

PICKERING SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
2008 SELECT TOURNAMENT RULES OF PLAY

Governing Rules

- The Softball Canada Rules and the Ontario Select Tournament Association rules of play govern this tournament, except where specified differently below.
- By entering this tournament all teams release the Pickering Softball Association from any and all liability and responsibility in the event of injuries or damages that occur while participating in a PSA hosted tournament.
- No protests are allowed; the umpires' decision is final.
- Umpire's watch is the official time.
- No rulebooks or rule papers allowed on the field during the game.
- Ejections: **Zero tolerance**. Any coach or player ejected in this tournament will not be allowed to continue in the tournament and must leave the park. Ejected players will be ineligible for any awards. Failure to leave the park within five minutes will result in the disqualification of the entire team. Fans cannot be ejected by the umpires but are the responsibility of the Head Coach. Harassment and / or misconduct by fans will result in a warning followed by the ejection of the Head Coach, if the warning is not heeded.
- Team placement will be by a blind draw 30 minutes at the coaches meeting where any rule explanations will also take place. In some cases the draw may take place prior to the coaches meeting.

Equipment

- Shoes: Metal spikes are not allowed at all and steel toecaps are **only** allowed while pitching.
- Bats: Must be clearly marked Official Softball or Official T-Ball and meet standards.
- Jewellery: Must be removed. EXCEPTIONS: Medical Alert Bracelets only.
- Helmets: Must remain on with chin straps done up until batters/runners have left the field– exception Midget where chin straps are optional – helmet must still remain on though.

Player Eligibility

- A complete team roster (including birth dates) must be submitted 20 minutes prior to the team's first game. No players may be added to the roster after the start of the first game.
- Midget Boys are allowed 2 overage players (up to 1 year older), who may not pitch. Midget Girls are allowed 2 overage players (up to 2 years older), who may not pitch. All other divisions are not allowed any overage players at all.
- Players who are OASA or PWSA carded are not eligible to play.
- All players must be registered and participating within the House League organization or Interlocking Loop, which they are representing. Proof of age must be available upon request.
- The penalty for ineligible players is expulsion of the player from the tournament and forfeiture of all games in which the ineligible player participated.

Game

- Home team to be decided by a flip of a coin with the umpire presiding (team travelling the furthest to make the call). For Championship and Consolation games, the team that finished higher in the round robin will be the home team. If there are 2 divisions, then a flip of the coin will take place.
- The official score will be that of the home team and the official score sheet must be shown to the tournament control centre at the end of each game. Visiting team Scorekeeper should check score after each inning in order to avoid disputes.
- Free defensive substitutions are allowed throughout the game.
- A runner who has been injured batting/base running may be substituted with the last scheduled batter (at that time) who is not on base. If at the player's next at bat he/she is still unable to bat/run; the player is to be removed from the game without penalty.
- All teams must start each game with a minimum of 9 players. Teams may play with a minimum of 8 players, should a player get injured or be removed from the game. Should a team be reduced to 7

players during the course of a game, that team will be declared the loser of that game, either by the score of the game at the time, or by 1 run more than they have at the time of the occurrence.

- Game duration: For all round robin games, no new inning may commence after 1 hour & 15 minutes or 7 innings, whichever comes first. Should the home team be winning and batting when the time limit (“no new inning time limit” = one hour and fifteen minutes) is reached, the game will be declared over. If the home team takes the lead in the bottom half of the last inning after the time limit has passed the game will be declared over. In the Championship and Consolation games there will be no new inning after 1 hour & 30 minutes, or 7 innings.
- The International Tiebreaker rule is in effect only if the Championship or Consolation game is tied at the end of the time limit. All innings started after 90 minutes in the Championship or Consolation will be played using the International Tie Breaker rule (inning starts with runner on 2nd base - last batter from previous inning – none out).
- Maximum runs per inning is 7 for the first 3 innings. From the 4th inning on there is no maximum.
- The mercy rule is in effect for **all** games (20 runs after 3 complete innings, 15 runs after 4 complete innings, 10 runs after 5 complete innings or more).
- In the event of rain, 3 complete innings will constitute a complete game (2 ½ should the home team be leading).
- **Blood Rule:** All cuts must be covered and a change of clothes must be made, should the clothes be soiled by blood.

Pitcher

- No hopping allowed in any division, including Midget Boys/Girls.

Batter

- **Infield fly rule:** In effect for Squirt and older.
- **Dropped third strike rule:** In effect for Peewee/Novice and older.

Stealing

- Mite After the ball crosses the plate
- Squirt and older After the ball leaves the pitcher’s hand

Format

- In round robin games the winning team is awarded two points. Each team receives one point in the event of a tie.
- If one division, then 1st and 2nd advance to the Championship, 3rd and 4th to the Consolation.
- If 2 divisions, then 1st in each division go to the Championship and 2nd in each go to the Consolation.

Tie breaker: If two or more teams are tied (total points) then seeding will be determined by:

- 1) Head to head round robin game result
- 2) Best overall plus/minus (maximum of 10 per game)
- 3) Fewest runs allowed
- 4) Most runs scored
- 5) Ratio of runs scored divided by innings batted

Awards

- All team members, who participate in at least one game, will receive an award at the conclusion of the tournament for all age groups up to and including Peewee / Novice. For Bantam and Midget age groups only the top 4 teams receive awards.

Cheering

- **POSITIVE CHEERING ONLY:** Conduct of their team and spectators is the responsibility of the team coaches. In the event of harassment or derogatory remarks originating from players, coaches or fans, the umpires will issue warnings, which if not heeded will lead to ejection of the individual(s) involved or calling the game and awarding the non-offending team with a win by default (7-0).