

Ontario Amateur Softball Association

2017

Softball

**OFFICIAL
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
94th EDITION**



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The OASA will be accountable to Softball Ontario and ultimately to the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (as amended) (the Ministry) in regard to Ministry Programming.

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CONSTITUTION

of the

ONTARIO AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

DEFINITIONS USED IN THIS CONSTITUTION

Term	Interpretation
Affiliate Member	Any team, league or association that joins OASA competition has voting privileges at any General Meeting of the members during that year
Affiliation Fee	A membership fee plus tournament fee plus any other fees (e.g. bond, travel) appropriate to the team involved
Associate Member	Any individual, league or association that pays a prescribed fee and who then becomes a non-voting member
Auditor	An individual(s) engaged by the Membership to ensure that financial statements reflect the true financial status of the OASA and that accepted accounting procedures are used
Calendar Year	The period from January 1 to December 31 in the same year. For affiliations, this covers the period from the date a team affiliates until December 31 of the year in which the team plays
Category A, B, C, D, Select	A further grouping of teams within classifications that is used to determine Provincial Championship tournament assignment
Centre	See "Operating Rule 4.4 Player Residency" and "Affiliated Association or Team" Definition
Championship Play-down	Teams may be required to engage in a championship play-down series to determine the category champion and finalist (also known as Head-to-Head play)
Championship Provincial Tournament	A tournament used to determine an OASA provincial champion, finalist and lower placing. Provincial Championships may also be used to determine OASA representatives to competition beyond the provincial scope, such as Canadian or Eastern Canadian Championships
Classification	A grouping of teams in each division that are classified: By age - Junior Mite U8, Mite U10, Squirt U12, Pee Wee U14, Bantam U16, Midget U18, Junior U21, and Masters. By calibre - Intermediate, Senior, Recreational, Orthodox

Closest Centre	The affiliated centre with the shortest distance to the player's residence from the ball field at which the affiliated Minor Division team competes on a regular basis (does not apply to Men's Division)
Default	Occurs when a team fails to attend a scheduled game or has an insufficient number of players to start a game (also see "forfeit")
Delegate	A member entitled to vote by virtue of position (Executive, Advisory Council, and Convenor) or on behalf of an affiliated team, association or league at a General Meeting of The Association
Disciplinary Action	An action that includes: reprimand, fine, suspension and loss of the right to bid for and/or host a Provincial Championship or Elimination Tournament or Canadian Championship
Division	A grouping of teams designated as Men's Division or Minor Division
Elimination Tournament	A tournament used to determine the OASA representative(s) to competition(s) beyond the provincial scope (e.g. Canadian or Eastern Canadian Championships)
Executive	A body composed of the Officers of The Association and additional elected and appointed members
Executive Members	A body composed of the Officers of The Association
Fiscal Year	The 12 month period from October 1 through September 30
Forfeit	Occurs when a team has an insufficient number of players to continue a game
Gate Receipts	Ticket sales, including advance, reserved or package tickets and general admission
Home Centre	see "Affiliated Association or Team"
In Camera Meeting	A confidential Executive Meeting from which there are no public minutes and from which individuals may be excluded
Member	Any group by virtue of paying the prescribed membership fee and any individual as a result of being duly elected, being appointed to office, or because of position held (refer to By-Law I)

Membership Fee	Dues for annual membership (team, associate) in the OASA. The fees are established by the Executive and ratified by voting delegates at the appropriate AGM
Not in Good Standing	A status accorded a member until consequences from disciplinary actions have been fulfilled
Officers	President, Executive Vice President, Vice Presidents (2), Secretary, Treasurer who are elected at the Annual General Meeting and the Immediate Past President
Provincial Championship	A tournament or play-down series determining the OASA provincial champions or finalists and lower placing
Qualifier	A tournament determining participation and seeding for an OASA Provincial Championship Tournament
Records, Books & Contracts	All records, contracts and books of account required to be maintained pursuant to all provincial statutes and regulations in a form consistent with the legal requirements
Select Team	A team comprised of players chosen from teams competing in the same house or local league during the season with no players signed to an OASA players' certificate
Series	A set of games (e.g. 2 of 3, 3 of 5) between two teams in the championship play-down (head-to-head) format
Softball	The game played under the rules as set out in the Softball Canada and OASA rule books and all variations based on these rules (e.g. T- ball, Blastball). Softball is recognized as one of the two primary forms of baseball with Fastball (Men's and Minor) being the further subdivision governed by the OASA
Team Certificate	The Softball Canada/OASA team form or certificate which each player and team official has to sign each year Note: Registration Certificates are available from the Registrar and on-line
Tournament Fee	Fee assessed to each team taking part in a provincial championship tournament, this fee is established by the OASA Executive annually
Zone	The regions into which the province may be divided (specific areas with flexible borders depending upon the number of affiliations) in order to facilitate OASA championship play-down series or to determine representatives to various championship tournaments

VISION

The Ontario Amateur Softball Association is recognized as a pre-eminent developmental body for Softball in Canada.

ARTICLES

Article I – Name

The name of this Corporation is the “Ontario Amateur Softball Association,” otherwise known as the “OASA” or “The Association.”

Article II – Objects

The objects of the OASA are:

- a) To co-ordinate, to organize and to give structure to the game of softball for participants of all ages in Ontario through:
 - i) Provision of locations and hosts for competitions.
 - ii) Provision of guidelines for competition.
 - iii) Provision of a learning environment for players, coaches, officials and other individuals and groups in the softball community.
 - iv) Promoting accessibility of the game to any who wish to play, coach or officiate.
 - v) Provision of a forum for dialogue among its members and the larger softball community.
 - vi) Representation of its members at the local, provincial, national and international levels.
 - vii) Creation of opportunities for groups and individuals in Ontario to:
 - 1) Compete on a fair basis.
 - 2) Participate in the game, locally, provincially, nationally and internationally.
 - 3) Develop skills.
- b) To recognize excellence through:
 - i) Provision of awards for individual, team and member organization achievements.
 - ii) Publication of achievements of individuals, teams and member organizations.
- c) To promote the game of softball year long.
- d) To encourage communities to develop their own minor system and discourage the practice of players moving from team to team at the expense of other communities.

BY-LAWS

By-Law I – Membership

By-Law I.1 Membership in The Association

Includes:

- a) Individuals who are elected to the Executive at the Annual General Meeting, or appointed to the Executive or to the Advisory Council, or who are bestowed a Life Membership and are members of the Advisory Council.
- b) Teams, leagues or associations who by application to The Association agree to abide by and comply with the Constitution, By-Laws and Operating Rules of the Ontario Amateur Softball Association.
- c) Associate Members who are accepted by the Executive.
- d) All Past Presidents.
- e) Honourary President and Vice President.

By-Law I.2 Period of Membership

Commences in each calendar year on the date of acceptance by the Executive and ends on December 31 following the season of play.

By-Law I.3 Membership Status

All Members are in “Good Standing” until designated through a discipline procedure to be “Not in Good Standing.”

Note: Membership may be refused, denied, or revoked at any time when a member is “Not in Good Standing.”

By-Law I.4 Life Membership

The OASA membership may bestow a Life Membership at an Annual General Meeting when the total number of Life Members does not exceed twelve (12) living individuals.

Note: Nomination forms are available from the Secretary and on-line.

By-Law II – Administration

By-Law II.1 Elected Officers

The officers are the President, the Executive Vice President, the two Vice Presidents, the Secretary and the Treasurer. They are elected annually, by ballot, at the Annual General Meeting. Officers are also Directors of The Association and members of the Executive Committee. The Immediate Past President is also an officer.

The President:

- a) Chairs all meetings of the Executive.
- b) Is responsible for and has the authority to act on all matters of The Association at all times. Decisions made under this clause must be presented to and voted upon by the Executive at the first opportunity.
- c) May call meetings (other than Executive meetings) to discuss matters of concern to the OASA. Recommendations and motions that result from these meetings must be brought to the Executive for final review and approval or denial.
- d) Is a voting member of all committees.
- e) May designate a Vice-President to be responsible for specific duties.
- f) May form ad hoc committees. The Chairperson of these committees must be a member of the Executive or Advisory Council.
- g) Attends the Softball Canada Annual Meeting or appoints an Executive designate.
- h) Is a member of Softball Ontario. In the event that he or she is not able to do so, the Executive Vice President shall perform those duties.
- i) Must ensure that the Constitution, By-Laws, Operating Rules and Policies are followed.
- j) In consultation with the Executive, appoints the Presiding Officer of the Annual General Meeting.
- k) Peruses, and signs a notice that he/she has seen, all invoices submitted for payment to the Treasurer. Invoices placed in question by the President are submitted to the Executive for approval or denial.
- l) May appoint Executive members to act in liaison with the following organizations: Provincial Women's Softball Association of Ontario, Ontario Rural Softball Association Inc., Northland Softball Association, Western Ontario Athletic Association, Slo-Pitch Ontario Association, the International Softball Congress (ISC) and Softball Ontario.
- m) Appoints Directors for Elimination Tournaments and President's Representatives to Championship Tournaments.
- n) Appoints Chairs of the Standing Committees.

The Executive Vice President:

- a) Performs the duties as designated by the President and, in instances of non-attendance by the President, performs the duties of the President. If the President is unable to complete his term, the Executive Vice President becomes the President.
- b) Is chair of the Executive Committee.

The Vice Presidents:

Perform such duties as assigned to them by the President or Executive.

The Secretary:

- a) Receives and responds to correspondence on behalf of The Association.
- b) Prepares agendas for all Executive meetings in collaboration with the President.
- c) Makes all meeting arrangements for OASA personnel.
- d) Receives amendments and nominations for the Annual General Meeting.
- e) Receives delegates' registrations to the Annual General Meeting.
- f) Receives all protests unless at a tournament.
- g) Receives, records and reports the minutes of Executive meetings as well as any General Meeting of The Association.
- h) Receives all players' transfers.
- i) Is responsible for those functions as listed in the Constitution, By-Laws, Operating Rules and Policies.
- j) Performs all other functions as required and in accordance with the Secretary's job description. (see Policy)
- k) May receive nominations for the F. R. Feaver Award.

Note: Any nomination forms are available from the Secretary and on-line.

The Treasurer:

- a) Keeps an accurate record of all monies received and disbursed; reports periodically to the Executive Committee and prepares a financial statement for the fiscal year to be enclosed with the notice of the Annual General Meeting.
- b) Is appointed to the Softball Ontario Finance Committee. In the event that the Treasurer cannot fulfill such duties, the Executive may appoint a replacement member from the Executive.
- c) Performs all other functions as required and in accordance with the Treasurer's job description. (see Policy)
- d) Submits all invoices to the President and receives a signature showing that this has been done.

By-Law II.2 The Executive

The Executive consists of the elected Officers, six (6) members at large elected at the Annual General Meeting, the Northland Softball Association representative, the Immediate Past President and one (1) Past President appointed by the Past Presidents. The Registrar and the Information Coordinator shall be ex-officio, non-voting members. The Executive is not liable for consequences that result from the exercise of its duties and powers.

Official Meeting:

- a) Eight (8) voting members including President or Executive Vice President constitute a quorum.
- b) The meeting is chaired by the President, or in the President's absence, the Executive Vice President.

- c) Meeting minutes are recorded and distributed. The minutes must contain: names of attendees, approval of the agenda, a statement that a quorum exists, a statement of any declared conflicts of interest, approval of minutes of previous Executive meetings not yet approved, all motions, resulting actions and relevant discussion points.

Powers & Duties:

- a) Appoints a Registrar and Information Coordinator.
- b) Confirms the appointment of the Presiding Officer of the Annual General Meeting.
- c) Controls the affairs of The Association and fills any vacancies that occur during its term. Any such replacement must be a member in good standing.
- d) Follows the Constitution, By-Laws, Operating Rules and Policies of The Association and ensures adherence to them.
- e) Approves the signing authorities for The Association for the current term of office, as defined in these By-Laws.
- f) Recommends to the membership at the Annual General Meeting auditors to review the books and records of The Association.
- g) Oversees the financial and contractual matters of The Association, approves a budget prepared by the Treasurer and reviews all financial and other reports delivered by the Treasurer, committees, sub committees, ad hoc committees or task forces.
- h) May discipline individuals, teams, or groups and will consider any legal appeals resulting from those disciplinary actions.
- i) Confirms representatives to act in liaison in the interests of The Association with other softball organizations including but not limited to: Provincial Women's Softball Association of Ontario (PWSA), Ontario Rural Softball Association (ORSA), Northland Softball Association (NSA), Western Ontario Athletic Association (WOAA), Slo-Pitch Ontario Association (SPOA), Softball Ontario (SO), Softball Canada and the International Softball Congress (ISC). (see position descriptions)
- j) May form ad hoc committees.
- k) Provides leadership regarding amendments to The Association's Constitution, By-Laws, Operating Rules and Variations to Softball Canada's Playing Rules.
- l) Ensures all amendments received in proper form from members are submitted to the Secretary for consideration at the Annual General Meeting.
- m) Reviews all amendments suggested by internal committees and forwards those that are approved for consideration at the Annual General Meeting.
- n) Develops and monitors the implementation of operational policies and procedures to ensure consistent application of the Constitution, By-Laws and Operating Rules.
- o) Reviews all policies annually and as required.

By-Law II.3 Advisory Council

The Advisory Council consists of:

- a) Past Presidents not on the Executive. All Past Presidents may attend the Annual General Meeting as delegates at OASA expense.
- b) Honourary President and Honourary Vice President *may* be appointed by the Executive. Both may attend the Annual General Meeting as delegates at OASA expense. The Appointees must not have held the office of President of the OASA.
- c) Up to six (6) additional individuals not currently serving on the Executive appointed by the Executive.

Powers and Duties:

- a) Acts in an advisory capacity to the Executive on matters for which the Executive seeks advice.
- b) Recommends to the Executive candidates for the position of Honourary President and Honourary Vice President when requested to do so by the Executive.

By-Law II.4 Nominations

- a) Nominations for an Executive position in The Association must be submitted in writing to the OASA Secretary by September 20 of the current year. The Secretary shall then communicate a complete listing of nominations to each individual member, affiliated team, league and association prior to October 15.
- b) No one shall be eligible to stand for the office of Executive Vice President or Vice President unless at least one year as a member of the Executive has been served.
- c) No one shall be eligible to stand for the office of President unless two years as a member of the Executive have been served.
- d) In the event that no nomination is received (or nominated persons decline) for any position, nominations may be received from the floor providing that the delegates at the Annual General Meeting approve by 100% vote.
- e) If a position is not filled at the Annual General Meeting, the Executive will fill the position under BY-LAW II.2 Power and Duties c).

By-Law III – Annual General Meeting

By-Law III.1 Dates

The Annual General Meeting is held on either the third or fourth Saturday of November.

By-Law III.2 Election Entitlement

- a) No delegate is allowed to vote at an Annual General Meeting until a Certificate of Appointment has been filed with the Secretary. Note: Any forms or certificates are available from the Secretary and on-line.
- b) Each affiliated centre is entitled to three (3) votes each of which is carried by one delegate at an Annual General Meeting of The Association. In cases where an affiliated centre is represented by more than one team, league or association such teams, leagues or associations shall decide amongst themselves prior to the meeting as to who shall carry the voting power. In cases of failure to do so, the Presiding Officer shall make the final decision. Each delegate shall cast his or her own vote.
- c) Proxy votes are not permitted.
- d) Election promotional material at the Annual General Meeting is not permitted.

By-Law III.3 Voting Procedure

- a) The Presiding Officer may proceed with election of officers, interspersed with amendments while ballots are being counted for the Election of: President, the Executive Vice President, the Vice Presidents (2), Secretary, Treasurer and six (6) additional positions. The candidates for one of six (6) additional Executive positions are allowed a maximum of 1 minute to speak to delegates.
- b) The candidates for the additional six (6) Executive positions receiving the greatest number of votes on the first ballot are declared elected. Delegates must vote for six (6).
- c) A nominee for a singular Officer's position, to be elected on the first ballot, must secure a majority of the total votes cast. If no majority is received on the first ballot, the names of the nominees securing the first and second highest vote (including ties) shall be placed on the second ballot: and all other nominees shall be eliminated. The nominee securing the highest number of votes on the second ballot shall be declared elected. In case of a tie on the second ballot, those nominees' names receiving the first and second highest number of votes (including ties) shall be placed on a third ballot and the nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the event of a further tie, the presiding officer shall determine the method by which the deadlock shall be broken.

By-Law III.4 AGM Duties

- a) President
 - i) Conducts the ceremonial section of the Annual General Meeting.
 - ii) Appoints the Presiding Officer and Declarer.
 - iii) Selects the Returning Officer (Chief Scrutineer) and assistants.

- b) Secretary
 - i) Records the Official Minutes.
 - ii) Records amendments from the floor.
 - iii) Informs the Presiding Officer about absent nominees' eligibility as a candidate.
- c) Registrar
 - i) Conducts the distribution of ballots to delegates in the following order: Life Members, Past Presidents, current Executive members, Advisory Council members, Affiliated Centres.
 - ii) Provides the Presiding Officer with the total number of eligible delegates and with the number required for simple majority and a two-thirds majority.
- d) Declarer
Appointed by the President to read and move all motions on behalf of the Executive (excluding motions submitted by non Executive individuals, associations or teams).
- e) Presiding Officer
 - i) Conducts official elections and voting on official amendments and resolutions.
 - ii) Orchestrates any other business or ceremonial matter as directed by the President.
 - iii) Explains voting procedures using the official ballot.
 - iv) Explains the procedure for election of Officers.
 - v) Reads the names of all listed nominees for an Executive position or Office in alphabetical order and repeats in reverse order asking each to stand or decline.
 - vi) If the nominee is not present, the Secretary provides any correspondence indicating the nominee's desire. If there is no correspondence, the response is decline.
 - vii) Asks for a Secunder for motions to amend or resolutions read by the Declarer.
 - viii) Conducts voting on the amendments, makes procedural rulings as necessary, and declares the results of any voting.
- f) Scrutineers
A Returning Officer (Chief Scrutineer) and two assistants who are deemed neutral conduct the collection and counting of ballots. The results are reported to the Presiding Officer by the Returning Officer (Chief Scrutineer).

By-Law III.5 Order of Business

- a) Ceremonial Section
 - i) President's welcome
 - ii) Introduction of guests, Executive, Head Table
 - iii) Presentation of the Memorial Scroll
 - iv) Moments of silence in memory of deceased members
 - v) President recaps past season

- vi) President honours medal winning teams at Canadian and Eastern Canadian Championships
 - vii) President recognizes Perfect Game, No Hitter and Pitching Award winners
 - viii) Scholarship winners are announced
- b) Business Section
- i) Introduction of the Presiding Officer
 - ii) Registrar distributes ballots to properly credentialed delegates
 - iii) Business from the past season
 - 1) Adoption of Annual General Meeting Minutes
 - 2) Financial reports
 - 3) Committee Chairs' reports
 - 4) Tournament reports
 - iv) Appointment of a Returning Officer (Chief Scrutineer)
 - v) Conduct the election of Officers and six (6) Executive positions
 - vi) Conduct voting on the amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws, Operating Rules and Variations from Playing Rules
 - vii) Interspersed with the voting procedure, the presentation of the following honours when applicable: Coaches Honour Roll, Association Award, President's Award(s), Feaver Award and Life Membership
 - viii) Motion to destroy ballots
 - ix) Members' Business
 - 1) New Business: conducted by the President Elect
 - 2) President Elect's message
 - 3) Appointment of Honourary President and Vice President when applicable
 - 4) Motion to appoint auditors
 - 5) Next Annual General Meeting date and location
 - 6) Other
 - 5) Motion to adjourn

By-Law III.6 Rules of Order

- a) No motion shall be received unless submitted in writing, with the names of the mover and seconder, and said motion shall not be open for discussion until so stated by the Presiding Officer.
- b) All motions shall be decided by a majority of votes except where a two-thirds majority governs or in the case of a motion to receive nominations from floor which requires a 100% vote. In the case of a tie, the Presiding Officer shall have a second or deciding vote.
- c) No delegate shall speak twice on the same subject without the permission of the Chair, unless in explanation, or the mover in reply.
- d) A member desiring to speak or submit a motion shall rise and remain standing and respectfully address the Presiding Officer; shall confine his or her remarks to the question; and shall not be interrupted unless upon a point of order.

- e) Upon a point of order being raised while a delegate is speaking, or when called to order by the Presiding Officer, he or she shall at once take his or her seat, and the delegate objecting shall then state the point of order. The Presiding Officer shall then decide without debate, and the member may then proceed.
- f) No amendments to a motion shall be in order after an amendment to an amendment.
- g) When a motion is under debate, no motion shall be entertained except to amend or table and these motions shall take precedence in the order named. There is no discussion on a motion to table.
- h) An amendment that entirely changes the subject of the original motion shall not be entertained as an amendment or substituted for the motion under debate.
- i) No delegate, except one who has voted with the majority, shall be allowed to move for a re-consideration, and in this connection the word majority shall apply to the vote by which the question was first decided.
- j) After the Secretary has stated the motion, it becomes the property of The Association, but may be withdrawn at any time previous to being amended unless objected to by a member.
- k) There shall be no debate upon any question after the Presiding Officer has put it.
- l) When a vote is called, it shall be taken by each voting member holding up his right hand, unless it is a standing vote, at which the yeas and nays may be taken by ballot.

By-Law IV – Amendments

By-Law IV.1 Motions to Amend

To amend, alter or change the Constitution, By-Laws, Operating Rules or Variations from Softball Canada Playing Rules, motions may be made only at the Annual General Meeting by delegates. Constitutional and By-Law changes require a two-thirds majority. All others require a simple majority of 50% plus one.

Exception: Motions to accept nominations from the floor require 100%.

By-Law IV.2 Notice of Motions to Amend

Notice of any motion to alter or amend the Constitution, By-Laws, and Operating Rules or Variations from the Playing Rules must be registered, in writing, with the office of the OASA Secretary by September 20 of the current year. The Secretary shall then communicate a complete listing of proposed amendments to each individual member, affiliated team, league and association prior to October 15.

Note: Any forms or certificates are available from the Secretary and on-line.

Exception: A motion to amend may be accepted from the floor if it pertains to changes made at the Softball Canada AGM in the current

year. To be brought forward, the motion requires a simple majority of 50% plus one.

By-Law IV.3 Policy and Procedure

Changes in OASA policy with regard to procedure may be made by the Executive through the relevant committee(s) at any scheduled Executive meeting at which a quorum is present. Any policy included in the Constitution, By-Laws, Operating Rules and Variations from SC Playing Rules requires a motion to amend at the AGM. Other policies may be amended as required by motion at any Executive meeting at which a quorum is present. The Membership shall be informed at the next AGM and forthwith by any appropriate means. All current policies are to be made available on the OASA website and in the hard copy OASA Policy book.

By-Law V – Standing Committees and Coordinators

By-Law V.1 Standing Committees

There shall be the following standing committees with functions as stated:

- a) Minor - govern the minor series
- b) Finance - prepare budgets, recommend changes to the fee structure and negotiate contracts
- c) F. R. Feaver Award - determine the recipient of the F. R. Feaver Award
- d) Scholarship - determine the OASA Scholarship recipients and value of the award each year
- e) Awards, other than Scholarship, F. R. Feaver Award and Life Member - determine the awards, protocols and parameters for those awards and criteria for the winning of those awards and identify the recipients of awards
- f) Men's - govern the men's series
- g) Discipline - implement the OASA member Discipline Policy
- h) Player Residency - receive and resolve minor division residency disputes
- i) Life Membership - administer the OASA Life Membership Award procedure
- j) Athlete/Coach Development – coordinate athlete and coach development programs** including the administration of Team Ontario cycle for participation in Canada Games
- k) Fall Annual General Meeting – coordinate the AGM**
- l) Hall of Fame – receive nominations, make recommendations, and coordinate the Hall of Fame induction ceremony**

Detailed Committee mandates and structures are provided in the Operating Rules and Policy.

By-Law V.2 Coordinators

There shall be the following Coordinators: Information, Insurance, Sponsor and Trophy. Job descriptions are provided in the Operating Rules and Policy.

By-Law VI – Books, Contracts and Records

The records of incorporation; the minutes of all Annual General Meetings, Executive meetings, committees meetings and task forces; records of promotions and activities approved by the voting membership should, on a regular basis, be sent to a location as approved by the voting membership to constitute The Association's archives.

A motion was passed to approve Wilkinson and Company to provide a review engagement report of OASA financials for 2015.

A motion was passed to approve Wilkinson and Company to provide a review engagement report of OASA financials for 2016.

By-Law VII – Rule Book Structure

The Constitution and By-Law Rulebook must contain the following sections:

- *Constitution Articles and By-Laws*; may be amended at an Annual General Meeting and require a 2/3 majority vote.
- *Operating Rules and Softball Canada Rule Variations*; may be amended at an Annual General Meeting and require a simple majority vote.
- *Policy References*; may be modified by the Executive at any legally constituted meeting of the Executive at which a quorum is present.

By-Law VIII – Special General Meeting

At the request of fifteen (15) affiliated members, the President must call a Special General Meeting of The Association. At all Special General Meetings, thirty (30) voting delegates constitute a quorum. The meeting location and Agenda with the reasons for the meeting must be communicated to affiliated members at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the Special General Meeting.

OPERATING RULES

OR 1 – Membership

OR 1.1 General

a) **Affiliate Members**

- i) Are individuals, teams, leagues or associations
- ii) OASA membership is available to teams, leagues and associations in the Province of Ontario.
- iii) The OASA Executive reviews and accepts or rejects any membership application received.
- iv) The period of membership in each calendar year shall commence on the date of acceptance by the Executive. Membership will expire on January 1 following the year in which fees are paid as will insurance coverage purchased through the OASA.
- v) All member teams, leagues and associations will have complete charge over their own yearly operations. During OASA play, members must abide by the Constitution, By-Laws, Operating Rules and Variations from the Softball Canada Playing Rules.
- vi) In the case of a dispute any team may appeal to the OASA. Such appeal shall be accompanied by a fee as specified in the current fee schedule. This fee is to compensate for the cost of the Appeal Panel. (see Committees)

b) **Associate Members**

- i) Associate members (individuals, teams, leagues or associations), upon application, may be accepted by paying the prescribed fee.
- ii) Associate members agree to abide by the principles established in the OASA Constitution, By-Laws and Operating Rules. (see OR 1.1 a) vi)
- iii) The period of membership is the same as that for Affiliated Members.

OR 1.2 Fees

- a) OASA Membership Fees (team, associate and individual) are set by the Executive and ratified at the appropriate AGM. All other fees are set by the Executive and do not require ratification. (see fee schedule)
- b) A non-refundable membership fee is required as specified in the current fee schedule. The Provincial Tournament Fee and insurance fees (if purchased through the OASA insurance program) must also be submitted with the membership fee.
- c) The fee is an entitlement to one team certificate per classification entered and paid.

- d) It is mandatory that all teams have liability insurance. If purchased from this Association, all teams must send in application for insurance, with Application for OASA Team Affiliation, to the Registrar. If not purchased through this Association, the team must provide proof of Liability Insurance with their Application for Affiliation.

OR 1.3 Refund of Fees

- a) Teams withdrawing from participation in Provincial competition with written notification to the Registrar prior to the deadline will be refunded their Provincial Tournament Fee in full.
- b) The deadline for receipt of the notification is the date for submission of team certificates to the Registrar.
- c) After the deadline date, teams withdrawing without OASA permission are subject to disciplinary action.

OR 2 – Team Affiliation

OR 2.1 Filing Affiliation Forms and Fees

- a) Associations and teams desiring team certificates must provide, by the applicable deadline, the following information to the Registrar's office on the affiliation form accompanied by the applicable fees:
- Name of team(s)
 - Municipality/Home Centre
 - Division
 - Classification
 - Category (if applicable)
 - Team or affiliated association contact with all applicable contact information
- b) Compliance with the Residence Rule and age requirements (where applicable) are the primary determining factors of acceptance of affiliation.

OR 2.2 Filing Dates for Team Affiliations

An association may enter its team(s) provided that application(s) for affiliation is received by the Registrar's Office by the deadline dates:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • Junior Mite U8, Mite U10, Squirt U12 and Recreational | June 15 |
| • Pee Wee U14, Bantam U16, Midget U18 and Junior U21 | May 25 |
| • Intermediate, Senior, Orthodox and Masters | June 10 |

OR 2.3 Single Team Affiliations

Single team affiliations may be accepted at the discretion of the Executive and filed by the deadline date. No team, league or association is compelled, or will be pressured, by the OASA to join or affiliate with any larger body which claims to represent any zone, region, or centre.

OR 3 – Team Eligibility

OR 3.1 Divisions

Affiliated teams are assigned to Men's or Minor Division for the purpose of competing in OASA Elimination and Provincial Championship events.

OR 3.2 Classifications

- a) **Men's**
Junior U21, Intermediate, Senior, Master, Recreational and Orthodox
- b) **Minor**
Junior Mite U8, Mite U10, Squirt U12, Pee Wee U14, Bantam U16, Midget U18

OR 3.3 Categories

- a) **General**
 - i) Men's and Minor categories may be A, B, C, or D. The number of categories offered in any year is determined by the number of affiliated teams.
 - ii) Select is a non-affiliated category within the Minor division.
 - iii) All Men's teams may compete in their respective Elimination and/or Championship Tournament or Championship Play-down Series.
- b) **Category Determination**
 - i) The OASA determines team assignments for each category.
 - ii) If enough teams in the Masters classification participate, a Masters A and Masters B category will be created. Masters B will follow all current Masters rules except for the following:
 - 1) No current ISC players
 - 2) No underage players (age 35-39)
 - iii) Select categories are determined using the OASA minor age criteria.
- c) **Qualifiers**
 - i) In Mite U10 and Squirt U12, when sufficient teams affiliate, Qualifier Tournaments, held a minimum of three (3) weeks prior to the date of the Provincial Championship event, shall be used to determine the teams that will participate in each Provincial Championship category

- (A, B, C or D). When more than one Qualifier is held within a classification, tournaments must be held on the same weekend.
- ii) The Tournament Hosts in each classification must participate in a Qualifier, as these tournaments also determine seeding in the Championship Tournament draw.
 - iii) A Provincial Tournament Host that does not qualify for any Provincial Championship via the qualifier format will participate in and host the lowest category Championship Tournament. The Host would then be the ninth lowest seed in a nine team tournament draw or tenth in a ten team draw should the NSA send a participant.
 - iv) Teams going to a Qualifier must pay a fee as specified in the current fee schedule.
 - v) Proof of age must be presented to the Convenor, prior to the start of the Tournament.

OR 3.4 Recreational

- a) Recreational leagues must affiliate with the OASA by June 15 of the current playing year indicating whether they plan to send one or two teams and identify category 'A' or 'B' in which they intend to compete. Such affiliation shall include proof of Liability Insurance, either OASA insurance or otherwise.
- b) In Recreational play, any players not signed to an OASA affiliated team, except a Master's team for the current year, are eligible for play. Players competing for club teams in the USA or elsewhere in Canada are not eligible for Recreational team play.

OR 3.5 Available To Play

- a) All teams, leagues and associations shall have their eligible representative teams ready to play in OASA competition on dates and times as specified.
- b) Exhibition games with affiliated, or non-affiliated teams, are allowed only when they do not conflict with OASA scheduled play.

OR 3.6 Roster Size

All teams are restricted to seventeen (17) players and a minimum of nine (9) players in their affiliated classification, with the exception of Masters' teams which may have a maximum of twenty (20) players.

OR 4 – Player Eligibility

OR 4.1 Classification Birthdates and Years

- a) Players are assigned to categories by their ages prior to January 1 of the season of play:
- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Senior, Intermediate, Orthodox | Open |
| Masters | see b) below |
| Junior U21 | under 21 |
| Midget U18 | under 18 |
| Bantam U16 | under 16 |
| Pee Wee U14 | under 14 |
| Squirt U12 | under 12 |
| Mite U10 | under 10 |
| Junior Mite U8 | under 8 |
- b) The age for eligible Masters players is that they must be at least 40 years of age or turning 40 in the year of the event.

The age for eligible Masters Legends players is that they must be at least 50 years of age or turning 50 in the year of the event.

OR 4.2 Team Certificates

- a) **General**
- OASA team certificates are valid for the current year **ONLY**.
 - A player may sign only one team certificate unless released by the team first signed.
 - Coaches/managers are responsible to ensure all information, including signature, on the team certificate is accurate. Intentionally providing improper or invalid information is cause for disciplinary action.
- b) **Filing Dates for Team Certificates**
- To be eligible for play in the OASA, players must be listed on the approved team certificate, which must be submitted (electronically, by fax or mail) to the office of the Registrar by the deadline dates.
 - Junior Mite U8, Mite U10, Squirt U12 July 1
 - Pee Wee U14, Bantam U16, Midget U18, Junior U21 June 10
 - Intermediate, Senior, Orthodox and Masters July 1

- ii) All teams must sign players on the official team certificate, which must be submitted, with all necessary releases (electronically, by fax or by mail) to the office of the Registrar prior to the deadline dates:
 - Junior Mite U8, Mite U10, Squirt U12 July 10
 - Pee Wee U14, Bantam U16, Midget U18, Junior U21 June 25
 - Intermediate, Senior, Orthodox and Masters July 10
 - iii) A maximum of two (2) additions or changes to the Official Minor Team Certificates will be allowed through the Registrar up until 7 days prior to the team's first OASA Tournament date. Additions will only be allowed for players who reside in their home centre. Additions or changes will only be allowed to certificates that had originally been submitted by the required due date.
- c) **Minor Team Certificate - Affiliate Players**
- i) Minor teams may submit with their official team certificate an affiliated players' list comprised of up to 6 House League or Select players provided the players meet the age requirement for the classification.
 - ii) The players' names submitted on the list must be registered and competing in the House League or with the Select team within the affiliated team's association or community.
 - iii) Any minor affiliated team may call up a player(s) from the affiliated players' list if their roster is reduced to 10 or fewer players for any OASA event.
 - iv) An affiliated player is eligible to sign in at only one OASA sanctioned event during the season and is subject to all of the same sign in procedures as players on the official certificate.
- d) **Men's Team Certificate – Revisions**
- i) A maximum of 2 unlisted player additions or changes to the affiliated Junior U21, Intermediate, Orthodox and Masters team certificates will be allowed, through the Registrar, until one week prior to the team's first event. Signed certificates will be presented by teams at the event.
 - ii) Teams using affiliated Junior U21 or Masters Players as part of their Intermediate Men's team must list only those players' names on their Intermediate certificates with the classifications for which they are signed. Teams are still required to produce the appropriate Masters or Junior U21 certificate. (see OR 4.3 a) ii) and OR 4.3 c)
- e) **Waiver Forms**
Players are required to sign an OASA waiver form prior to participating in an OASA event.

OR 4.3 Play in Higher Classification

a) **General**

- i) A player may play in a higher classification provided the eligibility criteria are met.
- ii) The coach/manager must present, at any competition in which the team is competing, the appropriate approved team certificates (or a copy) on which the competing players are signed. In the event of schedule conflicts, the player's first responsibility is to the team with which he has signed the certificate (e.g. signed Midget U18, played Junior U21, first responsibility is Midget U18).
- iii) A player desiring to play in a higher classification in another district must first secure the written permission of the team, league or association he or she is leaving.
- iv) Players playing for any team that participates in an Ontario Elimination Tournament may, only after OASA playoffs in his category are completed, move to a higher classification for league or association (other than OASA) competition.

b) **Masters**

- i) All Masters players are eligible to play both Masters and Provincial Men's A and/or B/C Championship. Masters players may be "picked up" by any team for a Canadian or Eastern Canadian Championship.
- ii) A player signed to a Masters' team certificate may play for only one Intermediate team in OASA competition.

c) **Intermediate**

- i) Positional players on a current ISC roster are not eligible to play in the Intermediate B/C Championship with the exception of affiliated Junior U21 players and Midget U18 players.
- ii) Pitchers on the OASA prohibited pitchers list cannot **pitch** in the Intermediate B/C Championship.

d) **Junior U21**

- i) A player signed to a Junior U21 team certificate may play for only one Intermediate team in OASA competition.
- ii) A Junior U21 age player, after his Elimination and Provincial Tournaments have been completed may play for an OASA Men's team:
 - that is affiliated in the same centre, or
 - in his home centre, or
 - that he normally plays for, or
 - that plays in his regular men's league

e) **Minor Classifications**

- i) In OASA Junior Mite U8 through Bantam U16, a player is eligible to also play for the team in his/her affiliated centre in the next higher

classification provided that team's certificate has sufficient roster space available (maximum 17 per team) to accommodate the player(s) from the younger age classification.

- ii) A player signed to a Midget U18 team certificate is eligible to play Junior U21 under the above circumstances, in the same affiliated centre as the Midget U18 team with which the player is signed (or in the next closest affiliated Junior centre, if no affiliated Junior U21 in the home centre) with the approval of his/her Midget U18 coach.

OR 4.4 Player Residency

a) **All divisions**

A player must be a resident of Ontario by May 1 of the current year. (Men—Also see OR 4.6a) & 4.6b) & 7.2 a) ii)) (see OR 4.6 for non-resident requirements)

b) **Minor Division**

i) **General**

- 1) A player moving to a new residence during the season may continue to play for the team with which he/she started the current season.
- 2) No player may sign another team certificate unless properly released by his former team. A player only requires one (1) release, from his home centre (or the closest centre, if no affiliated home centre), in order to be able to sign with any other centre in the province.
- 3) Releases MUST be signed by the President (or his designate) of the funding association. If no such association exists, or if it is an independent team, only then may the team coach sign the release.
- 4) A team's roster may have no more than three players who have received a release in the current year unless they obtain permission from the OASA President to have more.
- 5) Players and teams shall have the right to appeal. (refer to OR 4.7)

ii) **Criteria**

For the purpose of determining player residency and release requirements, a player will fit into ONE of the following three criteria:

- 1) A player who lives in his/her own affiliated centre (home centre)
 - plays for home centre.
 - does not need a release.
- 2) A player who resides in an area that has no affiliated centre
 - plays for closest affiliated centre (new centre).
 - does not need a release.
 - becomes a member of the new centre until:
 - (a) a team affiliates in home centre, at which time the player must return to the home centre if she/he has not played with the new centre for at least the two preceding seasons or

- (b) the player chooses to play elsewhere, at which time a release is required. If the player has played for the new centre for at least the two preceding seasons, he/she must get a release from the new centre. If the player has played only one season for the new centre and the home centre affiliates, he/she must revert back to the home centre for a release. Once the required release is obtained by the player, no other releases are required.
- 3) A player who resides in an area that has an affiliated centre, but wants to play elsewhere
- needs a release from home centre.
 - becomes a member of the new centre, until:
 - (a) the player chooses to go back to the home centre. He/she does not need a release.
 - (b) the new centre does not affiliate, at which time the player must revert back to the home centre.
 - (c) the player wishes further movement at which time a release is required. If the player has played for the new centre for at least the two preceding seasons, he/she must get a release from the new centre. If the player has played only one season for the new centre he/she must revert back to the home centre for release. Once the required release is obtained by the player, no other releases are required.

- NOTE:
- If more than one team affiliates per centre, they are treated equally. If a player wants to play in another centre, he/she must get a release from all teams in his/her centre.
 - With “Special Permission,” minor players of separated or divorced parents may play for the “home centre” of either parent, providing they reside at this address for part of the playing season.
 - Any exceptions to the above would require an application for “Special Permission” to be in the Office of the Registrar by June 1 of the current year.

OR 4.5 Transfer Permits

Approved transfer permits are required by players who have changed their place of residence before playing in any sanctioned or championship tournament or series. Transfer permit applications are available from the Secretary or on-line.

OR 4.6 Non-Residency Eligibility

a) **Non-Resident Canadian Citizens**

Non-Resident Canadian Citizens are eligible to play for teams in OASA Elimination and Provincial events subject to the following conditions:

- The player makes the OASA aware of his intent to play for an Ontario team by the official residency date (May 1).
 - The Player files a Non-Resident Canadian Citizen Eligibility Form with Softball Canada and with the OASA (a copy must accompany the team's certificate).
 - The player signs the team certificate before it is submitted to the OASA Registrar.
 - The player must be a former resident of Ontario who played for at least 3 years with any OASA affiliated team.
- b) **Provincial Non-Residents**
 Out of province player additions are eligible to participate in the Senior Championship for their respective OASA teams if they are listed on the team's certificate by the certification date using Softball Canada import criteria.

OR 4.7 Appeal of Player Eligibility and Residence

- a) Players and teams have the right to appeal player eligibility and residence.
- b) The OASA President, upon receipt of a written appeal, will refer the appeal to the Appeals Panel to investigate the circumstances of the appeal as required by policy.

OR 5 – Coach and Manager Eligibility

OR 5.1 General

- a) Three coaches and a manager may sign the certificate and they are considered part of the team. No player may sign both as a coach and a player for the same team, except for players in the Men's Division who may also sign as a coach.
- b) A manager, coach or player, who is in good standing with OASA/Softball Canada, and having affixed his signature to a team certificate for an OASA affiliated team in a specific classification, may be granted permission (for the current year only) to manage or coach another OASA affiliated team in a different classification upon submission of proof and legitimate reason that the latter team is without a manager or coach (or both).
- c) The request for permission must be made in writing to the Office of the OASA Registrar for OASA consideration.
- d) In the event that a coach or coaches in the Minor Division are not available to coach for any reason, the Umpire-in-Chief shall allow adults

to coach the team. There shall be no protest allowed from using an unsigned coach (with or without uniform) in the Minor Division.

OR 5.2 Certification

- a) All OASA affiliated teams must have at least one coach with NCCP certification (or equivalent as recognized by Softball Canada).
 - i) Junior Mite U8, Mite U10, Squirt U12:
Community Coaching (formerly Keep Coaching; or Technical 1)
 - ii) Pee Wee U14:
Competition-Introduction "What to Coach" (or Fully Certified Level I)
 - iii) Bantam U16 to Junior U21:
Competition-Introduction "Trained" (or Fully Certified Level II)
- b) All teams entering a tournament leading to a Canadian Championship, excluding Eastern and Western Canadians, must have at least one Competition-Introduction "Certified" (or one Fully Certified Level II) Coach.
- c) Eastern Canadians for Pee Wee U14 and Bantam U16 require one coach with Competition-Introduction "What to Coach" (or Level I).
- d) Teams affiliating with the OASA for the first time, with uncertified coaches, may be granted a grace period of one year in which to become certified.
- e) New coaches may be granted an exemption, one time only, upon written application to the OASA Registrar.

OR 6 – Championship Competition

OR 6.1 Bids to Host

- a) **Fees**
A fee, as specified in the current fee schedule, must accompany each bid requesting to host a Provincial Championship Tournament, Elimination Tournament or Eastern Canadian Championship Tournament. Unsuccessful applicants will have their deposit refunded.
- b) **Provincial Championship Bids**
OASA Championships are determined in all classifications by tournament competition where numbers allow provided a written bid to host is received in the office of the OASA Secretary by November 15 of the year prior to the tournament.
- c) **Elimination and Eastern Canadian Championship Bids**
 - i) Bids to host Elimination Tournaments and Eastern Canadian Championships must be received by the OASA Secretary by February 1, and must be two (2) years in advance of the year held.

- ii) An Elimination Tournament and Eastern Canadian fee, as specified in the current fee schedule, must accompany each bid.
- d) **Softball Canada Championship Bids**
 - i) Bids to host Softball Canada Championship(s) are channeled through the office of the OASA Secretary: must be submitted by February 1 and must be submitted two (2) years in advance of said championship.
 - ii) The OASA will evaluate submissions and will recommend the presentation of qualified bids. The Softball Canada Host must be an OASA affiliate in good standing and be familiar with all Softball Canada Tournament documentation. A performance bond as specified in the current fee schedule, made payable to Softball Ontario, must also be enclosed with the bid.

OR 6.2 Championship Guidelines (for tournament and play-down format)

- a) The OASA conducts and assists the various team, league and association winners to meet and to play-off to determine the OASA champions.
- b) All players on Masters, Junior U21, Midget U18, Bantam U16, Pee Wee U14, Squirt U12, Mite U10 or Junior Mite U8 team certificates must present Birth Certificates (or acceptable proof of birthdate evidence – photocopy acceptable) on demand, prior to tournament or playoff games.
- c) Team certificates, in all classifications, must be produced on demand prior to, during or immediately following any/all tournament or playoff games.
- d) OASA Convenors in all Zone Playoff games and Championship Tournaments shall demand and check all team certificates and, in Masters, Junior U21 and below, proof of birthdate for all players.
- e) All players and team officials shall sign in on team forms provided by the OASA Convenor prior to being allowed to play. Proof of eligibility of players (proof of age) in Master, Junior U21 and below is required. Signatures obtained may be checked against OASA records.
- f) The OASA shall supply up to twenty-one (21) medallions, and a pennant to all Provincial Championship and Finalist teams.
- g) The Office of the OASA Trophy Coordinator shall ensure that the necessary Tournament pennants, trophies/plaques and medallions are provided for presentation at the site of the Championship game by the OASA President (or his delegated representative) when and where possible.

- h) No alcoholic beverages, of any kind, shall be permitted within the playing area.

OR 6.3 Championship Determination and Restrictions

a) **Senior**

- i) The Ontario Senior Fastball Championship is decided by means of a tournament or series which is open to any affiliated Senior OASA team. Such teams must meet all Registration and Entry Fee requirements.
- ii) The tournament winner earns the right to represent Ontario at the current Softball Canada Championship.

b) **Intermediate**

The top four teams at the Intermediate A Provincial Tournament are not eligible to participate in the Intermediate Provincial Championship B or C Tournament. Intermediate teams from the Elimination may participate in Eastern Canadians without playing in a Provincial Championship but must declare their intent to participate in Eastern Canadians by August 1 of the current year to the OASA Registrar.

c) **Masters**

When team numbers warrant, there will be a Masters A, Masters B and Masters Legends category. (See OR 3.3 b) ii))

d) **Junior U21**

- i) The "Junior U21 Provincial A Tournament" determines:
- the Ontario Provincial A Champion and Finalist and
 - the Ontario representatives to the Junior (U21) Men's Canadian Championship.
- ii) Another "U21 Junior Provincial Championship," open to all Junior U21 teams in Ontario, except the teams that qualify for the Junior U21 Canadian Championship, will be held each year when numbers warrant.
- iii) Junior U21 teams competing in the Junior U21 Eliminations going on to represent Ontario in the Junior U21 Canadian Championships are not eligible to play in the Junior B U21 Provincial Championship.

e) **Minor Classifications**

All Minor teams that compete in Elimination Tournaments, to determine the Ontario representative team(s) to out of province competitions, MUST compete in the Provincial Championship Tournament in which they qualify.

OR 7 – Tournament Competition

OR 7.1 Provincial Championships

a) Guidelines (in addition to OR 6.2)

- i) OASA Championships are determined by tournament competition, where numbers allow, provided a written bid to host is received in the Office of the OASA Secretary by November 15 in the year prior to the tournament.
- ii) A Championship Tournament fee, as specified in the current fee schedule, must accompany each bid requesting to host a Championship Tournament. Monies will be refunded to unsuccessful applicants.
- iii) Tournament site selections will be made by the Executive, and locations will be selected on established criteria. Dates for tournaments will be firm and must be adhered to.
- iv) All tournaments are conducted on dates selected by the OASA Executive. The format of all OASA Tournaments is decided yearly by the respective committees (Minor and Men's).
- v) Each affiliating team shall pay a tournament fee through the OASA, as specified in the current fee schedule, which is used to defray host tournament expenses. The fee shall be submitted with the team certificate.
- vi) If Head-to-Head series are used to determine tournament participation, the teams are Zone winners or designated teams and a Host Association team. If the Host Association team is also a Zone winner, a second team to represent the Host Association will not be permitted.
- vii) In any classification where qualifying tournaments are used to determine participation in a Provincial Championship Tournament, non-qualifying teams will have the tournament assessment fee returned.
- viii) Where the Host Association has a representative team in an applicable classification, the team is in the OASA Championship Tournament.
- ix) Where the Host Association is represented in an applicable classification and category by more than one team; said teams shall play-off to determine the Host representative team in the OASA Championship Tournament.
- x) Championship Tournament teams for Intermediate, Junior U21 and Midget U18 classifications are set to a maximum of 16 teams. If the 16 teams are exceeded in any year, the OASA Executive may set Zone play-downs in the area or areas that they designate. (See OR 8)
- xi) The tournament draw is provided by the OASA Executive, scheduled in consultation with the Host Association and sent to the OASA Tournament Convenor.

b) **Tournament Convenor**

i) Appointment and Responsibilities

- 1) Championship Tournament to declare Ontario Champions. The President shall appoint a Tournament Convenor who will be responsible for:
 - appointing of the umpires (in consultation with the Zone Umpire-in-Chief).
 - approving of scheduling of games (see By-Law 7.1 a) xi)).
 - ensuring all players and team officials sign in on team forms provided by the OASA Convenor prior to being allowed to play. Proof of eligibility of players (proof of age) in Masters, Junior U21 and below are required. Signatures obtained may be checked against OASA records.
 - demanding and checking all players' certificates and, in Masters, Junior U21 and below, proof of birthdate evidence for all players.
 - acting as liaison between the OASA and the Tournament Director of the Host Association.
 - reporting to the **Registrar and Social Media Contact** by completing and mailing the Convenor's Report to the Office of the Secretary, immediately following the tournament. The report will include the following information: game results and highlights, MVP, Best Hitter, Best Pitcher (where applicable), presentations made by OASA representatives, and sponsoring representatives.
- 2) Pre-game warm up on the infield will be at the discretion of the OASA Tournament Convenor.
- 3) Prior to each game commencement, the OASA Tournament Convenor (or his delegated representative) shall toss a coin to determine the team first at bat. Winner of the coin toss shall also have the choice of the first/third baseline players' bench.
- 4) The OASA Tournament Convenor shall have the authority to prevent any participating team in the Championship Tournament from participating if the team responsibilities are not complied with throughout the tournament.
- 5) In the event of inclement weather conditions, the OASA Tournament Convenor is responsible to re-schedule the tournament and/or the balance of game(s) to be played. No championship is declared unless/until the applicable tournament is completed, except by a motion carried by the OASA Executive.

c) **Host Responsibilities**

i) General

- 1) The Host Association appoints a Tournament Director who is responsible on behalf of the Host Association for implementing tournament guidelines and working with the Convenor (guidelines available from the Secretary).

- 2) Individual awards may be presented by the Tournament Host at the expense of the Host.
 - 3) The Host may operate concession stands and retain the proceeds of such operations.
- ii) **Financial**
- 1) All tournament costs are the responsibility of the Hosting Association (except those specified in the hosting guidelines).
 - 2) Provincial Tournaments shall receive two dozen official balls (pro-rated for 8 teams) at the cost for delivery as specified in the current fee schedule.
 - 3) The Host pays a fee based on the number and classification of teams, as specified in the current fee schedule, to the OASA.
 - 4) All amounts due to the OASA from the host are deducted from the tournament fee sent to the host.
 - 5) Any amounts raised by the host from the tournament are retained by the host.
 - 6) No team is required to pay additional fees or amounts to the host at the time of the tournament.
- d) **Responsibilities of Each Team**
- i) Notify the Tournament Director of the Host Association immediately upon qualifying for the Ontario Championship Tournament, and provide all necessary information (including intention to play) and include the name, address and phone number of a team contact.
 - ii) Each team is responsible for its own expenses.
 - iii) Request assistance from the host in acquiring accommodation, if required.
 - iv) Each team scheduled to take part in a Provincial Championship or Elimination Tournament (except Senior) shall pay a tournament fee, as specified in the current fee schedule, before being allowed to play its first game in the tournament. The fee is payable to the Host through the OASA, and is used to help defray tournament expenses.
 - v) All teams must be ready to play as scheduled or rescheduled as necessary at the direction of the OASA Tournament Convenor.
 - vi) Team line-up/batting order is presented to the OASA Tournament Convenor (or his representative) fifteen (15) minutes prior to the game starting time. The team certificate and tournament sign-in sheet shall take precedence over the game line-up cards, if so used in any OASA playoffs.
- e) **Tournament Protests**
- i) A Protest Committee comprised of the OASA Tournament Convenor, the UIC or designate and one appointee (not to include a Host representative) shall resolve any protests.
 - ii) In all Ontario Championship Tournaments, all protests except those regarding the eligibility of players must be made at the time of the play in question (and before the next pitch) to the plate Umpire and resolved by the Protest Committee before the resumption of play.

- iii) The protest decision stands. There is no appeal.
- iv) No protest fee is required during tournament play.

NOTE: The Convenor has the authority to rule on player eligibility for the tournament. The ruling may be appealed following the event.

OR 7.2 Elimination Tournaments

a) Guidelines (in addition to OR 6.2)

- i) There may be Provincial Elimination Tournaments in Senior, Intermediate, Junior U21, Midget U18, Bantam U16 and Pee Wee U14 classifications, where numbers warrant, qualifying entries to Canadian and Eastern Canadian Championships. Teams competing in said Elimination events must meet all OASA registration, entry fee and insurance requirements.
- ii) Only those players eligible for participation in the Canadian Fast Pitch Championship will be eligible to participate in an OASA Tournament leading to a Canadian Fast Pitch Championship.

b) Elimination Tournament Protests

Follow OR 7.1 e) Tournament Protests.

c) Elimination Bond Fund

- i) Defending Canadian Champions (if Ontario) and the Host Team of a Canadian Championship when held in Ontario:
 - shall not contribute to the OASA Elimination Bond Fund;
 - shall pay any hosting fee and Umpire Travel Fund fee for the Elimination; and
 - shall pay to the OASA the Softball Canada Championship Tournament fee at the time of affiliation.
- ii) Softball Canada fees for other qualifying teams are paid from the Elimination Bond Fund.
- iii) Exception: **All Junior U21 teams qualifying for a Canadian Championship must submit the Softball Canada Championship registration fee in the form of a cheque payable to the OASA immediately upon qualification.**

d) Team Withdrawals

- i) Any team withdrawing from an Elimination Tournament without OASA approval after the schedule has been drawn and prior to the start of the tournament shall be subject to disciplinary action.
- ii) Any team withdrawing from an Elimination Tournament without OASA approval before completing their tournament schedule is subject to disciplinary action.

e) Elimination Tournament Financial

- i) All tournament costs are the responsibility of the Host Association, except those specified in the hosting guidelines.

- ii) Elimination Tournaments shall receive two dozen official balls (prorated for 8 teams) at the cost for delivery assigned as specified in the current fee schedule.
 - iii) The Host pays a fee based on the number and classification of teams, as specified in the current fee schedule, to the OASA.
 - iv) All amounts due to the OASA from the Host are deducted from the tournament fee sent to the Host.
 - v) Any amounts raised by the Host from the tournament are retained by the Host.
 - vi) No team is required to pay additional fees or amounts to the Host at the time of the tournament.
- f) **Player Selections (Pick-Ups)**
- i) Teams qualifying for a Canadian Championship are allowed to add to their roster a maximum of three (3) players selected from teams that did not qualify, provided they have space on their roster. The winning team will select their first player; followed by the other teams in order of qualifying finish. Once all teams have made their first player selection, the second round begins with the first place team selecting their second player. The third round begins with the first place team selecting their third player. Each player selection should be made within a 24 hour period. Once all teams have made their three (3) selections, the names will be submitted to the Registrar for completion of the Softball Canada rosters.
 - ii) Teams qualifying for an Eastern or Western Canadian Championship are allowed to add to their roster a maximum of two (2) players selected from teams that did not qualify, provided they have space on their roster. After the teams qualifying for the Canadian Championship have made all of their player selections, teams qualifying for the Eastern or Western Canadian Championship will begin their first round of selections, following the same process as in i) above. Once all teams have made their two (2) player selections, the names will be submitted to the Registrar for completion of the championship rosters.
 - iii) A player who is picked up to go to a Canadian Championship is still eligible to play for his/her own team that qualified for the Eastern or Western Canadian Championship. A player who is picked up to go to a Western Canadian Championship is still eligible to play for his/her own team that qualified for the Eastern Canadian Championship. A player who is picked up to go to an Eastern Canadian Championship is still eligible to play for his/her own team that qualified for the Western Canadian Championship. A player is not eligible to be picked up to play in the Eastern and the Western Canadian Championships in the same year, if his team did not qualify for one of these championships.

- iv) A player signed to a roster who is playing up a classification is only eligible to be picked up by the team with which he/she qualified. The player counts as one of the pick-ups for that team. If the player's team does not qualify for the Championship, he/she is eligible to be picked up by another team. A player who is picked up for a higher classification must fulfil the obligations to the team with which he/she originally signed.
- v) A player who turns down a team is no longer eligible to be a pick-up for any other team within the same classification going to a Canadian, Eastern Canadian, or Western Canadian Championship. A team will report to the Tournament Director the name of any player who declines to be picked up and the Tournament Director will notify the other teams of the player's ineligibility.

OR 7.3 Select Tournaments

- a) The OASA may offer open Select Tournaments in Minor classifications, Mite U10 through Midget U18.
- b) A completed players' list must be submitted prior to the start of the tournament.
- c) No player who has signed an OASA/ORSA/PWSA team certificate in the current year is eligible to participate in a Select tournament.
- d) Softball Canada and OASA playing rules shall apply. However, specific tournament or house league rules may be recommended and implemented by the Select Sub-committee. Any rule variations will be published and available to all teams prior to the tournament.

OR 8 – Championship Play-Down (Head to Head Series)

OR 8.1 Championship Play-down Series

Participating teams are OASA affiliated teams or designated teams.

- a) **Guidelines (in addition to OR 6.2)**
 - i) OASA play-downs are a 2 out of 3 series.
 - ii) Each team pays its own traveling expenses.
 - iii) Arrangements for a possible third game are made in accordance with the following procedure: unless management of BOTH teams agree, no third (or deciding) game will be played on a neutral diamond. The site of a third (or deciding) game will be determined by the toss of a coin at the site of the first game prior to game commencement.
 - iv) Replayed games are played at the end of the series, if necessary.
Note: The replayed game becomes the fourth game of a best "2 of 3"

- series.
- v) All teams shall have forty-eight (48) hours notice of any game in order to allow for traveling arrangements.
- b) **Championship Play-down Convenor**
- i) The OASA President appoints a Play-down Convenor for each district/zone who then has complete charge of all playoff games and the arrangement thereof, including Umpire appointments.
 - ii) Commencing time for playoff games must be set not later than two (2) hours before sundown (when daylight games are scheduled). Floodlight games may be scheduled by an OASA Convenor when floodlights are available.
 - iii) In all minor classifications, the OASA Convenor shall, if necessary, schedule Saturday double-headers to be played at the site of the second game, in order to meet OASA schedule requirements.
 - iv) The home team must be off the field at least fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled starting time of the game. The OASA Convenor shall apply this stipulation whenever required.
- c) **Team Defaults**
- i) A team that defaults any game of OASA scheduled championship competition shall, automatically, default the entire series.
 - ii) Any team that defaults a game after arrangements have been finalized is subject to disciplinary action. The team defaulted against is entitled to compensation for any expenses incurred.
- d) **Championship Play-down Financial**
- i) In the event that a third game is necessary and the game is played on the home grounds of either team, the gate receipts are divided as follows:
 - 1) OASA share deducted first, then the Umpire costs, the cost of balls, and any incidental expenses; after which the balance will be divided 60% to the visiting team and 40% to the home team.
 - 2) in cases where a team, more than 200 miles from the opposing team site, guarantees the entire expenses of the visiting team, the OASA Convenors may schedule the entire series at the home field of the team which guarantees the applicable expense.
 - ii) If a third game is played on a neutral field, the gate receipts are divided as follows:
 - 1) each team will assume its own expenses.
 - 2) the gate receipts will be divided, equally, between the two teams after incurred expenses have been deducted.
 - iii) Where three games are played in one locality, the visiting team shall receive 60% of the total "net" receipts for the entire series.
 - iv) Replayed games are governed by the same financial arrangements as third games when played on the home grounds of one of the competing teams.

e) **Championship Play-down Protests**

- i) **Protest Fees:** The implementation of a protest requires a deposit, refundable in part only, as specified in the current fee schedule. The defense against a protest shall require a fee, refundable in part only, as specified in the current fee schedule.
- ii) Protests by local leagues/associations will only be considered by the OASA if they are forwarded to the OASA Secretary via the local league/association Registrar accompanied by a money order or certified cheque payable to the OASA.
- iii) Protests must be made by registered mail to the OASA Secretary within 48 hours; in the form of an affidavit sworn before a Notary Public or Justice of the Peace; and each must be accompanied by a \$50.00 fee. A protest involving any game ruling by an Umpire must be made to the Plate Umpire at the time.
- iv) Complaints and evidence involving player, coach, manager or umpire eligibility shall promptly (within 48 hours) be referred to the OASA Secretary who shall refer it to the Special Protest Committee who shall investigate and resolve.
- v) A copy of the protest must be forwarded by the protesting team at the same time by registered mail to the team protested against; who must then file with the OASA Secretary a similar sworn defense (within 48 hours) after receiving said copy; accompanied by a \$50.00 fee. At the same time a copy of such defense must also be forwarded to the protesting team. The protest is decided by a Special Protest Committee.
- vi) The losing team forfeits the expense of the meeting of the Special Protest Committee. The protest fee is refunded to the winning team at the discretion of the Executive.
- vii) Non-playing rule protests that arise prior to or during the game are resolved by the Series Convenor. Such decisions may be appealed within the same time frame as outlined above.

OR 9 – Umpires

Policy Statement

Ontario Amateur Softball Association policy requires that Softball Ontario Umpires are used at all Elimination and Provincial Championship Tournaments or Series. The terms and conditions for Umpire services are contained in the Agreement between Softball Ontario and the OASA that is negotiated each year. Please refer to the OASA Web site to view the current agreement.

OR 9.1 General

- a) All Umpires in Championship games must hold a registration card from Softball Ontario for the current season.

- b) No official of a team shall umpire in any game in which his/her team is competing.
- c) All expenses related to Umpires' fees are determined by the Agreement or as mutually agreed upon by Softball Ontario and OASA.

OR 10 – Member Discipline

OR 10.1 General

Any member of the OASA violating the Constitution, By-Laws or Operating Rules; or refusing to abide by the decision of the Executive and its authorized representatives is subject to disciplinary action. The disciplinary powers of the Executive are limited to matters pertaining to the current or preceding year.

OR 10.2 Criteria for Disciplinary Action

- a) Leagues, teams, players and/or officials for knowingly:
 - i) Permitting betting or improper conduct by players, team personnel, league personnel or OASA at league or Association games. (see NOTE following)
 - ii) Offering, agreeing, conspiring or attempting to lose any league or championship game; or being interested in any pool or wager thereon. (see NOTE following)
 - iii) Playing with a league or team that has been denied membership or is Not In Good Standing.
 - iv) Having on a team list of signed players any disqualified player(s) or players Not In Good Standing.
- b) Any player identified as having demanded money for his services. (see NOTE following)
- c) Any teams or players who knowingly play against players who are Not In Good Standing and who willfully conceal this knowledge from The Association.
- d) A player who knowingly signs another certificate before obtaining a proper release from the first certificate signed.
- e) Any player, coach or manager who has been reported abusing an official (Umpire, Executive or Convenor) physically or verbally before, during or after any softball game.
- f) Any team, association, player or team official not complying with a Type Two disciplinary action. (see following)

OR 10.3 Types of Disciplinary Actions

Type One: suspension, revocation of membership, denial of membership and loss of selected privileges of membership result in being "Not In Good Standing."

Type Two: reprimand, fine.

NOTE: If the individual's actions in OR 10.2 a) and b) are verified, the details are reported to Softball Ontario and Softball Canada. The individual in question remains Not In Good Standing pending the results of any appeals.

OR 11 – Affiliation and Agreements

OR 11.1 Inter-Organization Affiliation

Softball Ontario, Softball Canada and International Softball Federation
The Ontario Amateur Softball Association annually assumes membership in Softball Ontario as well as Softball Canada (which is affiliated with the International Softball Federation).

OR 11.2 Intra-Organization Agreements

- a) **NSA Agreement**
On file with the OASA Secretary.

- b) **ORSA**
 - i) ORSA teams may compete in OASA Tournaments leading to a Canadian Championship provided they register for the tournament through the ORSA Secretary to the OASA Registrar.
 - ii) No player may sign an OASA Team Certificate and an ORSA certificate in the same year, without first securing a written release from the first certificate signed. **A player signing more than one softball certificate in the same year shall be ruled ineligible for play in any OASA event.**
 - iii) ORSA players are allowed to play in OASA Masters Classification events as long as they have approval from the ORSA, a copy of their ORSA certificate and meet all OASA eligibility requirements.
 - iv) An ORSA team that plays in an OASA Elimination Tournament is allowed to play in an OASA Provincial Tournament with: prior approval from the ORSA; a copy of the ORSA certificate; payment of the OASA Tournament fee; and completion of any other OASA requirements.

- c) **Softball Ontario Agreement**
On file with the OASA Secretary.

d) PWSA Agreement

No player may sign both an OASA and PWSA certificate in the same year. No player on a PWSA certificate is allowed to play in OASA competitions. **A player signing more than one softball certificate in the same year shall be ruled ineligible for play in any OASA event.**

OR 12 – Position Descriptions

OR 12.1 – Liaisons

All appointments are by the President annually following the AGM.

a) Ontario Rural Softball Association Liaison

Duties:

- Work with the ORSA if there are problems between the two associations.
- Attend ORSA meetings if requested.
- Attend ORSA awards banquet.
- Attend the ORSA AGM if not in conflict with the OASA AGM.
- Contact the ORSA Secretary Treasurer to gather information on annual affairs of their association.
- Submit a report to the OASA for the OASA AGM by October 1.

Reports to: The President, if any problems exist between the two associations, otherwise only a report to the AGM.

Expenses Allowed: Mileage to all meetings, banquets and award ceremonies.

b) Western Ontario Athletic Association Liaison

Duties:

- Work with the WOAA if there are problems between the two associations.
- Attend WOAA meetings if requested.
- Attend WOAA awards banquet.
- Attend the WOAA AGM if not in conflict with the OASA AGM.
- Contact the WOAA Secretary Treasurer to gather information on annual affairs of their association.
- Submit a report to the OASA for the OASA AGM by October 1.

Reports to: The President, if any problems exist between the two associations, otherwise only a report to the AGM.

Expenses Allowed: Mileage to all meetings, banquets and award ceremonies.

c) Provincial Women's Softball Association Liaison

Duties:

- Work with the PWSA if there are problems between the two

associations.

- Attend PWSA meetings if requested.
- Attend the PWSA AGM if requested.
- Contact the PWSA Secretary Treasurer to gather information on annual affairs of their association.
- Submit a report to the OASA for the OASA AGM by October 1.

Reports to: The President, if any problems exist between the two associations, otherwise only a report to the AGM.

Expenses Allowed: Mileage to all meetings, banquets and award ceremonies.

d) **Insurance Coordinator**

Duties/Responsibilities:

- Administer the OASA Insurance Program and offer Liability, Accident and Liquor Liability Insurance to affiliated and non-affiliated teams/leagues and associations in Ontario.
- Contact Insurance Carrier to establish insurance costs for each year.
- Report to OASA Executive and establish insurance selling rates for each year.
- Communicate and distribute insurance information (mail, phone and e-mail) to affiliated and non-affiliated teams throughout Ontario.
- Receive applications for insurance and process insurance certificates.
- Deposit money received for insurance in the OASA bank account.
- Send financial reports to OASA Treasurer.
- Submit mid-year and year-end reports to OASA Executive.
- Submit year-end summary report to Softball Ontario.

Responsible to: The Executive.

Reports to: The Executive.

Expenses Allowed: Postage, communication, material preparation, travel as required, other as approved by the President.

AGE CATEGORIES AND DISTANCE TABLE

CATEGORY	AGE*	BALL	PITCHING	BASELINES
Masters		12"	46'	60'
Men's	Open	12"	46'	60'
Junior	U21	12"	46'	60'
Midget	U18	12"	46'	60'
Bantam	U16	12"	42'	60'
Pee Wee	U14	12"	40'	60'
Squirt	U12	11"	35'	55'
Mite	U10	11"	30'	45'
Junior Mite	U8	11"	25'	45'

*Age prior to January 1 of the season of play. For Masters age, see OR 4.1 b).

VARIATIONS FROM SOFTBALL CANADA PLAYING RULES

As were adopted at the AGM held in the Hamilton Y.M.C.A. on March 30, 1923; and as amended at subsequent Annual General Meetings. With effect April 7, 1979, for "Official Playing Rules" that shall govern OASA softball competition, refer to the current Softball Canada Rule Book. EXCEPT: Variations from the Softball Canada rules itemized on the following pages shall provide for instances not covered in the Softball Canada Rule Book; and/or shall complement/over-ride Softball Canada Playing Rules.

Softball Canada playing rules govern all OASA competitions with the exceptions noted in these Variations.

General

Equipment Removed from a Game or Tournament

Any equipment that has been removed from the game by the umpires will be handed over to the Tournament Convenor until the team has finished the tournament. It is the team's responsibility to collect their equipment from the tournament Convenor.

Suspension of Play

The umpire shall note the time of suspension of play on account of rain or other causes; and at the end of 30 minutes he shall have authority to terminate the game if resumption of play is not feasible (subject to OASA rules governing suspended tournament games).

Police Protection

Every club shall furnish sufficient police force to preserve order upon its own grounds, and in the event of a crowd entering the field during the progress of a game, and interfering with the play in any manner, the visiting club may refuse to play until the field is cleared. If the field is not cleared within 15 minutes thereafter, the visiting club may claim and is entitled to the game by a score of 7 runs to 0 (no matter what number of innings has been played.)

Bats

In all sanctioned OASA Tournaments, bats must be checked and an OASA approved sticker be placed on the bat to be used in tournament play. Result: A player found using an illegal bat will be ejected for the rest of the OASA event (*Softball Canada effect*). Bats that become illegal throughout the course of the tournament will result in the removal of the sticker.

**Fast Pitch Chart of Variations
from Softball Canada's Playing Rules**

Softball Canada Rule	OASA Rule Variation
<p><i>Coach Certification</i></p> <p>Rule 1-17</p>	<p>Exception: Must be signed and NCCP certified as stated in Operating Rule 5.1 and 5.2 of the OASA Constitution, By-Laws and Operating Rules.</p>
<p><i>Coach Uniform</i></p> <p>Rule 4-1 b. SOR 2.7 a) ii)</p>	<p>For U18 men's and above, coaches appearing on the field are not allowed to wear shorts as part of the uniform. Coaches must be in full uniform to reflect uniform of the players on the field. Failure to comply is not grounds for protest.</p>
<p><i>Defensive Charged Conference</i></p> <p>Rule 5-9 b.</p>	<p>Exception: In Squirt U12 to Junior Mite U8 classifications, a team is permitted two defensive conferences per inning. With the third conference, the pitcher must be removed from the pitcher position for the balance of the inning.</p>
<p><i>Designated Player</i></p> <p>Rule 4-5 j. In Pee Wee U14 and Under categories, the designated player is not permitted.</p>	<p>Exception: The Designated Player (DP) rule is permitted in Pee Wee U14 (not in Squirt U12, Mite U10 or Jr Mite U8).</p>
<p><i>Double Base</i></p> <p>Rule 2-4 i. NOTE</p>	<p>Used in all OASA sanctioned games.</p>

Softball Canada Rule	OASA Rule Variation
<p><i>Dropped Third Strike</i></p> <p>Rule 7-6 l. Rule 8-2 a. The batter becomes a batter base runner when the catcher fails to catch the third strike before the ball touches the ground when there are less than two outs and first base is unoccupied or anytime there are two outs.</p> <p>Rule 8-1 b. Exception: Squirt U12 and under batter is out.</p>	<p>Exception: The rule does not apply in Mite U10 or Junior Mite U8 classification.</p>
<p><i>Helmets</i></p> <p>Rule 3-6 f. Helmets are mandatory for batters, base runners, catchers and on-deck batters....</p>	<p>Exception: It shall be mandatory for all players in all classifications to wear a CSA approved batting helmet, while on deck, in the act of batting, and while running the bases. Each participating team to carry a minimum of five (5) helmets. In Bantam U16, Pee Wee U14, Squirt U12, Mite U10 and Junior Mite U8 classifications only, the chin strap must be securely fastened under the chin. CSA approved face guards on batting helmets are mandatory for all Bantam U16 to Junior Mite U8 players.</p>
<p><i>Infield Fly Rule</i></p> <p>Rule 1-52</p>	<p>Exception: In Mite U10 and Junior Mite U8, the infield fly rule is not in effect.</p>

Softball Canada Rule	OASA Rule Variation
<p>Junior Mite U8</p> <p>Rule 6 Pitching</p>	<p>In Junior Mite U8, a coach on the batting team will pitch from the pitcher's mound to the batters on his/her own team. The Junior Mite pitcher will be at least beside or behind the pitcher's plate.</p> <p>Each batter will receive a maximum of five pitches.</p> <p>If the Coach pitcher is hit by a batted ball the play is dead and the batter is out. Runners do not advance.</p> <p>The play is dead when the ball has been thrown to the circle at the pitching mound, whether the ball is caught or passes through the circle. If a baserunner is halfway between bases, or farther, when the ball passes through the pitching circle, the runner may advance to the next base. If the baserunner is not halfway, then the runner must return to the previous base touched.</p>
<p>Junior Mite U8</p> <p>Bunting</p>	<p>In Junior Mite U8, no bunting is allowed. All players will remain behind the safety line (which crosses through the middle of the pitcher's circle) until the ball is hit or crosses the plate.</p>
<p>Junior Mite U8</p> <p>Stealing</p>	<p>In Junior Mite U8, there is no base stealing of any base.</p>

Softball Canada Rule	OASA Rule Variation
<p><i>Leaving Base on Pitched Ball</i></p> <p>Rule 8-9 s.</p>	<p>Exception: In Mite U10 and Junior Mite U8 classifications, the ball must cross the plate before the runner may leave the base.</p>
<p><i>Masters – Ages</i></p> <p>Age Categories and Distance Table</p> <p>Masters all players age 40 or over</p>	<p>Exception: The age for eligible Masters players is that they must be at least 40 years of age or turning 40 in the year of the event.</p> <p>The age for eligible Masters Legends players is that they must be at least 50 years of age or turning 50 in the year of the event.</p>
<p><i>Masters – Designated Runner</i></p> <p>Rule 4-3 c.</p>	<p>Exception: In Masters classification, the team may have a Designated Runner (DR). The Designated Runner will be identified on the line-up card and may enter the game to bat or play defense (thus eliminating the Designated Runner position from the game). The runner may run for anyone but may only be used for one (1) player in each inning.</p>
<p><i>Masters – Rosters</i></p> <p>SOR 1.3 c) i) 17 players</p>	<p>Exception: In Masters classification, a roster of 20 players may be signed.</p>

Softball Canada Rule	OASA Rule Variation
<p><i>Mercy Rule</i></p> <p>Rule 5-6 a. In all categories, a game will end after 2 1/2, 3, 3 1/2, or 4 complete innings when any team is ahead by 15 runs; 4 1/2, 5, 5 1/2, 6 ahead by 7 runs.</p>	<p>Exception: There will be a Mercy Rule from Squirt U12 to Men's in all Zone and Provincial Championship tournaments as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Men's to Bantam U16, if a team is ahead by 7 or more runs at the end of five (5) or six (6) innings it will be called a complete game. b) Pee Wee U14 to Squirt U12, if a team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs at the end of five (5) or six (6) innings, it will be called a complete game. c) Mite U10, if a team is ahead by twenty (20) or more runs after three (3) innings or ten (10) runs after five (5) or six (6) complete innings, the game shall be awarded to the leading team. d) In all classifications except Mite U10 and Junior Mite U8, games will end after 2 ½ or more complete innings of play if there is a difference of 15 runs. This rule will apply to all games including the final game(s). e) In Junior Mite U8, the Mercy Rule shall be a maximum of 6 runs or 3 outs per inning.

Softball Canada Rule	OASA Rule Variation
<p><i>Offensive Charged Conference</i></p> <p>Rule 1-16 The offensive team requests a suspension of play to allow the manager, or other team representative to confer with any member of his team.</p> <p>Rule 5-9 a. There shall be only one (1) charged conference ... in an inning.</p>	<p>Exception: In Squirt U12 and under classifications the offensive rule is waived.</p>
<p><i>Official Softball</i></p> <p>Rule 3-3 h.</p>	<p>Exception: In Junior Mite U8 classification, the 11" soft indoor ball will be used.</p>
<p><i>Pitching Rule</i></p> <p>Rule 6 Men</p>	<p>Exception: Men's – Intermediate, Senior, Masters (not U21 Junior)</p> <p>Section 1. Prior to Delivery</p> <p>a) Before starting the delivery (pitch), the pitcher must have both feet on the ground within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate. The shoulders shall be in a line with first and third bases. He shall take a position with the majority of his pivot foot on top of the pitcher's plate and his non-pivot foot on or behind the pitcher's plate.</p> <p>b) The pitcher shall hold the ball in both hands for not less than one second and not more than 10 seconds before releasing it. If the pitcher decides to pitch with the non-pivot</p>

Softball Canada Rule	OASA Rule Variation
	<p>foot to the rear and off the pitching plate, a backward step may be taken before, simultaneous with, or after the hands are brought together. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitching plate and remain motionless at all times prior to the forward step of the non-pivot foot.</p> <p>Section 3. Legal Delivery In the act of delivering the ball, the pitcher must take one step simultaneous with the release of the ball. The step must be forward and toward the batter within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate. It is not a step if the pitcher slides his pivot foot on the pitcher's plate toward the batter or if the pivot foot turns or slides in order to push off the pitcher's plate provided contact is maintained with the plate. Raising the pivot foot off the pitching plate and returning it to the plate creates a rocking motion and is an illegal act.</p>
<p><i>Playing Field Pitching Distance</i></p> <p>Age Categories and Distance Table</p>	<p>In Junior Mite U8 classification, the pitching distance is 25 feet. (The baselines are 45 feet, the same as Mite U10.)</p>

Softball Canada Rule	OASA Rule Variation
<p><i>Playing Time</i></p> <p>Rule 4-7 Substitutes</p>	<p>In Junior Mite U8 classification, no player is to sit more than one (1) consecutive inning. All players will sit out one (1) inning before a player sits out a second inning.</p> <p>In Mite U10 classification, the recommended player participation is that no player should sit out for more than one (1) consecutive inning. All players should sit out one (1) inning before a player sits out a second inning. Coaches are encouraged to play all players as equally as possible over the course of the season.</p> <p>In Squirt U12 classification, coaches are encouraged to play all players as equally as possible over the course of the season.</p>
<p><i>Replacement Runner</i></p> <p>Rule 4-11 Two Out Catcher Rule</p>	<p>Exception – In Mite U10 and Junior Mite U8 classification, a replacement runner may be used at any time for the catcher, regardless of the number of outs.</p>
<p><i>Stealing Home</i></p>	<p>In Junior Mite U8, the runner on third base cannot steal home.</p>

Softball Canada Rule	OASA Rule Variation
<p><i>Substitutes</i></p> <p>Rule 4-7 Substitutes</p>	<p>Exception: In Mite U10 and Junior Mite U8 classifications, all players will be listed on the initial batting order. All players will bat. The batting order will be followed for the complete game. In case of ejection or injury, the player's spot in the line-up is omitted. If a runner is injured, a substitute runner may be used, until he is put out or reaches home; then the player's spot is omitted on the line-up.</p> <p>Exception: In Squirt U12, there will be unlimited defensive substitution of players who are on the lineup card while maintaining a nine player batting order.</p> <p>Exception: In Squirt U12 to Junior Mite U8, a player arriving late may be added to the line-up card. For Mite U10 and Junior Mite U8, the player is added to the bottom of the batting order.</p>
<p><i>Time Limit</i></p> <p>Rule 5-3 No limit.</p>	<p>Exception – Junior Mite U8 and Mite U10 – No new inning shall start after one hour and thirty minutes from the official beginning of the game except in medal games. In the event the game is tied, complete innings will be played until the tie is broken.</p>

Softball Canada Rule	OASA Rule Variation
<p><i>Time Limit</i></p> <p>Rule 5-3 No limit.</p>	<p>Exception – Squirt U12 – No new inning shall start after one hour and forty-five minutes from the official beginning of the game except in medal games. In the event the game is tied, complete innings will be played until the tie is broken.</p>
<p><i>Tournament Game Suspended</i></p> <p>SOR 3.1 c)</p>	<p>When an OASA tournament game is suspended it shall be resumed at the exact point where the game was suspended, if completed on the scheduled tournament weekend. If scheduled at another date, the game shall be replayed in its entirety from the beginning. This rescheduled game does not result in a new flip. New line-up cards will be submitted.</p>
<p><i>Warming Up the Pitcher</i></p> <p>Rule 3-6</p>	<p>Exception: In Junior Mite (U8) to Midget (U18), Effect #1 removal of the player from the game will not be used. Effect for Junior Mite (U8) to Midget (U18): If any person catching for the pitcher will not wear the mask after a warning, it shall mean removal of the coach or manager of the offending team.</p>

**Orthodox Fast Pitch Chart of Variations
from Softball Canada's Playing Rules**

Softball Canada Rule	OASA Orthodox Rule Variation
<p><i>Base Stealing</i></p> <p>Rule 8-5 a. Rule 8-9 s. When the ball leaves the pitcher's hand on delivery.</p>	<p>Exception: When the ball crosses the plate.</p>
<p><i>Bunting</i></p> <p>Rule 1-1 Rule 7-6 batter is out</p>	<p>Exception: If a batter shows bunt, he cannot pull back and swing at the pitch. Penalty: batter is ejected and the next batter in the order now bats.</p>
<p><i>Commitment Line</i></p> <p>Rule 2-4 Playing Field</p>	<p>Exception: The commitment line is drawn half the distance between 3rd base and home plate. The line is 2 feet in length on the foul side of the foul line perpendicular to the base path. A runner from third passing the commitment line must continue to home plate and not return to third base. The runner is out if he returns to third base, the ball is dead, and all runners return to the base last touched.</p>
<p><i>Mercy Rule</i></p> <p>Rule 5-6 a. In all categories, a game will end after 2 1/2, 3, 3 1/2, or 4 complete innings when any team is ahead by 15 runs; 4 1/2, 5, 5 1/2, 6 ahead by 7 runs.</p>	<p>Exception: 15 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 5 innings.</p>

Softball Canada Rule	OASA Orthodox Rule Variation
<p><i>Playing Field Base Path</i></p> <p>Rule 2-4 Playing Field</p>	<p>Exception: Distance between bases is 65 feet.</p>
<p><i>Playing Field Pitching Distance</i></p> <p>Rule 2-3 Official Diamond</p>	<p>Exception: Pitching distance is 46 feet.</p>
<p><i>Safe Line</i></p> <p>Rule 2-4 Playing Field</p>	<p>Exception: The safe line is a line from the back stop fence to parallel to home plate. It stops within 3 feet of home plate. A base runner from third base may not touch home plate but must cross over the safe line. The runner is out if the catcher catches the ball while he is touching home plate before the runner crosses the safe line. A runner touching home plate is out.</p>
<p><i>Substitution</i></p> <p>Rule 4-7</p>	<p>Exception: Unlimited substitution. Every player in the line-up bats.</p>
<p><i>Time Limit</i></p> <p>No Limit</p>	<p>Exception: In tournament play, 1 hour and 50 minute time limit.</p>
<p><i>Uniforms</i></p> <p>Rule 3-8</p>	<p>Exception: Rule 3-8 section d is not mandatory.</p>