

**GREATER EDMONTON MINOR SOFTBALL
ASSOCIATION**

2022 SEASON



**(GEMSA)
Handbook**

Please read this handbook.

This handbook contains playing rules,
changes, deadline dates and important
information.

It is your responsibility, if there is a conflict

with any items in this handbook, to contact your Association or GEMSA President immediately.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| President | Dean Borys | 780-908-8944 |
| Vice President | Vacant | |
| Secretary | Melanie Murray | 780-700-6400 |
| Treasurer | Colleen Allison | 780-777-8726 |
| Registrar | Julie Robicheau | 780-938-6567 |
| Commissioner | Jim Riley | 780-909-8135 |
| Scheduler | Shelby Spencer | 780-265-6482 |

UMPIRES

Umpire-in-Chief – GEMSA Zone 6 and designated areas: Brent Tyson (Blue Crew)

Umpire-in-Chief – GEMSA Zone 5 and designated areas: Gerald Tomko (BRUA)

www.gemsa.ca

Contact President@gemsa.ca for locations of General Meetings

| Date | Time | Event |
|--------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| April 26, 2022 | 7:00 PM | Coaches Meeting |
| May 2, 2022 | | Opening Day |
| June 24, 2022 | | Playoffs Opening Day |
| September 21, 2022 | 7:00 PM | GEMSA Annual General Meeting |
| October 19, 2022 | 7:00 PM | Executive Meeting |
| November 23, 2022 | 7:00 PM | Executive Meeting |

DIAMOND LOCATIONS / CONDITIONS / CONCERNS

Please refer to www.gemsa.ca for all diamond locations.

GEMSA plays on various diamonds throughout the region, and it is impossible for league officials to visit them regularly to report maintenance or safety concerns to the appropriate city.

We ask that coaches walk the diamonds before games or practices and report concerns directly to the city using the contact information below.

| | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|
| Edmonton | St. Albert | Sherwood Park |
| 311@edmonton.ca | https://stalbert.ca/serve/report | info@strathcona.ca |
| 780-442-5311 | 780-459-1557 | 780-464-8111 |

If a diamond has a significant safety concern, or if a maintenance issue remains unresolved for an extended period, please notify the league by e-mailing details and photos of the issue to President@gemsa.ca

DIAMOND CLOSURE INFORMATION

GEMSA does not have access to any rainout or diamond closure information that is not publicly available and does not get advanced notice from cities regarding the closure or possible closure of diamonds.

Please do not contact GEMSA or Zone committee members and officials regarding possible closures due to weather. When rain is forecasted, coaches are required to contact the field closure information line directly.

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Edmonton | St. Albert | Sherwood Park |
| 780-496-4999 | 780-459-1557 | 780-464-8111 |

Please remember that storms in our province move quickly and it is very possible that the storm will be gone by game time, even if it is storming in the late afternoon.

Unless the diamond is closed by its city officials or a game is cancelled by your umpire, the game will go ahead and should be played as scheduled.

LIGHTNING POLICY

When considering lightning safety, GEMSA uses the 30/30 rule. When lightning is observed, play stops and the time between the lightning and thunder is counted. When you count 30 seconds or fewer between lightning and thunder, leave the field, take shelter immediately and remain sheltered for 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder.

GEMSA ACCESS POLICY

DEFINITIONS

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
 - a) *“Members”* - All categories of membership defined by the Greater Edmonton Minor Softball Association, as well as all individuals engaged in activities with, the Greater Edmonton Minor Softball Association including, but not limited to, athletes, coaches, umpires, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, and Directors and Officers of the Greater Edmonton Minor Softball Association.
 - b) *Under-Represented Groups* – Under-Represented Groups include women, people from lower income families, Indigenous people, people with disabilities, newcomers to Canada, members of the LGBTQ community, people of any faith and any other group or person deemed as Under-Represented by the Edmonton Youth Softball Association executive committee.
 - c) *GEMSA* – means the Greater Edmonton Minor Softball Association.

PURPOSE

2. GEMSA is committed to encouraging inclusion, equity and access in its administration, policies, programs, and activities. The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that the GEMSA provides its’ Members with a full and equitable range of opportunities to participate and lead.

PROCEDURES

3. GEMSA will enhance the quality of, and increase the level of participation in GEMSA’s leadership and programs by:
 - a) Supporting inclusion, equity, and access for Under-Represented Groups,
 - b) Ensuring that the achievement of equitable opportunities is a key consideration when developing, updating, or delivering GEMSA’s programs and policies,
 - c) Ensuring that individuals from Under-Represented Groups have no barriers to participation in GEMSA’s programs,
 - d) Dealing with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour according to GEMSA’s Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy.

DECISION-MAKING

4. GEMSA will encourage balanced representation by Under-Represented Groups on its Board and on all committees.

ONGOING COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION, DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

5. GEMSA understands that one key to being a more inclusive, diverse, and equitable organization is to incorporate equity principles in all strategies, plans and actions of the organization, whether they relate to technical programs, operations, business management, sponsorship, marketing, media or communications. GEMSA resolves to incorporate equity concerns in its own strategies, plans, actions, and operations on a continuing basis.

EVALUATION

6. GEMSA will continually monitor and evaluate its inclusion, equity, and access progress.

CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS POLICY

All officials, coaches, players, parents, and spectators who participate in GEMSA are automatically bound by and must adhere to the following Code of Conduct.

COACHES

- One coach from each GEMSA team will be required to complete the online course: “Respect in Sport for Activity Leaders” before June 1, 2022. The cost for this course is included in each team’s 2022 registration fee. Further details will be provided to registered teams in early May.
- I will not disrespect another coach, player, parent, spectator, umpire, or league official with the intent of humiliation, defamation, slander, ill will or intent to harm emotionally, socially, physically, verbally or conspire to hurt, isolate or target individuals, or impede a respectful and positive environment.
- I will settle disagreements with others in a confidential and private manner after games or practices.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for everyone participating in GEMSA at every game, practice, or event.
- I will place the emotional and physical wellbeing of all players on all teams ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will ensure my players are aware of the Player Code of Conduct.
- I will ensure my team’s family members and spectators are aware of the Spectator Code of Conduct
- I will insist that my players are in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will remember that I am here for children and not for the adults.
- I will do all I can to make the game fun and safe for all the children involved.

SPECTATORS

- I will remember that the children are playing for their enjoyment, not mine.
- I will encourage players to play by the rules.
- I will encourage players to respect the coaches, their team-mates, umpires, and officials.
- I will not disrespect another coach, player, parent, spectator, umpire, or league official with the intent of humiliation, defamation, slander, ill will or intent to harm emotionally, socially, physically, verbally or conspire to hurt, isolate or target individuals, or impede a respectful and positive environment.
- I will settle disagreements with others in a confidential and private manner after games or practices.
- I will place the emotional and physical wellbeing of all players on all teams ahead of any personal desire to see my team win.

- I will do my best to be supportive and involved without interfering with the operation of the team.
- I understand that the game of softball is difficult to learn and play and that some of the rules of the game or coaching styles may have changed since I was last involved in the sport.
- I understand that the goals of playing softball are to have fun, develop my player skills and create team spirit.
- I understand that by not abiding by the guidelines of this Code of Conduct or by displaying any other inappropriate conduct, will result in my being asked to leave the ballpark or league suspension and may result in a game forfeiture.

PLAYERS

- I will not disrespect another player, coach, parent, spectator, umpire, or league official with the intent of humiliation, defamation, slander, ill will or intent to harm emotionally, socially, physically, verbally or conspire to hurt, isolate or target individuals, or impede a respectful and positive environment.
- I will settle disagreements with others in a confidential and private manner after games or practices.
- I will not fault other players when mistakes occur.
- I will always listen to and look at a coach, umpire or official while they are talking.
- I will always be in control of my temper.
- I understand that swearing, throwing equipment or any other actions that detract from the game will result in immediate removal from the game and possible suspension.
- I will take pride in myself and everything I do on the ball field.
- I will lead by being an example for my teammates.
- I will play by the rules.

HARASSMENT AND ABUSE

When a young person is harassed or abused the impact can be devastating. A major hurdle to healing the wounds that inevitable result is non-disclosure: to recover, victims must be heard and believed.

GEMSA believes that any softball player, umpire, coach or manager should have the ability to discuss any concerns that might be classified as harassment, and we are available to talk to your request.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

“Social media” is a term meaning all computer-mediated communication media such as blogs, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, etc.

GEMSA is aware that interaction and communication occurs frequently on social media and cautions that any of the following conduct or behaviour will be subject to disciplinary action and that removing or deleting content from Social Media after it has been posted either publicly or privately does not negate the action and will still be subject to discipline.

- Creating or contributing to any social media, text-message, or email of disparaging, harmful, disrespectful, hateful, insulting, or otherwise negative comments on any social media that is directed at any person connected with GEMSA and related events.
- Creating or contributing to any social media, text-message, or email of a disparaging, harmful, disrespectful, hateful, insulting, or otherwise negative picture, altered picture, or video on any social media that is directed at any person connected with GEMSA and related events.

Creating or contributing to any social media, text-message, or email directed at any person connected with GEMSA that include but are not limited to insults, negative comments, inappropriate pranks or jokes, threats, posing as another person, spreading rumours or lies, or illegal or other harmful behaviours.

GEMSA OPERATING RULES

DEFINITIONS (A)

- A. **CATEGORY:** Refers to the age group (U11, U13, U15, U17, U19).
- B. **DIVISION:** Refers to a tier within a category, as follows:
- **“C/D” – Previously known as HOUSE** (Recreation ball) is based on GEMSA rules of play. The maximum number of players on a roster is capped at 17 and the minimum at 8 per team (without being penalized of having an “out” at bat). This league is for teams that are less competitive, and is for all categories.
 - **“B” – Previously known as SELECT** (Recreation ball) is based on GEMSA rules of play. The maximum number of players on a roster is capped at 17 and the minimum at 8 per team (without being penalized of having an “out” at bat). This league is for teams that are more competitive than House League, and is for all categories.
 - **“A” - Previously known as PREMIER** (Competitive ball) is based on the rules of CASA (unlimited substitution at U11), with the maximum number of players being capped at 17 and the minimum at 9 per team. This league is for teams that are competitive, and is for U11.
 - **“Super League”** (Competitive ball) is based on the rules of CASA (substitution), with the maximum number of players being capped at 17 and the minimum at 9 per team. This league is for teams that are competitive, and is for U13, U15, U17, and U19 categories. (Note: Due to insufficient teams, Super League will not be scheduled for the 2022 season).
- C. **TIERING:** Refers to a system where a minimum of 7 teams in a category will be placed into divisions of equal calibre. Tiering at the beginning of the season, shall be decided by the Registrar selecting the division where they feel a team is best suited. Mid-season tiering may realign existing A, B, C/D divisions, re-tiering into new divisions. This will be done by the Board of Directors. Standings will revert back to zero for all teams after the re-tiering. Any team can appeal their tiering in writing to their respective category director within 24 hours after the tiering has been completed with a \$250.00 bond accompanying the appeal.
- D. Final standings, for the purposes of playoff seeding, will be based on the value of the number of points earned, divided by the number of points available to be earned. (ie: winning % based on points). In the event of a tie, the head to head record will be considered first, then each team’s run for/against differential. A coin toss will break any further ties.
- E. Any games forfeited will be recorded as a 7-0 win for the non-offending team.

COUNCIL OPERATING RULES

1. **PLAYING RULES**
 - A. Playing rules, as specified in the GEMSA Official Handbook, may be changed by the Board of Directors for the next playing season, at any meeting.
 - B. Playing rules may be amended or changed by the Board of Directors to follow rule changes by CASA or AASA at any time.

2. **REGISTRATION RULES**
 - A. Registration rules, as specified in the GEMSA Official Handbook, may be changed by the Board of Directors for the next playing season, at any meeting.
 - B. Registration rules may be amended or changed by the Board of Directors to follow rule changes by CASA or AASA at any time.

3. **ADMINISTRATION RULES**
 - A. Administration rules may be changed by Board of Directors at any meeting.

SECTION I

GEMSA Registration Rules

1. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A. ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- (I) One who is registered on a team that has been approved by GEMSA.
- (II) Has provided proper proof of age to Softball Alberta or GEMSA upon request. Acceptable proof of age will be one of the following, provided it shows the player's name and date of birth, and has not been altered. A photocopy of one of these documents is recommended:
 - (i) Birth Certificate
 - (ii) Baptismal Certificate
 - (iii) Passport
 - (iv) Alberta Health Care Card of Health Care Status
 - (v) School letter on Letterhead paper

The Registrar will shred all proof of birth documentation once verified.

B. PLAYER TRANSFERS

- (I) Are administered by Softball Alberta, based on the following policy:

ALL players, U15 and under who wish to register on a team outside their own local association for the softball season must apply each year for a Player Transfer. This Player Transfer will be accepted by Softball Alberta subject to the release of the player from their home association only. If you have any questions regarding this form, please contact your District Organizer.

- (II) It is each team's responsibility to ensure that all players on their roster who require a transfer have received one.
- (III) Any team rostering a player that was required to, but did not follow the player transfer process shall have all league games forfeited and the registering association may be subject to suspension from the league.

C. INELIGIBLE PLAYER

- (I) One who has been suspended
- (II) One who does not supply proper proof of age
- (III) One who is declared ineligible by the registrar and GEMSA Board of Directors.

EFFECT: Any team playing ineligible players shall have all games forfeited where such player participated.

2. TEAM PLAYER REGISTRATION

- A. Each team may register a maximum 17 players.
- B. Each team must register a minimum of 8 players (B, and C/D), as per GEMSA rules, and a minimum of 9 players (A and Super League), as per AASA rules.

SPECIAL NOTE: Teams may play only players who are registered on their player registration form for the current playing year.

EFFECT: This situation will be brought to GEMSA for disciplinary action.

- C. Players may only be registered on one team during the year.

January 1st of Current Year

| Category | Years of Birth |
|-----------------|--|
| U19 | 2003-2004 (max. (2) 2002 players allowed per team) |
| U17 | 2005-2006 |
| U15 | 2007-2008 |
| U13 | 2009-2010 |
| U11 | 2011-2012 |

- D. Player registration forms must be submitted electronically to the **GEMSA REGISTRAR BY June 1, 2022.**

- EFFECT
- (i) Incomplete information on the player: player is ineligible for the remainder of the season and city playoffs.
 - (ii) If team/player registration is not handed in by the deadline, the team is ineligible for the remainder of the season and city playoffs.

The registrar will allow forty-eight (48) hours for errors to be corrected, after contacting the coach indicated on the form.

- E. Team registration will not be accepted for a team who has a past due balance or has been deemed ineligible by the GEMSA Board of Directors.

- F. After May 1st, a player registered on any team who decides to leave that team, can only be picked up on another team with the approval of the City Registrar.
- G. In extenuating circumstances (such as injuries or players moving away), the GEMSA Registrar to add up to two additional players to the team registration, upon approval of GEMSA. Each situation will be handled on its own merit.

3. TEAM MANAGEMENT

- (A) A. Each team must have on their player's bench responsible people to coach, manage, look after and take responsibility of the team BEFORE, DURING and AFTER the game. (Note: In Provincial play, Softball Alberta requires that one of these people be of the same gender as the team. This is NOT a requirement for play in GEMSA)
- (A) B. The printed name and signature of the coach must appear on the Line Up Card, prior to the start of the game.
- (P) C. The action of the team spectators, players, team officials and league officials must be honourable.
- (P) D. **ALCOHOL / TOBACCO / DRUGS / VAPING:** No consumption of alcohol, tobacco, drugs (including marijuana) or vaping of any kind shall be allowed on the spectator bleachers, players benches, in the dugouts or anywhere within 10 meters of the playing field before, during or following games, practices or other team events.

EFFECT OF A, B, C & D: Failure to comply may result in ejection, forfeiture of the game and/or suspension.

- (P) E.
 - (i) A coach, player, manager or team member ejected from a game will receive an automatic game suspension for the first offence. The Umpire must note all incidents on the game sheet. This game sheet (win or loss) must be forwarded immediately after the game to the category director.
 - (ii) Suspension will apply to the next GEMSA game played (league or playoff).
 - (iii) For the second offence, the ejected person will appear before the GEMSA Commissioner and his/her committee and the penalty could be a suspension for the balance of the season.
 - (iv) Any player that is declared ineligible for further participation in the game as an infraction of the rules, will be removed from the game. The player or coach may remain on the bench.

NOTE: An individual may not participate in any game(s) while under suspension, and is not allowed on the playing field. Exception: If the ejection is due to an illegal re-entry (CASA, Rule 4), there will be no additional suspension.

- (P) F. All spectators must be a reasonable distance from the players' benches (REASONABLE DISTANCE shall be in the plate umpire's judgment).

IMPORTANT NOTE

- **The actions and conduct of a team's spectators are the responsibility of the team's head coach or acting head coach.**

EFFECT: If spectators cannot be controlled after one warning, which will be issued to the head coach or acting head coach and which will constitute a bench warning, the game will be suspended, and an umpire protest lodged with zone officials.

- (P) G. Any team who plays an ineligible player, shall forfeit all games in which the ineligible player participated.

NOTE: GEMSA may add further penalties at its discretion.

4. LINE UP CARDS

- (A) A. Line up cards, as defined by the zone, are required for each game.
- (P) B. Line up cards must show date, team name and players' first/last names and uniform numbers.
- C. Winning teams shall submit the game scores online **within 24 hours** following the end of each game

EXCEPTION: In the event of a tie game, the HOME team shall submit the game scores online as required.

EFFECT: Failure of a team to comply with A, B or C above could result in forfeiture.

5. SCORE SHEET

- (A) A. The winning team shall have the umpire sign and record their number (if a certified umpire) on the winning score sheet. An image of this scoresheet must be kept by the winning team's head coach and made available for inspection until July 31, 2022.

EXCEPTION: In the event of a tie game, the HOME team shall retain the original score sheet as required.

- (A) B. All score sheets shall include: team name, division (C/D, B, A), category, date and field location, first and last names of players.
- (A) C. For any ejections or protests, an image of the score sheet with the notation of the incident from the umpire and/or coach must be e-mailed to commissioner@gemsa.ca **immediately** following the game and the **original score sheet** must be submitted to the category director **within 24 hours** and the category director **must be contacted by telephone immediately** following the game, by the team with this notation on their score sheet.

SECTION II

(Additions or changes to Softball Canada Playing Rules for All Categories)

Be informed. Read your Softball Canada Rule Book in conjunction with the GEMSA Handbook. There are some important changes to wording, clarification and/or new rules. It is your responsibility to keep up to date.

1. EQUIPMENT

- A. Home team will supply pitching plate with proper pins and pegs, bases with proper pins or pegs and two playable (same brand) softballs. The double base is an approved item of equipment.
- B. (i) Teams are encouraged to wear matching uniforms
- (ii) Sliding Pants or Pads: Players may wear a uniform with a solid color pair of sliding pants or pads. It is not mandatory that all players wear sliding pants or pads. No player may wear ragged, frayed or slit legs on exposed sliding pants or pads.

EFFECT: The umpire will direct that the player(s) gets properly dressed. Sufficient time will be given to comply. Failure to comply promptly (without undue delay of game), will mean that the player(s) in violation will not be allowed to participate in the game.

C. HELMETS

Helmets are mandatory for all divisions, with a minimum of five (5) helmets required per team. All categories covered by GEMSA must wear a batting helmet, complete with 2 earflaps, chin strap and a face-cage guard.

NOTE: Cracked helmets are illegal.

EFFECT 1: A batter entering the batter's box without a helmet shall be immediately called out.

EFFECT 2: If, in the umpire's judgment, a helmet is intentionally removed, interference shall be called. The player whose helmet was removed shall be called out.

EFFECT 3: On deck batters, minor-aged coaches and bat persons will be removed from the game after a warning, if not wearing a helmet.

EFFECT 4: Batters or batter-runners that have been called out must not remove their batting helmet until they have reached the dugout or bench. Any player doing so will be removed from the game. No warning will be issued by the umpire.

D. CATCHERS EQUIPMENT

Softball catchers must wear a mask, throat protector, helmet, shin guards and ATHLETIC SUPPORT WITH PROTECTIVE CUP (MALE AND FEMALE) during the game. Catchers (or other members of the defensive team) must also wear a mask, helmet and throat protector while receiving warm-up pitches, on or off the diamond.

NOTE: A helmet worn by a catcher may be the skull type without earflaps.

EFFECT 1. If the team does not use the proper catcher's equipment, the game will be forfeited.

EFFECT 2. If the catcher refuses to wear the proper equipment, that player will be ejected.

E. CLEATS AND SHOES

No metal cleats shall be allowed in minor softball.

F. BATS

SOFTBALL CANADA RULE 3: All bats must comply with Softball Canada Rule 3. No team may use illegal or altered bats.

EXCEPTION: In all categories not leading to post Provincial play, a bat that is legal in all aspects other than the wording "Official Softball" shall be declared legal.

G. PITCHING FACE MASKS

Pitching face masks are mandatory for pitchers in all divisions and for all games. Face masks must be worn while pitching live in a game, during game/inning warm-ups and while pitching to a batter during team practices. If unable to provide a face mask for current pitcher, a batting helmet with proper cage can be worn.

2. PLAYERS (P)

- A. Prior to the game, all players must be listed on the score sheet and line-up card. The order listed on the line up card must be followed throughout the entire game.
- B. **LATE PLAYERS**
Players coming late may be added to the bottom of the line up, prior to the first pitch of the third inning. After this time, the player will be ineligible to play that game.
- C. **CONFERENCE RULES**
Conference rules apply to all divisions in all categories, except U11 and U13.
- D. **CASTS**
Plaster, metal or other hard substance casts in the final form, may not be worn in a game. Note: any exposed metal (other than a cast) may be considered legal if it is adequately covered by a soft material taped and approved by the umpire.
- E. **JEWELRY**
Exposed jewelry such as wrist watches, bracelets, earrings, neck chains or any other items judged dangerous by the umpire, may not be worn during the game. Medical alert bracelets or medical alert necklaces are not considered jewelry but if worn, must be taped to the body.

NOTE: Players must remove jewelry. If they fail to do so, they will be ejected from the game.

F. PICK-UP PLAYERS

A team can pick up a player, or players, to complete their lineup card to a maximum of 12 players. Teams may not pick-up a player if they already have 12 or more players on their lineup card.

Pick-up players are allowed from the Category (age) below and the same Division or below, up to a MAXIMUM of 12 players on the lineup card.

Example: 1) U19B may pick up from U17 B/C/D, but not from U17A.

2) U19 C/D may pick up from U17 C/D, but not from U17A or U17B.

Pick-Up players must be recorded on the line-up card and score sheet as a pick-up player for both league and city playoff games by marking “P/U” beside the players’ name(s). This must also be reported at the plate to the Umpire and opposing coach as well the name of the player with the submission of the scores to GEMSA. If a player is picked up during City Playoffs, said game must not interfere with the player’s original team.

Lastly, teams may use pick-ups to fill out their roster but cannot drop or release players for the purpose of picking up.

OVER-AGE PLAYERS

All teams U11 through U19 may have up to 2 over-age players on their roster.

The overage players may be no more than 1 year advanced from the current playing category of the team in question.

Over-age players are not allowed to play defensively as a pitcher or a catcher.

Coaches must indicate overage players on their team’s line-up card for all games using an “O/A” beside the player’s name.

NOTE: Over-age players in U11, U13, and U15 are not permitted to compete in Provincial play as per the Softball Alberta handbook.

G. BATTER'S BOX

After entering the Batter's Box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot while taking signals and practice swings between pitches.

Exceptions: If the ball is hit foul or fair
 On the swing, slap or check swing
 If forced out of the box by the pitch
 On a wild pitch or passed ball
 If there is an attempted play
 If time out has been called
 If the pitcher leaves the 8-foot circle, or catcher leaves the box.

EFFECT: If the batter leaves the batter's box and delays play, and none of these exceptions apply, the Umpire may warn the batter or call a strike. Note: Any number of warnings and called strikes can be made with each batter. No pitch has to be thrown, and the ball is dead (AASA handbook).

3. STARTING AND DURATION OF GAME

- (P) A. Game to start at the time stipulated on the schedules. Teams will be given 15 minutes grace from the scheduled starting time, to make an appearance at the diamond or obtain sufficient players.
- (i) Any B, C/D team will be able to play with 8 registered players, without the 9th batter being an automatic out. If a player is injured or ejected from the game, then the team forfeits the game.
- (ii) If a B, C/D team starts with 9 players and, due to an injury, is left with 8 players, the team may continue with that 9th player being an automatic out.
- (iii) If a B, C/D team starts with 9 players and a player is ejected from the game, the team forfeits the game.
- (A) B. If weather permits, all games must be played as scheduled. A coach or manager cannot postpone or cancel scheduled games without the permission of their category director 24 hours in advance. Failure to comply will result in a loss of points to the offending team.
- (A) C. Games postponed due to weather or other conditions will be rescheduled by the coaches, and reported to the category director by the home team. The category director will make arrangements for Umpires through the umpire in chief. (City of Edmonton Rainout Line: 780-496-4999 and https://www.edmonton.ca/activities_parks_recreation/sports-fields-ball-diamonds.aspx). Games played outside the City of Edmonton, contact the out of town coach to find out if the diamonds are open or closed. If closed, please report the cancellation immediately to your category director.
- (P) D. If a double header is played on a regularly scheduled playing night, where one game is a make up game and one game is the regularly scheduled game, the first game shall be the regularly scheduled game, and the second game shall be the make up game.
- (P) E. If a double header is played on a non-scheduled date where both games are make-up games, the first game played shall be the first game missed chronologically in the regular schedule, and the second game played shall be the next game missed chronologically in the regular schedule.
- (P) F. INNINGS: All games will be 7 innings, except when one team leads the other by their respective run rule after the team behind has batted in 5 innings.
- (A) G. Ground rules are to be stipulated by the plate umpire and agreed to by both coaches prior to the game. If the coaches cannot agree, the umpire's decision is final.

- (P) H. If a game is tied after seven innings or after the time limit, each team shall receive one (1) point.
- (A) I. All GEMSA teams from U11 to U19 will travel to out of city boundary locations during the regular softball season.
- (P) J. All U11 games and mandatory practices will start at 6:30pm. Umpires are notified of this and teams that do not show or are late will be charged all umpire fees.
- K. The Umpire is empowered to call a game at any time due to darkness, rain, fire, panic or other cause, which puts the patrons, players or umpires in peril. A regulation game will be declared if 3 or more inning are complete, or the home team has scored more runs than the other team in 2.5 innings. A game that is not considered regulation may be rescheduled, and if rescheduled, shall be replayed from the beginning.

5. SCHEDULING

- A. Monday and Wednesday shall be designated as scheduled days for games in the U13 and U17 categories for all GEMSA teams.
- B. Tuesday and Thursday shall be designated as scheduled days for games in the U11, U15 and U19 categories for all GEMSA teams.
- C. Friday, Saturday and Sunday shall be used only when necessary for make up games and games required to even out scheduled games.
- D. Re-scheduling, due to rainout or properly cancelled games, do not have to adhere to these guidelines, as long as; fields are available and both teams agree to the use of a different day. Umpire availability may also be given consideration. Rescheduling must be sanctioned by the category director.
- E. All U11 teams will have a mandatory practice on Tuesday nights and play a game on Thursday nights until the end of May 29th, 2022. Then, all U11 teams will be given a two game per week schedule on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

UMPIRES

- A. UMPIRES (Unofficial)
- (P) (i) Both teams will supply one umpire each. Home team will supply a plate umpire, and visitors to supply the base umpire.
- (ii) The signature of the plate umpire **MUST** be on the winning score sheet.
- B. UMPIRES (Official)
- (P) (i) Official umpires will be members of the Edmonton Blue Crew (E.B.C.), the Battle River Umpire Association, or the Edmonton District Umpire Association (collectively, the Umpire Group).
- (ii) Base umpires: When an official base umpire has not been supplied, either team may supply one if requested by the umpire.
- C. (P) The plate umpire is to hold possession of the line up card throughout the game.
- D. UMPIRE FEES
- (A) Single Umpire: \$45.00
Double Umpire: \$40.00 each

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Half of the umpires' fees will be paid by each team, prior to the commencement of the game.
 - Only umpires from the Umpire Group may charge for officiating GEMSA games.
 - The games played in communities surrounding the City of Edmonton may be subject to umpire travel charges, as well as the umpire fee.
 - **NO HOUSE RULES** are permitted.
 - Non-carded umpires may not ask for game fees.
 - Non-carded umpires cannot cancel/forfeit game(s) due to non-payment of game fees.
- E. Teams forfeiting games or failing to show up for games, are still responsible for their share of umpire fees. If not paid, they will be billed from GEMSA.

PROTESTS AND APPEALS – Regular Season Play Only

GEMSA Commissioner

Jim Riley

780-909-8135

- (P) A. Make reference to Rule 11, Softball Canada (CASA) rulebook.
- (A) B. Record exact situation of game (balls, strikes, base runners, outs, innings, etc.), and indicate intent to protest before next pitch.
- (A) C. Each protest and appeal must be made in writing within 24 hours and must be accompanied by a bond of **\$250.00** in cash or certified cheque. If the protest is upheld, the bond shall be returned. Otherwise, it shall revert to the general fund of the organization hearing the protest or appeal.
- (A) D. **LEVELS OF PROTESTS AND APPEALS**
 - (i) **GEMSA COMMISSIONER:** shall hear and make all rulings on protests, regarding the interpretation of playing rules.
 - (iii) **GEMSA Board of Directors:** shall hear and make rulings on all appeals against any action or decision made by the GEMSA Commissioner. Appeals to this decision must be made in writing to the GEMSA President within 24 hours, and be accompanied by a **\$250.00** bond payable to GEMSA. This decision is final and binding.
- (A) E. **CITY WIDE LEAGUES:** shall make protest to the GEMSA Protest committee. Appeals to this decision shall be made to GEMSA, and be accompanied by a **\$250.00** bond payable to the GEMSA.
- (A) F. All rulings on protests or appeals to be made by the Commissioners or Committees, must be made within 48 hours. Copies to be sent to the GEMSA Commissioner and both parties involved in the protest or appeals.

SECTION III RECREATION BALL

In addition to all rules in Section I and II, the following rules will apply:

1. PLAYING RULES

- All teams will comply with the current official rulebook of Softball Canada and Alberta Amateur Softball Handbook.**
- (P) A. **SOFTBALL CANADA RULE 6 PITCHING REGULATIONS**
- (i) A pitcher who is moved to another position on the playing field, may return to the pitching.
 - (ii) Windmill, sling shot and orthodox pitches are legal in all categories
 - (iii) [U11, U13 Categories] Pitchers may pitch a maximum of:
 - a) [U11] three (3) innings per game,
 - b) [U13-U15 categories] four (4) innings per game.Should a pitcher throw on (1) pitch, excluding warm-up pitches), this is classified as a complete inning pitched. In the event of extra innings, the pitching rule is not in effect. The penalty for pitcher(s) exceeding the limit of innings pitched is that the coach is ejected; player(s) is removed from pitching position.
 - (iv) After bringing their hands together to begin the pitch, a pitcher must pause for a minimum of two seconds and a maximum of five seconds prior to completing the pitch.
- (P) B. **U19, U17, U15 B and C/D TEAMS**
- (i) **THIRD STRIKE RULE**
In effect for U19, U17 and U15 teams.
 - (ii) **INFIELD FLY RULE**
In effect for U19, U17 and U15 teams..
 - (iii) **BATTING**
The team at bat will be retired when there have been 3 out, or after the 5th run has scored in an inning.
 - (iv) **BASE RUNNERS**
May not lose contact with the base, until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
 - (v) **RUN RULE**
If after 5 complete innings, one team is ahead by 11 runs, the game is over.
 - (vi) **TIME LIMIT**
No new inning to start after 2 hours.
Games start as per time noted on schedules.

(P)

C. U13, U11:

- (i) **THIRD STRIKE RULE**
Is NOT in effect for U13 and U11 teams.
- (ii) **INFIELD FLY RULE**
In NOT in effect for U13 and U11 teams.
- (iii) **BATTING**
The team at bat will be retired when there have been 3 out, or after the 5th run has scored in an inning.
- (iv) **BASE RUNNERS**
May not lose contact with the base, until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- (v) **RUN RULE**
If after 5 complete innings, one team is ahead by 11 runs, the game is over.
- (vi) **TIME LIMIT**
No new inning to start after 1 hour and 30 minutes.
Games start as per time noted on schedules.
- (vii) **U11 COACH PITCH RULE –in effect through May 29 2022**

“Coach pitch” rules are in effect after the 4th player-pitched ball. From May 30th onwards, U11 is player pitch only. (Except U11A, which will not use “Coach Pitch” at any time).

Example: Batter # 1 (B1) is at the plate. After the 4th ball, the batter will have a count against him/her. It will either be 4 balls, 0 strikes (4-0), 4-1 or 4-2. The coach, or designated pitcher for the offensive team (B1's coach or selected parent), will pitch to his/her own batter. The number of pitches that the batter will receive from the coach/parent is dependent upon the number of strikes that the pitcher had achieved against that batter prior to throwing the 4th "ball". All batters continue using the same rules:

- Count 4-0, coach parent may throw up to 3 pitches.
- Count 4-1, coach parent may throw up to 2 pitches.
- Count 4-2, coach parent may throw only 1 pitch.

If the batter uses up all of his/her strikes without hitting the ball, he/she is out. There is no opportunity to walk. Every pitch is considered a called strike no matter where the pitch

is thrown. The batter does not have to swing to strike out, nor does the pitch have to be in the strike zone.

The coach pitcher is to deliver the ball from the rubber. (Starting on the pitching rubber, and one step towards home is permitted while delivering the pitch.

Pitches (pitch) from the coach or parent are the only opportunity that the batter will get to hit the ball and get on base. The coach/parent will pitch from the pitching rubber (normal distance) and may pitch an underhand toss or windmill pitch.

On the third strike only, if the batter hits a foul ball, he/she will be granted an additional pitch (or pitches), unless the foul ball is caught. This will be the same as regular rules in regards to a third strike foul ball.

The defensive pitcher will remain on the field-to-field balls hit into play.

If a ball hit into play by the batter that:

*comes in contact with *

*is touched by the parent/coach, whether intentional or accidental *

is interfered with by the coach/parent acting as the pitcher as determined by the umpire, the play will be called dead & treated like a foul ball. There is no advancing home on passed ball / wild pitch or any legally delivered pitch by the designated coach / parent pitcher.

- (P) E. TOSSING OF THE BAT
Batters throwing their bat during the act of batting will be called out. This applies to all categories. No warning will be issued by the umpire.
- (P) F. MERCY RULE
The losing team may, at any time, concede the game by informing the umpire that the game is conceded. At the end of an inning, where the existing run rule is surpassed, the losing team must concede.

G. TIME LIMITS FOR ALL TEAMS

The consequences of leaving a game before the time limit, will result in a forfeit for the team leaving.

H. CO-ED TEAMS U15, U13, U11

Co-Ed teams will be allowed at U15, U13 and U11. Co-Ed teams are considered “male” teams for the sake of tiering, placement within divisions (ie. U13 Co-Ed will play in U13 Boys division)

- i) U11 co-ed teams play against U11 male and female teams
- ii) U13 and U15 co-ed teams will be placed in the Boys Division if there is one, if there is not enough teams to complete a boys division, then teams will be placed in the appropriate division (B, C/D) based on category directors’ feedback
- iii) Batting order for co-ed teams shall be alternating genders as much as possible depending on player ratios.

I. UNLIMITED SUBSTITUTION (U11, U13, U15, U17, U19)

Offensive Team (Batting)

- i) When a team is on offense, all players on the roster and in attendance must bat according to the line up card submitted to and held by the umpire.
- ii) Any player who arrives after the first pitch of the first inning and before the first pitch of the third inning will be added to the bottom of the batting order on the official line up card held by the umpire.
- iii) Any player who arrives after the first pitch of the third inning can not be added to the line up.
- iv) Injured players that are unable to bat cannot return to play in a game after being declared injured and scratched out of the line up card (batting order).

Defensive Team (Fielding)

- v) When a team is on defense, there will be an unlimited substitution rule in effect.
- vi) No defensive player may sit in back-to-back innings.
- vii) A partial inning played by a defensive player does not constitute an inning played.

EFFECT:

With the exception of players declared as injured and scratched out of the line up card, a coach that does not allow every player on the team's registration roster that was submitted to GEMSA and is in attendance at the game to bat or to sit in back-to-back innings will be removed from the game by the umpire and be subject to disciplinary actions by the league.

U11 SPECIAL NOTES

Stealing 2nd and 3rd base is allowed at all times once the ball has left the pitcher's hand.

Advancing home on a wild pitch/passed ball is permitted, except when a coach is pitching.

There is no limit to the number of bases that can be advanced on overthrows.

Associations are reminded that the "suggested rules" at the back of the Softball Canada rule book are not used by Softball Alberta, and not used by GEMSA.

PITCHING AND BASELINE DISTANCES

| Category | Pitching Distance | Baseline Distance | Ball Size |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| U19 | 43' | 60' | 12" |
| U17 | 43' | 60' | 12" |
| U15 | 40' | 60' | 12" |
| U13 | 38' | 55' | 11" |
| U11 | 35' | 45' | 11" |

START TIMES

U11 – 6:30pm
U13 and up – 7:00pm

2022 LEAGUE FORMAT

Teams may play league games in one of two types of leagues:

- A. GEMSA League & Playoffs – All divisions and categories, except Super League

- B. GEMSA Super League: U15A, U17A, U19A:
 - Super League rules as delivered to teams by the Super League Coordinator may supersede this handbook.
 - Super League teams will not participate in any GEMSA playoffs.
 - (Note: Due to insufficient teams, Super League will not be scheduled for the 2022 season).

Super League DIVISION

This program provides an opportunity for a more competitive level of softball for U13, U15, U17 and U19 players. Each Association will strive to provide teams in each category.

1. PLAYING RULES

1. Softball Canada Rule Book (CASA)
2. Alberta Amateur Handbook
3. GEMSA Handbook
4. At the conclusion of a tie game, each team will be awarded one point.
5. When a legal substitute has been entered by a team in a game, the re-entry rule is waived in the event of an injury. The re-entered player will assume the batting position of the injured player. The injured player may not return to the game.
6. Premier teams must use the playing balls that have been approved by CASA for fast pitch (both balls to be the same brand).
7. All teams **MUST** use a double base (1st base).
8. No new inning to start after 2 hours (2hr time limit).
9. Games will be 7 innings. If after 5 completed innings one team is ahead by 7 runs, the game is over (CASA rule).
- (A) 10. A team will be given 15 minutes grace from the scheduled starting time to make an appearance at the diamond, or to obtain sufficient players.
11. The team at bat will be retired when there have been 3 out, or after the 5th run has scored in an inning.
12. U13 & U15 Categories Only
Pitchers may pitch a maximum of:
 - i) four (4) innings per game.Should a pitcher throw one (1) pitch, excluding warm-up pitches, this is classified as a complete inning pitched. In the event of extra innings, the pitching rule is not in effect. The penalty for pitcher(s) exceeding the limit of innings pitched is that the coach is ejected; player(s) is removed from pitching position.

2. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

1. All protests and appeals must be made out properly, as outlined in the rulebook (Softball Canada Rule 11).
2. All protests shall be submitted in writing to the GEMSA Commissioner, accompanied by a **\$250.00** bond payable to GEMSA
- (P) 3. Protests during the league playoffs will be heard by the Playoff Protest Committee.

3. GAME PROCEDURE

1. See Section I, Rules 3, 4 and 5 apply.
2. If a double header is played on a regularly scheduled playing night, where one game is a make up game, and the other is a regularly scheduled game, the first game shall be the regularly scheduled game, and the second game shall be the make up game.
3. If a double header is played on a non-scheduled date where both games are make-up games, the first game played shall be the first game missed chronologically in the regular schedule, and the second game played shall be the next game missed chronologically in the regular schedule.
4. If weather permits, all games must be played as scheduled. A coach or manager cannot postpone or cancel scheduled games without the permission of their category director 24 hours in advance. Failure to comply will result in a loss of points to the offending team.
5. Games postponed due to weather or other conditions will be rescheduled by the coaches, and reported to the category director by the home team. The category director will make arrangements for Umpires through the Zone Umpire Director.
6. RAINOUT LINE: City of Edmonton Rainout Line: 780-496-4999. For games played outside the City of Edmonton, contact the out of town coach to find out if the diamonds are open or closed. If closed, please report the cancellation immediately to your category director.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

- (A) 1. All coaches are encouraged to use their complete roster for each game.
- (P) 2. All coaches must wear reasonable attire: shirts and appropriate footwear. No opened toed shoes, high heels or sandals
(A) EFFECT: Failure to comply will result in ejection from the game. This includes tournaments.
- (A) 3. The actions of all team officials shall be honourable. Suspension of offending officials will be enforced if rules breached.

CITY PLAYOFFS

- (A) (i) CITY PLAYOFF COMMITTEE
 - a) Approve planning, scheduling and operation of City Playoffs, as proposed by the hosting zone.
 - (A) b) The committee shall consist of:
 - GEMSA 1st Vice President shall be Chairperson
 - GEMSA Commissioner
 - GEMSA Scheduler
 - GEMSA Umpire-In Chief
 - GEMSA City Registrar
 - c) The City Playoff Executive Committee, consisting of Section b), shall hear and rule on all protests. Three members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. Any team has one-half hour after the game to officially lodge their protest, accompanied by a **\$250.00** cash bond. If the protest is upheld, the bond shall be returned. The ruling on the protest shall be made prior to the next game that the affected teams are scheduled to play, and/or game that may be affected by the ruling. A postponement may be in order.
 - d) The committee shall hold a meeting at least 2 weeks before City Playoffs
- (ii) CITY PLAYOFF DATES
City Playoffs will be held June 24, 2022 through June 26, 2022 for all categories/divisions.
- (iii) City Playoff games postponed due to inclement weather, shall be rescheduled on an hour to hour/day to day basis, with no games being played after June 30, 2022.
- (iv) Umpire fees will be paid by GEMSA.
- (v) Failure to show up at a game to have sufficient players to start a game, will result in forfeiture of the game in question. A 15 minute grace period will be allowed.
- (vi) Two players from a lower category/division may be picked up, but must be declared before the first playoff game. Only these two players will be allowed to play as pick-up players. Should a scheduling conflict arise, the pick-up player(s) must play on their original team before being allowed to play as a pick-up player.
- (vii) One coach or representative must check in with the playoff committee either by email at scores@gemsa.ca or in person at the playoff office, a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the start of every game.
Winning teams shall submit the game scores online at www.gemsa.ca/scores **immediately** following each playoff game. Failure to do so could result in forfeiture of the game.

Any roster discrepancies between line-up on score sheet and official player/pick up roster will result in forfeiture of the game.

The winning team shall have the umpire sign and record his/her number (if a certified umpire) on the winning score sheet. An image of this scoresheet must be e-mailed to scores@gemsa.ca **immediately** following the game and the original score sheet must be kept by the winning team's head coach and made available for inspection until July 31, 2022.

NOTE: For any ejections or protests, an image of the score sheet with the notation of the incident from the umpire and/or coach must be e-mailed to incident@gemsa.ca, the **original score sheet** must be submitted to the category director and the category director must be contacted by telephone **immediately** following the game, by the team with this notation on their score sheet.

- (viii) All city playoff documents are available on the GEMSA website at www.gemsa.ca one week before City's confirmation date. Team Roster, Player Roster and Rule Acknowledgement, must be filled out and emailed to Registrar@gemsa.ca by June 15, 2022 for verification. Pick up player roster must be emailed to scores@gemsa.ca two days prior to team's first scheduled game.

SPORTS INJURY INSURANCE

Coverage for practices, games and team travel. One plan covers all participants, managers, coaches, executives and field officials throughout the entire season.

SPORTS LIABILITY INSURANCE

Why Liability Insurance?

Because of your operations or actions, you are open for possible suit from Third Parties. You may not be liable, but you will need to be defended in court. A Liability policy pays for this defence, as well as any costs found against you. Legal fees can be very expensive, and this can be an affordable way to have them covered. This policy covers your legal liability for bodily injury to or damage to property of others, such as spectators, passers-by, property owners and others resulting from your activity. In addition, your legal liability for injury to participants is covered.

ACTIVITIES COVERED

Consists of sports events sanctioned or authorized by you, and all related training activities authorized by you.

WHO IS COVERED?

All members collectively, including Executives, Managers, Coaches, Trainers, Officials and Volunteers, while acting within the scope of their duties on your behalf.

ELIGIBILITY

The program is designed principally for Associations at National, Provincial or Local levels; also groups of various types.

Forms are available from your Zone President

Forms are to be turned in to AASA

ALBERTA AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

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FAX: 780-461-7757

www.softballalberta.ca

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michele Patry

780-461-7735

EYSA PRESIDENT'S AWARD WINNERS

2005 Loretta Wonitoy
Bill Henderson
Ken Starling
Paul Wagner
2016 Dayle Voo
2017 Eldon and Guylaine Chrystian
2018 Tom Clooney

THE BUZZ BEREZANSKI COACH OF THE YEAR

2016 Rob Eglan
2017 Kelly Proskow
2018 Daryl Pattinson

EYSA UMPIRE OF THE YEAR

2016 Adrian Wattamaniuk
2017 Ken Jones
2018 John Van Nispen

E.Y.S.A VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

2016 Erin Duchesne
2017 Jeff Christie
2018 Valentina Perez

E.Y.S.A PLAYER OF THE YEAR

2018 Julie Ellis