Revised as of June 2021

ROPSSAA GIRLS FASTPITCH SOFTBALL

PLAYING REGULATIONS

1. TIME

   (a) Starting times for double header games are 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The starting time for single games is 3:30 p.m.

2. LOCATION

   (a) City of Mississauga and City of Brampton softball diamonds to be used.

3. ELIGIBILTY

   (a) All competitors must meet the eligibility requirements as per Article X of the ROPSSAA Constitution.

   (b) Age: Any girl who has not attained her 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held (for the 2021 – 2022 school year, born in 2002 or later).

   (c) Team eligibility sheets must be received by the deadline announced at the pre-season meeting.

   (d) Team Eligibility

      (i) Individuals are eligible for one level of competition only.

      (ii) For team sports, individuals must have participated in at least 50% of their team's regular season games to be eligible for playoffs and OFSAA. Players missing games due to injury (INJ), or awaiting transfer approval (ATA), must appear so designated on a game sheet to maintain their eligibility. Games missed due to injury are subject to review of a doctors note. Players under game or school suspension may not have their name included on a game sheet for participation percentages.

      (iii) All game sheets/rosters are to include the names of all those in the bench area (players, coaches, managers). In order to be in the bench area an individuals name must appear on the eligibility sheet. Players under game or school suspension may not sit in the bench area.

      (iv) Individuals are deemed to have played if their name appears on a game sheet. Individuals must be present at a game to be included on a game sheet.

      (v) A staff member must be present in the bench area from the start of the warm-up until the last competitor has left the area.

4. OPERATING STRUCTURE

(a) All games will be 7 innings. If the home team is leading after 6½ innings they do not take their final at bat. There are no extra innings in league games.

(b) There will be 15 minute grace period for a late arriving team. Arrival after 15 minutes will forfeit. The grace period is to be included in the length of the game.

(c) If a league game is called off at any time in progress, the score as of the last complete inning will stand as final. A minimum 3 innings must have been completed or the game will be replayed from the start.

(d) If a playoff game is called off at any time in progress the score as of the last complete inning will stand as final. A minimum 5 innings must have been completed or the game will be resumed from the point of suspension.

(e) In the event of lightning, play will be suspended for a maximum 15 minutes. If play cannot continue refer to rule 4 (c) or (d).

(f) Scheduled Games

(i) Coaches are responsible for reviewing final league game schedules and playoff schedules as to locations, dates, and times to ensure their attendance.

(ii) Failure to attend at the scheduled time will result in forfeiture of the game and/or loss of opportunity to compete. The defaulting team will cover all cost associated with the game as determined by ROPSSAA Council.

(iii) Failure to fulfill game requirements leading to the abandonment of a game will result in a loss for that team. An incident report must be completed and submitted to the ROPSSAA Athletic office by the abandoning team within 24 hours of the game. No scores shall be entered until after a Board of Inquiry. A team abandoning a game may be required to cover any costs incurred as determined by ROPSSAA Council.

(iv) a) Schools must bring their own warm-up equipment and first aid kit.

b) i) Schools must endeavor to arrive no earlier than 60 minutes before game time. Teams arriving earlier than this must be supervised by the head coach in an area where students from the home school do not congregate. Schools with team members who do not travel with the head coach (in taxis, cars, on foot, etc.) must inform players that they must wait for their head coach and should ensure that the head coach is the first to arrive at the host school.

ii) Schools arriving for an away game between 30 and 60 minutes before game time must accompany the head coach to the competition area and liaise with the host school. The visiting team will be provided a safe waiting area and change room during this time and the visiting head coach must provide supervision of his/her players. Visiting athletes must bring all belongings with them to the competition area.

iii) Visiting schools are entitled access to the competition area at the same time as the host school, and no later than 30 minutes before the game time (pertains to the first game).

ii) Visiting schools are entitled access to a safe waiting area and change room at the completion of the competition.

5. CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

(a) The playoff format to be determined based on the number of teams.

(b) Home teams are responsible for setting up the bases and the pitching plate (all teams should have their bases available).

(c) If two teams are tied in the standings the result of the game between them will decide the higher ranked team. If the teams haven't played each other, the team with the better record against common opponents will be ranked higher. If the teams are still tied, the team with the best defensive record against common opponents will be ranked higher (forfeit games against common opponents will not count).

(d) A playoff game must never end in a tie. International tie-breaking rules apply.

6. EXPENSES

(a) All expenses will be divided equally among the participating schools.

7. RULES AND OFFICIALS

(a) The current P.W.S.A. Rulebook will govern, unless otherwise specified, in the Playing Regulations.

Exception:

(i) During the regular season, no full inning will commence after 1 hour and 30 minutes after the first pitch.

(ii) All playoff games will be 7 complete innings.

(b) Park ground rules will be agreed upon by the coaches and umpire before the game.

(c) All innings are open. If there is a score differential of 15 runs after 3 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings the game is called.

(d) The distance between the bases will be 60 feet and the distance from the pitchers plate to the rear point of home base is 40 feet.

(e) Base runners may not leave their base before the ball has left the pitchers hand. If this is the last out of an inning, the player at bat will lead off the next inning.

(f) If there are two outs and a catcher is on base they will be replaced by the last out.

(g) A certified umpire will be appointed for all games by the Umpire Co-ordinator. All umpire rulings will be final.

(h) The game will begin with 9 players listed on the score sheet to indicate batting order and defensive positions. Once a starting player is removed from the game they may be re-entered once, provided the player(s) occupy the same batting positions whenever in the lineup.

(i) A courtesy runner rule will be in effect. Each team may apply this rule to a maximum three times per game in both the regular season and playoffs.

(j) There will be no DP or DH.

8. AWARDS

(a) ROPSSAA Gold Medallions are to be awarded to the members of the championship tournament team (maximum 22 per team).

(b) ROPSSAA Silver Medallions are to be awarded to the members of the runner-up championship tournament team (maximum 22 per team).

(c) The ROPSSAA Championship trophy will be awarded to the team winning the championship tournaments.

Note: A minimum of 6 participating teams in a league is required for ROPSSAA Sponsorship.

9. UNIFORMS

(a) All players shall be dressed in numbered similar coloured shirts. Numbers are to be a minimum of 6 inches. Team shirts must be worn and visable to bat.

(b) Athletes may not change their clothing in the competition area. For all outdoor sports, athletes must arrive dressed to compete. Visiting teams requiring the use of washroom facilities must send a staff member into the school with the team member(s). For all indoor sports, athletes must move to the designated locker room or change area to change their clothing.

10. SCORING

(a) A forfeited game will be scored 1-0.

(b) It is the responsibility of the visiting team to verify the score after each inning.

(c) Both coaches and the umpire are to sign the game report sheet.

11. EQUIPMENT

(a) Each team must supply base runner and batting helmets and back catchers helmet, face mask, shin guards and chest protector. A face mask must be worn by all back catchers any time they are receiving a pitch.

(b) Metal spikes or shoes with detachable spikes are not permitted.

(c) A 12"(cor 47) Super Worth Red Dot or Dynaflite (white or yellow) leather ball may be used.

(d) The home team is to provide one new ball and one backup ball of suitable quality for each game. Teams qualifying for the playoffs must bring 2 new balls.

(e) A safety base is to be used at first base.

12. JURY OF APPEAL

(a) A Jury of Appeal selected at the pre-season meeting will consist of the Convenor and four coaches.

13. DEPORTMENT

(a) Players and coaches are expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner as per Article XVI, Section II of the ROPSSAA Constitution.

(b) Players ejected from the game are not eligible for the next game.

(c) A coach ejection will result in a forfeiture of the game in question. The duration of the coaches ejection is for that game only.