

MINOR DIVISION TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES

Teams must provide the tournament convenor with a contact number where they can be reached throughout the tournament to be advised of schedule changes that may be required due to weather or other circumstances beyond the control of the convenor.

Pre-game warm up on the infield will be at the discretion of the OASA tournament convenor.

Home team will be determined prior to the start of the game by a coin toss. The team that has travelled the farthest distance will call the toss. The winner of the toss will have the choice of first or third baseline players' bench, unless teams are playing back-to-back, in which case a team already at the first or third baseline bench will not be required to move. In the championship game, the undefeated team will have choice of home team.

Line up cards are required for all games and will be provided to a team rep by the convenor ½ hour prior to game time and must be submitted to the convenor at least 20 minutes prior to the game start time. Teams must be at the diamond and prepared to play up to ½ hour prior to the scheduled game time.

Equipment removed from the game by any umpire will be handed over to the tournament convenor for the duration of the tournament. It is the team's responsibility to collect any equipment upon their elimination from the tournament or at the conclusion of the tournament. The OASA is not responsible for equipment not picked up by the owning team.

The double base will be used at first for all OASA tournaments.

All protests during a game must be made at the time of the play in question (before the next pitch) to the Plate Umpire and will be resolved by the tournament protest committee prior to the resumption of play. A protest requires a \$100 deposit, refundable if successful. The defense against a protest decision also requires a \$100 deposit, refundable if successful.

There are no appeals to the decision of the protest committee.

Softball Canada/OASA rules will be in effect.

Softball Canada pitching rules are in effect for all ages (except U9).

The tiebreaker rule will begin in the top of the 8th inning and applies to all games except the championship game. In all innings where the tiebreaker is used, a team shall be limited to a maximum of 7 runs during their turn at bat. (Note: This rule may not apply in divisions where round robin format is used.)

Bats will be checked by the umpires and OASA convenors prior to the team's first game. For U15 and up, OASA will use a compression tester on ALL bats. Failure to pass the compression test will deem the bat to be illegal. An OASA approved sticker will be placed on all LEGAL bats. Bats that are not stickered or that fail the compression test will be deemed illegal and not permitted for use at any OASA event. At U15 and up tournaments, the WBSC bat list will be used for compression requirements. A player found to be using an illegal bat will be ejected from the game and suspended from play for the remainder of the tournament. Bats that become illegal throughout the course of the tournament will result in the removal of the sticker.

When any game is suspended during the tournament, the game shall be resumed at the exact point where the game was suspended, if the game is played on the scheduled tournament weekend. If the game is rescheduled for another date, the game shall be replayed in its entirety from the beginning. This rescheduled game does not require a new coin flip. Completion of new line up cards will be required.

The OASA convenor has the authority to rule on player eligibility for the tournament. Disagreement with any ruling related to player eligibility may be appealed to the OASA prior to the event.

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.

Any team withdrawing from an Elimination tournament without OASA approval before completion of the schedule is subject to disciplinary action.

Gorilla Gold pitching substance is allowed to be used by pitchers.

A catcher's mask must be worn by anyone warming up pitchers anywhere on or near the playing field. If any person catching for the pitcher will not wear the mask after a warning is issued to the Pitcher, it shall mean removal of the Pitcher of the offending team.

Coaches appearing on the field must be dressed in coordinating apparel in accordance with the colour code of the team. Failure to comply will result in the coach not being allowed on the field.

Coaches must be registered and NCCP certified as stated in Operating Rule 5.1 and 5.2 of the OASA By-Laws and Operating Rules.

There will be an "if necessary" game scheduled at the elimination tournament; no "if necessary" game at provincial tournaments.

Note: The following rule changes were approved by Softball Canada beginning 2024:

- A player may choose to wear either one or two compression sleeves provided that each is of the same one solid colour that is a team uniform colour and the colour matches all other undershirts worn by any player on that team.
- A temporary runner may be used for the catcher or the pitcher. Just as with a catcher, if the pitcher of record reaches base with two out (or is on base when the second out recorded), the offensive team has the option to have a temporary runner run for the pitcher. Teams may elect to use a temporary runner for either the pitcher or catcher or both during an inning.
- Incorrect runner in a tie-breaker situation can be appealed. If an incorrect runner is placed on second base, they shall be called out if a proper appeal is made by the defensive team after a pitch (legal or illegal) or play and is upheld. A proper appeal may be made at any time the incorrect runner is on base. If the offensive team places the correct runner on base before a proper appeal is made, there is no penalty.
- Incorrect temporary runner can be appealed. If an incorrect runner is placed on second base, they shall be called out if a proper appeal is made by the defensive team after a pitch (legal or illegal) or play and is upheld. A proper appeal may be made at any time the incorrect runner is on base. If the offensive team places the correct runner on base before a proper appeal is made, there is no penalty.
- Offensive and defensive team members are subject to penalties if they intentionally erase batter's area/box lines. A strike will be assessed against the batter if it is the offensive team and a ball will be assessed against the batter if it is the defensive team.