

II PLAYING RULES

The Ottawa Olde Tymers Softball League shall comply with the “Official Softball Rules” as published by the Canadian Amateur Softball Association, (Softball Canada), with some exceptions.

1. The Playing Field Dimensions

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| a) | Front of Pitcher’s Rubber to front of Home Plate | 40 ft. 6inches |
| b) | Between Bases | 60 ft. |
| c) | Diagonal Home Plate / 2 nd Base | |
| | 1 st Base / 3 rd Base | 85 feet |

2. The Following Actions are NOT Permitted

- a) Bunting
- b) Stealing or leaving a base before the ball has been contacted by the batter.
- c) Advancing a base because of a passed ball by the catcher
- d) Gaining first base after striking out if catcher drops the ball
- e) In the event that a defensive player blocks home plate or a base, the umpire will declare the runner safe.
- f) When the infield fly rule is called by an umpire, the ball is dead and runners may not advance under any circumstances.
- g) Profane language will not be tolerated at any time.
- h) No new “High Performance” or Titanium bats are permitted.
- i) Metal spikes are not permitted

3. The Game

- a) A full game shall consist of seven (7) innings or 5 innings if a team is leading by 10 or more runs at that time.
Because of time constraints teams must be off the field no later than 5 minutes before the end of their time slot unless there is no team playing in the next time slot.
In order to speed up the games the following rules will be in effect starting in the 2018 season:
- If the catcher is not ready to get on the field at the start of an inning, another player will have to take the warm up pitches
 - If he want to, a batter hitting a home run over the fence will not be required to circle the bases so he and any other players on base can just return to the their bench.
 - When a substitute runner is used, the batter can go directly to the bench and the substitute runner will go to first base. Teams should have the substitute runner ready to do this

These rules apply during playoff games as well.

- b) In the event the score is tied at the end of **play**, the game shall be declared a tie game and no extra innings will be played.

EXCEPTION: Again, subject to the time constraints mentioned in 3a) above, in the playoffs, games tied at the end of seven innings shall be continued until a winner is determined and the last available batter in the previous inning will be placed on second base to start any additional innings. If a playoff game nevertheless ends up in a tie, each team will be awarded one point. A total of either 4 or 6 points must be earned to win a playoff round depending on whether it is a best of 3 or best of 5 series.

- c) A game, terminated by the umpire due to weather conditions, shall be deemed complete if four complete innings have been played, or if the “home team” leads after three and one-half innings have been completed. Games terminated prior to the completion of four full innings (or 3 ½ innings where the “home team” is leading) shall be deemed to have been rained out and will not be replayed. This rule applies to all playoff games as well.
Should any game have to be terminated because of the time constraints the score will revert to the end of the last completed inning.

- d) Each half-inning shall be completed when one of the two following actions occurs:
 - The defensive team retires three offensive players or
 - The offensive team scores four runs.
 - If there is enough time, this rule does not apply to the last inning where there is no limit to the number of runs that may be scored by either team prior to making 3 outs.
- e) There will be a commitment line, approximately 10 feet from home plate, whereby a runner who proceeds beyond the commitment line will be subject to a force out just as at 1st base. To avoid injuries the runner must not touch home plate and if he does, he will be called out.
- f) The home team will sit on the 3rd base side and the visiting team on the 1st base side.
- g) Rained out games will not be played unless possible and necessary during the playoffs.

4. Team Composition

- a) A defensive team shall consist of ten (10) players - pitcher, catcher, 4 infielders, 3 outfielders and a “Rover”. The “Rover” Can play anywhere in the outfield but not in the infield until after the ball has been hit by a batter.
- b) If a team does not have a minimum of 7 of its’ own players available to play at the scheduled starting time, the umpire shall declare the game forfeited, and award the game to the non-offending team, as long as the non-offending team has a minimum of 7 of its’ own players available to play.

As long as both teams have a minimum of 7 players, teams may borrow 3 players from other teams to increase the roster up to a maximum of 10 players during the season but not for any playoff games unless approved by the opposing team.

No borrowed player may pitch.

5. Batting

- a) The batting order of each team must be listed on the score sheet and presented to the other team prior to the start of the game.
- b) Any changes to the original batting order must be identified by the team manager to both the home-plate umpire and the opposing team’s manager

prior to the change being made.

- c) A maximum of twenty players may be listed in a team's batting order and all players who are listed must bat in that order throughout the game unless they are withdrawn from the batting order.
- d) Batters withdrawn from the batting order are not eligible to be returned to the batting order, nor may they play defensively once they have been removed from the batting order. Withdrawing players from the batting order is permitted provided that a minimum of 10 players remain in the batting order at all times. An injured player may be withdrawn as long as a minimum of 7 players remain in the batting order
- e) All players playing on defense must be listed in the batting order. Defensive players may be rotated in and out of the defensive alignment without restriction so long as they continue to appear in the batting order.
- f) Players must bat throughout the game in the same position they are listed in the batting order for the game unless they are removed from the batting order.
- g) All players in the batting order must play at least one inning defensively.
- h) With the approval of the opposing team an injured player may either play Defensively but not bat or may bat but not play defensively.

6. **Pinch Runners**

Three "Pinch Runners" plus up to two "Designated Injured Runners" will be permitted each game. Team Captains must declare the "Designated Injured Runners" before each game, and they must be approved by the opposing team Captain. In the event that the opposing team Captain does not agree with the designations, the umpires will make the final determination.

A "Designated Injured Runner" does not count as a "Pinch Runner" and may be replaced any time he gets on base by the last available out.

A "Pinch Runner" is another player in the batting order that is chosen to replace another player who has reached base. Before using a "Pinch Runner", the coach/manager must advise the umpire and the opposing coach/manager. The "Pinch Runner" must always be the last available out. Any attempt to use more than 3 "Pinch Runners" in a game will result in the original runner being called out. A catcher may be replaced by the last available out at any time and such replacement will not count as one of the 3 permitted replacements. Catchers **must** be replaced by the last available out if he gets on base with 2 outs.

7. Pitching

The pitcher shall not, at any time during the game, be allowed to use tape or other foreign substances on the ball or on his pitching hand or fingers, nor shall another player apply any foreign substance to the ball. Under the supervision and control of the umpire, powdered resin may be used to dry the hands.

8. Players Conduct

Recognizing that under Article II of this Constitution, the purpose of the league shall be:

1. To promote recreational softball for players 40 years of age and older.
2. To promote a spirit of friendly competition among the League's teams and players and
3. To encourage good sportsmanship on and off the playing field,

It is expected that all players will always conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner during a game.

This means no arguing with the umpires, rough play, or unsportsmanlike conduct.

Should any verbal abuse occur during a game, the umpire will warn the offending player, call time-out, and advise the team captains that any further abuse by the offending team will result in an ejection from the game.

The consequences of not adhering to this rule are as follows:

a) For Rough play resulting in an ejection from the game:

- After the first occurrence – a further 1 game suspension
- After the second occurrence - a further 3 game suspension.
- After the third occurrence – suspension from the league for the rest of the season and playoffs

b) For misconduct resulting in an ejection from the game:

- After the first occurrence –a further 1 game suspension
- After the second occurrence - a further 2 game suspension
- After the third occurrence – a further 3game suspension.=
- Any player who has been suspended for any reason must leave the diamond and not return until the suspension is over.
- Players who have been suspended for any reason have the right to appeal any further suspension by notifying the president within24 hours of such suspension. The president or, in his absence the vice-president, will make the final decision before the next game that the player is scheduled to play

9) Playoffs

. The playoffs will consist of 4 series as follows:

- Series 1 – Team # 1 vs. Team # 4 – **best 2 out of 3 games and**
- Series 2 – Team # 2 vs. Team # 3 – **best 2 out of 3 games**
- Series #3 – Winner of #1 vs. winner of #2 – **best 2 out of 3 games and**
- Series #4 – Loser of #1 vs. Loser of # 2 - **best 2 out of 3 games**

Team # 1 will be the home team for the first game and will get first choice of an early or late game.

Team #2 will be the home game for the first playoff game of Series #2

After the first games, the series games will alternate between early and late and home and visitor.

10) Tie Breaking Rules for Regular Season Standings

If 2 or more teams are tied in the final regular season standings, the following order of tie breakers will be used.

- 1) The team with the most wins during the season
- 2) The head-to head record among the tied teams and
- 3) The plus-minus record among the tied teams.