

Inter-Community Softball Association (ICSA) House League Rules (Revised Sept 13th, 2016)

1. General

Unless otherwise stated in the current ICSA House League Rules, games for all divisions will be governed by the "Official Guide and Rule Book" of the Canadian Amateur Softball Association. (Softball Canada), **PWSA and OASA**.

2. Area Responsibilities

- a) To provide field times for teams to play regularly scheduled games.
- b) To provide liability insurance for each team involved in league play.
- c) To schedule and pay registered umpires for all scheduled home games and hosted tournaments. Novice/Peewee and under may use Junior Umpires. Bantam and Junior will use Senior Umpires when available. When possible, one umpire must be at least two age groups older, and one umpire, one age group older, than the team playing. Senior Umpire should be at home plate.
- d) Shall have an area representative to represent their area and its concerns regarding softball, and to be liaison between their area coaches and players and the ICSA Executive.
- e) Shall assist as required with game scheduling, tournaments, returning trophies etc.
- f) Shall abide by and support the ICSA Rules.
- g) Shall ensure that their area's coaches and umpires receive copies of the current ICSA rules before the first game. Any amendments made during the current year shall be forwarded and returned within 2 weeks.
- h) Shall provide the players' lists for all teams from their area who are playing in the ICSA. Such lists shall be received by the convenor of their division, as well as the other areas in their division by June 15. The ICSA Executive must approve any player registrations after this date.

3. Registration Policy/Player Eligibility

- a) Player registration forms must include name, date of birth and proof provided, parents'/guardian's name, address telephone number and signature.
- b) Only special need cases will be accepted as a reason to play down one or more age levels. Such special needs must be addressed through the ICSA.
- c) Players registering after player lists have been submitted to the ICSA Convenor will have to receive approval by the ICSA executive.
- d) Submitted Team Players must play a minimum of **4** regular games to be eligible for *end of year* tournament games.
- e) "A Rep Player" can play in house league, but *cannot* play at their own level, they must play up a division. "A Rep Team" must play up a division and only if there is no other more suitable league for them to participate in. (All rep teams and players must be reviewed by the ICSA executive). It is the responsibility of the coach by June 30th, to recognized and acknowledge by written declaration that he has a rep player on his team. Failure to do so will result in Rule #24 e) being enforced.
- f) ***Select players are not affected by this rule, as long as the Select Team does not play in the same division at ICSA. "Select players" are players chosen from different teams in ICSA to play in an occasional tournament and will not be affected by this rule. All select players and teams may be reviewed by the ICSA executive.
- g) For insurance reasons, pregnant females are not eligible to play in the Intercommunity Softball League

- h) ICSA Registered Players may play in another fastball league, however, the ICSA Team will be first priority and it will be at the coach's discretion whether you remain on the team if you are not following this. NOTE: ICSA Insurance does not cover play in another league.
- i) **As of 2016, maximum age for Jr. Ladies & Jr. Men is 29 years in full calendar year.**

4. **Balls**

Effective 2014, the yellow ball only will be the official ICSA Ball exclusively. Provision of CASA approved softballs (one new and one used ball per game) are the responsibility of the home team. (*PWSA yellow ball may be used, however, both balls used must be of the same color.*)

5. **Safety Equipment**

- a) All batters must wear helmets. **Bantam and below must wear helmets with straps** fastened. This rule includes batters on deck, base runners and any coach under 19 years of age.
- b) Catchers must wear a helmet (without strap) facemask, chest protector, safety cup, shin pads with kneecap protector, throat guard at all times while catching for a pitcher. (Throat guards are not required if facemask already has a throat extension). Anyone warming up a pitcher must wear face mask.
- c) **Double** bags must be used at first base. Defensive players are to play white bag only.
- d) First Aid kits are required for all teams.

6. **Casts, Jewelry**

(Examples, all types of wristwatches, bracelets, rings, earrings, and neck chains) may not be worn during the game. Ear studs may be taped. (Exception: Medic Alert) Failure to remove such items after being requested to do so by the umpires will result in the player being removed from the game and being ruled ineligible.

7. **Clothing/Footwear**

Numbered shirts (for squirt and up), long Pants, socks and proper athletic shoes are required. (Exception: Rep teams would be allowed to wear shorts as a team). **Female Teams are allowed to wear shorts if that is their team uniform.** Coaches, assistants, parents, anyone on the ball diamond must wear appropriate attire including proper enclosed footwear. Shirts **shall** be tucked in for proper uniform; **games will not be stopped to have shirts tucked in.** Coaches are to encourage proper dress code (Shirts tucked in). No metal cleats!

8. **Base and Field Lining**

It is the responsibility of the home team to have the field and diamond ready for play 15 minutes before game time.

9. **Infield Warm-Up /Start Time**

Infield warm ups are limited to 5 minutes per team and no infields 5 minutes before official starting time. (Failure in a team's readiness to play within 15 minutes after the official time will cause the game to be awarded to the non-violating team) This will be the sole decision of the assigned umpires. Official times are as per schedule.

10. **Batting**

Teams will bat in a continuous order for the whole line up unless the player has been benched due to derogatory behavior, illness or injury. **Player arriving late to be added to bottom of line anytime, just notify other team.**

11. **Substitution**

Unlimited Substitution will apply including pitchers (subject to pitching rule #13) Runners may be substituted for injured players only, whose injury prevents them from running. The runner substitute is the last player out.

12. **Defensive Players**

During regular league play and playoffs, any registered player shall not sit out two consecutive innings on defense. Doing so may result in forfeiture of the game. Coaches must document the defensive positions of all players during the game. If a game is protested, the defensive documents must be submitted to the Plate Umpire, normal protest procedure to apply. N.B. The following exceptions will apply: a) Should a player fail to attend a practice without valid reason, (Convenor must be notified prior to the game) b) Should a player arrive late for a game, c) Should a player act in a derogatory manner towards coaches, players or umpires, d) Should a player become sick or injured during a game. Note: No player shall sit a second inning before every player has sat one inning. No player shall sit a third inning before every player has sat 2 innings. Exception: Jr. Men pitching limit is eliminated.

13. **Pitching**

***Mite Pitchers are allowed to pitch 2 innings maximum per game. (any portion of an inning is considered a full inning). Mite pitching distance to be changed to 30 Feet.

Squirt may pitch a maximum of 3 innings per game. Novice and Peewee Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 4 innings (please remember the substitution rule). *If extra innings are required, the pitcher is reinstated.* For Bantam and below, if a pitcher hits 3 batters in the same inning the pitcher is retired from pitching for the remainder of the game. At the discretion of the umpire, the pitcher can be removed at any time. The Junior Ladies pitching distance will remain at 40 Ft. For ICSA.

***All Divisions must play 'push and drag' rule. (**Bantam Boys & Junior Men are exempt from this rule. **see CASA Rule Book**).

****Rule must be used with Rule #12...Everyone must sit once before any player sits twice in a game.

*** Jr. Men pitching limit is eliminated.

14. **Mercy Rule**

3 outs or 6 runs shall constitute an inning. All innings are 6 run mercy i.e. All innings are closed for all divisions.

15. **Stealing Bases, Infield Fly**

A runner may advance after the ball leaves the hand of the pitcher. *** (Except at Mite, where there is no stealing.) Infield fly rule does not apply to Mite and **Squirt Girl's** Division.

16. **Base Running**

Running the catcher or any defensive player will not be tolerated.

17. **Third Strike Rule**

A runner may run to first base on a dropped third strike from Squirt division up. Exception; Squirt female.

18. **Minimum Number of Players** A minimum number of 7 players are required to constitute a legal game.

19. **Calling up**

If a team has 9 players or less, they may call up a player to a maximum of 10. Players called up must be identified as such on the score sheet.

If you are calling up a player, you must call the coach first to get permission for that player to play for your team. **Players must be called from your own registration area. If there is a conflict in the game times players must play for their registered teams.**

20. **Playing Time**

Mites and Squirts: Length of game will be five innings for squirt and under. No new inning will be started after 1 hour and 20 minutes has elapsed. Novice/Peewee and up: Length of game is 7 innings. No new inning will be started after 1 hour and 30 minutes has elapsed. N.B. Umpires do not have to call "Last inning." One hour of playing time constitutes a game and the score reverts to the last completed inning. The bottom half of the last inning will be played regardless of the score unless the Home team does not wish to continue or that the umpire feels that there are extenuating circumstances that could be detrimental to the teams.

21. **Regular Games**

- a) All regular games will be scheduled and an effort will be made to play the game as scheduled. Coaches are obliged to call up from a younger division if they are unable to field a full team of players.
- b) Games cancelled due to extenuating circumstances (exams, graduation and trips): the canceling coach must notify the other coach within a minimum of 24 hours before the start time. The home coach will then notify the appropriate persons in their association.
- c) ***Games cancelled due to rain, field conditions or other unforeseen circumstances: The Coach of the Home Team is responsible for cancellation of the game and shall notifying opposing coach, the umpire (or **their** umpire-in-chief) and the convenor within a minimum of 1 hour and 30 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. (Kingston Umpires will require 2 hours notice).
- d) A game in progress terminated by the umpire due to inclement weather and **field** conditions: If time (1 hour) has been completed, the score reverts back to the last complete inning. If not completed, it is the responsibility of the home team to reschedule the game.
- e) The first sign of lightning, means there will be a game delay for up to 15 minutes and if it has not cleared, the game will be cancelled.
- f) Rescheduling of games: Shall be the responsibility of the home team coach. An alternate date shall be determined in consultation with the other coach, field availability and umpires. Rescheduling must be done within 10 days *if possible*. After that, if no consensus can be reached within 2 days, the convenor will set the date and time and it will be binding. A no show will be responsible for all costs involved up to a maximum of \$75.00 from the offending Association to the host Association. ***If by the end of the season, c) and f) have not been followed, then the home team shall be at fault and the game shall be forfeited and 2 pts awarded to the visitor. The convenor must be notified at all times about cancelled games.
- g) **Ball Scores: Use [www\\Greaterkingstonsoftball.com](http://www.Greaterkingstonsoftball.com) to register game scores, winner or home for ties. Use 2017 area, coach's area tab, scores, enter Division, Date, Home team, Visit team, score. Follow process.**

22. **Scorekeeping**

- a) First and last names must be provided on the score sheet.
- b) Scorebooks must be signed by the umpires, including their umpire card number (excluding junior umpires).

- c) Tied games are acceptable in league play.
- d) In case of ejection, the coach shall have the person's name, time, and date of ejection put in scorebook and signed by plate umpire.
- e) Numbered shirts are required for Squirt division and above.

23. **Protests**

The formal written protest should contain the following information:

- a) Date, time and place of the game.
- b) Names of the Umpires and Scorekeepers
- c) Rule or section of the official rule or local rules under which the protest is being made.
- d) The decision; and the condition surrounding the making of the decision
- e) All essential facts involved in the matter protested (Rule 11, Section 6, in CASA rule book)
- f) Both umpires are required to submit an umpire's report.

It then must be forwarded to the ICSA UIC who will forward to convener of their division, unless there is a conflict of interest, in which case it will be passed on to the ICSA Committee. Formal written protests must be made within 48 hours, with a deposit of \$25.00 accompanying the protest. If the protest is upheld, the money will be refunded.

24. **Violations**

- a) A player's, coach's umpire's or Association's failure to comply with the ICSA Rules of Play or Official's decision.
- b) Unsportsmanlike conduct or the use of abusive or insulting language on or near the playing field.
- c) Aggressive bat or helmet throwing.
- d) Physical threat or abuse.
- e) A coach, manager or team playing an ineligible player (including a player under suspension) All games played by the offending team in which ineligible players shall be forfeited and the coach will be suspended for the rest of the season.

25. **Ejections/Suspensions**

- a) Any of the above violations may result in players, coaches, managers, or spectators being ejected/suspended, however and shall result in automatic ejection from the game. Failure to comply with the Umpire may result in forfeiture of the game. An umpire's report is required for all ejections and formal protests sent to ICSA UIC. Failure to submit a report could lead to a fine for that umpire association.
- b) A game ejection for any reason carries an automatic further 1 game suspension (excluding the game the ejection occurred in). Depending on the cause of the offence, further suspension may be set by the Convenor in conjunction with ICSA.
- c) A player, coach, manager, umpire or ICSA area representative may be suspended for any other reason by their own association or if there is a majority consent of the ICSA executive.
- d) Suspensions will continue into the next softball season and ICSA will honor other softball association suspensions.
- e) All suspensions must be recorded and the following people notified: the appropriate convenor, the ICSA Secretary and the ICSA Chairperson. The Convenor will notify the opposing coaches of any suspended players or coaches.
- f) All ejections and suspensions beyond the one game mandatory may be appealed to the appropriate Convenor in conjunction with ICSA. All appeals should be made within 24 hours from the suspension.

26. Coaches

- a) Shall keep an accurate scorebook.
- b) Shall have scorebooks signed at the end of the games.
- c) Shall abide and support the ICSA Rules of Play.
- d) In case of ejection, shall have the person's name, time and date of ejection put in scorebook and signed by plate umpire. The convenor will be notified of ejections.
- e) Shall ensure their players and coaches display sportsman like conduct at all times at the ballpark

27. Umpires

- a) It is mandatory that all umpires *be registered with Softball Ontario prior to their first game* in the current year. Failure to provide a registered umpire may result **in a** forfeiture by the home team.
- b) Shall provide proof of current card number, if requested.
- c) Shall abide by and support the ICSA Rules of Play.
- d) Shall in the event of an ejection, record the ejected player's name in the team's scorebook and sign it. **The umpires** shall also provide a written report to the ICSA UIC within 24 hours of the ejection. This report shall include name, team, date, place and reason for ejection. **This report will be forwarded to convenor and ICSA secretary. Umpire shall not umpire until report has been submitted to the ICSA UIC...**
- e) After the game, shall remain on the field of play in a position to observe the post-game handshake.
- f) Shall sign scorebooks at the end of the game (after the post game handshake)
- g) Shall not officiate for same age or older players unless previously authorized by ICSA executive.
- h) Must be at least 12 years of age.

28. Ball Line

It is the responsibility of the winning team (home team in case of a tie) to enter score of the game to within 24 hours. Failure to do so will result in the loss of points. **Use:** **www\Greaterkingstonsoftball.com** to register game scores, winner or home for ties. Use 2017 area, coaches' area tab, scores, enters Division, Date, Home team, Visit team, score. Follow process.

29. **Proof of insurance** must be presented by each organization to be verified.

***** Recommendation: ICSA would like coaches to encourage the players to try all positions (both infield and outfield) especially in the lower divisions. This is a House League Division and should be fun for all children.

**“Each of us in softball are a part of the game we all enjoy.
We expect all participants to demonstrate courtesy and respect
at all times. Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity.
This will be the guiding principle of conduct in this game.”**