

WESTERN ONTARIO ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES - 2011

These rules apply to all Softball teams in the W.O.A.A. as they are excerpted from the W.O.A.A. Manual of Operations – Softball. A complete Manual can be downloaded and viewed on the W.O.A.A. Web-Site at [www.woaa.on.ca](http://www.woaa.on.ca)

Note: Changes for 2011 appear in **Bold** Print.

1. All balls used in W.O.A.A. play must be O.A.S.A. or Softball Canada approved. **The “IncrediBall” is to be used in all Rookie games (league and play-offs).** In Bantam and under, a team may use a good used ball along with a new approved ball. In Midget and up, the teams must use two (2) new approved balls.
2. All games in Mite - Midget (Male & Female) shall be seven (7) innings.
3. During the regular schedule, if the game is tied after the specified innings, there will be no extra innings played. A tie score will stand.
4. Two points will be awarded for a win and one point for a tie.
5. The home team must notify the visiting team no later than three hours prior to game time, if the game has to be cancelled due to bad weather. The visiting team shall if it is raining in their town, contact the home team before leaving to ascertain if it is raining there.
6. If a game must be cancelled or postponed, the home team shall re-schedule the game within fourteen (14) days. If the home team fails to do this, the visiting team will be awarded a forfeit. If the home team does re-schedule the game and the visiting team refuses to play it, the home team will be awarded a forfeit.
7. Helmets are mandatory in all series from Mite through Midget.
8. (a) In Midget and under categories, in both male and female play, all players must bat, there shall be unlimited substitution during schedule and play-offs.
  - (b) In the Mite category, in both male and female play, all players must bat in schedule and play-off games, there shall be unlimited substitution in the field. All players must be listed on the initial batting order and that order to be followed for the complete game. In case of an ejection or an injury, player's position in line-up is omitted.
  - (c) In all W.O.A.A. games schedule and play-offs, there will be no inning started after 1 hour, 20 minutes time limit. The first four innings, there shall be a maximum of five (5) runs per inning. Commencing the fifth inning and any innings thereafter, shall be considered open. The first inning will be three warm-up pitches allowed and one pitch each inning thereafter or at the umpire's discretion. Warm up balls on the infield only in the first inning. Mercy rule shall be ten runs after five innings and any inning thereafter.

9. (a) Baserunners are entitled to advance when the ball leaves the pitcher's hand in all categories, except Mite. -PER: Softball Canada Rule Book 8:5 (a), page 189.
- (b) In all series, except Mite and Rookie, the batter becomes the batter-baserunner when the catcher fails to catch the third strike before the ball touches the ground when there are less than two outs and first base is unoccupied or any time there are two outs.
10. The W.O.A.A. Softball By-Laws will adopt the Age Categories and Distance Table as listed below:

#### AGE CATEGORIES & DISTANCE TABLE

CATEGORY	AGE (prior to Jan 1st. of current year)	BALL	PITCHING	BASELINES	FENCES	
					Min.	Max.
F.P.						
Male	* Jr <b>U23</b>	Under 23	30.5 cm (12")	14.0 m (46')	18.3 m (60')	68.6 m-81.0 m (225'-265')
	* Md <b>U19</b>	Under 19	30.5 cm (12")	14.0 m (46')	18.3 m (60')	68.6 m-81.0 m (225'-265')
	Ba <b>U16</b>	Under 16	30.5 cm (12")	12.8 m (42')	18.3 m (60')	68.6 m-81.0 m (225'-265')
	Pw <b>U14</b>	Under 14	30.5 cm (12")	12.2 m (40')	18.3m (60')	64.0 m-76.2 m (210'-250')
	Sq <b>U12</b>	Under 12	27.95 cm (11")	10.67 m (35')	16.76m (55')	51.8 m-68.6 m (170'-225')
	Mt <b>U10</b>	Under 10	27.95 cm (11")	09.14 m (30')	13.7 m (45')	48.5 m-68.6 m (160'-225')
	Ro <b>U8</b>	Under 8	27.95 cm (11")	09.14 m (30')	13.7 m (45')	48.5 m-68.6 m (160'-225')
F.P.						
Female	* Jr <b>U23</b>	Under 23	30.5 cm (12")	13.1 m (43')	18.3 m (60')	67.1 m- <b>71.6 m (220'-235')</b>
	* Md <b>U19</b>	Under 19	30.5 cm (12")	12.2 m (40')	18.3 m (60')	61.0 m-64.0 m (200'-210')
	Ba <b>U16</b>	Under 16	30.5 cm (12")	12.2 m (40')	18.3 m (60')	54.9 m-64.0 m (180'-210')
	Pw <b>U14</b>	Under 14	30.5 cm (12")	11.58 m (38')	18.3 m (60')	51.8 m-64.0 m (170'-210')
	Sq <b>U12</b>	Under 12	27.95 cm (11")	10.67 m (35')	16.76 m (55')	48.5 m-64.0 m (160'-210')
	Mt <b>U10</b>	Under 10	27.95 cm (11")	09.14 m (30')	13.7 m (45')	45.7 m-64.0 m (150'-210')
	Ro <b>U8</b>	Under 8	27.95 cm (11")	09.14 m (30')	13.7 m (45')	45.7 m-64.0 m (150'-210')

- \* Jr (U23) Male and Female will change to under 21 (U21) effective 2012.**  
**Midget (U19) Male and Female will change to under 18 (U18) effective 2012.**

11. In all W.O.A.A. male (Mite to Bantam) and female (Mite to Midget) series the W.O.A.A. shall adopt the Softball Canada Pitching Rule. Rule 6 -Softball Canada Rule Book, page 165.

CLARIFICATION: The pitcher shall take a position with both feet firmly on the ground and in contact with, but not off the side of, the pitcher's plate.

Note: For male Midget see Rule 6 – Softball Canada Rule Book, page 170.

12. For all players, Bantam and below, chinstraps are mandatory and must be securely fastened under the chin. **CSA approved face guards on batting helmets are mandatory for all Rookies, Mite and Squirt teams. (Note: Pee Wee and under -2012, Bantam and under -2014).**
13. No metal cleats are allowed in Minor (Midget and below) ball. (Softball Canada Rule No. 3, Sub-Section 5 (g), page 151).
14. All teams MUST use two W.O.A.A. Softball Carded Umpires.

15. **Maximum** umpire fees for 2011 are as follows:

<u>CATEGORY:</u>	<u>PLATE:</u>	<u>BASES:</u>
(a) Midget, Junior and Int.	\$35.00	\$35.00
(b) Pee Wee and Bantam	<b>\$35.00</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>
(c) Rookies, Mites & Squirts	<b>\$30.00</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>

Travel expenses shall be \$0.30 km. both ways.

Where possible, officials shall make every effort to travel in one vehicle.

16. Any player, or Team Official who abuses an official (Umpire, Director, Convenor) physically or verbally before, during or after any game and is reported to the W.O.A.A. Softball Chairperson may be subject to disciplinary action. All suspensions commence at the time of the infraction. It is the umpire's responsibility to notify the W.O.A.A. of all ejections and/or infractions.

<u>"MINIMUM" SUSPENSION SCALE:</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL:</u>
(a) Removal from a game	- None
(b) Ejection from a game	- 1 Game
(c) Unsportsmanlike Conduct	- 1 Game
(d) Flagrant Verbal Abuse of Game Official	- 4 Games
(e) Shoving/Pushing/Physical Abuse of Game Official	- 6 Games
(f) Striking Official	- 12 Games
(g) Flagrant Verbal Abuse of Opponent	- 1 Game
(h) Shoving/Pushing/Physical Abuse of Opponent	- 2 Games
(i) Striking Opponent	- 4 Games

NOTE: 1 game means that player, coach, manager, is suspended for the remainder of the game suspension occurred in PLUS the next league or play-off game.

It is the Team Management's responsibility to ensure that all of these automatic suspensions are served in full. Any further suspensions, notification will be forwarded to the Town Contact by the W.O.A.A. Office.

CLARIFICATION:

EJECTION FROM A GAME:

(Softball Canada Rule No. 1 Sub-Section 25.)

Ejection is the act of any umpire ordering a player, official or any team member to leave the game and the grounds for a repeated violation of the rules or a deliberate or unsportsmanlike act.

NOTE: Failure to do so will warrant a forfeiture of the game.

REMOVAL FROM A GAME:

(Softball Canada Rule No. 1 Sub-Section 80.)

Removal is the act of the Plate Umpire declaring a player ineligible for further participation in the game as a result of an infraction of the rules.

NOTE: Any person so removed may continue to sit on the bench but shall not participate further in the game except as a coach.

Coaches must be ejected; they cannot be removed from a game.

17. ASSIGNMENT FEES - OFFICIALS:

When an individual club or local association requests "Neutral Officials" be assigned by the W.O.A.A., that club or local association shall be responsible for the full payment (fees and mileage) of the assigned officials. To cover the administrative costs involved, the requesting club or local association shall be assessed a fee in the amount of \$35.00 per request. This fee must be paid to the W.O.A.A. Office within seven (7) business days or a Statement of Account doubling the fee will be issued. Failure to comply with the above may result in suspensions.

18. REPORTING SCORES/STATS:

For all W.O.A.A. regular schedule teams:

All league schedules are posted on the W.O.A.A. Web Site. Each team is requested to update their league scores through the W.O.A.A. Web Site at [www.woaa.on.ca](http://www.woaa.on.ca). As instructed at the Softball Annual Meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011, please apply for your log-in membership, indicate that you are the Score Reporter and specify for which team. Once this is received, you should be able to input scores of your HOME games on the Web Site for your team. Please keep your records up to date as the stats will then be automatically tabulated for your team.

19. If you encounter a problem, please contact the appropriate person as listed below:

2011 W.O.A.A. SOFTBALL COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Steve Schwippl, P.O. Box 296, 1059 Hwy 9, MILDMAY, ON  
N0G 2J0

(519) 367-3687 (H)  
(519) 374-0270 (C)

Email: [schwipman@hotmail.com](mailto:schwipman@hotmail.com)

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Frank Jacobi, 475 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, HANOVER, ON N4N 2M4  
[jacobidc@aol.com](mailto:jacobidc@aol.com)

(519) 364-5518 (H)

CONVENORS:

ROOKIES:

Ms. Caitie Reading, 7 Clarke St., P.O. Box 188, CLIFFORD, ON  
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(519) 327-8690 (H)  
(519) 503-5710 (C)

Email: [caitie\\_07@hotmail.com](mailto:caitie_07@hotmail.com)

MITE BOYS & GIRLS:

Mr. Frank Jacobi, 475 9<sup>th</sup> Ave., HANOVER, ON N4N 2M4  
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SQUIRT GIRLS:

Mrs. Lynda Kueneman, 3 Beverly Street, MILDMAY, ON N0G 2J0 (519) 367-2490 (H)  
Email: [kman@wightman.ca](mailto:kman@wightman.ca)

SQUIRT BOYS:

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(519) 356-9193 (C)

PEE WEE BOYS & GIRLS:

Mr. Allan Dickson, 135 Frances Street, WINGHAM, ON N0G 2W0 (519) 357-2224 (H)  
Email: [allandickson53@hotmail.com](mailto:allandickson53@hotmail.com) (519) 357-3880 (B)  
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BANTAM BOYS & GIRLS:

Mr. Don Crawford, 081310 Grey Road 5, R.R.# 4, TARA, ON N0H 2N0 (519) 934-2028 (H)  
Email: [donvon@gbtel.ca](mailto:donvon@gbtel.ca)

MIDGET BOYS & MIDGET GIRLS:

Mr. Trevor Seip, 214 Frances Street, P.O. Box 554, WINGHAM, ON (519) 357-0285 (H)  
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Email: [trevor.seip@sympatico.ca](mailto:trevor.seip@sympatico.ca) EXT. 2342

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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Mr. Don Sutherland (currently out of the area) [suds\\_500@hotmail.com](mailto:suds_500@hotmail.com)

**PRESIDENT:**

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**W.O.A.A. LIFE MEMBER & O.A.S.A. LIAISON:**

Mr. Bill DeHaan, 757165 Oxford Road 5, NEW HAMBURG, ON (519) 662-1231 (H)  
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**UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF:**

Mr. Dave Millen, R.R. #2, TEESWATER, ON N0G 2S0 (519) 392-6555 (H)

**ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:**

W.O.A.A. Office, 49 Alfred St. West, P.O. Box 110, WINGHAM, ON (519) 357-3512 (B)  
N0G 2W0 Linda Espensen, Executive Administrator. EXT. 1  
[woaa@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:woaa@hurontel.on.ca) (519) 357-4341 (F)

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**FOR RADIO COVERAGE:**

TEAMS ARE REQUESTED TO CALL IN THE RESULTS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING  
THEIR HOME GAMES. LISTED BELOW ARE THE TOLL-FREE NUMBERS IN OUR  
AREA:

C.K.N.X. (Wingham Radio) 1-800-265-3031 EXT. 3227  
C.F.O.S. (Owen Sound Radio) 1-800-265-3757 (Before Midnight)

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*Visit the W.O.A.A. Web Site at [www.woaa.on.ca](http://www.woaa.on.ca)*