

# Augusta Softball Rules – Update 5/2/2023

## Disciplinary Penalties and Procedures

Any attempt to injure another player will result in the following:

1st offence - 3 game suspension.

2nd offence - suspended for remainder of the season.

Any verbal abuse of an Umpire by a player or a Coach will result in the following:

1st offence – 1 game suspension

2nd offence – 2 game suspension

3rd offence – suspended for the remainder of the season.

Throwing of equipment will be an automatic ejection for the remainder of the game. Any subsequent incident will result in the following:

2nd offence - 2 game suspension.

3rd offence - 3 game suspension.

4th offence - suspended for the remainder of the season.

The use of foul language will be an automatic ejection for the remainder of the game. Any subsequent incident will result in the following:

2nd offence - 2 game suspension.

3rd offence - 3 game suspension.

The use of obscene gestures will result in an automatic ejection for the remainder of the game. Any subsequent incident will result in the following:

2nd offence - 3 game suspension.

Any physical violence at the ballpark during the game, whether it be by a player or a Coach, will result in a suspension for the remainder of the season if during the first ½ of the season, any occurrence during the 2nd half + additional penalties deemed warranted by the Augusta Softball Executive. Any physical abuse of an Umpire will result in an automatic forfeit to the opposite team.

Any ejection must be shown on the score sheet. The name of the player ejected his/her number, team and reason for the ejection must be indicated.

Any suspension must be shown on the score sheet. The name of the player in question and the suspension being served must be indicated.

All situations resulting in an ejection and/or suspension of any kind must be clearly identified on the score sheet by the Umpire and signed by both Coaches.

The Rules and Discipline Chairman will review the ejection and confer with the Executive, if necessary, before notifying both teams of the suspension

Any suspensions must be called in to Darlene Foley, Rules, and Discipline Chair, upon completion of the game by the Coach and the Umpire

Once ejected the player or Coach must leave the ballpark immediately.

## Responsibilities

### A. The Township Recreation area and invited guest must:

- Appoint a Softball Representative
- Hold public registration
- Not solicit players from other areas
- Ensure all players receive equal playing time
- Be responsible for the conduct of all players and Coaches within their organization
- Ensure that all Coaches and Umpires in their recreation be aware of the rules of Augusta, Ontario, and Canadian Minor Softball

### B. Softball Representatives of each area must:

- Attend Augusta Minor Softball meetings. In the case of a representative being unable to attend a scheduled meeting it is his/her responsibility to ensure someone attends on his/her behalf. Attendance at Augusta Minor Softball meetings is mandatory.
- Have team lists completed, submitted to league via email to [scores@augustasoftball.com](mailto:scores@augustasoftball.com) and a copy kept by coach for reference purposes if required.
- Submit proof of Insurance to [scores@augustasoftball.com](mailto:scores@augustasoftball.com) before start of season. Teams that do not submit proof of insurance will not be allowed to play scheduled games and all games will be forfeited until Insurance coverage is proven.
- Receive all protest cheques from Coaches and present them to the Rules and Discipline Chair

### C. Coaches must:

- Must email Scores to [scores@augustasoftball.com](mailto:scores@augustasoftball.com) they must be submitted within 48 hours of the game date by both teams. Rainouts must be communicated within 48 hours of the game date also. Failure to do this& results in 0 - 0 score final and both teams get zero pts.

Scores are sent to [scores@augustasoftball.com](mailto:scores@augustasoftball.com) with the following information:

Game Number

Division

Date

Visitor Team Score

Home Team Score

In addition, all score sheets must be kept by the Representatives until the end of the season and provided to the Statistician if requested.

- Inform the Rules and Discipline Chairman of any team official or player ejected from a game. Also, arrangements must be made to hand over the score sheet detailing the suspension to the Rules and Discipline Chairman within 24 hours. Failure to report these ejections could result in suspensions being assessed by the Executive.
- Notify scores@augustasoftball.com of any use of an affiliate within 24 hours of the game being played. Failure will result in the suspension of the player for 1 game to be served on their regular team.
- Notify the Scheduler of any rained out / cancelled game. If the two teams involved cannot mutually agree on a date or game a forfeit for both teams.

Note: all postponed games must be rescheduled within 2 weeks

If the Scheduler is required to set a date for a postponed game, his/her decision is final!! If, after a reasonable effort to reschedule a game, a team refuses to play the game, that game will be considered a forfeit and points will be awarded to the opposing team.

- Ensure all players receive equal playing time

#### **D. Rules and Discipline Chair must:**

- Receive all protests from area representatives
- Investigate any complaint of misconduct in the league
- Report their findings to the Executive along with his/her recommendations
- Be available to attend tournaments and problem games
- Have a thorough and complete understanding of Softball Canada, Softball Ontario, and Augusta Softball rules

#### **E. Softball Executive must:**

- Set up all the schedules.
- Deal with all protest and appeals through the Rules and Discipline Chairman. If necessary, the Executive will call a meeting to deal with any protest or appeal within 36 hours of notification.
- Arrange for a mid-season tournament for each division
- Schedule all end of season tournaments and playoffs. The time and location of all yearend games will be set at an open meeting early in the season.
- Assist with the use of the computer program for the scheduling of all tournaments
- Reschedule all cancelled games if the teams do not do so.
- Provide a website which is to include but not be limited to: schedules by division, team scores and standings, yearend tournament layouts, contact lists, etc

**Chair is responsible to:**

- Plan meetings and chair meetings
- set meeting agenda
- receive and approve tournament formats/fees
- primary contact with softball Ontario
- circulate emails from softball Ontario

**Secretary is responsible to:**

- compose minutes
- circulate minutes
- manage contacts for recreations/teams
- book meeting facility
- circulate agenda

**Rules and Discipline is responsible to:**

- respond to rule questions
- ensure rules on site are accurate
- deal with complaints about umpiring
- manage umpires listing
- make rulings on rainouts/ forfeits
- interact with Umpire in Chief

**Scorekeeper / Statistician is responsible to:**

- update website as required (post information)
- receive team submissions and ensure balance of home nights
- create schedule
- circulate schedule
- modify schedule
- record game results
- post playoff/tournament schedules
- keep website running - dealing with Ripnet

## General Rules

- All safety rules as per C.A.S.A and must be followed. Note: all batting helmets must have chin straps that are fastened, and full cages (added 2022).
- Jewelry can be worn if it is not a distraction to opposing players, this is up to the Umpire discretion on whether it is to be removed or covered up.
- Games must be played when scheduled except for games affected by weather, school trips / events and holiday weekends. Coaches may agree to postpone games for other reasons, but the team requesting the postponement will face a forfeit if the game remains un-played at the end of regular season.

### **All players will be included in the batting order.**

- There will be unlimited substitutions in all leagues. The defensive conference rule is in effect and a pitcher is removed after 3 defensive conferences per game and Peewee and below 5 per game.
- Players must register in their own age classification but may try out for an older age group at the discretion of the local Recreation. To play up a level, the player must be deemed skilled enough and a signed parental release must be provided to the Association Representative and the Augusta Minor Softball Executive. Playing down will not be accepted unless permission is granted at an Executive meeting.
- In the case of affiliates, Teams may call up players from a classification no more than 2 below the level they are playing (a release is required). These players may come from any recreation that is in the league. The coach/player must notify the players normal coach of playing up, as well as report the affiliation of the player to scores@augustasoftball.com within 24 hours. Failure to report the affiliation game could result in a 1 game suspension to the player. A player may play up inside their organization for unlimited number of games, (North Augusta to North Augusta) they are only allowed to play up a total of 8 games to teams outside their organization. (i.e., Spencerville to North Augusta). (Updated May 2015) A player may affiliate to multiple teams in a higher division.
- A player who plays up 9 games (outside his/her organization) will face a one game suspension on their regular team and will continue to play the remainder of the season on their regular team. Midseason tournament games do not count against affiliation games as the tournament is an invitational tournament.
- A player must play at least 30% of the league games to be eligible for the playoffs. A player can play these games at any level. This rule is waived for U11 and underage groups.
- The "Infield Fly Rule" is in effect for all leagues except U9 and below.
- There is a time limit in effect for all games except U15 and up divisions, both of which have a 2-hour time limit. This time limit starts when the first pitch is thrown and will not be extended regardless of delays. Games are scheduled to start at 6:15 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. An umpire can grant a 15-minute grace if necessary for a team to field 7 players or to avoid cancellation due to weather. Any inning started must be completed unless the team batting is in the lead after the completion of the first half of the final inning.
- No inning of a 6:15 p.m. game will start after 8:00 p.m.
- In the case of U13 and up, the Home Team must supply at least one carded Softball Ontario Umpire with an effort to have two umpires. All Umpires must be familiar with the Augusta Minor Softball, Softball Ontario, and Canada Softball Rules. Level 1 umpires must be in an age grouping at least one higher than the game they are umpiring. Any individual with a Level II Softball Ontario Umpires Certificate can umpire any game played within the league. If a carded umpire is not available, the game will only be played if both coaches agree to the Softball Ontario registered or local fastball umpire that is available. If both coaches do not agree, then the home team will forfeit the game. Updated April 2011.
- The home team must supply two acceptable game balls.
- Acceptable balls can be white or optic, COR  $\leq .47$ , compression  $\leq 375$ . U15 and up will be .47 Cor and 375 Compression (updated spring of 2011)
- A minimum of seven players is required to start a game. Players can be added to the bottom of the line up at any point during the game. There is no penalty for playing with less than nine players.
- If a player is injured and cannot take his/her turn at bat, the team has no choice but to accept an out and leave that player in the order or to take the player off the order for the balance of the game. Once a player has been removed from the batting order, he/she cannot reenter the game.

- A player will be allowed to play for only one team at one level. Once a player is committed to a team and the team list has been submitted to the Executive, a player cannot move to another recreation.
- Shorts can be worn by all Girls teams and boy's teams at the U11 or below level. If a girl is playing U13 or above on a boys' team, she will be required to wear long pants.
- All pitching rubbers and bases must be properly secured.
- Tournament fees are to reimburse the Association for umpire fees, balls, and lime only.
- Tournaments are to be held on weekends only unless it is impossible due to the number of teams within the division.
- Tournament entry fees must be approved by the Executive 3 weeks before the tournament date.
- Individual recognition (medal or trophy) will be given to every participant in the year end tournament in the Blast Ball, U7, U9, and U11 divisions.
- Team recognition will be given to teams in the U13, and up at the yearend tournament.
- No drinking of alcohol is permitted on ballpark property at any time. This includes players, coaches, and fans. Coaches are responsible to remove the player from the game if drinking is suspected. Coaches may be punished for allowing players to play while the player is under the influence of alcohol.
- All players must remain on the bench, or at least in the dugout, during play.
- Absolutely no foul language by officials, players, and/or spectators will be tolerated. This rule will be strictly enforced by the Rules and Discipline Chair
- No smoking is permitted in the dugout.
- Pitching for all leagues will be in accordance with the C.A.S.A rules for Minor Softball Pitching cages required U9 and up.
- Umpires will have complete control of the ball during a game and can have anyone removed from the game, including spectators for reasonable cause.
- Umpires MUST sign the Home Team's score sheet and validate that both teams have recorded and will be submitting the same score.
- C.A.S.A. mercy rule is in effect for all divisions above and including U13. The rule is a lead of 15 runs after 5 innings or 10 after 6 constitutes a win.
- A player ejected for fighting will be ejected for the entire season.
- No game in Augusta Township will be permitted to start after 9:00 p.m. This includes regular season and tournament play.
- Any shirts worn as part of a uniform must conform with C.S.A. rules.
- Any player can come into play at any time during the game. They must go to the bottom of the batting order. If a player is injured, they can be removed from the game without an out. However, if the player wants to stay in the game and is not ready to go up for their next at bat an out is issued.
- Steel Cleats are not allowed in Augusta Minor Softball in any division.

## Pitching Rule Points of Emphasis Augusta Minor Ball

- Signs must be taken with at least 1 foot on the rubber and all players in position.
- Ball may be either in the hand or glove.
- The pitcher can start the pitch with both feet on the pitching rubber or 1 foot behind the rubber (no minimum or maximum distance)
- If starting with 1 foot behind the rubber it MUST be behind the rubber BEFORE the pause
- Whether starting with 1 foot or 2 on the rubber neither foot can be off the side of the rubber
- A pitcher can NOT step back during the pitch. All motion must be forward.
- Pitchers are required to pause from 2 to 5 seconds with hands together before the pitch.
- Pitchers must stay in the pitching chute.
- All ages can hop during the delivery of the pitch.

### Learn To Play

No standings or scores are kept.

Learn to Play replaces T-Ball as the introduction to the game of Softball. The program is designed to keep kids active while learning the skills of softball.

Tournaments and playoffs will be completed in one day. No scores will be kept, and no winners will be declared.

The home associations will present an award to all participants at the completion of the season.

All fielders except for the catcher must stand behind a line from 1st base to 3rd base until the ball is hit.

A fair ball must cross a line drawn from half the distance to 1st base to half the distance to 3rd base.

No scheduled games - A regulation game is decided mutually between the 2 coaches.

Diamond Bases - 45 ft.

Foam balls and bats should be used.

Ages 5 and under as of December 31

A regulation game shall be 3 innings or 1 hour 15 mins whichever comes first.

So, an inning would consist of each team's full batting lineup. Everyone bats.

On an out the player leaves the field but the whole batting lineup is gone though. The batting order is only to keep the batters organized. No score is kept.

(Changed in 2015) This is directly in line with softball Canada recommendations.

- No lead off
- No stealing of bases
- The Coach of the team at bat pitches to his/her own players (a pitching machine is allowed) but the coach does not field a ball hit fairly. The ball should be thrown back to the player designated as the pitcher.
- The Pitcher is not allowed to play ahead of the Coach and must remain on the mound until the ball crosses home plate.
- Each batter will receive seven pitches to attempt to hit the ball. If the batter should foul off the seventh or any subsequent pitch, he/she shall receive another pitch.
- The "Infield Fly Rule" is **NOT** in effect.
- 8' circle rule is **NOT** in effect.
- A run can only be scored by a ball put into play by the batter (i.e., a caught foul ball or a fair hit ball) or a runner being forced home by a walk.
- The ball remains in play until it comes under control of an infielder standing in the infield. Once the ball is in the hand of an infielder, the runners are not to advance extra bases, (beyond the single base they need to advance)- whether it be an infield play or a throw in from an outfielder to an infielder.
- In case of darkness or rain, 3 innings will constitute a complete game.
- Diamond Bases - 45'
- Ball - 11" - balls can be white or optic, COR  $\leq 47$ , compression  $\leq 375$ .
- Pitcher - 30'(updated 2022)
- Age 7 and under as of December 31
- No standings or scores are kept.
- Year-end to be a tournament.
- No Mid-Season tournament



A regulation game shall be 5 innings or 1 hour and 30mins whichever comes first. No new inning started after 7:45pm. Any inning started must be completed regardless of time limit unless the team up to bat last is winning in the final inning.

In case of darkness or rain, 3 innings or a 10-run lead will constitute a complete game. An inning will consist of 3 outs or 5 runs whichever comes first (Modified June 2008)

- No lead off until the ball crosses home plate
- No stealing of bases
- There are no walks. After a 4th ball, the batter will have a count against him/her. It will either be 4 balls (0 strikes 4-0), 4-1, or 4-2.
- The hitter's coach or designate for the offensive team will now come in to pitch to his /her own batter and carry out the count. The batter will either bat the ball in play or strike out. Foul balls when the coach is pitching are treated as in regular softball (i.e., if a batter fouls off a 4-2 pitch, he or she is not out)
- The third strike is an automatic out.
- A pitcher can only pitch 3 innings per game. No pitcher is allowed to pitch more than two consecutive innings. One pitch thrown in an inning counts as an inning pitched.
- A caught foul ball is an out as voted in 2014.
- The "Infield Fly Rule" is **NOT** in effect.
- 8' circle rule is **NOT** in effect.
- A run can only be scored by a ball put into play by the batter (i.e., a caught foul ball or a fair hit ball)
- When a ball is hit to the outfield it remains in play until it comes under control of an infielder standing in the infield. Once the ball is in the hand of an infielder, the runners are not to advance extra bases, (beyond the single base they are heading too)- a runner cannot advance to next base on an overthrow in the infield to any base, i.e., shortstop throws to 1st base and the 1st base fielder misses the ball and goes past the 1st base fielder the runner cannot advance to next base
- Diamond Bases - 45'
- Ball - 11" -balls can be white or optic, COR <=47, compression <=375.
- Pitcher - 30'
- Age 9 and under as of December 31
- Both Coaches must email Scores to [scores@augustasoftball.com](mailto:scores@augustasoftball.com) they must be submitted within 48 hours of the game date by both teams. Rainouts must be communicated within 48 hours of the game date also. Failure to do this& results in 0 - 0 score final and both teams get zero pts.

Scores are sent to [scores@augustasoftball.com](mailto:scores@augustasoftball.com) with the following information:

Game Number

Division

Date

Visitor Team Score

Home Team Score

Both teams are responsible for keeping completed score sheets on hand until the end of the season Year end and Mid-Season to be a tournament style.

New Rule for 2016 - Hit by Pitch rule -if you hit three batters who have been given first base by the umpire you are to be removed from pitching that inning.

A regulation game shall be 7 innings or 1-¾ hours whichever comes first. (Note below) Any inning started must be completed regardless of time limit unless the team up to bat last is winning in the final inning.

NOTE: No new innings are to start after 8pm.

In case of darkness or rain, 3 innings or a 10-run lead will constitute a complete game.

An inning will consist of 3 outs or 5 runs whichever comes first (Modified June 2008)

A pitcher can only pitch 3 innings per game. No pitcher can pitch more than two consecutive innings. One pitch thrown in an inning counts as an inning pitched. In the case of tournament or playoff play this rule does not apply to extra innings

- No lead off until the ball crosses home plate.
- Stealing is allowed only after the ball crosses home plate.
- No Stealing home.
- The "Infield Fly Rule" is in effect.
- 3rd strike is an automatic out.
- 8' circle rule is in effect.
- Diamond Bases - 45'
- Ball - 11" - balls can be white or optic, COR <=47, compression <=375.
- Pitcher - 35'
- Age 11 and under as of December 31
- Both Coaches must email Scores to ***scores@augustasoftball.com*** they must be submitted within 48 hours of the game date by both teams. Rainouts must be communicated within 48 hours of the game date also. Failure to do this& results in 0 - 0 score final and both teams get zero pts.

**Scores are sent to *scores@augustasoftball.com* with the following information:**

**Game Number**

**Division**

**Date**

**Visitor Team Score**

**Home Team Score**

Both teams are responsible for keeping completed score sheets on hand until the end of the season

Year end and Mid-Season to be a tournament style.

New Rule for 2016 - Hit by Pitch rule -if you hit three batters who have been given first base by the umpire you are to be removed from pitching that inning.

A regulation game shall be 7 innings or 1¾ hours whichever comes first. Any inning started must be completed regardless of time limit unless the team up to bat last is winning in the final inning. Note - no new innings to start after 8 pm.

In case of darkness or rain, 4 innings or a 10-run lead will constitute a complete game.

An inning will consist of 3 outs or 5 runs whichever comes first.

In playoff situation all games will be 7 innings or a pre-set time limit

A pitcher can only pitch 4 innings per game. No pitcher can pitch more than two consecutive innings. One pitch thrown in an inning counts as an inning pitched. In the case of playoff play this rule does not apply to extra innings over the prescribed seven

- "Infield Fly Rule" is in effect.
- Lead off and stealing is permitted including home as soon as ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> strike batter is out.
- 8' circle rule is in effect.
- Diamond Bases - 55'
- Ball - 11" - balls can be white or optic, COR <=47, compression <=375.
- Pitcher - 38'
- Age - under 13 as of December 31
- Both Coaches must email Scores to ***scores@augustasoftball.com*** they must be submitted within 48 hours of the game date by both teams. Rainouts must be communicated within 48 hours of the game date also. Failure to do this& results in 0 - 0 score final and both teams get zero pts.

**Scores are sent to *scores@augustasoftball.com* with the following information:**

**Game Number**

**Division**

**Date**

**Visitor Team Score**

**Home Team Score**

Both teams are responsible for keeping completed score sheets on hand until the end of the season

Year-end Playoffs or Tournament will be decided at spring meeting.

Mid-Season to be a tournament style.

New Rule for 2016 - Hit by Pitch rule -if you hit three batters who have been given first base by the umpire you are to be removed from pitching that inning.

## U15

A regulation game shall be 7 innings or 2 hours whichever comes first. Any inning started must be completed regardless of time limit unless the team up to bat last is winning in the final inning.

An inning is described as 3 outs or 5 runs per inning with unlimited runs in the 7th inning ONLY.

In case of darkness or rain, 5 innings or a 10-run lead will constitute a complete game.

- Diamond Bases - 60'
- Ball - 12" - balls can be white or optic, U20 and U15 will use COR =.47, compression =375.
- Pitcher - 42'
- Age - Under 15 as of December 31
- A minimum of 1 carded Umpire must be supplied by the Home Team to play any game.
- Both Coaches must email Scores to [scores@augustasoftball.com](mailto:scores@augustasoftball.com) they must be submitted within 48 hours of the game date by both teams. Rainouts must be communicated within 48 hours of the game date also. Failure to do this& results in 0 - 0 score final and both teams get zero pts.

Scores are sent to [scores@augustasoftball.com](mailto:scores@augustasoftball.com) with the following information:

**Game Number**

**Division**

**Date**

**Visitor Team Score**

**Home Team Score**

Both teams are responsible for keeping completed score sheets on hand until the end of the season

Year-end Playoffs or Tournament will be decided at spring meeting.

Mid-Season to be a tournament style.

New Rule for 2016 - Hit by Pitch rule -if you hit three batters who have been given first base by the umpire you are to be removed from pitching that inning.

A regulation game shall be 7 innings or 2 hours whichever comes first. Any inning started must be completed regardless of time limit unless the team up to bat last is winning in the final inning.

An inning is described as 3 outs or 5 runs whichever comes first.

In case of darkness or rain, 5 innings or a 10-run lead will constitute a complete game.

- Diamond Bases - 60'
- Ball - 12" - balls can be white or optic, U15 & U19 will use COR =47, compression =375.
- Pitcher - 42' (agreed for 2023)
- Age - Under 20 as of December 31
- A minimum of 1 carded Umpire must be supplied by the Home Team to play any game.
- Both Coaches must email Scores to [scores@augustasoftball.com](mailto:scores@augustasoftball.com) they must be submitted within 48 hours of the game date by both teams. Rainouts must be communicated within 48 hours of the game date also. Failure to do this& results in 0 - 0 score final and both teams get zero pts.

**Scores are sent to [scores@augustasoftball.com](mailto:scores@augustasoftball.com) with the following information:**

**Game Number**

**Division**

**Date**

**Visitor Team Score**

**Home Team Score**

Home teams are responsible for keeping completed score sheets on hand until the end of the season.

Year-end Playoffs or Tournament will be decided at spring meeting.

Mid-Season to be a tournament style.

New Rule for 2016 - Hit by Pitch rule -if you hit three batters who have been given first base by the umpire you are to be removed from pitching that inning.

## Protests and Appeals

Only rule interpretation will be considered a valid reason for protest. What an umpire would consider a judgment call would not be considered for protest.

Proper protest procedures as per C.A.S.A. must be followed.

After the game in question, the protest must be written including all pertinent information.

The written protest must be presented to the area representative within 24 hours of the game.

The protest is to be forwarded to the Rules and Discipline Chair along with a cheque for \$25.00 payable to Augusta Minor Softball. This cheque will be returned if the protest is upheld. The Rules and Discipline Chair must be notified of the protest within 48 hrs.

If the Rules and Discipline Chair cannot settle the dispute, a hearing will be set up with the Rules and Discipline Committee on his recommendation, as quickly as possible. A decision will be made as quickly as possible and will be final.

Any person has the right to appeal any disciplinary decision of the Executive. The appeal must be made within 24 hours and must be accompanied by a non-refundable cheque in the amount of \$50.00 made out to Augusta Minor Softball. Appeals are to be made in writing and submitted to the Rules and Discipline Chair

In the case of an appeal the committee reserves the right to increase or decrease the suspension as they deem proper

Any suspension handed out must be served consecutively. In the case of an appeal the player or Coach may continue to play until the hearing is held unless the suspension is a result of violence

In the case of playoff tournaments, any executive attending the tournament will have the right to rule for the committee.