

OTTAWA VALLEY PLAYING RULES

1. As per Softball Canada rules, no jewelry is to be worn by any player; medical alert bracelets/necklaces are an exception.
2. Games will consist of 7 innings with no new inning commencing after 1 hour and 30 minutes from the start of the game. **At 1 hour and 20 minutes *last inning* (See #10) will be declared.** Games can end in a tie.
3. Unlimited substitution will be allowed with every player present put on the batting line-up.
4. Teams are expected to hustle on and off the field. 5 warm up pitches will be given to the pitcher at the start of each ½ inning. If the catcher is not ready for these; a player or coach must wear a mask to warm up the pitcher.
5. Mercy Rule for all innings: **4 runs per ½ inning for Mites and Squirts; 5 runs per ½ inning for Peewee/Novice, 6 runs for Bantam and Midget.**
6. For all divisions except Mite Boys, players are allowed to lead off and steal when the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. Mite Boys may lead off and steal when the ball crosses the plate.
7. Pitchers in all divisions are only allowed to pitch for a maximum of 12 outs per game. ** Pitchers will use the 11" or the 12" ball that they are accustomed to pitching with in their own HL division of play. The pitching distance will be the regulation distance for the select division that is playing.
8. Infield Fly rule is NOT in effect for the Mites.
9. Dropped 3rd strike rule is NOT in effect for the Mite and Squirt divisions.
10. **Last Inning Rule:**

Any new inning commencing at or after **1hr & 20min** and before **1hr & 30min** shall be deemed the last inning. **If an inning is in progress at this time, and the visiting team is at bat then the following will apply:**

- ***if the visiting team is behind by more than 8 runs, they will be limited to the run differential at the start of their bat plus 1 run.***
- ***if the visiting team is behind by less than 8 runs, they will be allowed to score a maximum of 8 runs.***
- ***if the visiting team is ahead, they can only score a maximum of 8 more runs.***
- ***if the home team is behind they will be limited to the run differential at the start of their bat plus 1***
- ***if the home team is ahead before their bat or at any time during, the game is considered over.***
- ***If the visiting team did not have their chance to have their*last inning* bat, then neither does the home team.***

11. Catcher's Substitution Rule will be used to allow the player/runner to be substituted off the base, when there are 2 outs, if he/she is to be the next catcher in the inning.

** This is to accommodate associations that have a combined age level playing in the same HL division.

GOOD FRIENDS! GOOD FUN! GOOD FASTBALL!