

MOOSE JAW & DISTRICT MINOR GIRLS FASTBALL GENERAL OPERATING RULES (UPDATED OCTOBER 7, 2025)

RULE 1. REGISTRATION

- Sec. 1. The association, through its board of directors, reserves the right to refuse any application for registration by player, coach, official or team.
- Sec. 2. Softball Saskatchewan affiliation and registration fees. The association will pay affiliation fees to Softball Saskatchewan for all teams in our association for the current year.
- Sec. 3. The Executive Board shall have the authority to alter the regulations covering league schedules, city playoffs or tournaments.
- Sec. 4. The registration fees shall be paid at time of registration. Players will not be allowed to play unless fees are paid by opening day.
- Sec. 5. Any player that registers using a false address shall be suspended for a minimum of three (3) games or more at the discretion of the board of directors.
- Sec. 6. Players shall register in their age-appropriate division determined by birth year.
- Sec. 7. All coaches in both league and select/Ice team play must ensure they have at least one coach on the bench that is certified with a Community Sport On-Going Participation (cs-op) or Level 1 National Coaching Certification program (mandatory at select level) and/or at least all coaches on the bench hold a Respect in Sport Certification or equivalent (for house league play).

RULE 2. ZONES AND TRANSFERS

- Sec. 1. Players in the Moose Jaw zone (District 3) that wish to transfer to another zone will have to submit transfer requests by the Softball Saskatchewan specified deadlines and are subject to board approval.

RULE 3. THE DRAFT SYSTEM

- Sec.1. Board appointed committees will draft teams in the house league as fairly as possible using tryouts, evaluations, ages (1st & 2nd years) and other relevant rating factors.
- Sec. 2. The Draft
 - a. General Operating Procedure:
 - 1. The number of teams are determined based on the number of players registered in the division.
 - 2. The members of the coaching staff for each team are named before the draft begins. Protected players will be identified at this time to a maximum of two (2) coaches per team and/or three (3) players related to those coaches. Any exception to be approved by the board.
 - 3. Players will be drafted across the teams ensuring a fair distribution of pitchers, catchers and utility players starting with Ice players and continuing with all other registered players in each division

RULE 4. SELECT TEAMS

- Sec.1. Eligibility: All players registered in the U11, U13, U15, U17 and U19 divisions of M.J.D.M.G.F. have the opportunity to try out for a select team/teams which will represent M.J.D.M.G.F. in the corresponding Provincial Tournaments.
- Sec. 2. Selection of Coaches: The head coaches for each select provincial team will be recommended to the Board by selection committees, comprised of three (3) board members appointed by the full board. Should the selection committee member have a daughter playing in that division, the Board will appoint an alternate to serve on the committee for the division selection. Coaches will be screened using the application/resume/interview process. The Board as a whole will make the final decision based on those recommendations.

- Sec. 3. Formation of Rosters: The provincial team rosters will be chosen by the respective appointed coaches of said teams based on tryouts/evaluations. Final roster is submitted to the Ice Coordinator and any obvious deviations from the highest evaluated players have to be justified.
- Sec. 4. Selected coaches will provide a traveling schedule prior to the start of the season to the Ice Coordinator and submit a financial report at the conclusion showing cash inputs by the families, fundraising, expenditures and any funds returned to the families at the end of the season (not to exceed the initial inputs by those families).

RULE 5. ROAD TEAMS

- Sec. 1. Definition: Any team that is coached by a M.J.D.M.G.F. coach and comprised of girls registered with M.J.D.M.G.F. is considered a road team when it plays in games other than regular league games, M.J.D.M.G.F. division tournaments, or city playoffs.
- Sec. 2. The association encourages and supports our coaches who wish to give girls registered with M.J.D.M.G.F. a variety of competitive experiences as long as the following conditions are met:
- There is no interference with league play;
 - M.J.D.M.G.F. and its Board of Directors are not placed in a position of liability without insurance;
 - The games or tournaments that these teams attend must be sanctioned by Softball Saskatchewan.
- Sec. 3. Road teams coaches and the players on their roster are directly responsible to the M.J.M.D.G.F. Board of Directors.

RULE 6. GAMES

- Sec. 1. M.J.D.M.G.F. games will be governed by official Softball Canada rules except when such rules are superseded by Softball Saskatchewan and/or M.J.D.M.G.F. General Operating Rules.
- Sec. 2. The following constitutes a regulation game:
- In all divisions, seven (7) innings (6 and a half if the home team is ahead).
 - Three complete innings when the game is called by the umpires.
 - In all divisions from U11 and up, no new inning is to start after 1 hour 50 minutes. In U9 Division, no new inning to start after 1 hour and 15 minutes from the start of the game. The start time of the game (recorded by the official scorekeeper at the time of the first pitch) determines when the game ends. For example: If a game starts right at 6:30pm for example, no new inning can begin as of 8:21pm based on the same watch/phone/device that was used to record the game start.
 - In all divisions, on Diamond 1, no new inning can start after 10:45pm regardless of the start time as the lights have to be off by 11:00pm. If a given inning is not complete by 10:55pm, the game will be stopped and the final score will be that of the last complete inning.
- Sec. 3. Teams may play with eight (8) players during regular league games and city playoffs. The missing ninth batter is NOT an automatic out if she fails to bat. The player who batted first in the inning will be the ninth batter.
- Sec. 4. If a team is short of players, they may borrow up to a maximum of three (3) players from the division immediately below them. These "pick up" players (APs):
- Have to be in their last year of U7 (age 7 or turning 7 prior to deadline) to AP in U9.
 - Cannot play in the place of regular team members who are available and ready to play. They can, however, go into a game for a pitcher that is warming up for 1 inning and/or a catcher that is warming up their pitcher;
 - APs in U13 and lower divisions are NOT allowed to pitch or catch at any time during a league or playoff game. They should also be at the bottom of the batting order.
 - APs in U15 and U17 divisions ARE ALLOWED to pitch and catch but should not be used ahead of regular team players.
 - Are only allowed to ensure a team has enough players (9).

- f. For regular league play, they must wear their jersey from their own team (to make it apparent they are a pulled-up player). This is not required for tournament play.
- Sec. 5. There is no tie breaker except in playoffs and for determining final league standings.
- Sec. 6. If a team is late, there shall be a fifteen (15) minute grace period from the time the umpire is ready to play ball. If the late team is not ready to play after the fifteen (15) minute period, the game will be called by the umpire, and the late team shall lose by default.
- Sec. 7. Coaches must ensure that all players will play no less than eight (8) innings in two consecutive games in league play or ½ the total innings of two consecutive games.
- Sec. 8. City playoffs will be scheduled before July 1st of each playing season and no playoff game will be scheduled beyond July 31st.
- Sec. 9. Determination of league standings:
 - a. All rained out games will be counted as a tie.
 - b. Division coordinator must be notified of games being cancelled by mutual agreement, by the playing coaches prior to the start of the game.
 - c. All defaulted games will be counted as a loss for the team that defaulted the game.
 - d. If there is a tie in league standings at the end of the season, the following format will be used to determine the team's standings, in the following order:
 - i. The best record in games played between the tied teams.
 - ii. If still tied, the runs for/against formula will determine the teams standing using all league games.

NOTE: All game results must be reported to the league statistician with all pertinent information regarding the game including clearly marked score, the teams playing, the division, pulled up players, if there was a default and which team defaulted, etc. This is done by forwarding a picture of the scoresheet immediately following the game.

RULE 7. SPECIAL RULES

- Sec. 1 As noted in Rule 6, M.J.D.M.G.F. games will be governed by official Softball Canada rules except when such rules are superseded by Softball Saskatchewan and/or M.J.D.M.G.F. General Operating Rules. The M.J.D.M.G.F. exceptions are as follows:
 - a. **U5 DIVISION:** League will be practices only for the entire season. Depending on number of teams, the last couple practices of the season could be used to play games with coach/parent involvement.
 - b. **U7 DIVISION:** League will be in 2 phases. The first couple weeks of the season will be team practices only. Following that the teams will play games, using tees for hitting and coach/parent assistance in all aspects of the game. Ideally they will get 1 practice and 1 game per week.
 - c. **U9 DIVISION:** Games will follow a regular game format with assisted coach pitching. Division specific rules are as follows:
 - i. A pitcher or catcher can pitch/catch a maximum of two (2) innings per game. This means that a player could pitch for a maximum of 2 innings and then could catch for a maximum of 2 innings within the same game.
 - ii. If the catcher drops the ball on the third strike, the batter is out.
 - iii. Batting Order:
 - A team's entire roster must be listed in the batting order.
 - All players bat whether playing defense or sitting on the bench.
 - Defensive substitutions and/or players rotating into other defensive positions do not affect the batting order.
 - If for any reason a player must leave the game, the batting slot of said player remains void. The batting sequence resumes with the name of the player immediately following that of the removed player without penalty.
 - iv. No stealing of bases is allowed.

- v. No advancement of bases on passed balls & overthrows.
 - vi. No runner shall be allowed to advance to home plate unless hit home.
 - vii. If a ball is hit into the outfield, the ball is live until the ball is thrown back into the infield and a player in the infield has control of the ball in one of their hands. Runners may advance at will until the ball reaches the infield and is in that fielder's control. The runners then either have to stop at the base they occupy or the next base they are running to if currently not on base. However, those players running advance at their own peril and can be tagged out.
 - viii. There is a five (5) run maximum per inning.
 - ix. Three or four outfielders can be used depending on the depth of the bench and the coach's discretion. If a team has between 6 and 9 players, the game can be played with minimum outfielders to prevent a forfeit.
 - x. A maximum of 2 coaches will be allowed on the field to help direct players defensively and may stay on the field during play to help speed up the game.
 - xi. If 3 balls are pitched to the batter, the coach will then take over and pitch until the batter strikes out, gets a base hit or is put out on the field.
 - xii. There will be "NO" walks allowed.
 - xiii. No use of the infield fly rule.
 - xiv. In league games with no umpire available, each team will provide a representative to ump while their team is batting.
- d. **U11 DIVISION:** The Softball Saskatchewan Handbook specifically states that the U11 division DOES NOT FOLLOW the rules laid out in the Softball Canada Rulebook. The Handbook replaces those rules rather than supplementing them. League specific rules are as follows:
- i. A pitcher can pitch a maximum of two (2) innings per game for regular season and switches to (3) innings per game for the playoffs.
 - ii. A catcher can catch a maximum of three (3) innings per game including playoffs. This means that a player could pitch for a maximum of 2 innings and then could catch for a maximum of 3 innings within the same regular season game and would be 3 innings pitching and 3 innings catching for playoffs.
 - iii. There is a three (3) run maximum per inning.
 - iv. If the catcher drops the ball on third strike, the batter is out but the ball remains alive. (Softball Saskatchewan rule added for clarification)
 - v. If for any reason a player must leave the game, the batting slot of said player remains void. The batting sequence resumes with the name of the player immediately following that of the removed player without penalty.
 - vi. All players bat whether playing defense or sitting on the bench.
 - vii. No mercy rules during league play. Specific mercy rules may be implemented for the house tournament or playoffs.
 - viii. The offensive conference rule is waived.
 - ix. No runner shall be allowed to advance to home plate unless hit or walked home. (Softball Saskatchewan rule added for clarification)
 - x. No stealing until the ball crosses the plate. (Softball Saskatchewan rule added)
 - xi. There is a maximum of 5 innings for games in U11.
- e. **U13 DIVISION:** The following league specific rules supplement or replace those in the Softball Canada Rulebook and/or the Softball Saskatchewan Handbook:
- i. A pitcher can pitch a maximum of three (3) innings per game including playoffs.
 - ii. A catcher can catch a maximum of four (4) innings per game including playoffs. This means that a player could pitch for a maximum of 3 innings and then could catch for a maximum of 4 innings within the same game.
 - iii. There is a five (5) run maximum per inning.

- iv. If the catcher drops the ball on third strike, the batter is out but the ball remains alive. Softball Saskatchewan rule added for clarification.
 - v. Defensive substitutions and/or players rotating into other defensive positions do not affect the batting order.
 - vi. All players bat whether playing defense or sitting on the bench.
 - vii. No mercy rules during league play. Specific mercy rules may be implemented for the house tournament or playoffs.
 - viii. The offensive conference rule is waived.
 - ix. No stealing until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. (Softball Saskatchewan rule added for clarification)
- f. **U15 DIVISION:** The following league specific rules supplement or replace those in the Softball Canada Rulebook and/or the Softball Saskatchewan Handbook:
- i. A pitcher can pitch a maximum of four (4) innings per game including playoffs.
 - ii. Catcher rules as per Softball Saskatchewan Guidelines. This means that a player could pitch for a maximum of 4 innings and then could catch.
 - iii. There is a five (5) run maximum per inning.
 - iv. The third strike rule is in effect. (See Rule 8 in the Softball Canada Rulebook - rule added for clarification). The batter becomes a "batter runner" when the catcher fails to catch the third strike before the ball touches the ground; and
 - There are less than 2 outs and 1st base is unoccupied; or
 - There are 2 outs.
 - v. Defensive substitutions and/or players rotating into other defensive positions do not affect the batting order.
 - vi. All players bat whether playing defense or sitting on the bench.
 - vii. No mercy rules during league play. Specific mercy rules may be implemented for the house tournament or playoffs.
 - viii. The offensive conference rule is waived.
- g. **U17/U19 DIVISION:** The following league specific rules supplement or replace those in the Softball Canada Rulebook and/or the Softball Saskatchewan Handbook:
- i. There are no inning restrictions for pitchers.
 - ii. There are no inning restrictions for catchers.
 - iii. There is a seven (7) run maximum per inning.
 - iv. The third strike rule is in effect. (See Rule 8 in the Softball Canada Rulebook - rule added for clarification). The batter becomes a "batter runner" when the catcher fails to catch the third strike before the ball touches the ground; and
 - There are less than 2 outs and 1st base is unoccupied; or
 - There are 2 outs.
 - v. Defensive substitutions and/or players rotating into other defensive positions do not affect the batting order.
 - vi. All players bat whether playing defense or sitting on the bench.
 - vii. No mercy rules during league play. Specific mercy rules may be implemented for the house tournament or playoffs.
- h. **ALL DIVISIONS:** The following league specific rules supplement or replace those in the Softball Canada Rulebook and/or the Softball Sask Handbook:
- i. That a game official (plate or base) must issue a warning, indicating what the infraction is to the Head Coach before an ejection of a coach or manager from a game.
 - ii. A Head Coach may name any person as their manager if needed before or during a game to assist him\her.