

**GREATER EDMONTON MINOR  
SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION**



**EFFECTIVE MARCH 15 2025**

# GREATER EDMONTON MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

## 2025 EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

President	Julie Robicheau
Vice President	Mike Wells
Secretary	Krista Maine
Treasurer	Colleen Allison
Registrar	Sheila Wilson
Commissioner	Leeam Freadrich
Scheduler	Shelby Spencer

## UMPIRES

Umpire-in-Chief –	Brent Tyson (EBC)
Umpire-in-Chief –	Gerald Tomko (BRUA)

**Visit - [www.gemsa.ca](http://www.gemsa.ca)**

## GEMSA CRITICAL DATES

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
Feb 8, 2025	7:00 PM	Associations' Meeting
	To be Noted	Coaches' Meeting
April 28, 2025		Opening Day
June 19, 2025		Finals Opening Day

# **CONTENT**

## **POLICIES**

### **CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS**

COACHES... PAGE 5

SPECTATORS... PAGE 6

PLAYERS... PAGE 7

CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY... PAGE 8

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION... PAGE 9

HARASSMENT AND ABUSE - SOCIAL MEDIA... PAGE 10

### **DIAMOND CONDITIONS/WEATHER**

DIAMOND CLOSURE INFORMATION... PAGE 11

LIGHTNING... PAGE 11

AIR QUALITY... PAGE 12

**BOARD OPERATING RULES...** PAGE 13

**OPERATING RULES** PAGE 14

## **REGISTRATION RULES**

### **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

ELIGIBLE & INELIGIBLE PLAYER(S)... PAGE 15

LITTLE LEAGUE TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY... PAGE 15

TEAM REGISTRATION... PAGE 16

MANAGEMENT... PAGE 17

SUSPENSION/EJECTION/REMOVAL... PAGE 18

## **PROTESTS AND APPEALS - REGULAR SEASON**

PROTEST PROCEDURE... PAGE 19

LEVELS OF PROTEST AND APPEALS... PAGE 19

LINE UP CARDS - SCORE SHEETS... PAGE 20

## **PLAYING RULES - ADMINISTRATIVE**

### **EQUIPMENT**

GAME BALLS - BASES - UNIFORMS - HELMETS... PAGE 21

INFIELDER MASKS - CATCHERS EQUIPMENT

FOOTWEAR - BATS... PAGE 22

CASTS - JEWELRY... PAGE 23

<b>PLAYERS</b>	
PLAYERS...	PAGE 23
LATE PLAYERS...	PAGE 23
UNDERAGE PLAYERS - OVERAGE PLAYERS...	PAGE 23
PICKUP PLAYERS...	PAGE 24
<b>STARTING AND DURATION OF GAME</b>	
GAME START...	PAGE 24 & 25
SCHEDULING & TIME LIMIT...	PAGE 26
<b>PLAYING RULES - GAME</b>	
PITCHING AND BASELINE DISTANCES...	PAGE 27
START TIMES...	PAGE 27
THIRD STRIKE RULE...	PAGE 27
INFIELD FLY RULE...	PAGE 27
BATTERS BOX - BATTING...	PAGE 27
BATTING RUN RULE...	PAGE 28
BASE RUNNERS...	PAGE 28
UNLIMITED SUBSTITUTION...	PAGE 28
MERCY/RUN RULE...	PAGE 29
<b>PITCHING RULES - GENERAL</b>	PAGE 30
<b>COACH AND PLAYER/COACH PITCHING</b>	
COACH PITCHING...	PAGE 31
PLAYER/COACH PITCHING...	PAGE 31
<b>UMPIRES</b>	
UNOFFICIAL - OFFICIAL...	PAGE 33
<b>GEMSA FINALS</b>	
ADMINISTRATION - TEAMS...	PAGE 34
PROTESTS...	PAGE 35
<b>SPORTS INJURY AND LIABILITY</b>	
<b>INSURANCE INFORMATION</b>	PAGE 36
<b>SOFTBALL ALBERTA CONTACT INFORMATION</b>	PAGE 36

# **POLICIES**

## **CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS POLICY**

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

All coaches “on the bench” will be required to complete the online course: “Respect in Sport for Activity Leaders” as per Softball Alberta Coaches requirements.

### **COACHES**

1. 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.
2. I will settle disagreements with others in a confidential and private manner after games or practices.
3. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for everyone participating in GEMSA at every game, practice, or event.
4. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of all players on all teams ahead of any personal desire to win.
5. I will ensure my players are aware of the Player Code of Conduct.
6. I will ensure my team’s family members and spectators are aware of the Spectator Code of Conduct
7. I will ensure, to the best of my ability, that my players are in a safe and healthy environment.
8. I will insist that my players are in a safe and healthy environment.
9. I will remember that I am here for children and not for the adults.
10. I will do all I can to make the game fun and safe for all the children involved.
11. I will NOT allow consumption of alcohol, tobacco, drugs (including marijuana) or vaping of any kind. It will not 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.

**I, as a coach in GEMSA, understand that failure to abide by the Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy may result in game ejection, league suspension and/or game forfeiture.**

## SPECTATORS

1. I will remember that the children are playing for their enjoyment, not mine.
2. I will encourage players to play by the rules.
3. I will encourage players to respect the coaches, their team-mates, umpires, and officials.
4. 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.
5. I will settle disagreements with others in a confidential and private manner after games or practices.
6. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of all players on all teams ahead of any personal desire to see my team win.
7. I will do my best to be supportive and involved without interfering with the operation of the team.
8. 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.
9. I understand that the goals of playing softball are to have fun, develop player skills and create team spirit.
10. I will NOT allow 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.

**I, as a Spectator, 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 for the team I am supporting and may result in a game forfeiture.**

## **PLAYERS**

1. 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.
2. I will settle disagreements with others in a confidential and private manner after games or practices.
3. I will not fault other players when mistakes occur.
4. I will always listen to and look at a coach, umpire or official while they are talking.
5. I will always be in control of my temper.
6. I understand that swearing, throwing equipment or any other actions that detract from the game will result in immediate ejection or removal from the game and possible suspension.
7. I will take pride in myself and everything I do on the ball field.
8. I will lead by being an example for my teammates.
9. I will play by the rules.
10. I will NOT allow or PARTICIPATE in the consumption of alcohol, tobacco, drugs (including marijuana) or vaping of any kind 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.

**I, as a Player, 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 for the team I am playing for and may result in a game forfeiture.**

# CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY POLICY

**PURPOSE** – The purpose of this policy is to ensure the protection of Confidential Information that is proprietary to GEMSA by making all GEMSA Members aware that there is an expectation to always act appropriately and consistently with this policy.

**APPLICATION OF THIS POLICY** – This policy applies to all categories of membership within GEMSA, as well as all individuals employed by or engaged in activities with GEMSA, including but not limited to, directors, committee members, athletes, coaches, umpires, contracted parties, volunteers, officers, managers, and administrators (hereinafter “GEMSA Representatives”).

**CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** – The term “Confidential Information” includes, but is not limited to the following.

1. Personal Information of GEMSA Members and Representatives, including but not limited to, name, address, e-mail, telephone number, cell phone number, date of birth and financial information.
2. Written concerns or placement requests raised with the GEMSA board. The requesting parties shall have a reasonable expectation of privacy regarding their concerns.
3. Financial information collected.
4. GEMSA intellectual property and proprietary information related to the programs, fundraisers, business, or affairs of GEMSA, including, but not limited to, procedures, business methods, forms, policies, business, marketing and development plans, advertising programs, creative materials, trade secrets, knowledge, techniques, data, products, technology, computer programs, manuals, software, financial information, and information that is not generally or publicly known and distributed.

**RESPONSIBILITIES** - GEMSA Representatives will not, either during the period of their involvement/employment or any time, thereafter, disclose to any person or organization any Confidential Information acquired during their period of involvement/employment. Confidential Information shall only be released if expressly authorized to do so by the affected person(s) or, in case of a minor, by their parent or legal guardian. All files and written materials relating to Confidential Information of GEMSA will remain the property of GEMSA.



# EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION POLICY

**DEFINITIONS** - The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:

1. “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, parents/guardians, umpires, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members and Directors and Officers of the Greater Edmonton Minor Softball Association.
2. 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 Greater Edmonton Minor Softball Association executive committee.
3. GEMSA – means the Greater Edmonton Minor Softball Association.

**PURPOSE** – GEMSA is committed to encouraging inclusion, equality 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** - GEMSA will enhance the quality of and increase the level of participation in GEMSA’s leadership and programs by:

1. Supporting inclusion, equality, and access for under-represented groups
2. Ensuring that the achievement of equitable opportunities is a key consideration when developing, updating, or delivering GEMSA’s programs and policies
3. Ensuring that individuals from under-represented groups have no barriers to participation in GEMSA’s programs.
4. Dealing with any incidence of discriminatory behavior according to GEMSA’s Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy.

**DECISION-MAKING** - GEMSA will encourage balanced representation by under-represented groups on its Board and on all committees.

**ONGOING COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION, DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY** - 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** - GEMSA will continually monitor and evaluate its inclusion, equality, and access progress.

## **HARASSMENT AND ABUSE POLICY**

When a young person is harassed or abused, the impact can be devastating. A major hurdle to healing the wounds that inevitably 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. All conversations and information will be kept private, as per the Confidentiality and Privacy Policy.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

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

GEMSA is aware that interaction and communication occurs frequently on social media and cautions that any of the following conduct or behavior 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.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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 rumors or lies, or illegal or other harmful behaviors.

## DIAMOND CONDITIONS / WEATHER POLICIES

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 association.

We ask that coaches walk the diamonds before games or practices and report concerns directly to the association responsible for the diamonds. Contacts and links can be found on the GEMSA website.

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

DO NOT contact GEMSA regarding possible closures due to weather. If unsure about diamond closures due to weather, coaches are required to contact the field closure information line directly.

**All available Rainout Lines are listed on the GEMSA website. Rain out link - [GEMSA - Rainout Link](#) Please remember that weather in Alberta may move quickly. It is very possible to have good weather conditions by game time even if it is raining in the late afternoon. In these variable situations, please ensure you always check the rainout line to see if the diamonds are officially closed.**

**Any game canceled by Coaches prior to an Umpire call will be considered a forfeit. If a game does not have an umpire scheduled a designated person on the home team, shall check the condition of the diamond and contact the away team with pictures. Failure to do so will end in a forfeit for the home team. Coaches from both teams must agree to cancel and reschedule.**

## 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.

# AIR QUALITY POLICY

## AIR QUALITY HEALTH INDEX (AQHI)

1. AQHI of 7 or higher means that play will be suspended immediately.
2. GEMSA will notify teams and umpires by 5 PM if the AQHI is above 7 in the area of the scheduled game.
3. Teams will continue to monitor levels during the game and notify the umpires if the AQHI reaches 7
4. In practice situations, athletic activity should be adjusted through reduced intensity, reduced duration, and providing rest periods.

## INFORMATION & DEFINITIONS

The Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) is a recognized risk management measurement which describes a local reading of air quality as it relates to human health.

The AQHI is not real time reporting and can have a lag-time of over one hour. If air quality is changing during athletic activity, be aware of the common symptoms of irritated eyes, coughing, and difficulty breathing in addition to the reported AQHI index.

AQHI index of over 7 indicates a "high risk" from air pollutants.

AQHI index of between 4 and 6 indicates ongoing AQHI air monitoring should be initiated in order to identify to the umpire and Tournament Director if the index should reach 7 or higher.

Air Quality Index Website(s) -

[Alberta Air Quality Index](#)

[Alberta - Air Quality Health Index \(AQHI\) - Environment Canada](#)

# **BOARD OPERATING RULES**

**Rules listed will be prefaced with the following, P – R – A, as explained below.**

## **1. PLAYING RULES (P)**

- a. Playing rules, as specified in the GEMSA Official Handbook, may be changed by the GEMSA Board of Directors for the upcoming playing season, at any meeting, prior to March 15th of the current playing season.
- b. Playing rules may be amended or changed by the GEMSA Board of Directors to follow rule changes by Softball Alberta or Softball Canada at any time.

## **2. REGISTRATION RULES (R)**

- a. Registration rules, as specified in the GEMSA Official Handbook, may be changed by the GEMSA Board of Directors for the upcoming playing season, at any meeting, prior to March 15th of the current playing season.
- b. Registration rules may be amended or changed by the GEMSA Board of Directors to follow rule changes by Softball Alberta or Softball Canada at any time.

## **3. ADMINISTRATION RULES (A)**

- a. Administration rules may be changed by the GEMSA Board of Directors at any meeting.

# OPERATING RULES

## DEFINITIONS (A)

1. **CATEGORY:** Refers to the age group (U9, U11, U13, U15, U17, U19).
2. **DIVISION:** Refers to a tier within a category, as follows:
  - a. **U9** - The maximum number of players on a roster is capped at 10 and the minimum at 6 per team. For rosters with more than 10 players, permission must be granted by the GEMSA Board, prior to the start of the playing season.
  - b. **U11** - 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 for having an “out” at bat). There are 3 divisions in U11.
    - i. **DEVELOPMENTAL**
      - Teams that are using coach pitch all year. Teams that started their training at the start of the season.
      - Teams are composed mainly of first year U11 or first year ball players and do not have 1-2 pitchers that are throwing strikes.
    - ii. **INTERMEDIATE**
      - Teams that are using coach pitch for part of the year or playing with modified rules. Teams that for the most part started their training at the start of the season.
      - Teams are composed mainly of first year U11 or first year ball players and do not have 2-3 pitchers that are throwing strikes.
    - iii. **ADVANCED**
      - Teams who are composed mainly of 2<sup>nd</sup> year U11 players and who have 2-3 pitchers that are throwing strikes.
      - Teams that have players who attended off season training for skills and pitching.
  - c. **RECREATIONAL BALL U13 - U19 - “C/D”** 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 for having an “out” at bat). This league is for teams that are less advanced and is for all categories.
  - d. **COMPETITIVE BALL U13 - U19 - “A/B”** 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 for having an “out” at bat). This league is for teams that are more advanced than the Recreation League.
3. **TIERING:** Refers to a system where a minimum of 7 teams in a category will be placed into divisions of equal caliber. Tiering at the beginning of the season, shall be decided by the GEMSA Board selecting the division where they feel a team is best suited. Any such re-tiering will be done by the GEMSA Board of Directors, tiering may (may not occur) realign existing Recreational and Competitive divisions, re-tiering into new divisions. Standings will revert to zero for all teams after the re-tiering. Any team can appeal their tiering in writing to the GEMSA Commissioner.

# **REGISTRATION RULES**

## **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

### **ELIGIBLE PLAYER**

1. One who is registered on a team that has been approved by GEMSA.
2. Has provided proper proof of age to 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:
  - a. Birth Certificate
  - b. Baptismal Certificate
  - c. Passport
  - d. Alberta Health Care Card of Health Care Status
  - e. School letter on Letterhead paper

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

### **INELIGIBLE PLAYER**

1. One who has been suspended.
2. One who is not registered on an approved GEMSA team
3. One who does not supply proper proof of age, if requested.
4. Ruled Ineligible by Softball Canada
5. One who is declared ineligible by the GEMSA registrar and GEMSA Board of Directors.

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

**EXCEPTION** - Players registered with GEMSA for the sole purpose of Little League may be used as pickup players within their category and must report to the registrar games played.

### **LITTLE LEAGUE TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY**

1. Teams registered with GEMSA and little league must play a minimum of 12 games. These games must be played against another team within GEMSA that has registered for Little League
2. Players must play a minimum of 8 games to be eligible to tryout for the tournament team with a Little League GEMSA registered team.

# TEAM REGISTRATION

## REGISTRATIONS

1. Each team may register a maximum 17 players.
2. U11 - U19 teams must register a minimum of 8 players (Recreational and Competitive), as per GEMSA rules.

**EFFECT** - This situation will be brought to GEMSA for disciplinary action. The player will be deemed ineligible to play.

**EXCEPTION** – as per operation rules U9 must register a minimum of 6 players and a maximum of 10 players. For rosters with more than 10 players, permission must be granted by the GEMSA Board, prior to the start of the playing season.

**NOTE** - Teams may play only players who are registered on their player roster in RAMP for the current playing year. Pick up players are allowed from within their own association or with written permission from another association, explained under the players section – see page 24.

3. Players may only be registered on one team during the year.
4. Over age players are allowed from within each association as explained under the players section – see page 23.

January 1 <sup>st</sup> of Current Year	
Category	Years of Birth
U19	2006-2007**
U17	2008-2009
U15	2010-2011
U13	2012-2013
U11	2014-2015
U9	2016-2017

\*\*Overage players from 2005 are allowed - maximum 2 per team

5. Team rosters **MUST** be entered in GEMSA's team RAMP accounts, no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. All Team RAMP logins will be emailed prior to this date.

**EFFECT 1** - Incomplete information on the player: player is ineligible for the remainder of the season and GEMSA Finals.



**EFFECT 2** - If team/player registration is not entered by the deadline, the team is ineligible for the remainder of the season and GEMSA Finals.

**NOTE** - The RAMP registrations system will be closed as of May 5th of the current year.

6. The registrar will allow forty-eight (48) hours for errors to be corrected, after contacting the coach indicated on the form.
7. 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.
8. After May 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year, 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 GEMSA Registrar.
9. In extenuating circumstances (such as injuries or players moving away), the GEMSA Registrar could allow two additional players to the team registration, upon approval a minimum of 2 of GEMSA's Board of Directors. Each situation will be handled on its own merit.

## **TEAM MANAGEMENT**

### **MANAGEMENT**

1. (A) - Each team must have on their player's bench responsible people to coach, manage, look after, and take responsibility for the team BEFORE, DURING and AFTER the game.
2. (A) - The signature of the coach must appear on the Line Up Card, prior to the start of the game.
3. (P) - The action of the team spectators, players, team officials and league officials must be honorable. See Policies – Codes of Conduct(s) on pages 5, 6 and 7.
4. (P) - 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.
5. (P) - All spectators must be a reasonable distance from the players' benches (REASONABLE DISTANCE shall be in the plate umpire's judgment).

**EFFECT 1** - 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.

**EFFECT 2** - Of section 1, 2, 3, 4, 5: Failure to comply may result in ejection, forfeiture of the game and/or suspension.

**IMPORTANT NOTE** - The actions and conduct of a team's spectator(s) are the responsibility of the team's head coach or acting head coach. Refer to Code of Conduct Policy(s) on pages 5, 6 and 7

## **EJECTION(S)/SUSPENSION(S)/REMOVAL(S)**

Any ejection(s), suspension(s) or removal(s), 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](mailto:commissioner@gemsa.ca) and the GEMSA Commissioner must be contacted by telephone immediately following the game.

### **EJECTION(S)**

1. The act of any umpire ordering a coach, player, official or any other team members, including the team spectator(s) to leave the game and the grounds for a repeated violation of the rules or a deliberate unsportsmanlike act

**EFFECT** - The offending coach, player, other team members or team spectator(s) will have 5 minutes to exit the playing area within the ballpark. Failure of the ejected person to leave the game and the grounds will warrant forfeiture of the game. An automatic one game suspension for the offender will be applied, until a review of the incident is completed, as per GEMSA protocol.

**EXCEPTION** – If the Spectator is unrelated to either team, it will be determined as a delay of game. If the Spectator refuses to leave the Umpire will have the right to end the game and the score of the last completed inning will be the final score.

**NOTE** - The Umpire responsible for the ejection, will document the incident on both score sheets and will follow accepted Zone and Provincial procedures for reporting.

### **SUSPENSION(S)**

1. Any coach, player, or other team members, including team spectator(s) ejected from a game by the Umpire will receive an automatic one game suspension.
2. Any incident that occurs at a GEMSA event and is reported to the GEMSA Commissioner, the Commissioner will initiate an investigation conducted by the GEMSA Commissioner and a minimum of 2 GEMSA Board members. All parties involved will be notified of the investigation. A decision will be made within 72 hours of the initial notification.
3. Any coach, player or other team members, including team spectators can be suspended for violating any of the code of conduct rules.
4. Any additional suspensions by the same offender could lead up to a season suspension and/or future seasons.

**EFFECT** - An individual may not participate in any game(s) while under suspension. Is not allowed on the playing field or within the Ballpark before, during or after the scheduled event. Failure to adhere to these rules will result in additional game(s) and/or time added to the current suspension.

**EXCEPTION** - If the ejection is due to a violation of the playing rules, (i.e. illegal re-entry Softball Canada, Rule 3.1.9), the one game suspension will be waived after review by the GEMSA Commissioner.

**NOTE** - All suspensions due to ejection from the game could result in additional games or time frames being added after review by the GEMSA Commissioner and a minimum of 2 GEMSA Board members. If after review, GEMSA finds that a suspension is not warranted, it can be rescinded.

## **REMOVALS**

1. The act of the umpire declaring a player ineligible for further participation in the game as a result of an infraction of the rules.

**EFFECT** - Any player removed from the game may continue to sit on the bench but shall not participate further in the game. There will be no automatic suspension due to the removal.

## **PROTESTS AND APPEALS**

**(Regular Season Play Only)**

**GEMSA Contact – 1<sup>st</sup> point of Communication.**

**GEMSA Commissioner -Leeam Freadrich 780-818-2526 [commissioner@gemsa.ca](mailto:commissioner@gemsa.ca)**

### **PROTEST PROCEDURE**

1. (P) - Make Reference Softball Canada rulebook – Rules 1.1.9 and Rules 1.2.8 through 1.2.14
2. (A) – Protest on player eligibility will only be accepted up to 24 hours after completed game and must follow the same procedure to lodge a protest including the fees.
3. (A) - 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 or e-transfer. 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.

### **LEVELS OF PROTESTS AND APPEALS**

1. (A) - GEMSA COMMISSIONER: shall hear and make all rulings on protests, regarding the interpretation of playing rules.
2. (A) - 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.
3. (A) - 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.

## **LINEUP CARDS**

### **DOCUMENTATION**

1. (A) - Lineup cards are required for each game.
2. (P) - Lineup cards must show date, team name and players' first/last names and uniform numbers.
3. Winning teams shall submit the game scores online within 24 hours following the end of each game.

**EFFECT** - Failure of a team to comply with 1, 2 or 3 above could result in forfeiture.

## **SCORE SHEET**

### **DOCUMENTATION**

1. (A) - All scores are to be submitted online by the winning team thru RAMP within 24 hours of each game, in the event of a tie, the Home team is responsible for reporting the score.
2. (A) - The winning team shall have the umpire sign (if a certified umpire) on the winning score sheet. The original scoresheet or image of the scoresheet, must be kept by the winning team and made available for inspection for 30 days from the date the game was played.

**EXCEPTION** - In the event of a tie game, the HOME team shall retain the original score sheet.

3. (A) - All score sheets shall include team name, division (Recreational "C/D" and Competitive "A/B"), category (U9, U11, etc), date, umpire present, first and last names of players of both teams.

# **PLAYING RULES - ADMINISTRATIVE**

GEMSA follows Softball Canada Rules unless otherwise mentioned within this handbook. Softball Canada playing rules for ALL categories can be found at: <https://softball.ca/resources/library>

**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.**

## **EQUIPMENT**

### **GAME BALLS**

1. Each team must provide 1 game ball that is approved by the umpire.
2. If no umpire is present - balls provided must be in new or like new condition.

**NOTE** - Balls must be Softball Canada approved.

### **BASES**

1. Home team will supply a pitching plate with proper pins and pegs, bases with proper pins or pegs. The double base is a required item of equipment.

### **UNIFORMS**

1. Teams are encouraged to wear matching uniforms.
2. 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

**NOTE** - During colder weather it is recommended to mark a player's number on their helmet or any garment worn over their jersey - it is not mandatory, but is recommended.

### **HELMETS**

1. 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 and a face-cage guard.

**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.

**NOTE** - Cracked helmets are illegal.

### **INFIELDER MASKS**

1. Infielder Masks are mandatory for all divisions, with a minimum of five (5) masks required per team. Infielder masks must be worn while a team is playing defense in a game, during game/inning warm-ups. Defensive positions required to wear the infielder mask are 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bases, Short Stop, and pitcher position. All categories covered by GEMSA must wear an infielder mask. If unable to provide an infielder mask for the current infielder position a batting helmet with a proper cage can be worn. Failure to do so can lead to a player being removed from the game.

### **CATCHERS EQUIPMENT**

1. Softball catchers must wear a mask, throat protector, helmet, shin guards and athletic support must be worn during the game. Catchers (or other members of the defensive team including coaches or parents) 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 ear flaps.

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

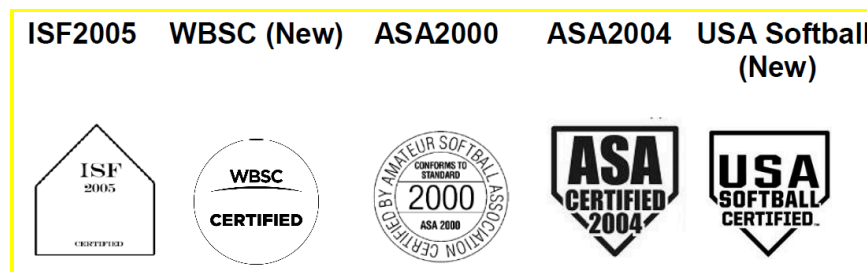
**EFFECT 2** - If the catcher (or other members of the defensive team) refuses to wear the proper equipment, that player will be removed from the game. Repeat offenses will be cause for ejection.

### **FOOTWEAR**

1. Metal cleats will only be allowed in U15 Comp and above.

### **BATS**

1. SOFTBALL CANADA RULEBOOK Appendix 2 A):
  - a. All bats must comply with the “OFFICIAL BAT” specifications as defined in the Softball Canada Rulebook. Approved logos are;



- b. No team may use illegal or altered bats.

## **CASTS**

1. Plaster, metal, or other hard substance casts in the final form, may not be worn in a game.

## **JEWELRY**

1. Exposed jewelry such as wrist watches, bracelets, earrings, neck chains or any other items judged dangerous or distracting to opposing players 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.

**EFFECT** - Players must remove jewelry. The umpire shall issue one warning for the team, If the players fail to remove their jewelry after the warning is given, they will be removed from the 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.

## **PLAYERS**

### **PLAYERS (P)**

1. 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.

### **LATE PLAYERS**

1. 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 in that game.

### **UNDERAGE PLAYERS**

1. Any player who plays above their normal birth year category will follow the rules for Over-age players including no pitching and catching, if they are picked up by a team in the category below.

### **OVER-AGE PLAYERS**

1. All teams U11 through U15 may have up to 2 over-age players on the team roster.
2. The over-age players may be no more than 1 year advanced from the current playing category of the team in question.
3. Over-age players are not allowed to play defensively as a pitcher or a catcher.
4. Coaches must indicate over-age players on their team's line-up card for all games using an "O/A" beside the player's name.
5. In seasons where U17 and U19 categories are combined, 2 overage players one year removed from the U19 category is permitted

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

## **PICK-UP PLAYERS**

1. 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.
2. Teams may use pick-ups to fill out their roster but cannot drop or release players for the purpose of picking up
3. Pick-up players are allowed from the Category below and the same Division or below, up to a MAXIMUM of 12 players on the lineup card.

## **EXAMPLES**

- a. U19 B may pick up from U17 B/C/D, but not from U17 A.
- b. U19 C/D may pick up from U17 C/D, but not from U17 A or U17 B.
4. Any player who plays above their normal birth year category will follow the rules for Over-age players including no pitching and catching, if they are picked up by a team in the category below.
5. Pick-Up players must be recorded on the line-up card and score sheet as a pick-up player for both league and GEMSA playoff games using a P/U beside the players' name. This must also be reported at the plate to the Umpire and opposing coach as well as the name of the player with the submission of the scores to GEMSA. If a player is picked up during GEMSA Playoffs, said game must not interfere with the player's original team.
6. NO player may play as a pickup for more than 4 games during the regular season for any one team and may not play more than 8 games as a pick up player. All pick up players names and originating team, must be emailed to [registrar@gemsa.ca](mailto:registrar@gemsa.ca) prior to the first game and any game after. Failure to do so will make the player ineligible to play any games as a pick up player for the remainder of the season. Further instances may cause the player to be ineligible to play in GEMSA for any games including their own team.
7. 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.

## **STARTING AND DURATION OF GAME**

### **GAME START (P)**

1. 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.
  - a. Any 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.



- b. If a 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.
- c. If a team starts with 9 players and a player is ejected from the game, the team forfeits the game.

**EXCEPTION** - U9 Teams can play with as few as 6 Players.

2. (A) - If weather permits, all games must be played as scheduled. A coach or manager cannot postpone or cancel scheduled games without the permission of the GEMSA Scheduler 24 hours in advance. Failure to comply will result in a loss of points to the offending team.
3. (A) - Games postponed due to weather will be rescheduled by the coaches and reported to the GEMSA Scheduler by the home team. The GEMSA Scheduler will then make arrangements for an Umpire through the umpire-in-chief or their approved designate.
4. (P) - 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.
5. (P) - 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.
6. (P) - 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.
7. (A) - 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.
8. (P) - If a game is tied after seven innings or after the time limit, each team shall receive one (1) point.
9. (A) - All GEMSA teams from U9 to U19 will travel during the regular softball season to the various diamond locations as scheduled.
10. (P) - All U9 and U11 games and practices will start at 6:30 PM. Umpires are notified of this and teams that do not show or are late will be charged all umpire fees.

**NOTE** - U9 Games will not be supplied umpires – their team registration fees will reflect this.

11. 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 innings 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.

## **SCHEDULING**

1. All U9 Teams will play 1 game per week, on Mondays or Wednesdays in May. In June, games will be played on both Monday and Wednesdays.
2. All U11 teams will be scheduled based on a 2 games and 1 practice rotation for games during the season. Games will be played on either Tuesday or Thursday night. The non-scheduled game nights are expected to be used as practice nights.
3. Monday and Wednesday shall be designated as scheduled days for games in the U13 and U17/U19 combined recreational categories for all GEMSA teams.
4. Tuesday and Thursday shall be designated as scheduled days for games in the U11 and U15 recreational categories for all GEMSA teams.
5. Friday, Saturday and Sunday shall be used only when necessary for make up games and games required to even out scheduled games.
6. Re-scheduling, due to rainout or properly canceled 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 GEMSA Scheduler.

**EXCEPTION** - U17 and U19 Teams registered to compete in the Competitive Division League Play will be expected to play on Tuesday **OR** Wednesday nights.

## **TIME LIMIT**

7. The consequences of leaving a game before the time limit, will result in a forfeit for the team leaving, unless the game is conceded.
8. (P) - **U9** – No new inning to start after 55 minutes.
9. (P) - **U11** - No new inning to start after 1 hour and 30 minutes.
10. (P) - **U13** - No new inning to start after 1 hour and 45 minutes.
11. (P) - **U15, U17 & U19** - No new inning to start after 1 hour and 50 minutes.
12. (P) - **U15, U17 & U19** Double Headers - No new inning after 80 Minutes for the 1st game and No new inning after 1 hr 30 minutes for the second game.

# **PLAYING RULES - GAMES**

**LITTLE LEAGUE** - All Little League Games played in conjunction with GEMSA facilitated games will follow GEMSA Rules and Guidelines solely.

## **PITCHING AND BASELINE DISTANCES**

	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"
U9	30'	45'	11" Softie

### **START TIMES**

1. U9 & U11 – 6:30 P.M.
2. U13, U15, U17 and U19 – 7:00 P.M.
3. All double headers will start at 6:00 P.M.

### **THIRD STRIKE RULE**

1. (P) - Is **NOT** in effect for U13, U11 and U9 teams.

### **INFIELD FLY RULE**

1. (P) - Is **NOT** in effect for U13, U11 and U9 teams.

### **BATTER'S BOX**

1. 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**

- a. If the ball is hit foul or fair
- b. On the swing, slap or check swing
- c. If forced out of the box by the pitch
- d. On a wild pitch or passed ball

- e. If there is an attempted play
- f. If time out has been called
- g. If the pitcher leaves the 8-foot circle, or the 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. A pitch does not have to be thrown and the ball is dead (Softball Canada Rulebook 5.4.3 d) vii).

### **BATTING/RUN RULE**

- 1. (P) - 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.
- 2. (P) - The team at bat will be retired when there have been 3 out, or after the 5<sup>th</sup> run has scored in a half inning.

**EXCEPTION** - U17 and U19 Teams registered to compete in the Competitive Division League Play will only be retired when there have been 3 out, or after the 7<sup>th</sup> run has scored in a half inning.

### **BASE RUNNERS**

- 1. (P) - May not lose contact with the base, until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- 2. (P) - Courtesy Runner
  - a. If an injury occurs during the game, the coach will have the opportunity to use a Courtesy Runner (CR) for the injured player. The last available batter in that current inning shall be the courtesy runner. The injured player must touch first base for the courtesy runner to come in and run the bases for them.

**NOTE** - As per injury rules, a team has until the end of the next completed inning to decide if the injured player will return into the game.

- b. A courtesy runner is allowed for the catcher or pitcher in a two (2) out situation. The player in the catcher or pitcher position will bat and must advance to at least first (1st) base before a courtesy runner can be put in. The last available batter in that current inning shall be the courtesy runner.

**NOTE** - If a pitcher utilizes a courtesy runner, that pitcher must pitch to, at minimum, the 1st batter in the following defensive inning. Failure to do so will render the player ineligible for the remainder of the game.

### **UNLIMITED SUBSTITUTION - ALL CATEGORIES**

- 1. Offensive Team (Batting)
  - a. When a team is on offense, all players on the roster and in attendance must bat according to the lineup card submitted to and held by the umpire.

- b. 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 lineup card held by the umpire.
  - c. Any player who arrives after the first pitch of the third inning cannot be added to the line-up.
  - d. 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).
2. Defensive Team (Fielding) When a team is on defense, there will be an unlimited substitution rule in effect.
  3. No defensive player may sit in back-to-back innings.
  4. 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 off 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 instructs the player to sit back-to-back innings will be subject to disciplinary actions by GEMSA.

**EXCEPTION** - U17 and U19 Teams registered to compete in the Competitive Division League Play are to be allowed to bat the whole line up **OR** bat a starting 9 players. Batting format **CAN NOT** be changed during the game.

#### **MERCY RULE**

1. (P) - 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.
2. (P) - If after 5 complete innings, one team is ahead by 11 runs, the game is over.
3. (P) - If there is less than 5 minutes remaining in the game and the losing team can not mathematically catch up, the Umpire can call the game.

**NOTE** - GEMSA would like all games to continue even if Mercy has been achieved, to allow players their maximum allotted game time.

**EXCEPTION** - U17 and U19 Teams registered to compete in the Competitive Division League Play do not have a Mercy Rule in effect and will play unlimited innings within their time period.

4. (P) - **U13** Double Headers - No new Inning after 80 Minutes for the 1st game and No new inning after 1 hr 20 minutes for the second game.
5. (P) - Games start as per time noted on schedules.

**NOTE** - It is encouraged that Umpires and Teams will let all games continue to be played to the end of the times limits, regardless of score

# PITCHING RULES

## (P) - SOFTBALL CANADA RULE 4 PITCHING REGULATIONS

1. A pitcher who is moved to another position on the playing field, may return to the pitching position.
2. Windmill, slingshot, and orthodox pitches are legal in all categories.
3. Pitchers may pitch a maximum of:
  - a. U9 two (2) inning per game
  - b. U11 three (3) innings per game
  - c. U13-U15 four (4) innings per game.
4. **U9** - Will be Coach Pitch until June 1st of the current playing season and then will implement “Player/Coach Pitch” for the remainder of the season – see page 25.
5. **U11 Developmental** - Player/Coach pitch is in effect for the entire season.
6. **U11 Intermediate** - Player/Coach pitch is in effect until Victoria Day of the current playing season.
7. **U11 Advanced** - will not use “Player/Coach Pitch” at any time.
8. 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.

**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.

9. 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 starting the delivery of the pitch.

# COACH & PLAYER/COACH PITCH INSTRUCTIONS

## COACH PITCH RULES - U9

1. Pitching coach will pitch a maximum of 5 balls per batter (except if the 5th pitch is hit foul, see more below). The batter can swing at all 5, or none.
2. If the batter has not put the ball in play after the 5th pitch, a tee will be set up by the coach for the player to hit from.
3. If a batter fouls off the 5th pitched ball, the coach will keep pitching. If they miss the 6th pitch following a foul, the tee is set up for the batter. (i.e. Batter cannot be out on a foul ball)

## PLAYER/COACH PITCH FORMAT - U9, U11 Developmental and U11 Intermediate

1. Batter # 1 (B1) is at the plate. After the 4th ball, the batter will have a count against them. 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 their 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:
  - a. Count 4-0, coach may throw up to 3 pitches.
  - b. Count 4-1, coach may throw up to 2 pitches.
  - c. Count 4-2, coach may throw only 1 pitch.
2. If the batter uses up all their strikes without hitting the ball, they are 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.
3. The coach pitcher is to deliver the ball from the rubber. Starting on the pitching rubber, one step towards home is permitted while delivering the pitch and may pitch an underhand toss or windmill pitch.
4. Pitches (pitch) from the coach or parent are the only opportunity that the batter will get to hit the ball and get on base.
5. On the third strike only, if the batter hits a foul ball, they will be granted an additional pitch (or pitches), unless the foul ball is caught by a defensive player. This will be the same as regular rules in regard to a third strike foul ball.
6. The pitcher (defense) will remain on the infield while the coach/parent (offense) offense pitches, and may field balls hit into play.
7. If a ball hit into play by the batter that:
  - a. Comes in contact with or is touched by the parent/coach, whether intentional or accidental

- b. 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 a passed ball/wild pitch or any legally delivered pitch by the designated coach/parent pitcher.

### **U9 SPECIFIC PLAYING RULES**

1. NO Stealing - NO Bunting - NO Walks
2. Base advancement is restricted to hitting.
3. Base advancement may continue on a hit - once the ball is brought back into the infield, runner advancement stops, advancement is not to occur on an overthrow. Example - ball is hit thru to left field, batter runs past 1st and makes it to 2nd, left field overthrows 3rd base, batter/runner must stop at 2nd

### **U11 SPECIFIC PLAYING RULES**

1. Stealing 2nd and 3rd base is allowed at all times once the ball has left the pitcher's hand.
2. Advancing home on a wild pitch/passed ball is permitted for U11 Advanced division ONLY.
3. Advancing home on a wild pitch/passed ball is NOT permitted for U9 and U11 Developmental division.
4. There is no limit to the number of bases that can be advanced on overthrows that remain in play.

**NOTE** - Associations are reminded that the “Recommended Minor Softball Rules” at the back of the Softball Canada rule book are not used by GEMSA.

### **DEFINITIONS**

**WILD PITCH** - A Pitched ball that the catcher can not catch or control with ordinary effort

**PASS BALL** - A Pitched ball that the Catcher does not catch

**OVER THROWS** - A ball that is not pitched - but thrown to a player at any position that is missing but remains within the playing area



# UMPIRES

## UMPIRES (Unofficial)

1. (P) - Both teams will supply one umpire each. Home team will supply a plate umpire, and visitors will supply the base umpire.
2. The signature of the plate umpire MUST be on the winning score sheet.
3. Unofficial Umpires are not to be compensated financially by participating teams.

## UMPIRES (Official)

1. (P) - Official umpires will be members of an Accredited Umpire Association, as approved of by The Alberta Softball Umpires Association (ASUA)
2. Base umpires: When an official base umpire has not been supplied, either team may supply one if requested by the umpire.
3. (P) - The plate umpire is to hold possession of the line up card throughout the game.
4. The signature of the plate umpire MUST be on the winning score sheet.
5. Teams forfeiting games or failing to show up for games without notifying GEMSA, are still responsible for their share of umpire fees. GEMSA will be responsible for notifying umpires.

## UMPIRE FEES - (A)

1. Single Umpire: \$50.00
2. Double Umpire: \$45.00 each
3. All Umpire fees are currently included in GEMSA's registration fees. Teams are not required to "Pay at the Plate".

## IMPORTANT NOTES

1. HOUSE RULES are NOT permitted
2. All removals or ejections must be reported to GEMSA by email to [commissioner@gemsa.ca](mailto:commissioner@gemsa.ca)

# **GEMSA FINALS**

## **GEMSA FINALS INFORMATION**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

1. Approve planning, scheduling, and operation of GEMSA Finals. The committee shall consist of: All members of the GEMSA Board.
2. The committee shall hold a meeting at least 2 weeks before GEMSA Playoffs
3. GEMSA FINALS DATES will be posted on the GEMSA website and communicated to the associations prior to the current season start date.

### **TEAMS**

1. All GEMSA Finals documents are available on the GEMSA website at [www.gemsa.ca](http://www.gemsa.ca) two weeks before the finals start date. Rule Acknowledgement must be filled out and emailed to [registrar@gemsa.ca](mailto:registrar@gemsa.ca) by June 15<sup>th</sup> of the current playing season for verification.
2. Pick up player roster must be emailed to [registrar@gemsa.ca](mailto:registrar@gemsa.ca) two days prior to the team's first scheduled game.
3. Failure to show up at a game and to have sufficient players to start a game, will result in forfeiture of the game after a 15-minute grace period.

**EXCEPTION** - If the game location/time has been changed within 3 hours of the original scheduled game start. Teams and Umpires must allow an additional 20 minutes to the grace period. GEMSA and Teams must do due diligence to ensure that all affected teams are notified and have accepted the change.

4. 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.
5. Any roster discrepancies between line-up on score sheet and official player/pick up roster will result in forfeiture of the game.
6. The winning team must submit the score via text to the GEMSA Finals administrator within 30 minutes of game completion. The phone number will be listed in the GEMSA Finals information package and on the website. The score sheet that has been submitted will be used as the official one. Any discrepancies will be ignored. Failure to submit within the time limit could result in forfeiture of the game.

## **SPECIAL NOTES**

1. GEMSA Finals games postponed due to inclement weather, shall be rescheduled on an hour to hour/day to day basis, with the potential for cancellation.
2. GEMSA Finals will be hosted in June, using the GEMSA Finals format.
3. All teams will be scheduled to play in the GEMSA Finals.
4. Any teams that will not be able to participate in GEMSA Finals must notify the registrar, [registrar@gemsa.ca](mailto:registrar@gemsa.ca) by June 15th of the current playing season.

## **PROTESTS**

1. Make reference Softball Canada rulebook – Rules 1.1.9 and Rules 1.2.8 through 1.2.14
2. Protest on player eligibility must be done immediately when noticed but no longer than 30 minutes of the completion of the game.
3. A **\$250.00** cash bond is required to proceed with the protest. 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.
4. The protest committee will consist of two (2) GEMSA Board members; one of which should be the commissioner or designate, and one (1) designated Umpire representative. The GEMSA Board members and Umpire representative can have NO affiliations to the teams concerned or the game in question.
5. The decision made by the protest committee **will be considered final**; no appeals will be allowed.

**GEMSA Commissioner - Leeam Freadrich 780-818-2526 [commissioner@gemsa.ca](mailto:commissioner@gemsa.ca)**

# **SPORTS INJURY and LIABILITY** **INSURANCE INFORMATION**

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

## **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 defense, 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 online at [www.softballalberta.ca](http://www.softballalberta.ca) and are to be turned in to Softball Alberta.

## **ALBERTA AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION**

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## **CONTACT -**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Michele Patry**

**780-461-7735**