

***General Rules for Tournament Play***

***Squirts, Peewee, Bantam, Midget, Junior Division***

Version 3.5 June 2017

Overview

The Rural Ottawa Softball tournament is a house league year end tournament for the following associations:

Cassleman

Gloucester South Youth Softball Association (GSYSA)

Greely Softball Association (GSA)

Kemptville Softball Association (KDLL)

Kenmore Softball Association (KSA)

Metcalfe Softball Association (MSA)

Rideau-Osgoode Minor Softball Association (ROMSA)

Richmond-Munster Minor Softball Association (RMMSA)

Vars Softball Association (VSA)

Williamsburg

Winchester

No outside teams will be participating in the tournament.

Each division will be hosted by one or two associations. If the number of teams or field availability exceeds the field availability of the association, the tournament may be split between two or more associations.

Each tournament will have a tournament convenor. Please see your detailed tournament schedule for the tournament convenor contact information.

Documents

Each team should have a copy of:

* General Rules for Tournament Play (this document)
* Gender-Division Tournament Information
* Tournament Schedule (round robin and championship games)
* Rural Ottawa Softball Local Rule Modifications

Division Tournament Format

Rural Ottawa Softball has pre-defined tournament structures for the level and number of teams. Each team will be given a detailed tournament information package that lists the round robin, semi-final and final game formats. As well the document contains tournament and location specific information.

Schedules

Each team will be given a detailed tournament schedule describing field location, date, time and teams. Coaches are responsible to know their schedule and playing locations and times. Round robin play is usually held on Friday evening and Saturday. All teams will have at least two “round robin” games. Round Robin games can end in a tie. Play off and championship games are usually held on Sunday. Round Robin and Championship gameswill be held at various diamonds within the association. Please check your specific schedule for the time and place.

Associations are free to reduce the game time and tournament schedule due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. rain).

Home and Away Games

All Medal games on Sunday will have Home team decided by a coin toss. In the preliminary rounds on Friday night and Saturday, each team has one home and one away game assigned. If indicated in the tournament structure document, each team may also have a game in the preliminary rounds that will be decided by a coin toss for home team.

Rosters

The teams are comprised of players who played on their regular season team, at the current level (e.g. Squirts, PeeWee, Bantam, Midget, Junior) in their respective association for the year 2013.

Teams falling low on numbers are more than welcome to ***call up*** players to fill out their rosters. The players do not have to be from the same association but they MUST be registered within the Rural Ottawa Softball group of associations. As this is an insurance issue we ask all coaches to please respect it. All called up players must of a level lower than the current team. For example, a PeeWee team may call up a Mites or Squirts player from any association.

Players playing for teams at the same level that have dropped out may NOT play for other teams at the same level in the tournament. This would constitute an All Star team and it is not fair to the remaining teams.

Defaulting a Game

All teams must field at least 7 players. Games are scheduled to start on time. Umpires will be requested to wait 10 minutes for the team to get at least 7 players. If not the game is considered a default and it will be recorded as a 7-0 victory for the non-defaulting team.

Note: Umpires will be asked to be as flexible as possible when making a decision to default a team. The tournament convener will probably be involved.

Score Keeping

Each team must record their score and the opponent’s score in a complete game format. Game scores must be verified at the end of each inning. If there is any discrepancy in the final game score, BOTH score books must be brought to the tournament convenor. The judgment of the game score by the convenor is final.

Scorekeepers should make note of start time as declared by the plate umpire (to the closest 5 min.). Scorekeepers are to ensure the final score is agreed to with the both teams and communicated to the tournament convenor on site.

Complaints concerning batting order violations must be made at the time of the infraction and brought to the attention of the plate umpire immediately when detected. Failure to do so will result in no action being taken.

Scores and Rankings

All coaches are responsible to know their round robin rankings and any play-off time and locations. Round robin scores will be posted. All tournaments may be followed for score updates and rankings, as well as updates and information regarding weather and schedules at Rural Ottawa Softball site ([www.ruralottawasoftball.ca](http://www.ruralottawasoftball.ca)). The tournament is also recorded live on twitter. Follow the tournament scores here or on any twitter feed. Combine these hashtags to follow specific tournaments:

#ROSYETScores - follows all tournament final scores updates.

#GMJ - Girls Midget/Junior #BS - Boys Squirts

#BBM - Boys Bantam/Midget #GS - Girls Squirts

#GBM - Girls Bantam/Midget #BM - Boys Mites

#BP - Boys PeeWee #GM - Girls Mites

#GP - Girls PeeWee

General Tournament Rules

The objective is to give the teams the same game that they have played all spring. As a result the rules that applied all spring are in effect for this tournament with emphasis on the following:

* All Fastpitch rules will be apply according to Softball Ontario.
* The rules used between the associations during the regular season will be used. The Rural Ottawa Softball local rule modifications shall be in effect as per the regular season.
* All games to start on time.
* All players should be present and ready to play 15 minutes before game time.
* Teams can only field a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 9 players at a time.
* Please ensure that your team gets ready between innings as quickly as possible.
* Pitchers will be given 3 warm up pitches at the start of each inning. If your catcher is not ready please have a coach or another player warm up your pitcher (and ensure they are wearing a mask).
* If your catcher is on base with 2 outs, you are asked to put in a pinch runner for your catcher so that they can get their catching gear on prior to the end of the inning. It’s the coaches’ responsibility to have their catcher ready to go.
* The pitching rule applies to extra innings as well. No pitcher can pitch more than their allotted innings; regular game AND extra innings combined.
* All decisions by the home plate umpire are final.
* Where regular season rules and tournament rules conflict, tournament rules shall prevail.
* The code of conduct must be followed.

Weather and Rain Outs

In case of rainout, 3 complete innings will constitute a game for mites and squirts; 4 complete innings will constitute a game for peewee and bantam/midget. If games need to be rescheduled the game will continue at the exact point that play finished. The official scorekeeper is required to note the end time of the rainout and how much time will be allotted to the make-up game. The host association is responsible for rescheduling the game.

Associations are free to reduce the game time and tournament schedule due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. rain).

Code of Conduct

Rural Ottawa Softball is committed to providing an environment that promotes the principles of FAIR PLAY and GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP as promoted through Softball Ontario’s Respect My Game Program. These principles apply to all our members that take part in the sport including those on the field (Coaches, Players, Teams and Game Officials) and those off the field (Executive, Parents and Spectators) In consonance with the above principles, Rural Ottawa Softball and its members shall be guided by the following code of conduct in conducting themselves in such a manner as to bring credit upon themselves as well as to the program:

a) DO praise honest effort and good play, regardless of the color of the uniform.

b) DO applaud the value and effort of coaches and game officials.

c) DO take a loss without complaint or a win without gloating.

d) DO treat your opponents with fairness, courtesy and respect.

e) DO NOT use lewd or vulgar language on or around the playing field.

f) DO NOT carry alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs on or around the playing field.

g) DO NOT consume tobacco products within confines of the playing field, dugout or bench.

h) DO NOT verbally or physically abuse players, coaches, spectators or game officials.

i) DO NOT instruct players to take any action which would be considered unethical or unsportsmanlike.

j) DO NOT engage in any act that would be considered detrimental to the game.

**Physical Contact Misconduct**

No Individual Shall: At any time strike, shove or threaten to strike an official, player or spectator.

No Individual Shall: Use unnecessarily rough tactics during the course of a game.

**Verbal and Visual Misconduct**

No Individual Shall: Engage in an abusive, verbal attack upon any official or individual on or off the contest area.

 No Individual shall: Use trash talk; profane; obscene; or vulgar language, under any circumstances, on or off the contest area. Team cheers during the game are to be limited to announcing the team name and shall not be used to distract, demean or insult another team or player.

No Individual Shall: Engage in an objectionable demonstration of dissent or unsportsmanlike conduct such as throwing equipment or any other forceful action.

No Individual Shall: Except the head coach (Team Manager), contend the decisions of an official. Coaches are encouraged to set the proper example at all times. Unruly parents are to be kept under control by the coaching staff.

No Coach/Manager: Will embarrass or humiliate a player for not playing, running or following instructions normally covered or taught in practice.

**General Misconduct**

No Individual Shall: Refuse to abide by an officials decision.

No Individual Shall: Appear in the contest area under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

No Individual Shall: Consume alcoholic beverages while the team is participating in a game or in the contest area. No alcoholic beverages are permitted on ROS playing areas at any time.

No Smoking in any areas adjacent to the playing field or player’s benches at any time.

Rural Ottawa Softball will enforce the code of conduct with fairness and proper disciplinary protocol.

Discipline

The basic objective of disciplinary action shall be to further the interests of the game of Softball. Failure to obey the common sense rules above will result in ejection from the game and removal from the playing field area. Coaches and players can be suspended depending on the severity of the infraction. Additional game suspensions and removal from the coaching staff will be at the discretion of the Tournament Convenor and the Rural Ottawa Softball board of executives. The game will be delayed until the offending coach, player or parent removes themselves from the playing field area to the parking lot.

Coaches and parents will be ejected for not following the code of conduct. Coaches or parents not leaving the field after being ejected can result in a game forfeit.

Round Robin Rules

“Round Robin” games will be played as follows:

* The start time of game to be noted at the pre-game coaches/umpire conference, using the plate umpire’s watch – to the closest 5 minutes. Home team scorekeeper should note the time on the score sheet also.
* All games can be up to 7 innings if time permits.
* All innings except the final inning are protected with the mercy rule (4 for Squirts, Peewee, Bantam, Midget, Junior)
* Squirts, Peewee, Bantam, Midget and Junior use endless run final inning (as per the local rule).
* There is to be NO extra innings in the event of a tie in the preliminary round robin games.
* The bottom half of the inning must be played in the preliminary round robin (Friday and Saturday) as the +/- could be a factor.
* The home team is allowed to play the bottom half of the final inning, even if they are ahead. The game continues until they score 7 runs more than the visiting team or 3 outs or game time is called.
* The +/- for any game in round robin is capped at 7.
* The new inning starting at or after 1hr and 25 minutes for Squirt, Peewee, Bantam, Midget & Junior), after the start of the game, shall be deemed the last inning.
* Tournament hosts will provide a 2 hour time slot per game to allow for normal completion. If the game is not complete in 2 hours, time will be called and the score reverts to the previous inning.

Order of Finish in the Round Robin

Round robin standings for all formats are determined as follows.

* Round robin games can end in a tie.
* One point will be awarded to each team in the event of a tie.
* Two points will be awarded for winning a game.
* If two or more teams are tied after the round robin, the following will be used to decide positions:
	1. If the teams played each other in the round robin, the winner of that game will be positioned ahead; *if still tied….*
	2. The best difference PLUS or MINUS of total runs scored, with a limit of 7 PLUS or MINUS per game allowed will be positioned ahead; *if still tied….*
	3. The team with the least (fewest) amount of runs scored against in all games will be used will be positioned ahead; *if still tied….*
	4. The total runs scored in all games, with a maximum of 10 runs scored per game, will be used will be positioned ahead; *if still tied….*
	5. Positions will be settled by a coin toss.

Quarter Final, Semi-Final and Championship Games Rules

Games will follow the time rules as listed below.

* The new inning starting at or after 1hr and 25 minutes for Squirt, Peewee, Bantam, Midget & Junior), after the start of the game, shall be deemed the last inning.
* Tournament hosts will provide a 2.5 hour time slot per game to allow for normal completion. Due to field limitations or number of teams, some tournaments may only allocate 2 hours per game. Should the game require more than 2.5 hours to complete (e.g. due to extra innings), there is no end time limit on these games. Games continue until a winner is declared).
* In these games when the end of the game has both teams tied, sudden death extra innings will be played until a winner is decided. ROSA does not follow the international tie breaker rue (i.e. starting a runner at second base).
* The bottom half of the inning does not have to be played in the quarter final, semi-final and final championship rounds. If the game has been won and both coaches agree to not finish the bottom half.
* If the game ends up as a marathon, it will play out regardless of time. The 2.5 hour time limit is ignored. No game shall be called due to time.

The following exceptions are used based on the level of play.

**Squirts**

* Squirt games will be at least 5 innings in length.
* More innings are allowed based on the time consideration above.
* If tied after the final inning, the game will be continued until a winner is decided.
* The first innings will use the 4 run per inning local rule (our regular season rule).
* The final inning (and beyond) will be played under regular ROS softball rules. This means unlimited runs - same as regular season rule.
* If the home team is ahead after the top of the final inning is played, the bottom half is not played.

**Peewee, Bantam, Midget and Junior**

* Peewee and Bantam-Midget game will be at least 6 innings in length.
* More innings are allowed based on the time consideration above.
* If tied after the final inning, the game will be continued until a winner is decided.
* The first innings will use the 4 run per inning local rule (our regular season rule).
* The final inning (and beyond) will be played under regular ROS softball rules. This means unlimited runs - same as regular season rule.
* If the home team is ahead after the top of the final inning is played, the bottom half is not played.

Awards

During any award presentation, both teams shall line up on the baseline in front of their bench and remain until both teams have received their awards.

**Squirts, Peewee, Bantam, Bantam-Midget and Midget:** These Divisions will receive a trophy awarded for the champions and medals for 2nd, 3rd and 4th place. Winners of the championship game will receive trophies, the loser to receive medals. Teams in the consolation game will receive medals.

**Midget-Junior and Junior:** These Divisions will receive a trophy awarded for the champions and medal for 2nd place only. Winners of the championship game will receive trophies, the loser to receive medals.