



## GUELPH MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

### BY LAWS

#### House League Division Operating and Playing Rules

#### REGISTRATION

1. Where vacancies remain within the maximum registration figure set in the respective divisions annually by the GMSA Board of Directors, players may be signed up to fill such vacancies by the respective Registrar or designate. All the required forms and fees must be turned in before a player's second (2) game. No refunds will be given after May 1<sup>st</sup> for GMSA House League.

**Effect:** Any team using a player not properly registered or authorized by the Board of Directors will forfeit all games that the player participates in.

2. Players in the Guelph Minor Softball Association shall not be signed to a registration certificate unless they are a resident in a 20km radius.

**Effect:** Any team using a player not within the 20km radius will forfeit all games that the player participates in.

3. Registration date will be set up by the Board of Directors. All registrations will be held in one place and, after that date, at the discretion of the GMSA. The Board of Directors will set a late registration fee.
4. Names for House League registration received after registration will be received by the President, Vice-President and given to respective conveners after payment of all fees. Players will be placed on teams in the order they appear until teams are full. No players will be added after June 1<sup>st</sup> without the approval of the GMSA Board of Directors.
5. Any requests made by players must be reciprocal requests.
  - i. Jane requested to play with John
  - ii. John requested to play with Jane

**Note:** Requests will be considered but are not guaranteed by the Board of Directors.

#### EQUIPMENT, UNIFORMS AND DIAMONDS

6. Team Jersey must be worn in all games. Players are allowed to wear a coat or jacket over their team jersey if the weather so demands. It must be done up completely. No altering (defiling) of uniforms will be allowed.
7. Masks, chest protectors and shin pads must be worn in all games.
8. It is the responsibility of the Coach to ensure all players wear their jersey tucked in. Any player deliberately refusing to tuck in their shirt, and in the judgement of the Umpire causes a delay in game; said player will be removed from the game.



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**Effect:** Any team allowing a player to take part in any game not wearing the proper equipment could have the game forfeited only after review by the GMSA Board of Directors.

9. Players must wear shoes (running, sneakers, cleats, etc.), pants and helmets. Metal spikes cleats.
10. Players are responsible for providing their own batting helmets, which must meet official Softball Canada standards. Helmets with chin strap done up under the chin are compulsory and must be worn by the player while the player is on deck, at bat or base running. If the helmet is removed or the chinstrap is undone, the player is automatically out. Teams in (U8) Minor Mite, (U10) Mite and (U12) Squirt will be provided with a pitching helmet and attached facial shield. This must be worn by all pitchers. (U14) Novice will be provided with a face shield that must be worn by all pitchers.
11. Each team will be supplied with league bats. Players will be allowed to use their own bats as long as they are official softball bats, and the official softball label can be recognized by the umpire. Batters throwing a bat, such that in the Umpires opinion could be dangerous, the player will receive one (1) warning. On the subsequent time, she will be called out.
12. Coaches are responsible for the well-being and return of all GMSA issued equipment. If any equipment is broken or lost, the convener must be notified as soon as possible.
13. Unfit Diamonds will be in the decision of the plate Umpire. Both teams are required to meet at the diamond where the decision as to whether or not the game will be played will be made.

**Exception:** The Umpire-In-Chief or designate may call the game at any time up to an hour prior to the game time, and shall inform the Convener who will contact the coaches to let them know of his or her decision, thereby not making it necessary for the teams to meet at the diamond.

14. All rained-out and called games, not constituting a game, must be scheduled within two (2) weeks. If the home team fails to schedule said game(s), the league Convener will do so. Failure to field a team will result in forfeiture of the game.
15. All divisions use the safety base. The batter (base runner) must go to the safety base side at all times that a play is being made at first (1<sup>st</sup>) base.

#### PLAYER'S RIGHTS

16. A player must have taken part in at least 50% of the regular season games throughout the regular playing season schedule before she/he is qualified for the play-offs; will cause the team that the player plays for to be reviewed by the Board of Directors and could result in forfeiting all games that the player participates in.
17. Unlimited substitution for all divisions.



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18. All players at games dressed to play must be entered in the line-up with names and jerseys numbers identified on the score sheets. This will be done in consecutive order from top to bottom.
19. Players in the line-up will sit out alternate innings commencing with the top of the batting order. This will be shown on the score sheet by marking the letter "S" in the batter's box showing the player has sat out that inning. In extra-inning games (tournaments) the substitution order will be continued.
20. No player, unless injured, may sit out more than one (1) consecutive inning.
21. A player arriving late to a game will be placed on the bottom of the line-up and will take their position in the proper rotation for sitting out innings during the remainder of the game. Coaches are to inform the other team and Umpires if this occurs.
22. All players will bat in consecutive order of the line-up. The rules of batter-out-of-order will apply here.
23. If it is found that a team has not followed these rules, the opposing coach and Umpire are to be notified. If verified that this has occurred, the coach and Umpire are to sign the score sheet at the time of the infraction. The coach will submit to the divisional Convener this score sheet with a notification of protest. The Convener will review and discuss if necessary with the GMSA Board of Directors Committee. The course of action could be a forfeit of the game by the opposing team.
24. Games missed due to confirmed injury that has been reported to the Convener will be considered by the Board of Directors to ascertain whether or not a player should participate in the play-offs although otherwise ineligible.
25. Games missed due to vacations will not be considered by the Board of Directors to ascertain whether or not a player should participate in the play-offs otherwise ineligible.
26. Regular Division Championships will be recognized by the awarding of a trophy, medal or crest to the winning team. In the event of a tie for first (1<sup>st</sup>) place league champs, a tie breaking game will be scheduled by the Board of Directors.
27. Other than first place, all ties for position in their respective divisions will be decided by:
  - a. Head to head
  - b. +/- to a max of 7
  - c. Flip a coin

If 3+ teams are tied, go straight to +/- rating
28. No sponsor shall be permitted to solicit or promote their product in any way to the players or members of the GMSA without first receiving the full written consent of the GMSA Board of Directors.



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29. Any information received by members of the GMSA pertaining to Players, Coaches, Umpires etc., shall be deemed personal and confidential and therefore shall not be released without the full written consent of the person or persons concerned for any other purpose than is necessary to run the league.
30. Any player taking part in any physical act against another Player, Umpire, Coach, or any other member of GMSA before, during or after a game will be suspended immediately. This suspension could lead to more severe discipline up to and including being dismissed from GMSA as deemed appropriate by the GMSA Board of Directors or the Discipline Committee. There will be no refund granted in being dismissed from the league as a result of any actions mentioned above.

#### **UMPIRES**

31. The Umpire-In-Chief and the Board of Directors will supply the plate Umpire for all regular season games, tournament and play-off games.
32. Plate Umpires shall wear a protective mask complete with a throat protector. Failure to do so will result in suspension without pay.
33. We recommend that coaches choose qualified mature persons to officiate as base Umpires and both coaches must be in agreement.
34. No Coach may Umpire in any game in which their team is playing except in emergency situations as deemed necessary by the Umpire-In-Chief.
35. No Umpire shall consume alcoholic beverages before, at, or during the game. Failure to comply will result in instant dismissal.
36. If an Umpire does not show in a reasonable amount of time, a parent/spectator may become the Plate Umpire, if so agreed by both teams.
37. Umpires who fail to show for an assigned game without adequate notification (1 hour), will be disciplined by the Umpire-In-Chief, who may suspend the offending Umpire from future games or fine them 1 game fee.
38. Dress code, all Umpires will wear long dark pants or shorts and a blue shirt tucked in and shoes.
39. Umpires must allow the game to progress at a natural pace.
40. No member of the GMSA Board of Directors, with the exception of the Umpire-In-Chief, shall stop a game, enter the playing field, or otherwise interrupt a game being played unless invited on to the field by one or more of the Umpires.
41. No member of the GMSA Board of Directors, with the exception of the Umpire-In-Chief, shall inform the Umpires of rule changes once the game has started. All such changes shall be told to the Umpire(s) prior to the ground rules.



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#### COACHES' RESPONSIBILITIES

42. All team must abide by the schedule laid down by the Board of Directors and games must be played on dates set. Inclement weather will be the only exception. Teams failing to field a team will forfeit the game, and the score will be as follows:

(U8) Minor Mite and (U10) Mite the score will be 5-0

For all other divisions the score will be 7-0

43. In case of dispute on any matter arising before or after the game, the decision of the President shall prevail until the GMSA Board of Directors discusses the case.
44. If the Player is forced to leave the game due to injury, the coach must be complete an official injury report form and submit to their Convener within two (2) days. If a player is taken to the hospital it must be done within two (2) hours of the incident.
45. The Coaches of all teams shall be responsible for the discipline and behavior of the members and spectators of his/her team before, during and after the game.

**Effect:** The warning to the coaches regarding arguing with Umpires and fan conduct and the coaches' responsibilities, shall be given to both Coaches and their respective Captains at the start of the game along with the ground rules of the game. No further warnings will be given.

A) Abuse by a coach will result in removal from the park. The game will not continue until the coach has left the park.

B) Abuse by a spectator will result in the fan being asked to leave the park. The game will not continue until the fan or fans have left.

- Further coach or spectator abuse will result in the game being forfeited.

46. Smoking during a game is prohibited entirely.
47. It is strongly recommended that coaches be on hand at least 30 minutes before game time and coaches shall remain after the game or practice until all players are clear of the playing field and have departed.
48. Teams must be ready (diamond laid out, ground rules explained) to start on time, with a 15-minute extension only if necessary. At least 7 players must be fielded to play softball; otherwise the game will be forfeited.
49. The home team Coach is responsible for lining the diamond during regular season-play. Lined diamond must include Coaches boxes.



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50. A coach may reprimand a player who fails to show up for practice without a valid reason, or a valid disciplinary reason, by not allowing said player to play in the regular games. Coaches, who know in advance of a game that they will be disciplining a player, should notify the Convener before the game.
51. The Coach shall conduct himself/herself in a manner conducive to good sportsmanship. If a situation occurs that the Board of Directors deems necessary to have a coach dismissed, it shall be done.
52. No Coach shall consume alcoholic beverages before, at or during a practice or game. Failure to comply will result in instant dismissal.
53. Shall promote fair play at all times.
54. As an Member of the Board of Directors, no member of a coaching staff, or helper, will wear his/her Executive shirt during any game.
55. Coaches using call-ups must write the full player name and team name on the score sheet.
56. All coaches must attend a GMSA Coaching Clinic.
57. GMSA shall introduce a policy of screening all coaches at both House League and Rep level. This screening shall only be related to offences against children and young adults. This policy shall be introduced at the earliest time possible.
58. Evaluation surveys will be requested to be completed at the end of each season by coaches and parent(s)/guardian(s)

As a Coach you agree to abide by the GMSA Constitution and all other rules, regulations and the decision(s) of the Board of Directors.

**Effect:** Any Coach not abiding by the above may be removed from their coaching positions by the majority agreement of the Board of Directors.

#### GAME SCORES

59. Each team is responsible, (win or lose) to update the Convener within 48 hours after the game is over with scores and highlights.

**Effect:** Failure to do so may result in the forfeit of the game by the offending team, upon review of the Board of Directors.