

# Augusta Minor Ball Rules

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## **1. DISCIPLINARY PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES**

Any attempt to injure another player will result in the following:

1st offence - 3 game suspension

2nd offence - suspended for remainder of the season

Any verbal abuse of an Umpire by a player or a Coach will result in the following:

1st offence – 1 game suspension

2<sup>nd</sup> offence – 2 game suspension

3rd offence – suspended for the remainder of the season

Throwing of equipment will be an automatic ejection for the remainder of the game. Any subsequent incident will result in the following:

2nd offence - 2 game suspension

3rd offence - 3 game suspension

4th offence - suspended for the remainder of the season.

The use of foul language will be an automatic ejection for the remainder of the game. Any subsequent incident will result in the following:

2nd offence - 2 game suspension.

3rd offence - 3 game suspension.

The use of obscene gestures will result in an automatic ejection for the remainder of the game. Any subsequent incident will result in the following:

2nd offence - 3 game suspension.

Any physical violence at the ballpark during the game, whether it be by a player or a coach, will result in a suspension for the remainder of the season if during the first ½ of the season, any occurrence during the 2nd half + additional penalties deemed warranted by the Augusta Softball Executive.

Any physical abuse of an Umpire will result in an automatic forfeit to the opposite team.

Any **ejection** must be shown on the score sheet. The name of the player ejected his/her number, team and reason for the ejection must be indicated.

Any **suspension** must be shown on the score sheet. The name of the player in question and the suspension being served must be indicated.

All situations resulting in an ejection and/or suspension of any kind must be clearly identified on the score sheet by the Umpire and signed by both Coaches.

The Rules and Discipline Chairman will review the ejection and confer with the Executive, if necessary, before notifying both teams of the suspension.

Any suspensions must be emailed to Mike Limburg, Rules, and Discipline Chair, upon completion of the game by the Coach and the Umpire

Once ejected the player or coach must leave the ballpark immediately.

A player ejected for fighting will be ejected for the entire season.

## **2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **2.1 Softball Executive** must:

- Set up all the schedules.
- Deal with all protest and appeals through the Rules and Discipline Chairman.
  - If necessary, the Executive will call a meeting to deal with any protest or appeal within 36 hours of notification.
- Arrange for a mid-season tournament for each division
- Schedule all end of season tournaments and playoffs.
- The time and location of all yearend games will be set at an open meeting early in the season.
- Reschedule all cancelled games if the teams do not do so.
- Provide a website, which is to include but not be limited to: schedules by division, team scores and standings, yearend tournament layouts, contact lists, etc

### **2.2 Chair** is responsible to:

- plan meetings and chair meetings
- set meeting agenda
- receive and approve tournament formats/fees
- primary contact with softball Ontario
- circulate emails from softball Ontario

### **2.3 Secretary** is responsible to:

- compose minutes
- circulate minutes
- manage contacts for recreations/teams
- book meeting facility
- circulate agenda

### **2.4 Rules and Discipline** is responsible to:

- respond to rule questions
- ensure rules on site are accurate
- deal with complaints about umpiring
- manage umpires listing
- make rulings on rainouts/ forfeits
- interact with Umpire in Chief
- receive all protests from area representatives
- investigate any complaint of misconduct in the league
- report their findings to the Executive along with recommendations
- be available to attend tournaments and problem games
- have a thorough and complete understanding of Softball Canada, Softball Ontario, and Augusta Softball rules

## **2.5 Scorekeeper / Statistician** is responsible to:

- update website as required (post information)
- receive team submissions and ensure balance of home nights
- create schedule
- circulate schedule
- modify schedule
- record game results
- post playoff/tournament schedules
- keep website running

## **2.6 Representatives of each area must:**

- Ensure all coaches and any other volunteers have their Vulnerable Sector Checks up to date
  - Vulnerable Sector Checks will remain up to date for 3 years
- Attend Augusta Minor Softball meetings.
  - In the case of a representative being unable to attend a scheduled meeting it is his/her responsibility to ensure someone attends on his/her behalf.
  - Attendance at Augusta Minor Softball meetings is mandatory.
- Hold public registration
- Not solicit players from other areas
- Have team lists completed and submitted to league via email to scores@augustasoftball.com and a copy kept by coach for reference purposes if required.
- Submit proof of Insurance to scores@augustasoftball.com before start of season.
  - Teams that do not submit proof of insurance will not be allowed to play scheduled games and all games will be forfeited until insurance coverage is proven.
- Receive all protest cheques from coaches and present them to the Rules and Discipline Chair
- Ensure that all coaches and umpires in their recreation be aware of the rules of Augusta, Ontario, and Canadian Minor Softball
- Hold coaches, parents and players accountable within their organization.

## **2.7 Coach & Manager Responsibilities**

- Ensure all players receive equal playing time
- Rainouts must be communicated within 48 hours of the game date
  - Failure to do this will result in a 0 - 0 final score and both teams get zero pts.
- Scores are to be entered into the TeamLinkt app.

- Please direct any issues with the app to scores@augustasoftball.com with the following information:  
Division  
Date  
Visitor Team Score  
Home Team Score
- Paper score sheets must be kept by the coach or manager until the end of the season and provided to the Statistician if requested.
- Inform the Rules and Discipline Chairman of any team official or player ejected from a game.
- Arrangements must be made to hand over the score sheet detailing the suspension to the Rules and Discipline Chairman within 24 hours
  - Failure to report these ejections could result in suspensions being assessed by the Executive.
- Notify scores@augustasoftball.com of any use of an affiliate within 24 hours of the game being played.
  - Failure will result in the suspension of the player for 1 game to be served on their regular team.
- Notify the Scheduler of any rained out / cancelled game. If the two teams involved cannot mutually agree on a date or game a forfeit for both teams.
- Note: all postponed games must be rescheduled within 2 weeks
- If the Scheduler is required to set a date for a postponed game, his/her decision is final! If, after a reasonable effort to reschedule a game, a team refuses to play the game, that game will be considered a forfeit and points will be awarded to the opposing team.
- must keep score sheets until the end of the season
- No drinking of alcohol is permitted on ballpark property at any time. This includes players, coaches, and fans.
- Coaches are responsible to remove the player from the game if drinking is suspected. Coaches may be punished for allowing players to play while the player is under the influence of alcohol.

## **2.8 Umpires**

- In the case of U9 and up, the Home Team must supply at least one registered Softball Ontario Umpire with an effort to have two umpires.
- All Umpires must be familiar with the Augusta Minor Softball, Softball Ontario, and Canada Softball Rules.
- Level 1 umpires must be in an age grouping at least one higher than the game they are umpiring.
- Any individual with a Level II Softball Ontario Umpires Certificate can umpire any game played within the league.

- Umpires will have complete control of the ball during a game and can have anyone removed from the game, including spectators for reasonable cause
- Any shirts worn as part of a uniform must conform with C.S.A. rules.
- Umpires MUST sign the Home Team's score sheet and validate that both teams have recorded and will be submitting the same score.

### **3 GENERAL RULES**

U7 Under 7 as of December 31

U9 Under 9 as of December 31

U11 Under 11 as of December 31

U13 Under 13 as of December 31

U15 Under 15 as of December 31

U17 Under 17 as of December 31

U20 Under 20 as of December 31

- See Appendix for league rules
- All safety rules as per C.A.S.A must be followed.
- Jewelry can be worn if it is not a distraction to opposing players, this is up to the Umpire's discretion on whether it is to be removed or covered up.
- Games must be played when scheduled. Coaches may agree to postpone games, but the team requesting the postponement will face a forfeit if the game remains un-played at the end of regular season
- Games will not be called due to weather (rain or heat) until 4pm on the day of the game.
- There will be unlimited substitutions. The defensive conference rule is in effect, and a pitcher is removed after 3 defensive conferences per game and U13 and below 5 games
- A player will be allowed to play for only one team at one level. Once a player is committed to a team and the team list has been submitted to the Executive, a player cannot move to another recreation.
- The home team must supply two acceptable game balls.
- All pitching rubbers and bases must be properly secured.
- If a player is injured and cannot take his/her turn at bat, the team has no choice but to accept an out and leave that player in the order or to take the player off the order for the balance of the game. Once a player has been removed from the batting order, he/she cannot re-enter the game.
- Any player can come into play at any time during the game. They must go to the bottom of the batting order. If a player is injured, they can be removed from the game without an out. However, if the

player wants to stay in the game and is not ready to go up for their next at bat an out is issued.

- All players must remain on the bench, or at least in the dugout, during play.
- Absolutely no foul language by officials, players, and/or spectators will be tolerated. This rule will be strictly enforced by the Rules and Discipline Chair
- No smoking or vaping is permitted in the dugout.
- If unable to field the minimum number of players, a team can affiliate players laterally within their organization. Example Johnstown 2 player can play for Johnstown 1

### **3.1 Pitching**

- Pitching for all leagues will be in accordance with the C.A.S.A rules for Minor Softball
- Pitching cages required U9 and up
- For U9 & U11, a pitcher can only pitch 3 innings per game. No pitcher can pitch more than two consecutive innings. One pitch thrown in an inning counts as an inning pitched. In the case of tournament or playoff play this rule does not apply to extra innings
- For U13, a pitcher can only pitch 4 innings per game. No pitcher can pitch more than two consecutive innings. One pitch thrown in an inning counts as an inning pitched. In the case of playoff play this rule does not apply to extra innings over the prescribed seven
- Signs must be taken with at least 1 foot on the rubber and all players in position.
- Ball may be either in the hand or glove.
- The pitcher can start the pitch with both feet on the pitching rubber or 1 foot behind the rubber (no minimum or maximum distance)
- If starting with 1 foot behind the rubber it must be behind the rubber before the pause
- Whether starting with 1 foot or 2 on the rubber neither foot can be off the side of the rubber
- A pitcher cannot step back during the pitch. All motion must be forward.
- Pitchers are required to pause from 2 to 5 seconds with hands together before the pitch.
- Pitchers must stay in the pitching chute.
- All ages can hop during the delivery of the pitch.

### **3.2 Learn to Play**

- No score or standing

- Learn to Play replaces T-Ball as the introduction to the game of Softball. The program is designed to keep kids active while learning the skills of softball.
- The home associations will present an award to all participants at the completion of the season.
- All fielders except for the catcher must stand behind a line from 1st base to 3rd base until the ball is hit
- A fair ball must cross a line drawn from half the distance to 1st base to half the distance to 3rd base.
- No scheduled games - A regulation game is decided mutually between the 2 coaches.
- Foam balls and bats should be highly recommended

### **3.3 U7**

- No score or standings
- The Coach of the team at bat pitches to his/her own players (a pitching machine is allowed) but the coach does not field a ball hit fairly. The ball should be thrown back to the player designated as the pitcher.
- The Pitcher is not allowed to play ahead of the Coach and must remain on the mound until the ball crosses home plate.
- Each batter will receive seven pitches to attempt to hit the ball. If the batter should foul off the seventh or any subsequent pitch, he/she shall receive another pitch.
- A run can only be scored by a ball put into play by the batter (i.e., a caught foul ball or a fair hit ball) or a runner being forced home by a walk.
- The ball remains in play until it comes under control of an infielder standing in the infield.
- Once the ball is in the hand of an infielder, the runners are not to advance extra bases, (beyond the single base they need to advance)- whether it be an infield play or a throw in from an outfielder to an infielder.
- In case of darkness or rain, 3 innings will constitute a complete game

### **3.4 U9**

- In case of darkness or rain, 3 innings or a 10-run lead will constitute a complete game
- A caught foul ball is an out as voted in 2014.
- A run can only be scored by a ball put into play by the batter (i.e., a caught foul ball or a fair hit ball)
- When a ball is hit to the outfield it remains in play until it comes under control of an infielder standing in the infield. Once the ball is in the hand of an infielder, the runners are not to advance extra

bases, (beyond the single base they are heading too)- a runner cannot advance to next base on an overthrow in the infield to any base, i.e., shortstop throws to 1st base and the 1st base fielder misses the ball and goes past the 1st base fielder the runner cannot advance to next base

### **3.5 Affiliation**

- Teams may call up players from a classification no more than 2 below the level they are playing (a release is required).
- These players may come from any recreation that is in the league.
- A player may affiliate to multiple teams in a higher division.
- The coach/player must notify the player's normal coach of playing up, as well as report the affiliation of the player to scores@augustasoftball.com within 24 hours.
  - Failure to report the affiliation game could result in a 1 game suspension to the player.
- A player may play up inside their organization for unlimited number of games, (North Augusta to North Augusta)
- they are only allowed to play up a total of 8 games to teams outside their organization. (i.e., Spencerville to North Augusta). (Updated May 2015)
- A player who plays up 9 games (outside his/her organization) will face a one game suspension on their regular team and will continue to play the remainder of the season on their regular team.
- Midseason tournament games do not count against affiliation games as the tournament is an invitational tournament.
- A player must play at least 30% of the league games to be eligible for the playoffs or year end tournament. A player can play these games at any level.
- Players must be listed on an Augusta Minor Softball roster to participate in any games or tournaments.

### **3.6 Overage and Underage Players**

- Players must register in their own age classification but may try out for an older age group at the discretion of the local Recreation.
- To play up a level, the player must be deemed skilled enough and a signed parental release must be provided to the Association Representative and the Augusta Minor Softball Executive.
- All overaged players must be declared at the preseason league meeting and then declared at the home plate conference prior to each game.
- Overage players will NOT play 1<sup>st</sup>, catch or pitch

- If a player is registered for an older age category, they would be considered an over-aged player if asked to play down.

#### **4. TOURNAMENTS**

- Tournament fees are to reimburse the Association for umpire fees, balls, and lime only.
- Tournaments are to be held on weekends only unless it is impossible due to the number of teams within the division.
- Tournament entry fees must be approved by the Executive 3 weeks before the tournament date.
- Individual recognition (medal or trophy) will be given to every participant in the year end tournament in the Blast Ball, U7, U9, and U11 divisions.
- Team recognition will be given to teams in the U13, and up at the year end tournament.
- Year end and Mid-Season to be a tournament style
- Learn to play- Tournaments and playoffs will be completed in one day.
  - No scores will be kept, and no winners will be declared.
- Tournament schedules will be created 2 weeks prior to the tournament date. The schedule will be created using the rankings from the time the tournament schedule is created.

#### **5. PROTESTS & APPEALS**

- Only rule interpretation will be considered a valid reason for protest.
- What an umpire would consider a judgment call would not be considered for protest.
- Proper protest procedures as per C.A.S.A. must be followed.
- After the game in question, the protest must be written including all pertinent information.
- The written protest must be presented to the area representative within 24 hours of the game.
- The protest is to be forwarded to the Rules and Discipline Chair along with a cheque for \$25.00 payable to Augusta Minor Softball.
  - This cheque will be returned if the protest is upheld.
  - The Rules and Discipline Chair must be notified of the protest within 48 hrs.
  - If the Rules and Discipline Chair cannot settle the dispute, a hearing will be set up with the Rules and Discipline Committee on his recommendation, as quickly as possible.
- A decision will be made as quickly as possible and will be final.
- Any person has the right to appeal any disciplinary decision of the Executive.

- The appeal must be made within 24 hours and must be accompanied by a non-refundable cheque in the amount of \$50.00 made out to Augusta Minor Softball.
  - Appeals are to be made in writing and submitted to the Rules and Discipline Chair
- In the case of an appeal the committee reserves the right to increase or decrease the suspension as they deem proper
- Any suspension handed out must be served consecutively.
- In the case of an appeal the player or coach may continue to play until the hearing is held unless the suspension is a result of violence
- In the case of playoff tournaments, any executive attending the tournament will have the right to rule for the committee.