



## **5-Pitch Rules**

*All regular rules of softball will be in effect with the following exceptions.*

**1. Maximum number of players on the field:** 10 players (C, P, 1, 2, 3, SS, OF, OF, OF, Rover)

i) Outfielders and Rovers **MUST** start in the outfield (i.e. touching grass). Once the ball is put in play by the batter, they will then be permitted to field the ball anywhere on the diamond.

### **2. Pitching**

i) All at bats will be “coach pitch” from a designated member of the team’s coaching staff.

ii) We recommend pitching at a distance of 20 feet, however we will permit coaches to adjust this distance based on the age/skill level of the batter. Pitches must however be thrown from at least 10 feet away. This will be at the coaches discretion.

iii) Each batter will receive 5 pitches to put the ball in play before being ruled “out”. If the 5th pitch is hit foul, or the batter is hit by the pitch, a “re-pitch” will be awarded. There is no limit to the number of foul ball re-pitches, however this rule is only in effect on the 5th pitch (i.e. if they foul off the 3rd pitch, an additional pitch is not awarded).

### **3. Age groups**

i) Players must be born in the year 2017 or later to be eligible for the end of year tournament.

### **4. Baserunning**

i) No lead offs are permitted. Runners must keep at least 1 foot on the base until the ball is put in play.

ii) Players who repeatedly leave early, or are not in contact with the base will receive a warning from the umpire. This will then be followed by a bench warning to the team on the 2nd offence. A third offence will result in the base runner being ruled out.

iii) No stealing or sliding is permitted. Runners must arrive at the base in stride/standing.

## 5. Uniforms/Equipment

- i) Cleats are permitted, but must be rubber/plastic soled. No metal spikes are permitted for safety reasons.
- ii) Closed toed running shoes are required. No Crocs, flip flops, slides, etc. allowed.
- iii) For safety reasons, long pants must be worn. No shorts/skirts will be permitted.
- iv) All batters must have a helmet with face shield/cage while at bat and on the basepaths.
- v) The defender playing the “pitcher” position must also wear their helmet with face guard while in the field.
- vi) Any other players **MAY** wear their helmet or infielders face mask while on defence, but are not required to do so (player preference).
- vii) 11” softcore softballs will be used for the tournament for this age group.

## 6. Game Lengths

- i) Game slots are 75 minutes in length. This allows for a 5 minute warm up for teams, plus coach/captain rules review with the umpire.
- ii) Games are 5 innings in length, or however much can be played within the designated time slot.
- iii) In the event of a slowly played game, at the 60 minute mark, the umpire will declare “last inning” regardless of what inning the game is currently in.

## 7. Runs & Scoring

- i) A maximum of 5 runs can be scored per inning. If a team scores 5 runs before the defence records 3 outs, the half inning will be considered complete and teams will switch positions.
- ii) The final inning (either the 5th inning or when the umpire declares “last inning”) will be capped at 8 runs to allow for comeback attempts. If the spread is greater than 8 runs, the inning will still be played for development purposes, but the maximum number of runs remains 8.

## 8. Fielding

- i) To avoid multiple “little league home runs” (i.e. multiple overthrow errors on the same play) each inning, the umpire will call “time” when there is a throw attempt made to get a runner out at 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or home which results in an overthrow. The runner will either be

ruled out or safe, but cannot continue to advance on the basepaths in the event of an overthrow.

ii) Other runners who are in the act of running while a play is being made at a base will be permitted to either finish their run to the next base, or return to the base which they just came from, based on where they were when "time" was called. If the runner was more than halfway to the next base when time was called, they will be permitted to advance. If they were less than halfway, they will be returned to their base. This will be based on the umpire's judgment.

### **9. Abuse of officials/volunteers**

i) Any form of harassment, attempts at intimidation, verbal or physical abuse directed towards players, coaches, volunteers, or umpires will not be tolerated and will result in the immediate ejection of the offending party from the premises for the duration of the tournament.

ii) The emphasis of the day is fun, and skill development.