

PLEASE NOTE THESE HOUSEKEEPING RULES:

Every team/centre is responsible for its own insurance. Proof of this insurance **MUST** be sent to the league secretary at the **BEGINNING** of each season.

New Centres will pay a \$100 Bond at the Scheduling Meeting. This bond money will be used throughout the season if forfeits occur or money is not paid for league expenses. Bond money refund requests expire one year after the centre is inactive in the League. If a Centre is dormant for two consecutive seasons they must reapply as a new centre, and pay the \$100 Bond fee.

**Each team MUST pay \$50 per team to enter the league.** This money must be paid at the scheduling meeting. If you are unable to attend the scheduling meeting, the payment must be paid before teams start their league play. If not paid, teams could be stopped from playing games.

**Each team MUST pay \$150 at the scheduling meeting.** This money will be used for playoff tournaments. The \$150 will be forwarded to the Host Centre.

Team rosters with names and birthdates must be submitted to the league secretary prior to the scheduling meeting (See Rule 10.1) Extra players' names can be added throughout the season.

Overage players and PWSA players must be identified on each team's roster.

Overage players and PWSA players must be announced during the ground rules so scorekeepers are aware.

Ejected players and/or coaches may be subject to further league discipline.

In order to play in the Huron Perth League, players must first sign in your home centre before pursuing the chance to play for another centre. (See Rule 6.8)

New centres to the League are to be reviewed and voted on at the annual meeting. Geography will be factored into these decisions. Centres that inquire in early Spring will be allowed to enter that season at the Executive's discretion.

All centres must notify the League Executive of their team entries for the upcoming season a week prior to the scheduling meeting.

Huron-Perth minor Fastball League's website: <http://www.huronperthfastball.ca/>

Coaches, there are instructions on the league website under "Important Documents". These will help with scheduling and entering scores. Currently the majority of the online scheduling will be done by Rob. More information will be provided at the scheduling meeting and with follow up emails to all coaches.

Photographs and video may only be taken in public view, must observe generally accepted standards of decency, and be both appropriate for and in the best interest of the athlete.

Each coach must review the Huron Perth League Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it on behalf of their team.

## **HURON PERTH SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

### **1. Age Divisions**

Divisions listed below are in accordance with Softball Canada. The exception is Huron Perth will offer a U21 Division instead of U19 and U23 Divisions.

1.1 U21 Ladies	All players must be under 21 years of age prior to Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>
1.2 U17 Girls	All players must be under 17 years of age prior to Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>
1.3 U15 Girls	All players must be under 15 years of age prior to Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>
1.4 U13 Girls	All players must be under 13 years of age prior to Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>
1.5 U11 Girls	All players must be under 11 years of age prior to Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>
1.6 U9 Girls	All players must be under 9 years of age prior to Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>
1.7 U7 Co-ed	All players must be under 7 years of age prior to Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>

### **2. Softball Canada Rules**

Games will be played in accordance with the Softball Canada Rule Book except where modified by Huron Perth League Rules.

### **3. Pitching Distances/Safe Base/Other Rules**

3.1		
DIVISION	PITCHING DISTANCE (in feet)	BASE LINE (in feet)
U21	43	60
U17	43	60
U15	40	60
U13	38	55
U11	35	45
U9	30	45
U7	30	45

3.2 All league divisions are required to implement the use of a SAFE BASE. A SAFE BASE is double base at first, rectangular, 1 5"x30", 1/2 white, fastened in foul territory.

### 3.3 Other Rules

Other Rules	U11	U13	U15, U17, U21
<b>Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike</b>	Automatic out	Automatic out	Ball is in play
<b>Lead-offs</b>	Ball crosses the plate/ 3 <sup>rd</sup> base runner may only advance on a hit ball	Ball crosses the plate	Ball leaves the pitcher's hand
<b>Ejected Player</b>	Automatic out in batting order	Automatic out in batting order	Automatic out in batting order
<b>Injured Player</b>	May re-enter in batting order	May re-enter in batting order	May re-enter in batting order
<b>Pitching</b>	One player no more than 6 outs	One player no more than 12 outs	No limit
<b>Walks</b>	First base only	First base only	No limit
<b>Infield Fly Rule</b>	No Infield Fly Rule	Infield Fly Rule in Effect	Infield Fly Rule in Effect

3.4 For U11, runners will not be allowed to advance on an overthrow that remains in play, or an overthrow that goes out of play. Only one base stolen will be allowed per play. A runner on third base may only advance on a hit ball or when forced to advance on a loaded bases walk. To further restrict base stealing Coaches must agree.

3.5 Pitching Rule – U11 and under can only pitch 2 innings or 6 outs per game. U13 can only pitch 4 innings or 12 outs per game.

#### 3.6 Pitching Rule Clarification

WBSC pitching rule has been adopted in all age groups Softball Canada: Pitching Legal Explained

[March 7, 2022 YouTube video](#)

3.7 All age divisions will list ALL players on the batting order and there will be unlimited substitutions in the field.

3.8 U21, U17 and U15 divisions will use a 12-inch ball. All other divisions will use a 11-inch ball.

SEE U9 RULES on the Huron Perth website

#### **4. Umpires**

4.1 Softball Ontario, Softball Canada or Baseball Ontario registered umpires are recommended for all games.

4.2 All umpires must be at least one year older than the age group they are umpiring.

4.3 Home team is responsible for providing both the home plate and base umpires.

#### **5. Game Rules**

5.1a U15 Division and under will play with a FIVE-RUN LIMIT per inning with no open inning.

5.1b U17 and U21 Divisions will play with a SEVEN-RUN LIMIT per inning with no open inning.

5.1c U11 to U21 Divisions will play with the following runs ahead rule

- 15 runs after 3 innings
- 10 runs after 5 innings

5.2 During the regular schedule, if the game is tied after 7 innings or the time limit is reached, there will be no extra innings played. A tie score will stand. Two points will be awarded for a win and one point for a tie.

5.3 When a time limit is stated in the ground rules by the home team, the time limit will take precedent over legal inning requirements. The home team is to ensure sufficient time has been scheduled to reasonably ensure the minimum inning requirements can be met for most games. No inning will start after the stated time limit has been reached. Recommended minimum time limits are one hour and thirty minutes for U15 and higher and one hour and fifteen minutes for U13 and lower.

5.4 U13 and under:

5.4a Play at least five innings whenever possible.

5.4b Three innings must be played to qualify as a legal game. No inning will start after time limit stated by home team.

5.5 U21, U17, U15

5.5a Play seven innings whenever possible.

5.5b Five innings must be played to qualify as a legal game. No inning will start after time limit stated by home team. (Unless Runs Ahead Rule 5.1c is in effect)

5.6 All league and playoff games are to be started no earlier than 6:00 pm.

5.7 All re-scheduled league games MUST be rescheduled within two weeks. If home team fails to schedule, forfeit will occur. Throughout the season, home team must give visiting team 2 alternate makeup dates. If those two dates are not acceptable by the visiting team, a forfeit will occur. Be sure to check the visiting team schedule before offering the two dates.

5.8 Postponed games are to be arranged by the home team. If the home team is unable to provide diamond time the game may be played at opposing team's diamond. Any postponed game that is not played in accordance with Rule 5.7 above, will be forfeited to the non-offending team. If both teams are at fault and the game cannot be played in accordance with Rule 5.7, then a loss is recorded against both teams.

5.9 If insufficient notice of cancellation is provided to permit the home team to cancel the Umpires to avoid paying for their services, then the offending team will be required to cover the Umpire costs for the re-scheduled game. Failure of the offending team to cover costs will result in a forfeit to the home team. If necessary, the umpiring costs will be covered by the league through the offending centre's bond.

5.10 Teams cancelling games must contact other team via phone if text or email has not received a reply/affirmation.

## **6. Player Rules**

### **6.1 Competitive Players and Competitive Pitchers**

6.1a The number of active PWSA (Competitive Players) on any team is restricted to 2 players. They must have played in the Huron Perth League for the past two years, they may play any position except for Pitcher or Catcher.

6.1b PWSA players must be declared at the ground rules each game.

6.1c In the U21 Division the number of NCAA Players and/or Players that have a scholarship in the United States is restricted to 2 players. They must have played in the Huron Perth League for the past two years, they may play any position except for Pitcher or Catcher.

6.2 There can be 2 rostered overage players per team. Overagers can only be one year older than the age group. These players will be approved by the league, cannot play as pitcher or catcher and also must be declared at the ground rules of each game. Overagers cannot be PWSA players.

6.3 Players playing in another house league during the current season are eligible to play in Huron Perth League with no restrictions on the number of players.

6.4 Teams must declare to the league executive any player that will be playing in another league during the current season, they must provide the name of league they will be

playing in and a contact person for the league. This can be identified on the team list submitted to the league.

6.5 Any team using a player under suspension, unregistered player, an ineligible pitcher, or an undeclared player will forfeit all games the player has played in.

6.6 Ejected players and/or coaches may be subject to further league discipline.

6.7 In order to play in the Huron Perth League, you must first register in your home centre before pursuing playing for another centre. Releases are only valid for one year. When a release is granted for two consecutive seasons this player is considered "grandfathered" and the centre they are released to is considered their new home centre.

6.8 All players must play a minimum of five league games to be eligible to play in playoff games. Games missed to injury will be counted as games played for eligibility purposes.

## **7. Affiliates**

The intent of player affiliation is to ensure a sufficient number of players will be available to play the games as scheduled and reduce the number of re-scheduled games due to absent players.

7.1 A player may move up, as required, from the team signed with, to play with a team in the higher age division if both teams are registered in the Huron Perth League. A player may not be pulled down from an older age division they are signed with, to field a team. **Players may affiliate with one team only within the Huron Perth League.** Cross affiliation is permitted not for the purposes of competitive advantage but to field a maximum of 10 players on a team. Cross affiliation is permitted for league play only, cross affiliation is not permitted during playoffs or year end tournaments.

7.2 Players may register with one team only, all teams must register a minimum of 9 players excluding affiliates. In all instances, a player's commitment will be to their signed team.

7.3 To qualify for playoffs with a team, the affiliate must play five games in the Huron Perth League.

7.4 Teams may field a team with a minimum of eight players. The ninth spot in the order will not be considered an Out.

## **8. Late Player Entries into Games**

8.1 Players who are listed on the lineup and are not present at the start of the game are to be crossed off their position in the lineup. Subsequently, if the player arrives after the start of the game the player may be inserted at the bottom of the lineup with no penalty to the team.

8.2 Any player arriving after the start of the game, even if they were not originally listed in the game lineup, may be inserted at the bottom of the lineup at any point in the game with no penalty to the team.

8.3 The opposing team score keeper must be advised of any late player entering the game.

## **9. Equipment & Safety**

9.1 All bats and balls must meet Softball Canada approval criteria.

9.2 Home teams are to provide one new and one good used ball of same colour for each game.

9.3 Metal spikes cannot be worn by any division.

9.4 All catchers are required to wear a mask with a helmet, throat protector, appropriate glove, chest protector and shin guards. All of this equipment is to fit properly.

9.5 All offensive players on the field (batters, base runners and on deck players) must wear an approved helmet with the strap fastened under the chin.

9.6 No exposed items (including jewelry) judged by the umpire to be distracting to opposing players may be worn or displayed. If so, the umpire will require the item to be removed or covered.

9.7 U17 and below batters and base runners must wear a protective face mask attached to their helmet.

9.8 U17 and below pitchers must wear fielding masks.

## **10 Player Registration & Insurance**

10.1 Each team must submit a list of players and year born to the Secretary prior to the scheduling meeting to keep on file for playoffs and possible protests. Cost per team is **\$50** for league fees due at the scheduling meeting. This is to be paid to the Treasurer and/or Secretary Treasurer. **A late fee of \$20.00** per team may be applied to team lists submitted after that date. Each team/centre will purchase their own insurance. An additional **\$150** for each team must be paid at the scheduling meeting. This money will be put towards the team's year-end tournament.

10.2 Overage and PWSA players must be highlighted on each team's player registration.

10.3 Players may be added to a team roster throughout the season.

10.4 To meet insurance requirements **ALL PLAYERS, COACHES AND HELPERS' NAMES** must be submitted to the insurance company.

10.5 Any player added to a team must be registered with the league and cannot play until the league has confirmed insurance coverage for that player.

10.6 The teams need to purchase both liability and accident insurance coverage.

10.7 Proof of team insurance MUST be given to the league secretary at the beginning of the season. Please have insurance verified for Scheduling Meeting.

### **11. Protests**

11.1 Any dispute or written protest will be settled by the executive committee. A cheque in the amount of \$50.00 payable to Huron Perth League must accompany all protests.

All rules of protest outlined in Softball Canada Rule Book must be adhered to or the protest will not be considered valid and therefore denied.

### **12. Divisional/Tournament Convenor and Maintaining Division Standings**

12.1 A Convenor is to be established for each division the night of the scheduling meeting.

12.2 The primary duty of the Convenor is to arrange and hold the season ending playoff tournament. The date of the tournament should be established the night of the scheduling meeting and in any case it must be established and communicated to all teams no later than June 15<sup>th</sup>. Three weeks notice must be provided, as a minimum, to all teams if there is change in the tournament date.

12.3 The Huron Perth league website with the support of the webmaster will be utilized to collect schedules, report scores, and keep standings. This will assist the divisional Convenor in their duties in overseeing the division and preparing for playoffs or playoff tournament. Convenors will be supported by the executive in their role.

12.4 The home team is responsible for reporting game scores.

12.5 Ties in the regular season standings will be broken based on the following criteria;  
1<sup>st</sup> – Winner of regular season series between tied teams. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Most runs scored in season series between tied teams.

12.6 If no one volunteers to be Convenor in a division, the executive may choose to not hold playoffs or a playoff tournament.

### **13 Playoffs and Playoff Tournament Rules**

13.1 General Requirements

Playoffs must provide a positional advantage for teams finishing higher in the standings.

Provide fair opportunity for teams to contend for A, B, and potentially C championships.



League rules apply to playoff tournaments and playoffs unless modified by following rules.

### 13.2 Rules for Playoffs (non-tournament)

13.2a If there is no year end tournament, then a playoff can be held following highest plays lowest format.

13.2b Any decision and format for league playoffs instead of a playoff tournament must be approved by the executive.

13.2c The team hosting any game of any round must provide at least 2 dates to the visiting team on which the game can be played. Once a date is agreed on, any team failing to field a team on the agreed date will automatically forfeit the game. Teams may appeal to the league executive to settle scheduling disputes. League decisions are final.

13.2d All playoff games must be 7 innings for U15, U17 and U21 and 5 innings for U11 and U13. All games may be shortened in accordance with the runs ahead rule. (Rule 5.1c)

13.3 Softball Canada tie breaking rule will apply for playoff games.

### 13.4 Playoff Tournaments

13.4a Tournaments are to be non-profit (excluding booth). The team hosting the tournament must provide the other coaches with a cost breakdown before entries are paid. Entry fees are to be paid when requested by the Convenor provided a breakdown has been provided.

13.4b Tournaments are to provide a similar opportunity as playoffs to determine A, B and potentially C championships.

13.4c Higher position team will be the home team in all tournament games.

13.4d For age categories U15, U17 and U21, championship games must be seven innings with no time limit. Preliminary games may have 5 inning limits or 1 hour and thirty-minute time limits.

13.4e For age categories U11 & U13, championship games must be at least 5 innings. Preliminary games may have 4 inning limits or 1 hour and 15- minute time limits. Tournaments in these age categories should be arranged to limit the number of games played on any one day to 4 games.

13.4f Teams forfeiting more than 5 regular season games will be ineligible for playoffs or playoff tournaments.

13.4g If a team forfeits after the tournament schedule is created. The \$150 deposit and any additional funds paid directly to the host centre will not be returned to the offending centre. The balance is to be returned to the League after Host Centre expenses are paid.

13.5 Year-end tournament formats will be shared with the league executive for final approval.

13.6 In extreme weather conditions, sufficient breaks between games should be planned in the tournament schedule to ensure the player's health is not harmed.

13.7 Only league teams and eligible players on league teams can participate in playoff tournaments.