**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.

**Table of Contents**

1. Division Outline pg. 1-2 2. Field Set Up pg. 2 3. Equipment pg. 3 4. Clothing & Jewelry pg. 3-4 5. Player & Coach Eligibility pg. 4-5 6. Game Play pg. 5-7 7. Umpires and Disputes, Unruly Behavior & Additional Rules pg. 8

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

1

**WSSA House League Softball Rules of Play**

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:  x  Any bat that has the current ISF, WBSC, ASA  2000/2004/2013 or USA Softball Certification  Stamp. |

2

**WSSA House League Softball Rules of Play**

| 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). |
| 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.  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.  \**A helmet with a cage must be provided by ALL*  *players. Helmets will not be provided in the*  *equipment bags.*x |

x

Defensive (player) pitchers must wear a pitching

mask when on the field.

4. Clothing & Jewelry

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

3

**WSSA House League Softball Rules of Play**

| 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** |
| --- |
| Each player is to participate equally in every  game, both defensively and offensively.  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  x  than twice in a game and should rotate them in  the infield and outfield |
| 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).  Example of Rotation:  -First Base (1st inning)  -Second Base (2nd inning)  -Centerfield (3rd inning)  Or  -Shortstop (1st inning)  -Third base (2nd inning)  -RIght field (3rd inning)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 |

4

**WSSA House League Softball Rules of Play**

| 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 dalay  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 |

5

**WSSA House League Softball Rules of Play**

| If the final ‘pitch’ to a player is hit foul, one and  only one additional attempt to hit will be allowed. |
| --- |
| 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.  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.  The coach should wear a glove (only to be used in  self-defense).  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.  **Starting Week 6 -** 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  x  obtained, the offensive coach will pitch the  remaining 2 pitches.  Defense - the defensive team will field the ball and  attempt to get the opposing team out; however  outs are not tracked.x |
| 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.  Once a ball is thrown out to play, the base runner  gets two bases from their position at the time of  the throw.  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  x  relaxed in front of or beside their body. Arms  raised in a pre-throwing type position show a  desire to make a play. |
| Any player throwing a bat will be called out. If, at |

6

**WSSA House League Softball Rules of Play**

| 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 **NOT**  apply. x |
| Bunting is not permitted. x |
| 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.  The WSSA can cancel games if the inclement rain  is continuous and doesn’t stop by 6:00.  Coaches must check their email for updates  regarding inclement weather, and communicate so  with their teams.  If there is no cancellation announced or the  inclement weather starts after the practice/game  x  has started, it is to the discretion of the coach  whether to cancel the game. |
| The Ontario Sanctioned 30/30 rule is in effect:  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.  Wait 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder  before returning to the field. x |
| Games will be rescheduled **IF** time permits and  diamonds are available. |
| Score is not reported; however, a coach can keep  score for their team only if preferred. |

7

**WSSA House League Softball Rules of Play**

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  x  publicly owned sports fields and surfaces. Areas  will be policed and fines will be issued. |

8