cage and chin strap fastened under the chin.	x

4. Clothing & Jewelry

Rule	U4/5
Uniforms shall consist of a team cap, pants and t-shirt, which must be worn by all players. Players are not to change jerseys. <i>*note: pants are not provided in all divisions, and players should wear appropriate athletic attire in its place.</i>	x
Shoes - running shoes and rubber/plastic cleats are permitted. Metal cleats are not permitted. No open toed footwear is permitted on the field for players, coaches, or parent volunteers.	x
Games will not be forfeit because of an incomplete uniform	x
Exposed jewelry such as wrist watches, bracelets, any type of earrings, neck chains, may not be worn. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry.	x
Blood Rule: all cuts must be covered and a change of clothes must be made if necessary.	x

5. Player & Coach Eligibility

Rule	U4/5
Each player is to participate equally in every game, both defensively and offensively. <i>*it is advised that players are rotated during a batting inning to keep players engaged. A game can be paused to ensure this is completed safely.</i>	

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	X
Coaches are allowed on the field with their defensive teams to help players with positioning.	X
Coaches are responsible for the conduct of themselves, their players, and the parents during the game and/or practice.	X
No umpires are provided. Coaches will assist with calls.	X
Only players, coaches, parent volunteers and scorekeepers are allowed on the bench or in the dugout. Younger siblings are refrained from entering the dugout for safety purposes.	X

6. Game Play

Rule	U4/5
Innings - games will start at 7:00, following the team practice (6:30-7:00).	X
No forfeits will be granted unless to play would be considered unsafe.	X
Lineup - players may be added to the batting line up if they arrive late, at any time during the game.	X
Batting/Offense - home team will bat though their entire line up (everyone bats), followed by the opposing team. Outs are not tracked.	X
Pitching - players will 'swing until they hit' off a tee.	X
Defense - the defensive team will field the ball and attempt to get the opposing team out; however outs are not tracked.	X
Rovers or additional players are permitted to ensure everyone gets a change to play.	X
Coaches are encouraged to rotate players in different positions, ie., for the first 3 batters player 1 will play 1st and then will move to the field, etc.	

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Dropped 3rd Strike and Infield Fly rules do <u>NOT</u> apply.	x
<p>Inclement Weather - The Town of Stouffville can cancel permits if the diamonds are too wet and unsafe. They will send the WSSA an email by 4:30.</p> <p>The WSSA can cancel games if the inclement rain is continuous and doesn't stop by 6:00.</p> <p>Coaches must check their email for updates regarding inclement weather, and communicate so with their teams.</p> <p>If there is no cancellation announced or the inclement weather starts after the practice/game has started, it is to the discretion of the coach whether to cancel the game.</p>	x
<p>The Ontario Sanctioned 30/30 rule is in effect:</p> <p>If you hear thunder within 30 seconds of seeing lightning, leave the field immediately and find safe shelter. Safe shelter is considered to be inside a substantial building, away from doorways and windows. Dugouts are not permitted.</p> <p>Wait 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder before returning to the field.</p>	x
Games will be rescheduled <u>IF</u> time permits and diamonds are available.	

7. Umpire and Disputes, Unruly Behavior & Additional Rules

Rule	U4/5
It is illegal to smoke tobacco and hold lighted tobacco within 20 meters of playgrounds and publicly owned sports fields and surfaces. Areas will be policed and fines will be issued.	x