

2021 RULE DIFFERENCES CHART – MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS FROM SOFTBALL CANADA

	SOFTBALL CANADA	P.W.S.A.	O.A.S.A.	O.R.S.A.
DOUBLE BASE	<p>Rule 2-4 i Note: Softball Canada Rulebook. Runner must go to orange bag on the first attempt at first base if a play is made.</p> <p>Exception: On any live ball play made from first base foul territory, the batter-runner and the defensive player may use either base. When the defensive player uses the foul portion of the double base, the batter-runner can run in fair territory and if hit by a throw from the foul side of first base, it would</p>	<p>Same as Softball Canada. Double base is mandatory in all playoff tournaments.</p>	<p>Used in all OASA sanctioned games.</p>	<p>Optional. If used, the Softball Canada rules apply.</p>
PLAYING FIELD	<p>Rule 2 - Sec 1 -4</p>	<p>Same as Softball Canada.</p>	<p>Same as Softball Canada</p>	
OFFENSIVE CHARGED CONFERENCE	<p>Rule 1-16a The offensive team requests a suspension of play to allow the manager, or other team representative to confer with any member of his team. Rule 5-9(a) There shall be only one (1) charged conference...in an inning.</p>	<p>EXCEPTION – In U10, a team is permitted 2 charged conferences per inning</p>	<p>Exception: In U12 and under classifications the offensive rule is waived.</p>	<p>Same as Softball Canada.</p>
DEFENSIVE CHARGED CONFERENCE	<p>Rule 1-16b Rule 5-9(b) - 3 per 7 inning game - 5 for U14 - 1 per extra innings Rule 9b (3) Rule waived in U12 and under categories.</p>	<p>EXCEPTION – In both U10 and U12, a team is permitted 2 defensive conferences per inning.</p>	<p>Exception: In U8 to U12 classifications, a team is permitted two defensive conferences per inning. With the third conference the pitcher must be removed from the pitcher position for the balance of the inning.</p>	<p>Rule 6-11(FP) Defensive conference rule in effect for all divisions.</p>
DEFENSIVE CHARGED DELAY	<p>Rule 1-17 A delay caused by one or more defensive players leaving their position on the playing field to confer with another defensive player(s) which results in a delay in play. Time may or may not be called. Rule 5-10 There shall be only one defensive charged delay per half inning. U19 and above</p>	<p>Same as Softball Canada</p>	<p>This rule will not be implemented.</p>	
INTENTIONAL WALK (BASE ON BALLS)	<p>Rule 1-5(c) Batters may now be intentionally walked by the defense without pitches needing to be thrown. Rule 6-4 Rule 8-1(c.3)</p>	<p>Same as Softball Canada</p>	<p>Exception: U14 and above only</p>	
BASE STEALING	<p>Rule 8 Sec. 5(a) When the ball leaves the pitcher's hand on delivery</p>	<p>Exception: U10 A runner who has reached third (3rd) base MAY NOT advance home on a wild pitch or passed ball and CANNOT steal home during or after a pitch to the batter. Exception: If the catcher, or any other player, puts the ball in play by throwing to a base, then all runners are entitled to advance at their own risk.</p>	<p>Exception: In U10, when the ball crosses the plate. Exception: In U8, there is no stealing of any base.</p>	<p>In U10 and U12, baserunners are entitled to advance when the ball crosses the plate.</p>

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LEAVING BASE ON PITCHED BALL	Rule 8-9(s)	Same as Softball Canada.	Exception: In U8 and U10 classifications, the ball must cross the plate before the runner may leave the base.	In U10 and U12, baserunners are entitled to advance when the ball crosses the plate.
DESIGNATED PLAYER	Rule 4-5 (j) U14 and Under categories, the designated player is not permitted.	Designated player is allowed in all Divisions with the following exceptions: (U10), and (U12) Divisions. FOR (U10) & (U12) DIVISIONS ONLY. All players MUST bat, and unlimited defensive substitutions will be allowed Players requiring courtesy runners must be announced before the game begins unless an injury occurs during the game. Any player cannot play the same position for more than three (3) innings per game in the U10 Division for more than four (4) innings per game in the U12 Division	Exception: The Designated Player (DP) rule is permitted in U14 and above (not in U8, U10 or U12).	Same as Softball Canada.
TOURNAMENT GAME SUSPENSION/ COMPLETION		Per tournament guidelines	When an OASA tournament game is suspended it shall be resumed at the exact point where the game was suspended, if completed on the scheduled tournament weekend. If scheduled at another date, the game shall be replayed in its entirety from the beginning. This rescheduled game does not result in a new flip. New line-up cards will be submitted.	
TIE-BREAKER	Rule 5-7 Starts top of eighth inning.	In all Divisions, after seven (7) innings of regulation play, the Tie Breaker shall be used. In the U12 Divisions, tournaments with time limits on games, the Tie Breaker shall be at the end of seven (7) innings or when the time limit is up. Exception: In the U10 Division with time limits on games, the Tie Breaker shall be at the end of six (6) innings or when the time limit is up. <i>Exception: In tournaments using pool play/round robin format, ties after 7 innings shall stand. At the completion of the round robin/pool play portion of such tournaments, the Association Tie Breaker shall be:</i> (1) Winner of games between the tied teams. (2) Difference plus or minus of total runs scored with the limit of seven (7) plus or minus per game. Full innings only may be used. (3) Least runs allowed. (4) Most runs scored.	Same as Softball Canada with the following exception: In all innings where the tiebreaker is used, a team shall be limited to a maximum of 7 runs during their turn at bat. Exception: The tiebreaker rule will be used in all games, except the Championship game.	ORSA Play Downs - the International Tiebreaker is not used. ORSA tournament play – the International Tiebreaker is used after the 7 th inning is complete or after the time limit is expired. ORSA Grand Championships - the International Tiebreaker is used only after 7 th inning is complete.

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TIME LIMIT	No limit.	In all divisions, playoff tournament games shall be seven (7) innings. EXCEPTION: In the (U10) Division NO INNING SHALL BEGIN AFTER ONE HOUR AND THIRTY MINUTES. In the (U12) Division NO INNING SHALL BEGIN AFTER ONE HOUR AND FORTY-FIVE MINUTES. Note: U10 and U12 – all medal tournament games shall be 7 innings	Exception – In U8 – No new inning shall start after one hour and fifteen minutes from the official beginning of the game, except in medal games. In U10 – No new inning shall start after one hour and thirty minutes from the official beginning of the game except in medal games. In U12 – No new inning shall start after one hour and forty-five minutes from the official beginning of the game except in medal games. In the event the game is tied, complete innings will be played until the tie is broken.	ORSA Playdowns - In Pee Wee and under fastball series, there is a time limit of 90 minutes except the Finals, which has a time limit of 2 hours. No new inning to start after the time limit unless the score is tied. Any inning started before the time limit expired must be completed providing conditions permit. a) ORSA tournaments – All minor tournament games have a time limit of 90 minutes. The finals have no time limit but use the mercy rule. Exemption U10 and U12 time limit of 75 minutes. Finals time limit of 90 minutes.
HELMETS	Rule 3-6 (f.1) Helmets are mandatory for batters, base runners, catchers and on-deck batters. Rule 3-6 (f.4) For U16 and below, all on-deck batters, batters and baserunners must have an attached face mask.	Helmets are compulsory for all players while on deck, at bat and while running the bases in all Divisions and shall be of an accepted make and design, complete with ear plugs. Each participating team shall carry a minimum of five (5) helmets. In the (U10), (U12) and (U14) Divisions batters and base runners must have chin straps on the helmet which shall be worn properly under the chin. Approved protective cages on batting helmets are mandatory for (U10) through (U19) Divisions	Exception: It shall be mandatory for all players in all classifications to wear a CSA approved batting helmet, while on deck, in the act of batting, and while running the bases. Each participating team to carry a minimum of five (5) helmets. In U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 classifications only, the chin strap must be securely fastened under the chin. CSA approved face guards on batting helmets are mandatory for all U8 to U16 players.	All players in all men's, ladies', and minor fast pitch to wear a batting helmet while batting and running the bases. Lassie and Atom Girls, Atom and Squirt Boys must have chin straps properly worn. In all series, all helmets worn must be fully enclosed with two ear flaps, a foam liner and a peak. U18 (Midget) and under must wear helmets with cage.
CATCHER'S EQUIPMENT	Rule 3-6 (a-e) All catchers must wear masks, throat protector and helmet. In addition, catchers in all categories of the minor division are required to wear body protector, shin guards which offer protection of kneecap and athletic support with cup, all this equipment to fit properly. Ice hockey goalie style mask is approved. Adult female catchers must wear a body protector.	Exception: Catcher's mask and throat protector and helmet must be worn properly by any one warming up pitchers. Players must wear masks, throat protectors and helmets while warming up a pitcher anywhere on or near the playing field. The Umpire/Association personnel in charge shall issue one warning to a team Coach or a team Manager not following this safety rule, and thereafter anyone found warming up a pitcher without a mask and throat protector shall mean the removal of the Coach or Manager from the game.	Exception: In U8 to U19, Effect #1 removal of the player from the game will not be used. Effect for U8 to U19: If any person catching for the pitcher will not wear the mask after a warning is issued to the Head Coach, it shall mean removal of the Head Coach of the offending team.	Same as Softball Canada, except "minor catchers must wear 'a' helmet with 'a' mask and a throat protector attached ..."
BALLSIZE	U14 and above "12" ball	Same as Softball Canada	Same as Softball Canada. Exception: In U8, the 11" soft indoor ball will be used.	U 14 - 12" Ball (Pee Wee)
AGES – MASTERS	Masters all players 40+	Masters age - 35+	The age for eligible master's players is that they must be at least 40 years of age or turning 40 in the year of the event. The age for eligible master's Legends players is that they must be at least 50 years of age or turning 50 in the year of the event.	N/A
ROSTERS – MASTERS	17 players	Allows a roster of 17 players to be signed	Same as in Canadian Championships: 20 players As per Softball Canada Special Operating Rule 1.3 c): 20 players	N/A

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DESIGNATED RUNNER – MASTERS	Rule 4-3 a. 3) Masters divisions may use a designated runner		In Masters classification, the team may have a Designated Runner (DR). The Designated Runner will be identified on the line-up card and may enter the game to bat or play defense (thus eliminating the Designated Runner position from the game). The runner may run for anyone but may only be used for one (1) player in each inning.	
UNIFORM	Rule 3-8(e) Only whole numbers 00 to 99 shall be used (maximum of 2 digits) Reference to coach's uniform is found under Rule 4-1 b.	N.B. All Team coaching personnel, including the Managers, shall wear a team uniform shirt.	Same as Softball Canada. For U19 and above, coaches appearing on the field are not allowed to wear shorts as part of the uniform. Coaches must be in full uniform to reflect uniform of the players on the field. Failure to comply is not grounds for protest.	A sweater or shirt constitutes a uniform. The color combination and style must be similar for all playing members of the team. Each uniform must have a number on it, minimum 3" in height. No identical numbers. Uniforms are not grounds for protest.
DROPPED THIRD STRIKE	Rule 7-6(k) Rule 8-1(b)The batter becomes a batter base runner 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 anytime there are two outs. Rule 8-1(b) Exception U12 and under batter is out.	In all Divisions "excluding (U10) " the dropped third strike is in effect.	Exception: the rule does not apply in U8 or U10 classifications only.	Same as Softball Canada. Note: In U12 and under, the batter is out on the 3rd strike regardless of whether the ball is caught or not, and the ball remains alive.
SUBSTITUTION	Rule 4-7	(U10) and (U12) Divisions * All players MUST bat, and unlimited defensive substitutions will be allowed. Players requiring courtesy runners must be announced before the game begins unless an injury occurs during the game.	Same as Softball Canada with the following exceptions: Exception: In U8 and U10 all players will be listed on the initial batting order. All players will bat. The batting order will be followed for the complete game. In case of ejection or injury, the player's spot in the lineup is omitted. If a runner is injured, a substitute runner may be used, until he is put out or reaches home; then the player's spot is omitted on the lineup. Exception: In U12, there will be unlimited defensive substitution of players who are on the lineup card while maintaining a nine-player batting order. Exception: In U8 to U12, a player arriving late may be added to the lineup card. For U8 and U10, the player is added to the bottom of the batting order.	In U12 and under, use the free substitution rule (everyone bats). Free Substitution - All players in the lineup bat and are substituted freely defensively. Players arriving late, sign the convener's sheet and then added to the end of the lineup, without penalty. Players injured are removed from the lineup without penalty but may not re- enter the game. The defensive conference (Rule IX q) is in effect.
COACHES	Rule 1-18	Must be signed and have NCCP softball certification as required on Pages 27 & 28 of the PWSA rulebook. For 2021 due to no clinics as a result of the pandemic minimum requirement FOCS 1 and 2	Exception: Must be signed and NCCP certified as stated in Operating Rule 5.1 and 5.2 in the OASA Constitution and By-Laws and Operating Rules	Not necessary to be signed.

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RUN-AHEAD RULE	<p>Rule 5-6a In all categories game will end when 2 1/2, 3 complete any team ahead by 15 runs. 3 1/2, or 4 complete any team ahead by 10 runs. 4 1/2, 5, 5 ½ or 6 ahead by 7 runs.</p>	<p>R4.05 Mercy Rule: In the (U10) through (U16) Divisions, if any team is ahead by fifteen (15) or more runs at the end of three innings (two and a half if home team) or any inning thereafter; or if any team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs at the end of five innings (four and a half if home team) or any inning thereafter, the game will be terminated. In the (U19) through Women's Divisions, if any team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs at the end of three innings (two and a half if home team) or any inning thereafter; or if any team is ahead by seven (7) or more runs at the end of five innings (four and a half if home team) or any inning thereafter, the game will be terminated. In (U10) and (U12) Divisions, if any team is ahead by twenty-five (25) or more runs after any complete inning (or half inning if home team) the game will be terminated.</p>	<p>Exception: For U10 and U12, the game will end 1) After 2.5 or 3 complete innings of play, if there is a difference of 15 or more runs. 2) After 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 5.5, or 6 complete innings of play, if there is a difference of 10 or more runs. This rule will apply to all games including the final games. Exception: For U8, the Run Ahead Rule shall be a maximum of 6 runs or 3 outs per inning.</p>	<p>In Pee Wee and under fastball series, there is a mercy rule of 15 runs after 5 or more innings. In Bantam and older series there is a mercy rule of 10 runs after 5 or more innings. In Grand Championship, mercy rule of 7 runs after 5 innings.</p>
SHOES	Rule 3-5	Same as Softball Canada.	Same as Softball Canada.	.
PITCHING RULE	<p>Rule 6.1 (pg169) – U16 and above c) The pitcher must have the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate and both feet within the 61.0 cm (24in) length of the pitcher's plate. The hips must be in line with the first and third bases. e) The non-pivot foot (the stepping foot) must be stationary at the start and during the pause. The non-pivot foot can only move forward with the start of the pitch. Any backward movement of the non-pivot foot during or after the pause is an illegal action. Rule 6.3.g b) The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate prior to the start of the pitch.</p>	<p>Exception in U10 a pitcher and a catcher may play only 3 innings per game in each of those positions. In U12 a pitcher and a catcher may play only 4 innings per game in each of those positions.</p>	<p>Same as Softball Canada. WBSC Pitching Rule for U16 and above.</p>	<p>For Intermediate Men only: Pitching Rule same as ISC e.g. 1 foot on rubber.</p>
PITCHING PROTECTIVE FACE MASK	<p>Rule 3.6 b-4 Pitchers in the U12 and below categories are required to wear a protective face mask.</p>	Same as Softball Canada	<p>Beginning in 2019, all U10, U12 and U14 pitchers will be required to wear a defensive face mask. Beginning in 2020, all U16 pitchers will be required to wear a defensive face mask. Defensive masks are optional for all other defensive players.</p>	Same as Softball Canada
PITCHING DISTANCE	See Softball Canada Distance Table	<p>Same as Softball Canada U10 35' U12 38"</p>	<p>Same as Softball Canada. Exception: In U8, the pitching distance is 25'.</p>	Same as Softball Canada
BASE DISTANCE	See Softball Canada Distance Table	<p>Same as Softball Canada U10 50' U12 60"</p>	Same as Softball Canada	Same as Softball Canada
INFIELD FLY RULE	Rule 1-53	Exception: U10 Mite where the rule is not in effect	In U8 and U10, the infield fly rule is not in effect.	

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TEMPORARY RUNNER (TWO OUT CATCHER RULE)	Rule 4-11	Same as Softball Canada.	In U8 and U10, a replacement runner may be used at any time for the catcher, regardless of the number of outs.	Rule 4-11
PLAYING TIME	Rule 4-7 Substitutes	Exception: U10 and U12 see special rules	In U8 classification, no player is to sit more than one (1) consecutive inning. All players will sit out one (1) inning before a player sits out a second inning. In U10 classification, the recommended player participation is that no player should sit out for more than one (1) consecutive inning. All players should sit out one (1) inning before a player sits out a second inning. Coaches are encouraged to play all players as equally as possible over the course of the season. In U12 classification, coaches are encouraged to play all players as equally as possible over the course of the season.	