## 2019 Regina Minor Softball League - League Rules

**Section 1 – Game Rules**

Note: U19 (Midget), U16 (Bantam), U14 (Peewee), U12 (Squirt), U10 (Mites), LTP

1. All league games are started with the intention of playing seven innings. Weekday league games in May will typically be started at 6:15 PM. Weekday league games after the May long weekend will be started at 6:30 PM.
2. Games will be called for darkness or weather at the discretion of the Umpire, prior to the start of the next inning or during an inning with the score reverting back to the last complete inning.
3. Games called due to darkness or time limits are considered complete even if five innings have not been completed. The score reverts back to the last complete inning.
4. U12 weekday league games in June and July will have an 8:45 time limit. No new innings will start after reaching the time limit.
5. Weekend, holiday and weekday Kaplan games where there is a double header or late game will have a one hour and 45 minute time limit from the scheduled start time. No new inning will start after reaching the time limit.
6. If a team is behind 15 or more runs after three innings, or 10 after 4 innings, or 7 after 5 innings, the official game is complete, however, if both coaches agree, the game play can continue as exhibition or developmental practice purposes with the umpire in attendance. All other RMSL rules continue to apply if the game is continued.
7. All games except U16 A have a “7 Run Rule” and U12 has a “5 Run Rule”. Once a team scores 7(5 U12) runs or records 3 outs in their half inning, their at bat is complete for that inning.
8. U16 Division “A” teams use line-up cards. U16 Division “B”, all U14 teams, and all U12 teams use unlimited substitution and no line up cards.
9. U12 Division “C” has a no walk rule and an expanded strike zone (shoulders to midway between ankle and knee, and one ball width inside or outside of the plate). A coach from the batter’s team will come into the game to pitch to their players when their batter’s count gets to four balls. The current strike count is retained. A walk is never issued. The coach/pitcher then delivers enough pitches to either have the batter strike out or the batter puts the ball into play by hitting it. The Umpire must still decide if the pitch by the coach was a ball or a strike, if there is no swing by the batter. The Coach/Pitcher will not interfere with the defensive play, otherwise the batter is out. There is no stealing of bases while the Coach/Pitcher is in the game.
10. In all U12 Divisions and U14 Division “C” games, a dropped 3rd strike will be considered caught.
11. After entering the batter’s box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one (1) foot, between pitches and while taking signals and practice swings. 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 a pitch

d) On a wild pitch or passed ball

e) If there is an attempted play

f) If time has been called

g) If the pitcher leaves the 8ft circle or the catcher leaves the catchers box

h) On a three ball pitch that is a strike, which the batter thinks is a ball

Effects: 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.

1. U14 and U16 Division “A” teams are assigned a base umpire. All Division “B” and “C” teams may use a parent as a base umpire.
2. If a team is short players 15 minutes after the game start time, the game win will be awarded to the team not at fault. However, if both coaches agree to lend/borrow enough players so that the team short of players can complete a nine player line-up and both teams have at least nine players the game can continue, with an umpire, as an “exhibition” game.
3. Should an umpire not show for a Division “B” or “C” game, a coach will ask a base umpire from a Division “A” game to leave and become the plate umpire for the Division “B” or “C” game. A parent volunteer may assume the base umpire duties for the Division “A” game. Please contact the UIC to inform him of umpire that did not show.
4. Pitching limits will follow Softball SK. Handbook Provincials Rules with the following exceptions: U16 - unlimited, U14 – 3 inning limit, and U12 - 2 inning limit. One pitch constitutes an inning.
5. Catching limits will be the following: U16 – unlimited, U14 – 3 inning limit where any catcher may catch the 7th inning, U12 – 2 inning limit where any catcher may catch the 7th inning. One ball caught constitutes as an inning.
6. When the catcher is on base with two away, she may be replaced with the last eligible person to bat.
7. With the exception, of Timbit softball players, any balls hit into a backstop or RMSL fence during warm up or practice must be wiffle balls
8. RMSL has a zero tolerance for Illegal Drug/Alcohol Policy (article #14, Sec #2) Paraphrased states “any League official, umpire, coach, team member and scorekeeper that participates in a RMSL game or practice under the influence of illegal Drugs or Alcohol will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Section 2 – Rule Interpretations**

1. An illegal pitch will be called if a pitcher’s pivot foot (trailing) does not drag, slide or push off the rubber when delivering a pitch. Leaping, hopping, replanting or lifting the pivot foot from the ground or plane of the ground during the delivery will be considered an illegal pitch. Exception U16A
2. No exposed items (including jewelry) judged by the umpire to be distracting to opposing players may be worn or displayed. The umpire shall require the item to be removed or covered. Medical alert bracelets and/or necklaces, if deemed to be distracting, shall be required to be taped to the body in such a manner that the medical alert information is visible.

 EFFECT –If a player is requested by the umpire to remove jewelry and they refuse, the

 player will be removed from the game and ruled ineligible

**Softball Canada comment**: Issues of safety with exposed jewelry and other items are now the responsibility of the player and, if a minor player, his/her coach. Umpires shall only address jewelry if it is distracting to the opposing players (e.g. several dangling chains worn by a pitcher). Note that Effect (Sec 10) remains in force and that any player who refuses to remove distracting jewelry after being asked to do so by an umpire will not be permitted to play..

1. Coaches/players who wear hats or visors must wear hats or visors alike in team color.

4. There shall be only three charged defensive conferences, in a seven-inning game, between the manager, or the team representative from the dugout, with the pitcher or with any other defensive player.

EXCEPTION: U14 will have 5 conferences in a 7 inning game.

1. For every inning beyond seven, there shall be one charged defensive conference per inning.
2. Conferences are cumulative and do not start over with a new pitcher entered into the game.
3. If all three conferences (5 for U14) are not used in the first seven innings, they are lost and a team must then follow the one per extra inning rule.
4. A conference includes players in the field leaving their position and going to the dugout for instructions, regardless of whether “Time” has been requested or not.
5. It is not a charged conference if the coach/manager notifies the plate umpire of a change of pitchers either before or after communicating with the pitcher.
6. The manager may legally enter fair territory to talk with any defensive player, while the new pitcher is taking warm-up pitches, without a conference being charged.
7. The conference is over when the manager/coach crosses the foul line returning to the dugout.
8. It is not a charged conference for the defense if they confer during a charged offensive conference, provided they are ready to play when the offence is ready.

EFFECT – Sec. 9b:

1. The fourth, (sixth for U14) and each additional charged conference in a seven-inning game, or for any charged conference in excess of one per inning in an extra inning game, shall result in the pitcher, who is the listed pitcher at the time of the excess conference, being declared an Illegal Pitcher, who may not pitch for the remainder of the game***.***
2. The illegal pitcher can return to the game but not in the pitching position.
3. The conference rule is waived in ***U12*** and under categories.
4. Only one offensive conference during an inning. U12s may be allowed two offensive conferences per inning.
5. It is not a charged conference for the offence if they confer during a charged defensive conference, provided they are ready to play when the defence is ready.
6. Any player wearing a leg brace must have it wrapped, padded and approved by the umpire prior to the start of the game.
7. Softball Canada allows all U16 teams to use the Designated Player (DP) and Flex. For RMSL league play only U16 “A” teams will be allowed to use the Designated Player (DP) and Flex.
8. Blood Rule: Players may be taken out of the game to clean and dress bleeding wounds for a period of, but not exceeding the inning that the injury occurred in and one additional inning. The player taking the place of the injured player could be a substitute off the bench or a player previously in the game. No official substitution is made. All statistics (offensive or defensive) during this period are assigned to injured player. After the additional inning, if the injured player is unable to return, an official substitution must be made for the injured player. Players will not be allowed to continue play if fresh blood is visible.
9. Player changes for teams using line-up cards will be the “uniform number of the player in” and the “uniform number of the player out” when given verbally to the umpire. (Example #17 in and #23 out).
10. Ejections:
	1. Umpires will eject Coaches/Players/Team Officials that:
* are unsportsmanlike
* use profanity
* are physically or verbally abusive
* question/argue the judgment of the umpire concerning balls or strikes, safe calls, out calls, fair or foul balls, time limits or if there is enough light to continue play

	1. Ejected coaches must leave the RMSL grounds, including the parking lot, and must not watch or view the game.
	2. Interference by parents with umpires, coaches or players or unruly behavior by any spectator will not be allowed. Any person on second warning by the umpire will be requested to leave the area. If the offending party refuses to leave, the game will be called and awarded to the non-offending team.
	3. Ejections are to be written up on the incident form including, the team, date, person(s) ejected and circumstances. The report is to be given to UIC, who will forward to the Disciplinary Committee for possible action.
	4. In the event that a player or coach is ejected from a game for the second time in a season, the discipline committee shall have the right to suspend the player or coach from play for the balance of the season, including league playoffs.
1. All batters must wear a helmet with a cage. Defensive masks are mandatory for U12 and U14 Pitchers and other infielders are strongly encouraged to wear the defensive masks.
2. Between innings when the catcher is putting on her gear, the warm-up catcher may take as many pitches as they can (exceeding 5 pitches), but once the catcher is ready there will only be one additional warm-up pitch.
3. Anyone (players, coaches, parents or others) warming up a pitcher anywhere on or near the playing field must wear a mask, throat protection and a helmet. Upon warning, the player, coach or parent who fails to do so can result in the COACH being ejected from the game.
4. Bat boys or girls **must wear** a regulation helmet at all times during the game; both inside and outside of the dugout.
5. As per Softball Canada rules, players and coaches must remain on the bench (i.e. not in the bleachers) during their game. Only players, coaches, and team staff are allowed on the bench, with the exception of emergency circumstances.
6. “Waving the bat” by the batter with no intent to hit the ball during stealing situations or when ahead in the count is interference. Penalty could be a warning or an out to the player waving the bat.
7. Coaches/players must wear shoes on the field. Open toe sandals are not permitted.
8. Players shirts must always be tucked in and sleeves may not be rolled up.
9. Where a pitcher who is pitching in a U16, U14 or U12 Division game hits one or more players, three times in a single game, the umpire at his discretion shall provide the player with a warning.
10. Where a pitcher who is pitching in a U16, U14 or U12 Division game hits one or more players four or more times in a single game, that player may at the Umpire’s discretion be disqualified from continuing to pitch for the balance of the game.
11. Game sheets must be filled out by the home team and signed by the Umpire(s) at the conclusion of the game and returned to the rink by the Umpire.
12. During league play, the Home team will occupy the 3rd base side dugout and the Visitor will occupy the 1st base dugout.
13. All League Rules will be in addition to 2019 Softball Saskatchewan’s Hand Book and 2019/2020 Softball Canada Rule Book.
14. As per Softball Canada rules, pitchers may use rosin or gorilla gold during game play
15. Sunflower seeds are not permitted within diamonds or dugouts. Failure to comply will result in a $50 fine being charged to the team.
16. In compliance with Regina bylaw 2017-20: smoking and vaping is prohibited within the confinements of the RMSL Park.
17. Players in all divisions should receive comparable playing time during regular season games. Coaches, who, in the Division Representative’s judgment, violate this rule, will be subject to disciplinary action. For U12, U14 and U16 every player in the lineup should play a minimum of 2 complete innings in a full 7 inning game, unless there are extenuating circumstances. This is in effect for both league and playoff games.
18. Pick Up Rules

i) Teams may pick up a maximum of three (3) players to avoid forfeiting a game.

ii) Teams must receive specific permission from their Division Representative to pick up more than three players.

iii) Pick up players can be from the same division at a lower level or from a lower age division. The pick-up players may be no more than three levels lower than the team.

 **Definition**:

 Category - U16, U14,U12, U10

 Division A, Division B or Division C

 Examples: -U16A can pick up from U16, Division B or U16, Division C or U14, Division A.

 -U16 B can pick up from U16 Division C, U14, Division A or U14, Division B.

iv) The regular team players must be listed first and play a minimum of three (3) innings before a “pickup” player can be substituted. An exception would be if a team cannot field nine (9) players from its regular team, pickups can then start the game.

v) For league games, each “pickup” player can play a maximum of three (3) games for any one team.

vi) Coaches who violate this pick-up rule will be subject to disciplinary action.

vii) Division A pick up pitchers may only pitch for Division A teams. Division B pick up pitchers may only pitch for Division A and Division B teams. Division C pick up pitchers may pitch for Division A, Division B and Division C teams (ex: U14A pitcher cannot pitch U16B). This includes the Queen City Classic Tournament and the Sharon Knott Memorial Tournament

These RMSL league rules may be amended from time to time at the discretion of the RMSL Executive.