



2023 Softball New Brunswick Middle School Fastpitch Regulations

Softball New Brunswick is pleased to introduce a standardized minor rule and regulation system for the Middle School fastpitch divisions throughout the province of New Brunswick. The following rules and regulations are to be utilized for play for the playing season. The rules and regulations specifically identified in this document are specific to the Middle School age group.

Please note, unless a rule is specifically addressed in this document, Softball Canada rules shall apply.

1.0 Registration - Membership and Insurance Form

- 1) \$250.00 Provincial Championship team fee
- 2) Teams must submit a team roster with a list of all players and coaches.

2.0 Registration Softball NB Provincial Championships

2.1 Who can attend a Provincial Championship

- 1) All Middle School teams registered and in good standing with Softball New Brunswick
- 2) There is a Recreational and Competitive Division in Softball New Brunswick Provincial Championships
- 3) There are male and female divisions. Please note, boys may only have enough teams for one division.

2.2 Provincial Championship Registration and Fees

- 1) Softball New Brunswick Middle School Provincial Championship Registration Fees are \$250.00 made payable to Softball New Brunswick
- 2) Middle School Roster limits shall not exceed 17 players



- 3) Softball New Brunswick Provincial Championship Registration can be completed by contact Angela Sanford at timbitsoftball@softballnb.ca
- 4) Please see section 1.1 for Online Registration information
- 5) Softball New Brunswick Provincial Championship registration deadline is 1 week Prior to the Championship
- 6) Please note - Teams that do not follow proper registration procedures will not be permitted to participate in Softball New Brunswick Provincial Championships.

3.0 General Regulations

3.1 Rules of Play

Rule 1 - The Playing Field

- Middle School Base Paths - 55'
- Middle School Pitching Distance
 1. Female – 38'
 2. Male – 38'

Rule 2 - Equipment

Ball

- Middle School Ball - 11" Ball - Softball Canada Standard Worth Red Dot (COR .47)

Helmet

- Two earflap helmets are mandatory for all batters, base runners and batters on deck
- Mandatory - Players may wear a batting helmet **with cage**
- Mandatory - For defensive pitchers to wear protective equipment (helmet with cage or faceguard)



- Optional – For defensive fielders (other than pitcher) to wear protective equipment (helmet with cage or faceguard)

Mouthguard

- Optional for defensive or offensive players to wear a mouth guard

Cleats

- Players are not permitted to wear metal cleats.

Rule 3 - Coaches, Players and Substitutes

Coaches

- Defensive coaches are NOT permitted on the playing field (within the baselines).
- Offensive coaches are permitted to stand in the coaches' boxes when their team is batting

Players - Number of Players

- Minimum of 7 players and a maximum of 9 players on the field. Rovers are not permitted in Middle school softball
- When playing with less than the maximum number of players, there are no automatic outs
- If players arrive late, they may be added to the bottom of the lineup

Official Line Up

- The official batting order shall consist of **ALL** players on the official roster. The designated player (DP) and FLEX are not permitted.

Substitutes

- Unlimited defensive substitutions

Replacement Runner

- When the team on offence has two (2) out and the player designated to catch the next half inning is on base, the coach is allowed to substitute



the last recorded out of the inning in that player's place as a base runner. The designated catcher must then suit up for the next half inning.

Playing Time

- No player is to sit more than 1 consecutive inning. Coaches will ensure that every player sits out one inning before any player sits out two innings
- Coaches are encouraged to play all players as equally as possible over the course of a season

Rule 4 - The Game

Regulation Game

- Game time will be 1.5 hours in length
- A new inning will not start after 1 hour 15 minutes after the scheduled start time
- Games will be 5 innings
- If the home team is ahead at bottom of 4th inning and 5th is not being played due to time, game is ended. The umpire decision is final. If the visitor is ahead at the top of the inning and the game is called due to time, the score will revert to the previous complete inning. If time is being wasted by any team in order to change the outcome of game the umpire/organizers will penalize that team and award a forfeit game.
- In case of weather or cancellation of a game by an official and when two innings have been completed, the score of the game will revert to the last fully completed inning

Mercy Rule

- Mercy Rule: If any team is ahead by ten (10) runs or more after four (4) innings (3 1/2 if home team), or any inning thereafter, the game will be called.

Run Limit Per Inning

- Maximum of 5 runs per half inning



Run Limit - Open/Last Inning

Scoring

- Teams may score a maximum of 5 runs per inning with the exception of the 5th ("open inning"). Softball Canada mercy rules will be in effect (10 run lead after 4 complete innings).

Charged Conferences

- A team is permitted unlimited offensive conferences per inning
- A team is permitted two defensive conferences per inning. With the third conference, the pitcher must be removed from the pitcher position for the balance of the inning

Rule 5 - Pitching Regulations

Pitching

- Accepted pitching styles are whip or orthodox
- Player pitch - normal count. After 3 strikes, batter out
- **Provincial Championships Only** – If your team utilizes a pitcher that pitches on a club team in the summer season, your team **MUST** register in the competitive division at the provincial championship.

Pitching Limitations

- A pitcher is allowed to pitch a maximum of 3 innings per game (can be consecutive).
- 1 pitch equals one inning.

Illegal pitches

- Illegal Pitches **WILL NOT** be called against pitchers at the Middle School Level. Umpires may advise the coach of any pitcher that pitches 'illegal' for the purpose of helping the development of the pitcher.

Hit batters



- If a pitcher hits a 3rd batter in a game, they must be changed from pitcher position and cannot re-enter to the pitcher position for remainder of that game

Walks

- Walks are allowed
- On a walk, the batter is granted **1B ONLY**. An athlete may not take second base on a walk.

Intentional Walks

- There are no intentional walks

Rule 6 - Batting

Bunting

- Bunting is **NOT** permitted

Rule 7 - Batter-Runner & Runner

Third Strike Rule

- Third strike rule is not in effect

Infield Fly Rule

- Infield fly rule is not in effect

Stealing

- Base runners may steal on any legally pitched ball when it has crossed home plate
- A player can only advance one base on a steal attempt
- Player can not advance to home on a steal, passed ball, or wild pitch - must be batted in or forced home by a walk or is part of a continuation play (i.e. overthrow)



Lead offs

- Runners may leave the base when the ball has crossed the plate. If they leave early, they will be called out

Sliding

- Sliding is permitted at provincials in the competitive division only
- Sliding is not permitted in regular league play or the recreational division at provincials
- Obstruction rules shall apply

Base Runner Advancement

- Regular playing rules in effect

Overthrows

- Runners advance maximum 1 base only on an overthrow that remains in the field of play. The runner advances at their own risk, and the fielder can still throw them out if the runner attempts to advance on an overthrow.

Rule 8 - Dead Ball - Ball in Play

- Regular Rules in effect

Rule 9 - Protests

- Regular Rules in effect

Rule 10 - Scoring

- Regular Rules in effect
- **Provincial Play Only** - No tie-breakers will be played, 2 pts for win, 1 pt for tie, 0 points for loss (if tie then runs for and against (max 7)
- **Provincial Play Only** - Flip for home game at plate, except for CHAMPIONSHIP game, higher seed has choice of home or visitor

5.0 Bats

- See Softball Canada's Bat list