

Greater Ashton Community Association (GACA)

Mixed Recreational Softball – Game Rules - 2026

The league follows the Softball Canada and Slo-Pitch Ontario rulebooks. Please reference to the SPO Handbook on the [SPO website](#)

League specific rules and exceptions listed below. If a rule is not listed, Softball Canada and Slo-Pitch Ontario rules will apply.

Game Rules

- 1) All games will start at their scheduled times. There is a 10 minute grace period in which case any team that cannot meet the minimum players will default. Scheduled start times are 6:00 PM, 7:30PM and 9:00 PM.
- 2) A fielded team consists of minimum of 9 players, four (4) females (minimum) on the field at one time. Otherwise the game is defaulted. A team can pick up players from another team providing no players are benched from their own team and it is not a playoff game. Pickup players to be added to the end of the batting order. Only players registered within the league are permitted to play – insurance stipulations. No spare players beyond 10 – minimum females always required.
- 3) All games will generally consist of seven (7) innings. Time limit is in effect; no new inning will start after 1 ¼ hour from the originally scheduled start time. Games can end in a tie for regular season games.
- 4) In bad weather, a game is considered complete once four (4) innings are played or 3 ½ if home team leads.
- 5) Team rosters: A team can have a maximum of 25 players on a submitted roster. All players must have attained the minimum age of 18 by April 1st. No player may play for or appear on the roster of two teams within the league. A league spare list will be available.

Offense

- 1) The batting order can alternate 3 male (maximum) and 1 female (minimum). All players to bat before repeating a player.
- 2) There will be a maximum of five (5) runs per inning except in the last inning where both teams can score unlimited runs. If one team is ahead by 15 or more runs after the 5th inning (4 ½ if the home team) the game will be declared a mercy.
- 3) No sliding or stealing bases allowed. No leading off any base. These infractions will result in an automatic out. **Anticipation step is allowed.** Anticipation step is allowed when the ball crosses the plate and the batter swings.
- 4) As per Softball Canada, **third strike**, the batter is out – can't run. Batter is out if the foul ball is a third strike. Pitchers safety net – ball dead on first and second hit, on third strike for the same at bat, get 1 extra bat.
- 5) Intentional walk – discretion of the umpire - Four balls (no strikes) on a batter the batter advances to 2nd base. The next batter has the option of batting or going to first. Unintentional walk goes to 1st base.
- 6) Courtesy/pinch runners: Unlimited courtesy runners per game; batter must attain and stop at first base. Courtesy runner must be of the same sex of the batter and last recorded out in the batting order. The only exception is if a runner is hurt during a play on the field.
- 7) A maximum of one (1) over the fence home run per inning. The second and successive over the fence home run(s) in the same inning, the batter will go to first base, runners advance accordingly.
- 8) Batting order: any player on your team roster arriving late can be added at any time to the bottom of the batting order providing the maximum of 3 male batter rule is adhered to. Opposing team to be notified.
- 9) Safety base rule applies at 1st base. Player will use orange bag unless attempting second base.
- 10) Runner must not touch home plate while coming home otherwise the runner is out. There is no tag allowed at home plate – catcher touches plate only.
- 11) Disabled players – are allowed a designated same sex runner who will start behind the home plate line. The runner should be the last out of the same sex or a player who is a minimum of 5 batting order positions away – to prevent being on base and being up to bat. Declare to the other team at the start of the game.

Defense

- 1) Pitches must have an arc. The pitch shall be between 6 feet and 12 feet. If the pitch does not have this arc, shall be declared a “no pitch” and counted as a ball.
- 2) Any foul/foul tip caught, regardless of height, the batter will be out.
- 3) As per SPO, Commitment/Safe Line rule is in effect. Once crossed, the player can't return back to 3rd base.
- 4) No infielder may play inside the base path until the batter has made contact with the ball. Umpire will give one warning then the base will be awarded.
- 5) A maximum of three (3) strikes and four (4) balls per at bat.
- 6) Outfielders (excluding rovers) cannot come in past the light post (1st & 3rd) when a female is at bat. Rovers & outfielders can throw out a male runner out at 1st base. Only infielders can throw a female batter out at 1st base.

Conduct

- 1) Profanity – Any team member openly using profanity during a game shall be ejected from further participation in that game. This includes the player's bench as well as the playing field. Umpires are in control of this rule.
- 2) No smoking of any kind, consumption of alcoholic beverages allowed in or near the player dugouts. Please keep in mind the city has a bylaw and periodically checks ball diamonds.
- 3) Any player who is ejected from a game by an umpire will receive one extra game suspension from our league to be served at the team's next league game. No appeals will be accepted. If a player received a second suspension in a season the league will review the possibility of further games being added.
- 4) For the safety of all players, jewelry including, watches, rings, ear rings, necklaces, phones, etc are to be removed.

Other

- 1) A player must play a minimum of (7) games played to be eligible for the playoffs/year end tournament. Maternity/Paternity/Special circumstances, injury, shift workers, exemption – player who played in previous years can be exempted from number of games if requested by their team. Discretionary review – voted on by each team.
- 2) Any use of high performance bats (i.e. Titanium, double walled, or water filled) are not permitted by the City of Ottawa.



- 3) Approved bat list must have one or all of the following logos. New Bat standard as of 2021 [Link to Bat Standard](#)

- Any player caught using an illegal bat will be considered out on their first offense, and the play in question will be returned to its original state prior to the bat being used immediately following the play. The player in question will receive their 1st warning.
- Any player caught using an illegal bat twice in the same season will receive their 2nd warning and be suspended from league play for the remainder of that season.

- 4) Both teams fill out score books – send a picture of both teams scoring to Laurie 613-257-4366 - to be completed at the end of every game. Number of games a Player has played as well as the game scores will be recorded on an ongoing basis.



Plate/board is 2' wide x 3' long

