

O.S.S.T.A.
Ontario Select Softball Tournament Association



2024 Rules of Play U9 Division

1. The **Softball Canada rules** and the **Host Association Rules** of Play govern this tournament.
2. No protests are allowed: the **umpires' decision is final**.
3. No rulebooks or rule papers allowed on the field during the game.
4. **OSSTA does not allow the streaming, video recording etc. of any part of game. If a team is found be streaming or video recording etc. any part of the game, it will result in the disqualification of said team.**
5. **Players**
 - Players who are carded or play for a representative team are not eligible to play.
 - All players must be registered and Photo ID or Birth Certificates or Health Cards must be available upon request.
 - The penalty for ineligible players is expulsion of the player/ team from the tournament.
 - Unlimited defensive substitution of all the players is permitted.
 - Player may enter and exit the game defensively at any time and in any position.
 - No metal spikes permitted. Steel and Plastic toecaps must be removed for base running
 - All registered players will bat in rotation every game
 - A team is allowed to start with 10 players, having Four players playing the outfield. All outfielders must have both feet on the grass prior to the ball being hit. Infractions will be ruled as a "No Pitch".
 - If a player arrives late, they may be added to the bottom of the line up provided you have not gone through the complete batting order.
 - In the event of an injury or illness resulting in a player being removed from the game, there shall be no "out" when the player is due to bat, they are skipped over. If the player later recovers to the point they can play, they can re-enter the game and bat in their original spot in the order.
 - In the event a player is ejected from a game, an "out" shall be recorded each and every time the player's spot in the batting rotation comes up.
 - **A Courtesy runner will only be granted to the base runner as a result of an injury at the time of the play. The Courtesy runner will be the player that is deemed to be furthest away in the lineup.**
 - A coach may use a Courtesy runner for the catcher to allow the catcher to suit up for the next inning upon 2 outs being recorded.

- Players will play in the defensive spots that are assigned to them by the coach. Coaches are encouraged to play all players as equally as possible over the course of the season.

6. Ejections:

Any coach and or player ejected from a game as a result of their conduct must leave the ball park within five minutes. Failure to leave within 5 minutes will result in the disqualification of the entire team.

The ejected coach or player will automatically be required to sit out of their next scheduled game.

If a coach or player is ejected from a game they may seek the Tournament Conveners approval in order to coach or play in the next scheduled game. The convener has the right to apply a one game suspension or a tournament suspension depending on the reason why the coach or player were ejected in the first place.

Fans may or may not be allowed to be ejected by an umpire (depending on the Assoc's policy) If fans are not allowed to be ejected they are the responsibility of the Head Coach of the offending team. Harassment and / or misconduct by fans will result in a warning followed by the ejection of the Head Coach, if the warning is not heeded. If a coach is ejected they may seek the Tournament Conveners approval in order to coach the next. scheduled game

7. Game

Division	Pitching	Bases	Ball Size	
U9 Division	30'	45'	11"	

- The plate umpire will keep the official time and will call out the official start time with the first pitch.
- **Round Robin Game duration: No new inning after 60 Minutes or 5 innings, whichever comes first**
- A game suspended by the umpire because of rain or darkness will be considered a regulation game if 3 innings (or 2 ½ if the Home Team is ahead) have been completed in round robin play. For championship or consolation games a regulation game will be 4 complete innings (or 3 ½ if the Home Team is ahead).
- **All championship games will be No new inning after 60 Minutes or 5 innings, whichever comes first .**
- Home teams are to be decided by a flip of a coin with the umpire presiding. The team that is the farthest away will make the call.
- The official score will be that of the home team and the score sheet turned into the tournament convener at the end of each game.
- Each team is responsible for supplying a score keeper for each game.
- Blood Rule: All cuts must be covered and a change of clothes made if necessary.
- **The mercy rule is in effect for all games (10 runs after 4 complete innings).**

- **A mercy rule will apply to U9 Division games where a team can only score a maximum of 5 runs per half inning.**
- **The Tiebreaker rule is in effect if the Championship game is tied at the end of 5 innings or is tied after the time limit has expired.**
- One defensive coach is permitted in the outfield (behind the players) during the game
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8. Pitching Rules:

- A coach or designated individual will be used to pitch the ball to their team.
- The coach or designated individual **MUST** pitch from the correct pitching distance.
- Batters will be granted 5 pitches to hit a fair ball or will be declared out.
- There will be no walks issued.
- Players playing the defensive pitching position are required to wear a pitching mask.
- The defensive player in the pitching position must stand on either side of the offensive pitcher coach or designated individual until the pitch is released (cannot stand in front of the coach or designated individual).
- If the coach or designated individual is hit with a batted ball it will immediately be called dead and will be counted as a pitch against the batter.

9. Stealing

- **U9 Division** - Stealing is not allowed..

10. Lead Off Rule

- Lead offs are not allowed.
- Runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit.

11. Infield Fly Rule

- Not applicable for U9 division.

12. Fair play rule:

- **During the course of each game no player will sit a second inning until every player has sat at least one inning (and no player shall sit a third inning until all players have sat a second inning, etc.).**

13. Equipment / Batting Helmets / Ball / Home Plate

- All batters will wear a batting helmet with straps done up while at bat and on base.
- All teams must adhere to their Insurance Carriers policy regarding Batting Helmets with Cages.
- All bats must meet Softball Canada requirements.
- OSSTA Tournaments will use the 11" Ball - Softball Canada Standard (Core .47) for the U9 division.

14. Base Runner Advancement

- After a fairly hit ball, the advancing of runners is not considered over until the ball is returned to in the infield and is in the possession of a defensive player within the base path.
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15. Overthrows - Out of Play

- All runners, including the batter-runner, will be awarded the base that they are going to at the time of the throw. NO additional bases will be awarded.

16. Scores / Standings

- Scores / Standings will be kept for each game for all divisions.
- 2 points per win. 1point for a tie
- Plus / Minus run differential to a maximum of 7 runs.
- If the Home team is leading or goes ahead in the bottom of the 5th the inning or the last inning the game is over.
- Tournament standings will be determined by points. Ties will be broken based on head to head (in a full round robin), then run differential and then. Runs against divided by innings played, and then Runs for divided by innings played and then if necessary, Flip a Coin.

17. Awards

- All team members will receive an award. A maximum of 15 awards will be provided per team.

18. Cheering

- Positive cheering only. The conduct of the team, its spectators and the coaches are the responsibility of the team coaches. In the event of harassment or derogatory remarks originating from the players, coaches or fans, the umpires will issue warnings. If these warnings are not heeded, it will lead to the ejection of the individual(s) involved, and the umpire may call the game awarding the non-offending team with a default win.