



Oshawa N.A.S.C.

Softball Rules

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It is strongly recommended that all coaches have and read a copy of the Softball Canada Rulebook, as these are the official rules except where Oshawa N.A.S.C. Softball League Rules Apply.

For the Youth of Oshawa

REGISTRATION, ELIGIBILITY AND POOLING

1. To be eligible to play in the Oshawa N.A.S.C. Softball League each player must complete an N.A.S.C. Registration/Waiver Form.
 - a) All players must register for the Neighbourhood Association (as defined by the O.C.C.N.A. Neighbourhood Association Boundaries) in which they reside in.
 - b) All players (except pool players) must play for the Neighbourhood Association area in which they reside.
 - c) Any person who contravenes these rules faces suspension as determined by the Softball Committee.
 - d) **ANY PERSON WHO FALSIFIES AN N.A.S.C. REGISTRATION FORM WILL MAKE THAT REGISTRATION INELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE N.A.S.C. SOFTBALL PROGRAM (LEAGUE), AS OF THE REGISTRATION DATE.**
 - e) To participate in N.A.S.C. Softball program, all players, coaches, and the neighbourhood park ball chair must read, understand and comply with the N.A.S.C. Softball League rules and N.A.S.C. Softball Policies and Procedures. Failure to follow the Policies and procedures set forth by N.A.S.C. Softball could result in disciplinary action.
 - f) Under no circumstances will teams use players that are not registered with the N.A.S.C. Softball.
 - g) For teams wishing to travel to tournaments; the following are needed for the N.A.S.C. Softball Executive Committee; permission form, tournament contacts, and location of the tournament, and a declared players list of the team that will be participating.
2. All Neighbourhood Associations late registrations, before and after pooling, must be submitted to the N.A.S.C. Softball Registration Chairperson, accompanied with **full** payment, for placement to a team as determined by the committee. Any person who contravenes this rule faces suspension as determined by the Softball Executive Committee. In addition ineligible players will be removed from the team and if eligible, players will be put back into the pool. After pooling the movement of players and player allocations will be determined by the Registrar and the Softball Committee.
3. The Declared Players List has to be completed before the start of the season. No team can take the field if the declared players list is not complete. These declared players list will show coaches names, card numbers and phone numbers.
4. Registered/carded Rep. players with O.A.S.A. and/or O.R.S.A., P.W.S.A. or Rep. Softball teams may not participate in N.A.S.C. Softball house league games. Any player belonging to the above organizations shall be removed from the NASC team immediately.
5. Any park that has two (2) or more teams in the same age classification cannot move players from team to team. Parks without a team from same Neighbourhood association in a lower age group will be assigned team/teams to draw from by Divisional Convenor. Prior to season start; the Divisional Convenor will assign a team to draw from.
6. Coaches must have completed registration/waiver forms for all players and declared players list in their possession at all games and practices. If the form is not present for any player, that player will not be allowed to play. If a player is brought up from a lower age group a Parent/Guardian and registration form must accompany the player.

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OSHAWA N.A.S.C. SOFTBALL RULES

Rule 1 Definitions

- a) At the start of the season it is mandatory that all N.A.S.C. Softball team coaches have passed the O.C.C.N.A. Screening.
- b) **COACHES** must attend a clinic to obtain a valid N.A.S.C. Softball coaching card.

c) N.A.S.C. AGE CLASSIFICATIONS

Division	Age (at December 31 of current year)
Blastball	4
Teeball	5
Learn to Play Softball	6
Minor Mite	7, 8
Mite	9, 10
Squirt	11,12
Pee Wee Boys/Girls	13,14
Bantam Boys/Girls	15, 16
Midget Boys	17, 18 19, 20
Midget Girls	17, 18 19, 20, 21, 22
Junior	21 and over

Blastball, Teeball and Learn to Play Softball are instructional divisions and are operated by the league. Junior Boys is a league run program. **Divisions may be combined to create a division.**

d) N.A.S.C. AGE DIVISION, PITCHING and BASE DISTANCES.

Division (Girls)	Pitching Distance	Base Distance
Minor Mite	24'	45'
Mite	30'	45'
Squirt	35'	55'
Pee Wee	38'	60'
Bantam	40'	60'
Midget	40'	60'
Junior	43'	60'

Division (Boys)	Pitching Distance	Base Distance
Minor Mite	24'	45'
Mite	30'	45'
Squirt	35'	55'
Pee Wee	40'	60'
Bantam	42'	60'
Midget	46'	60'
Junior	46'	60'
Bantam/Midget	46'	60'

- e) Minor age players are considered to be 22 years of age and younger.

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Rule 2 The Playing Field

- a) The home team shall supply and install Softball Canada approved bases and white rubber pitching plate.
- b) The use of the double base is mandatory in all age divisions.
- c) The home team is to supply two (2) good game balls at the discretion of the umpire.
- d) **Home team will be on the THIRD base side.**

Rule 3 Equipment

- a) It is strongly recommended that each team include a first aid kit with their equipment.
- b) Minor Mite divisions will use an eleven (11) inch "INCREDIBALL". Mite and Squirt divisions will use an eleven (11) inch softball. **Peewee, Bantam, and Midget** will use twelve (12) inch softball.
- c) Uniforms
 - 1) All players shall wear team (park) uniforms that are alike in colour, trim and style.
 - 1.1 Uniforms are to be numbered.
 - 1.1.1 No number shall be repeated on the same registered team.
 - 1.2 Shirts are to be tucked in.
 - 1.3 Team coloured hats worn properly. (Peak of hat facing front.)
 - 1.4 Shorts may be worn by **Bantam and Midget** girl teams **only** but the following conditions must be followed:
 - 1.4.1 All shorts are to be alike and in team colours.
 - 1.4.2 All players must wear sliding pants and knee protectors. Knee protectors must be in proper place when the player enters the batter's box and remain in place until they leave the diamond.**
 - 2) All players, managers, coaches, and other persons, adult and minor age, acting in an official capacity with the team shall wear shoes with full uppers. Sandals and other open style footwear (i.e. crocs) are not allowed on or around the area of play.
 - 3) Refusal to abide by these rules after being asked to do so by the umpire shall result in player, manager or coach being declared ineligible and therefore must leave the playing area, including the dugout.
 - 4) All call-ups must wear their home team uniforms.
- d) It is compulsory for all players to wear protective equipment, i.e. boy's cup and supporter, girl's Jill protectors. Any player violating this rule will be declared ineligible to play. It is the responsibility of coaches and parents to ensure this rule is adhered to.

Batting helmets with chinstraps fastened on both sides are mandatory for all batters and base runners in all age groups. If the batter or base runner removes his/her helmet or fails to do up or undoes the strap before he/she crosses the out of play line they will be called out. Umpires should remind all coaches of this rule before the start of each game. This rule is for the safety of all involved and should be explained as such. This rule is not to be adhered to if there are 3 outs and all players are leaving the playing field.

Any minor aged persons coaching first or third base must wear batting helmets.

- e) All catchers' masks must adhere to Softball Canada rule 3, section 6 (page 151).

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- f) **Jewellery of any kind may not be worn during games or practices.**

EXCEPTIONS: Medic Alert bracelets or necklaces.

Rule 4 Players and Substitutions

- a) All players are to be rotated so that no player sits for two (2) consecutive innings. No player will sit twice, until all players, including pitchers and catchers, have sat out once.

EXCEPTIONS: The player is hurt, sick, refuses to or cannot play for disciplinary action.

- b) If a team will have less than 10 players for a league game, players from the division directly below may be called up so the team may have the **maximum of eleven (11)**. All call-ups must be obtained through the Divisional Convenor by the higher age division coach. All call ups will play and get even playing time with the other players.

- c) Pregnant females will not be allowed to play.

Rule 5 The Game

- a) **READ SCHEDULES CAREFULLY, NOTE THE TIME AND PLACE**

- b) **PLAY WILL DISCONTINUE WHEN LIGHTENING IS SPOTTED.**

- c) **MINOR MITES ONLY** All games will be one (1) hour and thirty (30) minute time limit, no new inning to start after the one (1) hour and thirty (30) minute time limit.

- d) The starting time for all games is 6:30 P.M. unless otherwise specified. Teams arriving late will be allowed a fifteen (15) minutes grace period. All games are to be seven (7) innings or 1 hour and 45 minutes, no new inning to start after the 1 hour and 45 minute time limit. If there is a tied score at the end of seven (7) innings, the points are to be split. Shortened games are to be considered complete. The umpires' decision is final as to the calling of a game due to darkness, weather or poor field conditions.

- e) On unlit diamonds - no inning may start after 8:15 P.M., even when the fifteen (15) minute grace period is awarded.

- f) On lit diamonds - no inning may start after 10:15 P.M. Any inning, once started, prior to the curfews noted, will be completed.

- g) Play will stop immediately when a player is injured by the calling of 'Time' by the umpire only. All runners will be returned to the last legally touched base.

- h) To start a game, a team may field eight (8) players without any penalties to the team. A team forfeits the game if they have less than eight (8) players.

- i) An injured or ill player may be removed from the batting order providing there are still eight (8) players remaining on the team without penalty. If that number drops below eight (8) then that team forfeits and the game is concluded with the win being posted to the opposing team.

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- j) Unlimited DEFENSIVE substitution is allowed in all divisions. Courtesy runners are allowed provided the umpires and coaches are informed before the game. **Catchers should be removed from base to dress for the next inning when there are two (2) outs or four (4) runs have scored.**
- k) Each team is allowed one (1) offensive and one (1) defensive conference per inning. This does not include injuries.
- l) If a coach uses tactics, in the judgment of the umpire to delay or hasten the game during any regular season or tournament game that person shall be given a warning. Continuing to do so, in the judgment of the umpire, shall result in ejection from the game.
- m) A player not present at the start of the game is still eligible to play and must be inserted at the bottom of the batting order.
- n) The Mercy Rule will apply only to the Mite through the Midget divisions. The official game is over but provided both coaches agree, it may continue as practice. To the stop time.
- o) **MINOR MITES ONLY** Two coaches will be allowed on the field for the purpose of defensive positioning. Both teams shall play four (4) fielders. If one team has less than ten (10) players, the other shall still be allowed to field four (4) fielders.
- p) **MINOR MITES, MITES AND SQUIRTS ONLY** Coaches **MUST** rotate the player from infield to outfield throughout the game. Players **MUST** play a different position in each new inning. The purpose of this rule is to allow a broad development of playing skills, in a variety of positions. This can only be enforced by the league after a complaint has been received.

Rule 6 Pitching Regulations

- a) Minor Mite and Mite pitchers may pitch for six (6) outs in a game. Squirt and Pee Wee pitchers may pitch for nine (9) outs in a game. Then another pitcher must be used. The purpose of this rule is to help develop more pitchers. The outs, no matter how they occur will be charged to the pitcher on the mound when the out is recorded. The Midget and Bantam pitchers shall pitch unlimited.
See Also, Rule 4 a)
- b) In all age divisions, if the pitcher hits two (2) batters in an inning, he/she must be removed for the remainder of that inning. If during a game the pitcher hits four (4) batters, he/she is retired from this position for the remainder of the game.
EXCEPTIONS: Minor Mite
- c) A pitcher shall take a position with both feet firmly on the ground and in contact with the pitchers plate. Preliminary to the windup, the pitcher must come to a complete stop and hold the ball in both hands, in front of the body. This position (the pause) is to be held for a minimum of one (1) second and a maximum of ten (10) seconds before starting the pitch. In the act of delivering the ball, the pitcher shall not take more than one (1) step toward the batter before releasing the ball. This step must be simultaneous with the delivery of the ball to the batter. Once the legal step forward has been taken, the back foot **MUST** be dragged away from the pitching plate. NO HOP.
- d) The pitchers in the Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget divisions may use a pitching toe. (Made of plastic or leather, NOT METAL)

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- e) IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT PITCHERS WEAR A MOUTH GUARD.
- f) A Catcher's mask must be worn by anyone warming up a pitcher on the diamond or in the park area.

Rule 7 Batting

- a) All players will bat. **An inning will constitute five (5) runs or three (3) outs.** There will be no more than **five (5) runs** recorded per inning for any one team. After three (3) outs or five (5) runs have been scored, the side will be retired. These rules apply in all innings, including the last inning.
- b) The infield fly rule will be in effect for Squirt, Pee Wee, and Bantam and Midget divisions.
- c) MINOR MITES AND MITES ONLY The infield fly rule will not apply.
- d) MINOR MITES AND MITES ONLY The batter is automatically out after the third strike, no running on dropped third strike.
- e) MINOR MITES ONLY The batter shall not take first base when hit by a pitched ball.

Rule 8 Base running

- a) Stealing of bases is allowed only in the Mites through the Midget Divisions.
- b) MITES AND SQUIRTS ONLY Base runners may not leave the base he/she is occupying until a pitched ball has crossed the plate.
- c) MITES ONLY Stealing of home is not allowed.

Rule 9 Dead Ball – Ball in Play

- a) In the judgment of the umpire, the batter is ejected for the remainder of the game for throwing his/her bat in an unsportsmanlike manner. Further suspensions may be applied if warranted. The ball is dead and any runners MAY NOT advance.
- b) MINOR MITES ONLY On an overthrow still in play the ball will be considered as a dead ball. The base runners will be awarded the base they were going to from the time of the throw and will advance if forced.

Rule 10 Umpires

- a) If there is an official N.A.S.C. carded umpire (who has been sent by the umpire scheduler) this will be the plate umpire. In the event there is no umpire, person(s) 16 years of age or older may volunteer to umpire. The visiting team will supply the plate umpire and the home team will supply the base umpire. Umpires shall receive the full support of the League.
- b) ALL UMPIRES MUST BE PAID BEFORE THE START OF THE GAME.
- c) An N.A.S.C. carded umpire cannot call a game if he/she has a family member involved with a team on the field.

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- d) All teams must be ready to play at the park before the umpire calls the game a rain out, if not, the offending team will lose by default.
- e) The defaulting team is responsible for all umpire fees.
- f) If the home team is leading while they are at bat when the game is called they shall be declared the winning team.
- g) UMPIRE FEES: **League Umpires - \$ 20.00** per umpire for the Minor Mite, Mite, Squirt, Peewee, Bantam and Midget divisions.
DRUM umpires in the Bantam & Midget Division is **\$ 28.00** per game per umpire. If one umpire shows up it is still \$28.00 per game, \$14.00 per team. If a DRUM umpire misses a game they will umpire their next NASC game for free.
- h) Only the umpire can determine that a game will not be started due to rain, lightning or poor field conditions. The Umpire is paid ½ of the normal fees. If a team does not have a minimum of eight (8) players present before the game is called by the umpire and after the grace period, then that team will be responsible for paying all umpire fees for that game, as they are in a default situation. The Executive of the league decides league shut downs.
- i) For all games in the Bantam and Midget divisions, there will be two (2) assigned umpires. For all games there will be two (2) NASC umpires in the Minor Mite, Mite, Squirt and Peewee divisions.
- j) Umpires are to sign and legibly write their name and number on the score sheets.

Rule 11 Protests

- a) All protests shall be submitted in writing and signed, to the N.A.S.C. Softball League Secretary by the coach and/or Neighbourhood Association Softball Chairperson within forty-eight (48) hours along with \$25.00. (BALL CHAIRPERSON SHOULD BE NOTIFIED BY THE PROTESTOR)
- b) Any coach, manager or player ejected from a game by an umpire for foul language or improper conduct shall be suspended for the remainder of the game and the next two (2) league games automatically. NOTE: All ejections must be reported immediately by the Umpire to the Umpire in Chief (UIC), who in turn will report to the N.A.S.C. Softball Chairperson, the respective Neighbourhood Association Softball Chairperson and N.A.S.C. Softball Registration Chairperson.
- c) Any player, coach or manager ejected from a game for physical and/or verbal abuse shall be suspended indefinitely.
- d) **ACTS OF DISQUALIFICATIONS OR SUSPENSION**
Any offending team, player, coach or manager will be penalized through ejection from the game or forfeit the game and subsequent suspension for any of the following:
 - 1) Conduct detrimental to the game of Softball.
 - 1.1 **SUSPENSION:** Any person, Association (park), coach, manager or player violating the Constitution, By-laws, or Policies and Procedures of the O.C.C.N.A., N.A.S.C., Softball Canada or refusing to abide by the decision of the Softball Committee shall be suspended.

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- 1.2 ACTS OF SUSPENSION: Any person, coach, manager or player may be suspended by the Softball Executive for conducting themselves in an un-sportsman-like or undesired manner and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, for the following specific acts preceding, during or following a game.
 - 1.3 A coach shall be suspended one (1) full year after refusal to play in regular, Tournament or Championship games.
 - 1.4 Deliberately degrading the image of the O.C.C.N.A., N.A.S.C. and the N.A.S.C. Softball Committee, their representatives, officials, other teams, team members or players.
 - 1.5 FLAGRANT OFFENSE: When any person causes an offence of a flagrant nature, such as the use of obscene language or an assault (physical or verbal) upon a player, coach, manager, umpire, official, Convener or Executive member that person shall be suspended.
 - 1.6 Any suspended party may request a hearing. All requests must be in writing and signed and submitted to the N.A.S.C. Softball Committee. The written request is to be submitted within 48 hours of the disciplinary action and accompanied with \$25.00

- g) **COACHES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SPECTATORS.**
- h) **NO SMOKING OR FOUL LANGUAGE WILL BE ALLOWED AROUND THE PLAYERS BENCH OR THE ENTIRE PLAYING SURFACE.**
- i) Players, coaches, managers or other team members shall not make disparaging or insulting remarks to or about the opposing players, officials, or spectators, or commits other acts that could be considered un-sportsmanlike conduct. No person is to use language that will reflect negatively upon players, coaches, umpires or spectators.
- j) **POSITIVE CHEERING ONLY!**

Rule 12 Scoring **THIS IS MANDATORY.**

- a) Scorekeepers must compare scores at the completion of each inning. Any discrepancy is to be resolved with the umpires at the time. Umpires must sign and print his/her name and N.A.S.C. card number on both teams score sheets.
- b) Scorebooks must also include a player's uniform number beside their name.
- c) All scores are to be reported to the Divisional Convenor of the league and the Convenor must report to the Executive on a weekly basis.