

## 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

### U9 Co-Ed Division Format & Description

Pitching development starts at this level, however children are still pitched 5 balls by a coach on their team during games. If unsuccessful after 5 pitches, they are considered an out. All players are equally placed in the infield and outfield throughout the course of the game. Although a

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formal score is not kept, 3 outs and 5 runs rules apply. One Junior umpire is provided at this level.

- Week 1:
  - practice & meet team only.
- Week 2-5:
  - Game with 5 Pitch (Coach) Only.
- Week 5 Onwards:
  - Game with Player Pitch and Coach Pitch.

## 2. Field Set Up

Rule	U9
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	U9
Balls - 11" 'softies' softballs will be used for games.	x
Bats - will be provided and players may also provide their own bats. All bat shall be approved per Softball Canada approved bats lists as follows:  Any bat that has the current ISF, WBSC, ASA 2000/2004/2013 or USA Softball Certification Stamp.	x

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Catchers - all catchers must wear shin pads, chest protectors and a face mask with a throat guard and catcher's helmet, at all times when catching, whether in a game situation or when warming up a pitcher.	x
In addition, all catchers are recommended to wear the appropriate athletic support with a cup (Jill for females).	
<p>Helmet - all players, when at bat, are required to wear a protective batting helmet with two ear flaps, a cage and a chin strap firmly secured under the chin.</p> <p>The helmet must not be removed until they are off the playing field. Players shall be called out if they deliberately remove his/her helmet during a live ball play. No out shall be called if the play is not considered live by the umpire but a warning to keep their helmet on at all times shall be issued.</p> <p><i>*A helmet with a cage must be provided by ALL players. Helmets will not be provided in the equipment bags.</i></p>	x
Defensive (player) pitchers must wear a pitching mask when on the field.	x

## 4. Clothing & Jewelry

Rule	U9
<p>Uniforms shall consist of a team cap, pants and t-shirt, which must be worn by all players. Players are not to change jerseys.</p> <p><i>*note: pants are not provided in all divisions, and players should wear appropriate athletic attire in its place.</i></p>	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,	

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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	U9
<p>Each player is to participate equally in every game, both defensively and offensively.</p> <p>All players will play on defense to alleviate any players from sitting on the bench. Coaches must not have any player play the same position more than twice in a game and should rotate them in the infield and outfield</p>	x
<p>Players must rotate positions. A player cannot play the infield for more than two consecutive innings; and can play only one position twice (ex: 1st base twice during a game).</p> <p>Example of Rotation:</p> <p>-First Base (1st inning)            -Second Base (2nd inning)            -Centerfield (3rd inning)</p> <p>Or</p> <p>-Shortstop (1st inning)            -Third base (2nd inning)            -Right field (3rd inning)</p>	x
Coaches are responsible for the conduct of themselves, their players, and the parents during the game and/or practice.	x
One Junior Umpire will be provided.	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
One coach can be on the field with their defensive	

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team to help players with positioning.	x
Players missing 8 or more games during the season may not qualify to play in the year-end tournament. Coaches must inform the WSSA Board of Directors and a ruling will be made.	x
Teams must have 7 currently registered players to play a regulation game. Six players must be from the original team list and all others from an equal or lower division to make it up. The players who were brought up to complete the team must continue to play. Permission to play with less than 6 original team members must be given from the WSSA Board of Directors or at the permission of the opposing coach.	x

## 6. Game Play

Rule	U9
All games will be seven innings or as time permits. No new innings shall begin after 1 hour (e.g. no new inning after 8:00 pm). There will be no hard stop rule. This will be re-evaluated if times delay the game, due to the set up of the diamond.	x
Coaches are requested to have their temas at the park, ready to begin by their appointed times.	
The game may begin with a minimum of 6 players, but a 7th player must be ready to play within 30 mins of the scheduled start time and will be added to the end of the batting order.  Any player who is late is allowed to play.	x
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

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<p>If the final 'pitch' to a player is hit foul, one and only one additional attempt to hit will be allowed.</p>	
<p>Pitching - players will receive 5 pitches from a coach. If the fifth pitch is hit foul, the player will be permitted one, and only one, additional pitch.</p> <p>The coach must pitch from within the circle (8 feet round the pitcher's rubber) to their team. The defensive pitcher must stand inside the 8 foot circle while the offensive coach is pitching to their team. After a hit, the play is halted when the defensive pitcher has the ball back in the circle.</p> <p>The coach should wear a glove (only to be used in self-defense).</p> <p>The coach cannot touch the ball or interfere with the play of the ball. If the adult pitcher is hit, the ball is dead and the count resumes. If the defensive team's pitcher is hit, the ball is fair.</p> <p><b>Starting Week 6</b> - the first 3 pitches to every batter will be thrown by the defensive pitcher. Should the ball not end up in play and an out not obtained, the offensive coach will pitch the remaining 2 pitches.</p>	x
<p>Defense - the defensive team will field the ball and attempt to get the opposing team out; however outs are not tracked.</p>	x
<p>Overthrows/Out of Play - an out of play ball is a ball thrown over or past the screen along the first or third base line. If the screen does not extend that far, then a visual extension of the fence is the line.</p> <p>Once a ball is thrown out to play, the base runner gets two bases from their position at the time of the throw.</p> <p>Overthrows are any ball thrown which does not get controlled where it was intended. Overthrows that do not get out of play are live balls and runners may advance at will. The runners may no longer advance and the play is considered dead when any player controls the ball in the infield without a visible desire to make a play. This is evidenced by the player holding the ball with arms relaxed in front of or beside their body. Arms raised in a pre-throwing type position show a desire to make a play.</p>	x
<p>Any player throwing a bat will be called out. If, at</p>	

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the umpire's discretion, the batter threw the bat intentionally, the player will be removed from the game. No warnings need to be given.	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.	
Dropped 3rd Strike and Infield Fly rules do <b><u>NOT</u></b> apply.	x
Bunting is not permitted.	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 <b>IF</b> time permits and diamonds are available.	
Score is not reported; however, a coach can keep score for their team only if preferred.	

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### 7. Umpire and Disputes, Unruly Behavior & Additional Rules

Rule	U9
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