



York

Simcoe Fastpitch Loop (YSFL) Rules

ALL OTHER RULES AS PER THE SOFTBALL CANADA RULE BOOK

GENERAL HOUSE LEAGUE RULES (as of 2023)

Note: In seasons where divisions have been merged, refer to rules for the oldest division (i.e., merging U15 and U17 to make U16, follow U17 rules). An exception is to be made for pitching distances, where a line will be drawn with chalk to mark the closer pitching distance. Pitchers will pitch from their age-appropriate distance. Younger players have the option to pitch from the further distance if they so choose. They may switch between the two distances during an inning, but must wait until they face a new batter to switch (i.e., no switching within one at-bat).

SECTION A: PRE-GAME RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The home team is responsible for setting up the diamond, which includes installing the pitching rubber and bases and drawing the foul lines.

**Note: for instances when Vandorf Diamond is being used as a 'neutral' diamond, access to equipment for set up is through the bins along the fences.*

WSSA Bin Code: 1966

Town of WS Bin Code: 3601

2. Distances:

Division	Pitching	Base s	Ball
U11	35'	45'	11"
U13	38'	55'	11"
U15	42'	60'	12"
U17	46'	60'	12"

U21	46'	60'	12"
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3. Ground rules, including the out-of-bounds lines, are to be established prior to the game by the umpires and both coaches.
4. Each team will supply the opposing team with a copy of their lineup prior to the start of the game.

SECTION B: GENERAL ITEMS

1. Players must remove ALL jewelry prior to entering the playing field; this includes camp and support bands. Only Medical Alert Identification is allowed, so long as it is taped to prevent injury. Umpires must be made aware of players with medic alert identification before the game starts.
2. All bats used in a game must be marked with acceptable certification stamps or ones supplied by the Association; otherwise, the bat could be declared illegal and removed from the game. All legal bats are those that comply with Softball Canada Rules. No wooden bats are allowed. Coaches/Parents are advised to check the list of illegal bats on the Softball Canada website prior to purchasing a bat for their child. A link to the listing is posted on the association website;
<http://www.softball.ca/english/about/approved-equipment/bats.html>
3. A minimum of 7 players is required to constitute a starting team. Conveners / Coaches may bring up/across players (as per call-up rules) from the next lower division or the same division to bring a team up to a maximum of nine (9) players. Any team not consisting of the required minimum number of players within 15 minutes after the official starting time of a game shall forfeit the game.
4. Any player catching for a pitcher during warm-ups on or around the playing field MUST wear full protective equipment. Any adult catching for a pitcher MUST wear a mask as well.
5. The Softball Canada Rulebook cannot be brought onto the playing field under any circumstances. The person doing so will be ejected from the game.
6. All team members shall bat in the order designated at the beginning of the game on the Score Sheet. Batting out of order is an appeal play which may be made by the coach of the defensive team only.
 - a. If the error is discovered while the incorrect batter is at bat, the correct batter may take his place, assume any balls and strikes, and any runs scored or bases run while the incorrect batter was at bat shall be legal.
 - b. If the error is discovered after the incorrect batter has completed his turn at bat and before there has been a pitch to another batter, the player who would have batted is out. Any advance or score made because of a ball batted by the improper

- batter or because of the improper batter's advance to first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, or a hit batter shall be nullified. The next batter is the player whose name follows that of the player called out for failing to bat.
- c. If the error is discovered after the first pitch to the next batter, the turn at bat of the incorrect batter is legal, all runs scored and bases run are legal, and the next batter in order shall be the one whose name follows that of the incorrect batter. No one is called out for failure to bat. Players who have not batted and who have been called out have lost their turn at bat until reached again in the regular order.
- d. Any latecomers above the minimum number of players will be added to the end of that batting lineup.
7. If a bat is thrown in a dangerous manner, the umpire shall have the discretion to record the batter as an out and base runners shall not advance.
8. Abusive language by a coach/player or spectator may result in said person being ejected. (As per Softball Canada Rules).
9. Only positive cheering allowed.
10. No Rep players will be allowed to play on any House League team.
11. All games will be a maximum of 7 innings during regular season play, if the division time limit is reached, the Umpire will stop the game and the score will remain as of the last full inning.
12. Coaches will ensure that every player sits out one inning before any player sits out two innings.
13. Any coach willfully disobeying any rules may be subject to removal from the game or other discipline.
14. When a player is injured or becomes ill after the start of the game, the team will skip over that player when it is their time at bat without penalty, provided the opposing team is notified. If the injured or ill player returns that player is merely inserted into their original spot in the batting order and the game continues.
15. Scores will be uploaded to the Google form linked below by the home team within 24 hours of the game: [YSFL Scores](#)

SECTION C: UNIFORMS

1. Closed-toe shoes must be worn by all players and on-field coaches/managers. A shoe shall be considered official if it is made with either canvas or leather uppers or similar materials. No metal cleats or shoes with detachable cleats of any material (hard plastic, nylon, polyurethane spikes/studs similar to the metal sole and heel plate which could

leave an exposed fastener) are allowed.

2. Players will wear the uniforms provided by the Association. Any player who does not wear his/her uniform will not be allowed to play in the game. Call-up/across players may wear the uniform for their regular team. Players shall not wear shorts or cut-offs, tear away or side-zippered pants. A player or coach does not have to wear a baseball hat, but if he/she does, it must be the one supplied by the Association.
3. All players must tuck in their shirts as per Softball Canada Rules.
4. Players are required to wear athletic support with a protective cup.
5. No player shall remove his or her helmet before entering the dugout. Premature removal of the helmet shall result in the offending player being recorded as an out. Any minor (under 18 years of age) or a player acting as a coach, or entering the playing field for other reasons, MUST wear a helmet. If a helmet is not worn, the said person will not be allowed onto the playing field and may be subject to further discipline. Exceptions apply to youth-aged coaches who are registered to coach within their association.

SECTION D: BLOOD RULE

1. Any player, coach or umpire showing evidence of external bleeding for any reason will be removed from the game until such time as the bleeding is stopped. Substitution for a bleeding player will be without penalty. If a substitute player is not available, the Umpire shall allow a reasonable amount of time for the player to resume.
2. Any portion of a player's, coach's or umpire's uniform or clothing soiled by blood must be cleaned or removed. As with the above rule, sufficient time will be allowed for this purpose. A replacement uniform does not have to conform to team colours in this situation. (if blood cannot be removed)
3. A Softball soiled by blood must be removed from play.

U11 SPECIFIC RULES (As of 2023)

1. Games will commence at the time posted as per the schedule on the association website; with no new inning to start after 80 minutes. In case of a rain delay, darkness, or any suspension of play for whatever reason, a minimum of three (3) full innings will constitute a full game. The score will stand as of the last full inning.
2. No pitcher shall be allowed to pitch MORE than three (3) innings per game. At no time shall a player be allowed to pitch more than two (2) consecutive innings. A player who has pitched any portion of an inning will be deemed to have pitched the entire inning unless removed due to injury.

3. Three (3) outs or a maximum of five (5) runs shall constitute a half-inning by the batting or offensive team.
4. Pitchers are required to wear a pitching mask or a helmet with a cage when pitching.
5. Stealing is allowed after the ball crosses the plate in Mite. Runners are NOT allowed to steal home on a passed ball, wild pitch or a throwback to the pitcher. However, if the catchers try to make a play at 3rd, 2nd or 1st the ball is considered live and the base runner at 3rd can advance at their own risk.
 - a. A runner on 3rd base will be allowed to lead off when the ball crosses the plate. The runner cannot steal home on a wild pitch, passed ball, or a throw back to the pitcher. The host association will draw a LEAD OFF LINE five feet down the foul line from 3rd base. Any runner that touchest the lead off line if the ball is not hit will be called OUT for a lead-off violation.
6. The dropped third strike rule does NOT apply.
7. The infield fly rule does NOT apply.

U13 SPECIFIC RULES (As of 2023)

1. Games will commence at the time posted as per the schedule on the association website; with no new inning to start after 90 minutes. In case of a rain delay, darkness, or any suspension of play for whatever reason, a minimum of three (3) full innings will constitute a full game. The score will stand as of the last full inning.
2. No pitcher shall be allowed to pitch MORE than three (3) innings per game. At no time shall a player be allowed to pitch more than two (2) consecutive innings. A player who has pitched any portion of an inning will be deemed to have pitched the entire inning unless removed due to injury.
3. Pitchers are required to wear a pitching mask or a helmet with a cage when pitching.
4. Three (3) outs or a maximum of five (5) runs shall constitute a half-inning by the batting or offensive team.
5. Base runners may steal on any legally pitched ball when it has left the pitcher's hand.
6. The infield fly rule DOES apply.
7. The dropped third strike rule does NOT apply.

U15 SPECIFIC RULES (As of 2023)

1. Games will commence at the time posted as per the schedule on the association website; with no new inning to start after 90 minutes. In case of a rain delay, darkness, or any suspension of play for whatever reason, a minimum of four (4) full innings will constitute a full game. The score will stand as of the last full inning.
2. No pitcher shall be allowed to pitch MORE than four (4) innings per game. At no time shall a player be allowed to pitch more than two (2) consecutive innings. A player who has pitched any portion of an inning will be deemed to have pitched the entire inning unless removed due to injury.
3. Pitchers are required to wear a pitching mask or a helmet with a cage when pitching.
4. Three (3) outs or a maximum of five (5) runs shall constitute a half-inning by the batting or offensive team.
5. Base runners may steal on any legally pitched ball after it has left the pitcher's hand.
6. The dropped third-strike rule DOES apply.
7. The infield fly rule DOES apply.

U17 SPECIFIC RULES (As of 2023)

1. Games will commence at the time posted as per the schedule on the association website; with no new inning to start after 105 minutes. In case of a rain delay, darkness, or any suspension of play for whatever reason, a minimum of four (4) full innings will constitute a full game. The score will stand as of the last full inning.
2. Pitchers may pitch UNLIMITED innings.
3. Pitchers are required to wear a pitching mask or a helmet with a cage when pitching.
4. Coaches will ensure that every player, including the pitcher, sits out one inning before any player sits out two innings. If this is not the case and it is proven to the umpire, the situation must be corrected immediately, should the coach not correct the situation he/she will be ejected from the game. If the situation occurs a second time, the situation will be corrected and the game will be halted while the offending coach is ejected.
5. Three (3) outs or a maximum of five (5) runs shall constitute a half-inning by the batting or offensive team.
6. Base runners may steal on any legally pitched ball after it has left the pitcher's hand.
7. The dropped third-strike rule DOES apply.
8. The infield fly rule DOES apply.

9. Any player that is ejected from a game for any reason may not play the next scheduled game. Ejections should be recorded on the game sheet and reported by email to Convenor/Scheduler.

U21 SPECIFIC RULES (As of 2023)

1. Games will commence at the time posted as per the schedule on the association website; with no new inning to start after 105 minutes. In case of a rain delay, darkness, or any suspension of play for whatever reason, a minimum of four (4) full innings will constitute a full game. The score will stand as of the last full inning.
2. Pitchers may pitch UNLIMITED innings.
3. Coaches will ensure that every player, including the pitcher, sits out one inning before any player sits out two innings. If this is not the case and it is proven to the umpire, the situation must be corrected immediately, should the coach not correct the situation he/she will be ejected from the game. If the situation occurs a second time, the situation will be corrected and the game will be halted while the offending coach is ejected.
4. Three (3) outs or a maximum of five (5) runs shall constitute a half-inning by the batting or offensive team.
5. Base runners may steal on any legally pitched ball after it has left the pitcher's hand.
6. The dropped third-strike rule DOES apply.
7. The infield fly rule DOES apply.
8. Any player that is ejected from a game for any reason may not play the next scheduled game. Ejections should be recorded on the game sheet and reported by email to Convenor/Scheduler.

PLAYOFF RULES (As of 2023)

1. All House League and Canada Softball Rules will apply except for any changes listed below.
2. The Home Team Score sheet is the official score sheet, but both scorekeepers **MUST CONFER** at the end of each inning. It is important that an accurate record be kept of all players left on base (see Rule # 4).
3. International TieBreaker Rule: In case of a tie, a runner (the last completed batter in the previous inning) will be placed on 2nd base and a complete open inning will be played. (In the case of a potential championship game this will be the second open inning)
4. If a tie still exists after the International Tie Breaker inning, the tie will be broken by counting the number of runners left on 3rd base for each team; if a tie still exists, by counting the number of runners left on 2nd base; and if a tie still exists, by counting the number of runners left on 1st base. In the event the tie remains unbroken, the game will be decided by a coin toss.
5. Home team right through to and including the championship game is the team which finished highest in the regular season.
6. POTENTIAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES SHALL BE;
Atom: 4 innings, Mite: 5 innings, Squirt: 6 innings, Peewee and up: 7 innings. 7. LAST INNING OF A POTENTIAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME IS AN OPEN INNING. 8. ALL DECISIONS MADE BY THE UMPIRES ARE FINAL. NO PROTESTS ALLOWED.

CALL-UP RULES (As of 2023)

1. A team with 8 or fewer players may use a call-up/across player to bring the team to a maximum of players. If at game time the team has 9 players or more, the pre-arranged call-up player will be able to play. (Pre-arranged call-up is a player that was contacted by the convenor or coach prior to game time.)
2. Convenors or coaches may call up players. The Convenor is to provide the next higher division coaches with a list of eligible call-ups.
3. The convenor of the called-up player has the final choice of the player(s) being called up.
4. Any player in the next division lower may be called up providing they have shown the proper capabilities and are on the list provided by the convenor to the coaches. Players called up from a lower division are permitted to pitch.
5. Any player in the same division may be called across to play. This player will not be permitted to pitch.
6. In a forfeit situation, a younger player on-site may play, provided the player is a registered player in the next lower division and must have parental permission.
7. Parental permission must be given to the umpire.
8. Call-up players will wear their regular team jersey and hat unless it is a Rule 5 situation.
9. Call-up and call-across players will bat last in the order.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (As of 2023)

1. It is the responsibility of the home team/centre to provide carded umpires as follows:
 - a. Midget and above - Two (2) Sr. umpires holding the current season Softball Ontario Card.
 - b. Bantam and below - Two (2) umpires with at least one (1) umpire holding the current season Softball Ontario card who shall be the Plate umpire.
 - c. Notwithstanding subsections a. and b., the host association may use any available umpires to ensure games have two (2) umpires, even if those umpires play in the same division. These instances should be kept to a minimum and only when all other options have been exhausted.
2. In the event of rained-out games, the coach of the visiting team and the diamond scheduler of the home team must reschedule the game within two weeks and advise the appropriate Convener of the new date. If the visiting team and the diamond scheduler fail to mutually agree on a date, the "executive" will schedule the game. In the event that a team fails to appear for the rescheduled game, Rule 4 shall apply. (Game does not need to be played within the two-week period).
 - a. Home team delegate to contact the visiting coach to set up rescheduled date.
 - b. Send an email to a YSFL Scheduler stating the rescheduled date.