

## 2024 RULE DIFFERENCES FOR THE U9/U11 DIVISION

SOFTBALL CANADA HAS INCLUDED IN THEIR RULE BOOK AN AREA DEDICATED TO MINOR SOFTBALL RULES.

THE P.W.S.A. IS NOT USING ALL OF THESE RULES FOR THE 2024 U9/U11 TOURNAMENTS. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE ALL OF THESE RULES WITHOUT GIVING AMPLE ADVANCE NOTICE.

BELOW YOU WILL FIND THE RULE DIFFERENCES THAT WILL APPLY TO THE 2024 P.W.S.A. U9/U11 DIVISION TOURNAMENTS.

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### RULE 3 - EQUIPMENT

1. BALL

The P.W.S.A. will use the 11" Ball - Softball Canada standard (Cor.47).

2. HOME PLATE

The regular 17-inch Home Plate will be used.

3. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

For the U9/U11 Division, it is MANDATORY for all pitchers to wear a protective face mask.

### RULE 4 - COACHES, PLAYERS & SUBSTITUTES

4. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

A full roster of seventeen (17) players will be allowed.

Teams will be expected to field a team of nine (9) players.

P.W.S.A. does not allow a team to compete with less than the maximum of nine (9) players on the field.

All batting rules are covered under batting.

5. SUBSTITUTES

*Unlimited defensive substitutions are allowed.*

Players may enter and exit the game defensively at any time and in any position.

6. PLAYING TIME

A player cannot play the same position more than three (3) innings per game.

The playing time will reset after six (6) innings.

If the game goes to the International Tie Breaker, then it will be at the end of six (6) innings or when the time limit is up.

### RULE 5 - THE GAME

7. REGULATION GAME

No inning shall begin after one hour and thirty minutes.

NB: ALL MEDAL GAMES WILL BE NO NEW INNING AFTER 120 MINUTES OR 7 INNINGS.

8. OFFENSIVE CONFERENCES

A team is permitted two (2) offensive conferences per inning.

9. DEFENSIVE CONFERENCES

The defensive conference rule shall be waived for U9/U11 division.

10. RUN LIMIT PER INNING

There is no maximum number of runs per half inning.

11. RUN LIMIT – OPEN LAST INNING

This rule does not apply to the P.W.S.A. U9/U11 Division.

12. TIE BREAKER

The International Tie Breaker shall be used at the completion of six (6) innings or when the time is up.

13. INFIELD FLY RULE

The Infield Fly Rule is NOT in effect for the U9/U11 Division.

**RULE 6 - PITCHING REGULATIONS**

14. PITCHING

A Pitcher will not be replaced by the hitter's Coach or designate at any time.

15. PITCHING

A Pitcher cannot pitch for more than three (3) innings per game.

The pitching rule will reset after six (6) innings.

If the games goes to the International Tie Breaker, it will be at the end of six (6) innings or when the time limit is up.

**RULE 7 - BATTING**

16. PLEASE NOTE: THE BATTING ORDER WILL NOT CHANGE OR ROTATE WHO IS FIRST IN EACH INNING.

- All registered players present at the ballpark, and who are neither injured nor ill, will be required to take a regular spot in the batting line-up.
- Players who show up after the official line-up has been submitted will be inserted into the bottom of the team's batting order. The player will bat in this spot of the order regardless of where the team is in the order when the player arrives. (For example, if the late player is inserted in batting position #12, and the #12 spot is due up next, the late arriving player becomes the next batter.)
- If a player becomes ill or injured during the game and is unable to bat, that player's spot in the order will be skipped without penalty. If the player recovers to the point where the player can bat, the player can re-enter the game and bat in their original spot in the order.
- Should an umpire, for objectionable conduct, eject a player from a game, an automatic out will be called for the remainder of the game when that player's spot in the order is due up.

- A player not batting in their spot for any reason not covered in the Softball Canada Rulebook, including being benched by a coach for disciplinary reasons, will be declared out when the said player's spot is due up.
- Should a player be able to hit, but unable to run the bases, the last available player to bat may be utilized as a courtesy runner. Courtesy runners must be announced before the game begins unless an injury occurs during the game.

17. BUNTING

Bunting is allowed.

**RULE 8 - BATTER-RUNNER & RUNNER**

18. DROPPED THIRD STRIKE RULE

In all divisions, "excluding the U9/U11 Division", the dropped third strike rule is in effect.

19. STEALING

STEALING IS ALLOWED IN THE U9/U11 DIVISION – with the following provisions:

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.

**Note!** Any runner on base cannot score unless the ball is put into play by a batter, or if walked home. Once the ball is put into play by the batter, any and all runners can advance at their own risk.

**Exception:** If the Catcher or any player puts the ball in play by throwing to a base, then all runners are entitled to advance at their own risk, however the runners cannot score unless the ball is put into play by the batter.

20. LEAD OFF

Runners may leave the base when the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.

21. BASERUNNER ADVANCEMENT

After a fairly hit ball, the advancing of runners IS NOT considered over when the ball returns to the infield.

**ANY SUSPECTED ABUSE OF THESE RULES SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE P.W.S.A. FOR FOLLOW-UP.**

(Revised April, 2024)