

**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.

\$100 bond per centre must be paid at the scheduling meeting (FOR NEW CENTRES IN OUR LEAGUE). This bond money will be used throughout the season if forfeits occur or money is not paid for league expenses. Bond money requests expire one year after team leaves Huron-Perth league.

**Each team MUST pay \$30 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 given to the tournament convenor. YEAR END FORMAT TO BE DISCUSSED AT ANNUAL MEETING, PLAY OFFS VERSUS TOURNAMENT

Team lists with names and birthdates must be sent to the league secretary at the beginning of each season. Extra players' names can be included throughout the season.

Overage players and PWSA players must be identified on each team's roster. These rosters will be shared to other teams and possibly be uploaded to the website.

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.  
Current players are grandfathered.

New centres to the league are to be reviewed and voted on at the annual meeting. Geography will be factored into these decisions.

All centres must notify the league executive by April 15 of their team entries for the upcoming season.

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

Coaches, please send your schedule / information / contacts / directions to Rob Dearing: [rob@totalcs.ca](mailto:rob@totalcs.ca) so this website can be used efficiently for everyone involved in the league. Rob has created a form on the website for teams to send in scores of their games. This should make it easier for everyone entering scores.

## **HURON PERTH SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

### **1. Age Divisions – Effective 2022 Season**

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 Co-ed   | 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. Umpires**

- 3.1 All umpires must be carded and the card must be valid for the current season.
- 3.2 All Junior Umpires and Umpires with Restricted cards, must be at least one year older than the age group they are umpiring.
- 3.3 Softball Canada and Western Ontario Athletic Association (WOAA) cards are acceptable.
- 3.4 Softball Canada Junior Umpire certificates issued during the current year will be considered equivalent to a Restricted WOAA card.
- 3.5 At least one umpire will have as a minimum, a Level 1 card for U17 and U21 age categories.

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

#### **4. Pitching Rule Clarification**

**WBSC pitching rule has been adopted in all age groups**

**Softball Canada: Pitching Legal Explained**

**[March 7, 2022 YouTube video](#)**

#### **5 Game Rules**

5.1a U15 Division and under will play with a FIVE-RUN MERCY per inning with no open inning. All games may be shortened when one team has a sufficient lead that the opposing team cannot exceed or tie it by scoring the maximum number of 5 runs in every remaining inning.

5.1b U17 and U21 Divisions will play with a SEVEN-RUN MERCY per inning with no open inning. All games may be shortened when one team has a sufficient lead that the opposing team cannot exceed or tie it by scoring the maximum number of 7 runs in every remaining inning.

5.1c U17 and U21 Divisions– will have the additional mercy rule of 15 runs after four 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 All age divisions will list ALL players on the batting order and there will be unlimited substitution in the field.

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

5.5 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.

5.6 U13 and under:

5.6a Play at least five innings whenever possible.

5.6b Three innings must be played to qualify as a legal game. No inning will start after time limit stated by home team.

#### 5.7 U21, U17, U15

5.7a Play seven innings whenever possible.

5.7b Five innings must be played to qualify as a legal game.  
No inning will start after time limit stated by home team.  
(Unless mercy rule is in effect) (Rule: 5.1c)

5.8 For U11, runners will not be allowed to advance on an overthrow. 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.

5.9 All league and playoff games are to be started no earlier than 6:15 PM.

5.10 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.

5.11 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 5.10 above, then the game will be forfeited to the non-offending team. If both teams are at fault and the game cannot be played in accordance with Rule 5.10, then a loss is recorded against both teams.

5.12 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.

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

5.14 Overage and PWSA players from each team must be announced at the ground rules.

## **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 and can play any position including pitcher.

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

6.2 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.

6.3 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.

6.4 Registered players in Huron Perth League may play on any team for the purpose of playing in invited tournaments outside of Huron Perth League. Players playing on tournament teams do not have to be declared to the league executive.

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 There can be 2 registered overage players per team. Overagers can only be one year older than the age group. These players will be sanctioned by the league, cannot play as pitcher or catcher and also must be identified at the beginning of each game. **Overagers cannot be PWSA players.**

6.7 Overage players must be identified on the team ROSTER and verbally announced during ground rules.

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

6.9 In order to play in the Huron Perth league, you must first sign in your own home centre before pursuing playing for another centre. Current players are grandfathered.

6.10 All players must play a minimum of five league games to be eligible to play in playoff games.

6.11 Pitching Rule –U11 and U13 can only pitch 4 innings or 12 outs per game.

6.12 Infield Fly Rule – Will NOT be in effect for U11 and U13.

## **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 next higher age division if both teams are registered in Huron Perth League. Players may affiliate with one team only within the Huron Perth League. Cross affiliation not for the purpose of competitive advantage but to field a maximum of 10 players on a team.

7.2 Players may register with one team only i.e., 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.

## **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, shin guards and athletic support with cup (for boys and girls). 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 and/or Secretary Treasurer at the scheduling meeting to keep on file for playoffs and possible protests. Cost per team is **\$30** 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. These names will be shared with each team and possibly uploaded to Huron Perth website.
- 10.3 Players may be added to the list until June 1st. If no list is received by that date the team will not be permitted to play in the league. A minor moving into the area after June 1<sup>st</sup> can be eligible to play if the league is notified.

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. Tournament Convenor and Maintaining Division Standings**

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

11.2 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.

11.3 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 his duties in overseeing the division and preparing for playoffs or playoff tournament. Convenors will be supported by the executive in their role.

11.4 The home team is responsible for reporting game scores.

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

## **12 Protests**

12.1 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.



**13. Pitching Distances/Safe Base/Other Rules**

13.1

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

13.2 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.

13.3 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 12 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	No Infield Fly Rule	Infield Fly Rule in Effect

**14. Playoffs and Playoff Tournament Rules**

14.1 General Requirements

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

Provide fair opportunity for teams to contend for A and B trophies and guarantee at least games for all teams participating in tournament be setup to ensure highest position teams are not likely to meet until the championship games.

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

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

14.2a If there is no playoff tournament being held then a playoff can be held following highest plays lowest format.

14.2b Any decision and format for league playoffs instead of a playoff tournament must be approved by the executive.

14.2c **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

14.2d 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.

14.2e All playoff games must be 7 innings for U15, U17 and U21 and 5 innings for U11 and U13. All games may be shortened when one team has a sufficient lead that the opposing team cannot exceed or tie it by scoring the maximum of 7 runs/ 5 runs in every remaining inning.

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

#### 14.4 Playoff Tournaments

14.4a 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.

14.4b Tournaments are to provide a similar opportunity as playoffs to determine

A and B champs. Consolation / C Round may be included.

14.4c Higher position team will be the home team in all tournament games.

14.4d Regular season standings must be used to determine opponents for first games played. The first-place team will be given an advantage of playing the lowest position team within their group or tournament as a starting game. Opponents for other starting games are to be determined, following the pattern of next highest plays next lowest. Opponents for following games are determined by game results.

14.4e Where a consolation round is included, teams are relegated to this round after having been eliminated from A and B rounds first. Depending on the tournament setup, at least two games with a loss of the second game or two losses are required before a team is relegated to the C round or eliminated from further play.

14.4f For age categories U15, U17 and U21, the A & B 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.

14.4g For age categories U11 & U13, the A & B championship games must be at least 5 innings. Preliminary games may have 4 inning limits or 1hour and 15-minute time limits. **Tournaments in this age category should be arranged to limit the number of games played on any one day to 4 games. Additional games may be played provided coaches agree.**

14.4h Teams forfeiting more than 5 regular season games will be ineligible for playoffs or playoff tournaments.

## 14.5 Tournament Types

### 14.5a Standard A & B Tournament

All teams are in contention for the A championship and are relegated to the B category by losing their starting game.

Losing the second game of the tournament will result in elimination from the tournament or relegation to the C round.

Play continues with winning teams advancing to A and B finals and losing teams eliminated from A/B contention.

#### 14.5b A & B Seeded Tournament

Teams are placed into A and B categories based on regular season standings.

Teams play within their categories with winning teams advancing to the championship games and losing teams relegated to the C round or eliminated from the tournament. At least 2 games must be played within each category before elimination or relegation to a C round.

#### 14.5c Double Knockout Tournament

**This tournament format is not recommended for U11 and U13 divisions due the extensive number of games involved to complete this tournament.**

All teams are in contention for the A and B championship.

Two losses are required to be eliminated or relegated to the C round.

Play continues until two teams meet in a final game. One team will have no losses and the other will have one loss.

If the team with no losses wins in the first game then that team will be declared A Champ and the runner up declared B Champ. A win by the other team will result in playing an additional game to declare champions.

14.6 Variations on the Tournament Types are permitted based on the number of teams playing in the tournament. Any participating team if necessary, may request league review of tournaments.

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

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

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