

ONTARIO RURAL SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

This is a Letter Attestation stating that the Ontario Rural Softball Association prints their Constitution every 2 years and that all Motions that were passed at the AGM are posted in the ORSA Newsletter and on the ORSA website.

Reason for doing this is the fact of cutting costs

A copy of the Motion regarding Policies etc required has already been sent to you

On the Motions passed at the ORSA AGM - it was the 1st Motion mentioned

Approved January 2017

Carl Littlejohns ORSA Secretary

O.R.S.A. Dates To Remember

Special Permission Deadline..... June 1st
Certificate Deadline..... June 6th

Elimination/Qualifier Tournament Hosts

Hosts for O.R.S.A. elimination/qualifier
tournament must be declared by March 31st
or there may be no tournament.

For hosting information call the
O.R.S.A. secretary.



The Ontario Rural Softball Association Inc.

www.ontarioruralsoftball.ca

(Organized 1931)

Affiliated with Softball Ontario

CONSTITUTION

RULES OF COMPETITION LAWS OF THE GAME

(As Amended November 24, 2015)



*“Where Real Amateurs Play
For The Fun Of It”*

PRICE - \$1.00

Jim Hartnett Memorial Award donated by the Hartnett Family

This award will be presented by a member of the Hartnett Family to a person whose dedication and contribution to Rural Softball in his or her community has been outstanding.

Rural communities who would like to submit the name of a person who they feel meets these criteria are asked to write to the O.R.S.A. Secretary, with a full description of the softball activities of their nominee, before July 1st.

An O.R.S.A. committee will be responsible for selection of the recipient of this award for presentation at the O.R.S.A. Annual Awards banquet. It will not necessarily be presented yearly.

Hartnett Memorial Award Recipients

1986	— Carl Littlejohns, Innerkip
1987	— Isabella & Cyril Shaw, Eldorado
1988	— Fred Prince, Oneida
1989	— Rudy Krall Jr., Petrolia
1990	— Gerry Hunter, Freeleton
1991	— Charlie Eascott, Darrell
1992	— Mildred McPherson, Puslinch
1993	— Bob McLaren, Hickson
1994	— Ernie Schlegel, Poplar Hill
1995	— John Carder, Shedden
1996	— Frank Jarnieson, Freeleton
1997	— No Recipient
1998	— Bob Guttridge, Merlin
1999	— Sharon Clugston, Lynden
2000	— Rose Tomlin, Lyons
2001	— No Recipient
2002	— Patricia Brohman, Maryhill
2003	— Larry Tremain, Springvale
2004	— Norm Sitzes, Enniskillen Township
2005	— John Ward, Enniskillen Township
2006	— Heather Yeck, Bright
2007-08	— No Recipient
2009	— Ron Chambers, Jarvis
2010	— Joyce Clement, Paris
2011-12	— No Recipient
2013	— Nicole and Mark McCallum
2014-15	— No Recipient



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email: info@softballontario.ca
www.softballontario.ca

comprised of

Ontario Amateur Softball Association
Provincial Women's Softball Association
Ontario Rural Softball Association
Slo Pitch Ontario

COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOFTBALL IN ONTARIO

- Umpire Registration Program
- Umpire Clinic Program
- Umpire Evaluation Program
- NCCP Levels I, II and III Technical Clinics
- Grass Roots Coaching Programs
- Minor Development Program
 - Pitcher/Catcher Clinics
 - All-Skills Clinics
- Scorekeepers' Program
- Softball Ontario Newsletter
- Distributor of Softball Publications
- Liaison with Government Agencies
- Liaison with Softball Canada

CALL US AND DISCUSS OUR PROGRAMS

Best Wishes To The O.R.S.A. for 2016

The Ontario Rural Softball Association

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The Ontario Rural Softball Association

OFFICERS

Honorary Presidents

- *Hon. H. C. Nixon * Hon. G. S. Henry
- *Hon. Mitchell F. Hepburn

Hon. Sec'y-Treas. and Life Member

- *Lorne Johannes, Galt

Hon. Treasurer and Life Member

- *Earl Sage, Ayr, 1954-1979

Hon. Secretary-Treasurer and Life Member

- *Jim Hartnett, Mt. Elgin, 1958-1984

Hon. Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

- *Bill Murray, Innerkip, 1985-1991

Past Presidents and Honorary Life Members

- *Dr. R. A. Dinniwell, Hespeler, 1931-33
- *Charles W. Thorne, Preston, RR 1, 1934-37
 - *Elmer G. Halls, Galt, 1937-39
 - *Ben Cardwell, Troy, 1939-41
- *J. H. Hammill, Singhampton 1941-46
 - *John Beaton, Princeton, 1947-49
 - Dave Mannen, Brantford, 1949-51
 - Ralph Yager, Fenwick, 1951-58
 - John Eccles, O.A.C., Guelph, 1959-60
 - Lloyd Book, Wellandport, 1961-62
 - *T. J. Duvall, Hespeler, 1963-64
 - *Lloyd Lindsay, Selkirk, 1965-66
 - *Al Masson, Princeton, 1967-68
 - *Syd Royle, Millgrove, RR 1, 1969-70
 - *Art Moore, Wellandport, RR 1, 1971-72
 - *Ross Hughes, Burgessville, RR 1, 1973-74
 - *Bob McLaren, Hickson, 1975-76
 - Terry Bridle, Freelon, 1977-78
 - Larry Tremain, Hagersville, 1979-80
 - Ken Becker, New Dundee, 1981-82
 - Carl Littlejohns, Innerkip, 1983-84
 - Frank Jamieson, Freelon, 1985-86

*Deceased

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Colin Filson, Wainfleet, 1987-88
Roger Dyer, Warsaw, 1989-90
John Schmidt, Ayr, 1991-92
Hugh Nisbet, Wardsville, 1993-94
Paul Wigood, Freelon 1995-96
Heather Yeck, Bright, 1997-98
Larry Atkinson, Merlin, 1999-2000
Randy Toms, Norwood, 2001
Marty Freeburn, Peterborough, 2002-2003
Rudy Krall Jr., Petrolia 2004-2005
Harv Rabe, Drumbo 2006-2007
Dennis Wilson, Newbury, 2008-2009
Larry Jones, Caledonia, 2010-2011
Don McConnell, Strabane 2012-2013

Honorary Board Members

Murray Patterson, Merlin 1999-2010*

Immediate Past President

Earl Hall, 5574 Lasalle Line, RR 1, Petrolia N0N 1R0
Phone (519) 882-1599

President

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The Ontario Rural Softball Association

Secretary-Treasurer

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Chairperson

Paddy Fitzgerald Nolan

O.R.S.A. Representatives to Softball Ontario

Wayne Triemstra, Jim Clark and Carl Littlejohns

The Ontario Rural Softball Association

Every member of this Association, whether a coach, manager, player or otherwise, is urged to study this Constitution in order to avoid any possible misunderstandings, especially during the playing season.

This Association will be pleased to assist in the organization of a league or to help solve local problems relating to your club or league at any time.

Risk Management

The O.R.S.A. Executive is allowed to add a Risk Management Clause at their discretion. This Bylaw to be reviewed in one year. This will not appear in the Constitution book but will be available at the O.R.S.A. office.

The Ontario Rural Softball Association

***O.R.S.A.
President's Message***

I would like to welcome you, the Players, the Coaches and the Centres to the Ontario Rural Softball Association's Provincial playdowns. We welcome everyone to join our competitions with the aim to build sportsmanship and the character of our youth through the competition of sport and team play. The Executive and I hope that all players and coaches enjoy the fun and participate in the fair play that these competitions can offer. Welcome to all the new Centres, Players, Coaches and teams that are joining us for the first time. Our Executive members are here to help you whenever you need us, just give us a call or send us an email.

The ORSA Executive would like to thank everyone for the efforts and commitments put forward by all players, coaches, umpires, parents and volunteers. Without you these competitions would not be available. 2016 is a Summer Games year for those Bantam teams that qualify. Good luck to all of you!

If you have feedback for us to help make the ORSA a better organization, please send it forward.

Good luck to all the Teams, Players and Coaches!! Please respect OUR game and all those that help to make it happen. And the famous words we are waiting for "Play Ball".

Yours in Softball
Wayne Triemstra
President

The Ontario Rural Softball Association

CONSTITUTION

Article I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Ontario Rural Softball Association Inc.

The O.R.S.A. Constitution is to be printed every second year. If there are any changes made, there will be inserts sent to all teams registered in that year.

Article II

AFFILIATION

The O.R.S.A. has an association affiliation with the O.A.S.A. and P.W.S.A. This affiliation provides the benefit of advice and counsel from these organizations and protects the Association in many respects.

The O.R.S.A. is a member association of Softball Ontario and has adopted the Softball Canada rules except those noted on Page 37-38 of this Constitution.

Article III

OBJECTIVES

(a) To foster and organize softball and community spirit in Rural Districts.

(b) To provide softball for Rural Areas, as well as institute and regulate competition for O.R.S.A. Trophies.

Article IV

MEMBERSHIP

(a) Leagues composed of teams of amateur players from Rural Communities and Villages, that agree to abide by and comply with the Rules, By-Laws and Constitution of the O.R.S.A. may affiliate.

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(b) Teams representing villages of more than 20,000 population, may play an interlocking schedule with a Rural League.

(c) Each team that enters the O.R.S.A. playdowns must produce proof of liability insurance.

Article V OFFICERS

(a) The officers shall be Hon. Life Members, Past Presidents, President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, 3rd Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer are chosen by the elected executive by an executive vote. All, with the exception of the Honorary Presidents and Past Presidents, to be elected annually. These, with the President, shall form the executive committee. The President, subject to the approval of the O.R.S.A. shall appoint up to nine members from leagues or centres in good standing who shall serve as executive committee members and whose duty it shall be to attend all regular meetings of the Association. Any association or region can nominate a director for the O.R.S.A. board, but if there is not an opening for one that year, the nomination will be held over until there is one and an election held. A major office in this Association cannot be held by any member unless the member's club or league is in good standing and affiliated with the O.R.S.A.

(b) The Past Presidents shall be members of the Executive and shall be invited to attend all meetings. They shall have the rights of delegates at the Annual Meeting and at special meetings.

(c) The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Executive Board with the usual privileges.

(d) Executive members unable to attend any scheduled meeting must notify the Secretary-Treasurer of the O.R.S.A. twenty-four hours before the meeting.

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If an executive member misses three (3) consecutive meetings without just cause, the board will review the case and make recommendation for action.

(e) The President shall appoint annually an Executive Committee consisting of five members whose duty shall be to act upon special committees, protest committees or otherwise as shall be deemed necessary from time to time, except as provided in Article VI Sec. (d).

(f) The Vice-Presidents shall perform any duties which may be assigned them by the President.

(g) The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the Association and Executive Board; be responsible for registration of Leagues, teams and players; register league winners; and report annually to the Association. He must notify in writing, each member of the Executive and all interested participants, of the time and place of each meeting, at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time of such meeting.

(h) All verbal instructions issued to teams shall be confirmed in writing and a copy shall be placed on file and one copy shall go to the President.

(i) The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all monies received and disbursed by her/him, and report annually to the Association. She/he shall also prepare a financial statement to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

(j) The O.R.S.A. financial year ends on December 31st of each year. All outstanding accounts must be presented for payment no later than 30 days prior to this date.

(k) Three (3) auditors shall be appointed annually whose duty it shall be to audit books and accounts of this Association at a convenient time or date prior to the day of the Annual Meeting and to prepare a statement of same for presentation at this meeting. It shall also be the duty of the auditors to make any necessary recommendations that shall be to the benefit

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of this Association.

(l) The President shall receive administration costs of \$200. The Secretary shall receive administration costs of \$3000.

(m) The President of the O.R.S.A. be elected for a 2 year term and appoints a new member to the O.R.S.A. Board when he/she takes office.

(n) At the time of appointment a new member should be voted on by the O.R.S.A. Executive and with the Board's approval the new member shall be able to vote immediately.

(o) All members of the O.R.S.A. Executive are automatically conveners.

Article VI EXECUTIVE

(a) The Executive shall have control of the affairs of the Association and shall have power to fill any vacancies which may occur in its numbers and to amend or alter the regulations of the Championship Competition. Five members required to be a quorum.

(b) No league shall have more than two votes at any executive meeting.

(c) The O.R.S.A. Executive shall classify all clubs and make all draws for playdowns before June 20th. This classification and draw shall be strictly adhered to under penalty of default.

(d) No member of the Executive shall be eligible to serve on the Executive or any Committee in connection with any protest or question involving directly or indirectly the Club or League he/she represents; nor shall any member of the Executive be eligible to vote on any question raised by, or affecting the Club or League he/she represents.

(e) Executive Members of the O.R.S.A. shall be paid travelling expenses, which will include mileage by car, same as Softball Ontario current year's rate while on official O.R.S.A. business.

(f) That the O.R.S.A. Executive members will be

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allowed to go through the complete O.R.S.A. Constitution and O.R.S.A. Rules of Competition and make necessary corrections (spelling grammatical corrections and rule clarifications) before each year that the Constitution is printed.

Article VII NOMINATIONS

(a) Nominations for office in the O.R.S.A. shall be in the hands of the Secretary no later than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

(b) The offices of the Secretary-Treasurer and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer shall be appointed by the O.R.S.A. executive and retain full privileges.

Article VIII MEETINGS

(a) Annual Meeting of O.R.S.A. to be held in November, following the Softball Canada annual meeting.

(b) The President may call a special general meeting of the Association at any time, and must do so at the request of the affiliated leagues. Five days' notice of such meetings must be given, also the reasons for such meetings. Each League shall bear the expense of sending their delegates to the said meetings.

(c) The President and Secretary of each affiliated League shall be delegates with voting power at the Annual Meeting of the Association and their expenses shall be paid by the League they represent, which must be in good standing with the O.R.S.A. In cases where the President and Secretary of a League are unable to represent their League at the Annual Meeting, they may send two delegates who must have written permission from their League Secretary.

(d) Any Centre in good standing has one (1) vote.

Article IX AMENDMENTS

Notice of any proposed Alteration or amendment

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or Change of Rule must be filed with the Secretary of the Association in writing at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The Secretary shall then forward a copy to each Association or League at least one week in advance of the Annual Meeting.

Article X ANNUAL MEETING ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. President's Welcome
2. Credentials
3. Reading the Minutes of the Last General Meeting or any other meeting during the year.
4. Correspondence
5. Report of Executive Committee
6. Auditor's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Amendments — Notice of Motion
9. Election of Officers
10. General Business
11. Adjournment

RULES OF ORDER

The following are the governing regulations for the Association during the time of business, and, the business shall be disposed of in the following order:

(a) No motion shall be received unless submitted in writing with the names of the mover and seconder thereon. Said motion shall not be put up for discussion until so stated by the presiding officer.

(b) All motions shall be decided by a majority of votes. In case of a tie the presiding officer shall have the deciding vote.

(c) No delegate shall speak twice on the same subject without the permission of the chair, unless in explanation, or the mover in reply.

(d) A delegate desiring to speak on a submitted motion shall rise, remain standing, respectfully address the chair and shall confine his/her remarks to

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the question and shall not be interrupted unless upon a point of order.

(e) Upon a point of order being raised, when a delegate is speaking, or when called to order by the presiding officer, he/she shall at once take his/her seat. The point of order shall then be stated by the delegate objecting. The presiding officer shall then rule without debate and the delegate may then proceed.

(f) A motion shall be only amendment once.

(g) When a motion is under debate no additional motion is to be entertained except to lay on the table or amend the existing motion and these motions shall take precedence in the order named.

(h) An amendment that shall entirely change the subject of the original motion shall not be entertained as an amendment or substituted for the motion under debate.

(i) After the motion has been stated by the presiding officer it becomes the property of the Association, but may be withdrawn at any time previous to amendment unless objected to by a delegate.

(j) There shall be no debate upon any question after it has been put up by the presiding officer.

(k) When a vote is called, it shall be taken by each delegate holding up his right hand, or by standing vote in which the yeas and nays may be taken, or by ballot.

CONSTITUTION CHANGES

Any Association or Centre in good standing may send in a notice of motion, duly seconded. This must be in the hands of the O.R.S.A. Secretary 30 days prior to Annual Meeting. It is strongly recommended that anyone submitting a motion attend the Annual Meeting and be prepared to speak on behalf of the motion. A single entry in good standing has one vote.

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Article XI FEES

(a) Fees for single entries will be accepted in any Intermediate and Junior series at a rate of **\$30.00** per team plus **\$4.00** for each certificate signed. In Intermediate Men, Junior Men, Intermediate Ladies, Junior Ladies, each team must post a performance bond of \$100.00 at the time of their application. Minor series single entries are **\$30.00** per team plus **\$4.00** for each certificate signed.

(b) The annual membership affiliation fee shall be **\$40.00** per league or association, and any league that has over 10 teams shall be **\$40.00** plus **\$4.00** per team for those that enter the O.R.S.A. playoffs, plus **\$4.00** for each certificate signed.

(c) No team can enter the playdowns until the League entry fee and players' fees of all teams of that league are paid in full.

(d) The affiliation fee must be forwarded to the Association Secretary upon application for membership. Make all remittances by money order and payable to O.R.S.A. Treasurer.

(e) The O.R.S.A. shall charge a **\$10.00** fee for reserving dates for sanctioned tournaments.

(f) In all playoff games, the O.R.S.A. must receive 20 percent of the gross gate with the total gate amount shown on financial sheet. NOTE: the minimum O.R.S.A. share shall be **\$10.00** for any playoff game up to and including final game except for Junior games where minimum share shall be **\$10.00**.

ARTICLE XII COMPETITION

(a) There are 35 series: Atom Boys A, B, C; Squirt A, B, C; PeeWee Boys A, B, C; Bantam Boys A, B, C; Midget Boys A, B, C and Minor; Junior Men; Intermediate Men; Atom Girls A, B; Lassie A, B, C; PeeWee

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Girls A, B, C; Bantam Girls A, B, C; Midget Girls A, B, C and Minor; Junior Ladies and Intermediate Ladies.

(b) The Championship and Trophies of each series shall be competed for annually.

(c) A minor player may only play for one team in their age group but may play for one other team in a higher series during the playing season providing, however, that he/she does not play for a team under a lower classification according to population limits, to which he/she would normally belong. Such players must sign a certificate for both teams that he/she will play with.

(d) Co-Ed Teams must compete in the Boys' Series.

(e) All minor players entering O.R.S.A. playoffs must procure Birth Certificate or proof of age and these must be certified before the playoffs begin. League secretaries must certify that the dates shown on the certificates of each player are correct before forwarding them to the O.R.S.A. secretary.

(f) On all single entries in minor series, the birth certificate or proof of age must first be attached to the individual player's certificate and forwarded to the O.R.S.A. Secretary for acceptance and certification.

Any team found guilty of falsifying information shall be liable for suspension.

(g) Any new team wishing to enter the ORSA playdowns must submit their entry through the local league's ORSA designated secretary, within their jurisdiction, if that exists, prior to submitting it to the ORSA secretary. This rule also applies to single entry Team formed within the league's jurisdiction.

(h) Teams registering with ORSA must participate in the ORSA Qualifying Tournaments and then advance to the OASA Tournaments.

Any team found guilty of falsifying information shall be liable for suspension.

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NOTICE: The O.R.S.A. uses pitching and baseline distances as set out in the Softball Canada rule book. O.R.S.A. (for Pee Wee and under exceptions see **Pages 16 and 20**) teams use the Softball Canada fast pitch, 9 player rules; no D.P. rule used, but allow re-entry. Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget and Jr. Men and Ladies, Intermediate Men and Intermediate Ladies may use the D.P. and re-entry.

For Intermediate Men only: Pitching rule is the same as the ISC. e.g. one foot on the rubber.

Any player that signs an O.R.S.A. Certificate may also play for a Provincial Team for a National Championship in the same year.

PROOF OF AGE AND RESIDENCE: Minor players must submit a birth certificate (or copy of it) as proof of age with their player's certificate. Jr. Men, Jr. Ladies, Intermediate Men and Intermediate Ladies must submit a copy of current driver's licence **front and back** or other positive proof of residence with their player's certificate. An O.R.S.A. Minor Certificate will be accepted as proof of residence.

SERIES

MERCY RULE: In Pee Wee and under fastball series, there is a mercy rule of 15 runs after 5 or more innings. In Bantam and older fastball series there is a mercy rule of 10 runs after 5 or more innings.

MEN'S INTERMEDIATE

Use 12" ball, pitch 46', run 60' bases.

NOTE: Men's fast pitch players must wear a suitable batting helmets while at bat and running the bases. **See Page 33 re: all teams registered in Intermediate Men compete in Grand Championship Tournament. See Page 27 for player and drawing area regulations, Section III (m). If no tournament, then the teams that are entered will all play in the "A" Series.**

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Junior Men (U21)

Use 12" ball, pitch 46', run 60' bases.

Teams from Rural Communities of under 20,000 with players under the age of under 21 years before January 1st of playing year.

BOYS' SERIES

(7 innings but 5 innings constitute a game)

NOTE: In PeeWee and under fastball series, there is a mercy rule of 15 runs after 5 or more innings. In Squirt/Lassie and under fastball series, number of runs scored are limited to 7 runs per inning and a mercy rule of 15 runs after 5 or more innings. (Boys' Division and Girls' Division).

In PeeWee and under fastball series, there is a time limit of 90 minutes except the finals which has a time limit of 2 hours. No new inning to start after the time limit unless the score is tied. Any inning started before the time limit expired must be completed providing conditions permit.

Note: New inning starts when the 3rd out of preceding inning is made.

Note: Starting in 2015, teams Midget age and under offensive players must use helmet with a cage.

In **Squirt** and **Atom**, the batter is out on the third strike whether catcher catches ball or not. The ball remains alive.

Squirt and **Atom Divisions** use the **Free Substitution Rule** (everyone Bats). The runs scored are limited to 7 runs per inning. The 7th Inning and/or subsequent innings are to be open if reached before time limit. Free Substitution - All players in the lineup bat and are substituted freely defensively. Players arriving late, sign the convener's sheet and then are added to the end of the lineup, without penalty. Players injured are removed from the lineup, without

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penalty, but may not re-enter the game. The defensive conference (Rule IX q) is in effect.

Atom Divisions continue as in the past: only Exception "Infield Fly not in effect".

Midget Boys (U18)

Use 12" ball, pitch 46', run 60' bases.

"A"

Teams from Rural Communities of under 20,000 population and age limit of under 18 years before January 1st of playing year.

"B"

Teams from Rural Communities of under 10,000 population and age limit of under 18 years before January 1st of playing year.

"C"

Teams from Rural Communities of under 5,000 population and age limit of under 18 years before January 1st of playing year.

"Minor Midget"

Minor Midget is for boys in their 1st year of Midget eligibility (or younger).

Bantam Boys (U16)

Use 12" ball, pitch 42', run 60' bases.

NOTE: Bantam Boys may wear rubber cleats or rubber studs but not spikes.

"A"

Teams from Rural Communities of under 20,000 population and age limit of under 16 years before January 1st of playing year.

"B"

Teams from Rural Communities of under 10,000

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population and age limit of under 16 years before January 1st of playing year.

“C”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 5,000 population and age limit of under 16 years before January 1st of playing year.

Pee Wee Boys (U14)

Use 12” ball, pitch 40’, run 60’ bases.

NOTE: Pee Wee Boys may wear rubber cleats or rubber studs but not spikes.

“A”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 20,000 population and age limit of under 14 years before January 1st of playing year.

“B”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 10,000 population and age limit of under 14 years before January 1st of playing year.

“C”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 5,000 population and age limit of under 14 years before January 1st of playing year.

Squirt Boys (U12)

Use 11” ball, pitch 35’, run 55’ bases, base runners may leave when the ball crosses the plate.

NOTE: Squirt Boys may wear rubber cleats or rubber studs but not spikes.

“A”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 20,000

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population and age limit of under 12 years before January 1st of playing year.

“B”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 10,000 population and age limit of under 12 years before January 1st of playing year.

“C”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 5,000 population and age limit of under 12 years before January 1st of playing year.

Atom Boys (U10)

Use 11” ball, pitch 30’, run 45’ bases, base runners may leave when the ball crosses the plate.

“A”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 20,000 population and age limit of under 10 years before January 1st of playing year.

“B”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 10,000 population and age limit of under 10 years before January 1st of playing year.

“C”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 5,000 population and age limit of under 10 years before January 1st of playing year.

INTERMEDIATE LADIES

Use 12” ball, pitch 43’, run 60’ bases. Players must wear a suitable helmet while batting and running the bases.

See Page 33 re: all teams registered in Intermediate Ladies will compete in the Grand Championship Tournament. If no series tournament, then the teams that are entered will all play in the "A" Series.

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Junior Ladies (U21)

Use 12" ball, pitch 43', run 60' bases.

Teams from Rural Communities of under 20,000 population and age limit of under 21 years before January 1st of playing year.

GIRLS SERIES

(7 innings but 5 innings constitute a game)

NOTE: In PeeWee and under fastball series, there is a mercy rule of 15 runs after 5 or more innings. In Squirt/Lassie and under fastball series, runs scored are limited to 7 runs per inning and a mercy rule of 15 runs after 5 or more innings. (Boys' Division and Girls' Division).

In PeeWee and under fastball series, there is a time limit of 90 minutes except the finals which has a time limit of 2 hours. No new inning to start after the time limit unless the score is tied. Any inning started before the time limit expired must be completed providing conditions permit.

Note: New inning starts when the 3rd out of preceding inning is made.

Note: Starting in 2015, teams Midget age and under the offensive players must use a helmet with cage.

In **Atom** and **Lassie**, the batter is out on a third strike whether catcher catches ball or not. Ball remains alive.

Atom and **Lassie** use the **Free Substitution** Rule (everyone bats). Runs scored are limited to 7 runs per inning. 7th inning and/or subsequent innings to be open if reached before time limit. **Free Substitution** - All players in the lineup bat and are substituted freely defensively. Players arriving late, sign the convener's sheet and then are added to the end of the lineup, without penalty. Players injured are

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removed from the lineup, without penalty, but may not re-enter the game. The defensive conference rule (Rule IX q) is in effect.

Atom Divisions continue as in the past: only Exception "Infield fly not in effect".

Midget Girls (U18)

Use 12" ball, pitch 43', run 60' bases.

"A"

Teams from Rural Communities of under 20,000 population and age limit of under 18 years before January 1st of playing year.

"B"

Teams from Rural Communities of under 10,000 population and age limit of under 18 years before January 1st of playing year.

"C"

Teams from Rural Communities of under 5,000 population and age limit of under 18 years before January 1st of playing year.

Minor Midget

Minor Midget is for girls in their 1st year of Midget eligibility (or younger).

Bantam Girls (U16)

Use 12" ball, pitch 40', run 60' bases.

NOTE: Bantam girls may wear rubber cleats or rubber studs but not spikes.

"A"

Teams from Rural Communities of under 20,000 population and age limit of under 16 years before January 1st of playing year.

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“B”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 10,000 population and age limit of under 16 years before January 1st of playing year.

“C”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 5,000 population and age limit of under 16 years before January 1st of playing year.

Pee Wee Girls (U14)

Use 12” ball, pitch 38’, run 60’ bases.

NOTE: Pee Wee Girls may wear rubber cleats or rubber studs but not spikes.

“A”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 20,000 population and age limit of under 14 years before January 1st of playing year.

“B”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 10,000 population and age limit of under 14 years before January 1st of playing year.

“C”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 5,000 population and age limit of under 14 years before January 1st of playing year.

Lassie Girls (U12)

Use 11” ball, pitch 35’, run 55’ bases, leave when the ball crosses the plate.

NOTE: Lassie Girls may wear rubber cleats or rubber studs, but not spikes.

“A”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 20,000

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population and age limit of under 12 years before January 1st of playing year.

“B”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 10,000 population and age limit of under 12 years before January 1st of playing year.

“C”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 5,000 population and age limit of under 12 years before January 1st of playing year.

Atom Girls (U10)

Use 11” ball, pitch 30’, run 45’ bases; leave when the ball crosses the plate.

“A”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 20,000 population and age limit of under 10 years before January 1st of playing year.

“B”

Teams from Rural Communities of under 10,000 population and age limit of under 10 years before January 1st of playing year.

Rules of the O.R.S.A.

Rule 1

AFFILIATION OF LEAGUES WITH O.R.S.A.

(a) Each league or Association interested in joining the O.R.S.A. shall send to the Secretary an Application for Membership and a list of Officers including the Manager and Secretary of each Club including Addresses and phone numbers and appropriate Membership fees. (See Fees Section).

(b) No player shall sign an O.R.S.A. Certificate

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after **June 6th** of current year.

(c) All affiliations, together with league and players fees, with certificates fully signed and with correct mailing address, must be into the O.R.S.A. Secretary's office before **June 6th** of the current year.

(d) A rural resident who signs an O.R.S.A. certificate may play for another team providing he or she does not sign an O.A.S.A. or P.W.S.A. certificate. The player must honour his or her O.R.S.A. obligations first.

(e) Any manager and/or coach who signs an illegal player to an O.R.S.A. certificate will be suspended. Request for reinstatement must be made to the O.R.S.A. Executive in writing.

(f) Any one area or village that has three or more intermediate teams in one classification shall be classified a league and cannot enter the playoffs as a single entry, but shall play for their respective teams and enter as such. Two teams from the same village may play in the same classification.

(g) Make all remittances payable to the O.R.S.A. Secretary-Treasurer.

Rule II

CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES FOR POPULATION

(a) If players are drawn from more than one centre, then the total population of the centres must be combined.

(b) To determine the population of a rural route from which players are drawn, take the number of postal residential box holders of that route and multiply by two (**to a maximum total of 1,000**)

(c) The population to determine classification must include the centre(s) and rural route(s) from which players are drawn.

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Rule III RESIDENCE RULE

(a) No player shall compete in an Association match who has not been a bona fide and continuous Rural Resident of the district of the club since the 1st day of April preceding the date of said match. For all Jr. and Intermediate teams a copy of current driver's licence **front and back** or other positive proof of residence must accompany player's certificate to O.R.S.A. secretary.

(b) A bona fide Rural Resident is one who is a continuous resident living in any Township area, or in a village of less than 20,000 population. Clubs in areas bordering on cities and towns must pick their teams from within an area comprising not over 20,000 people. Such teams must obtain permission to enter the playdowns, or use such players. The responsibility for the enforcing of this rule rests with the local League Executive. Teams that draw any of their players from areas bordering on cities must get permission from the O.R.S.A. Executive to enter a team in any classification. Any minor team using a player from an annexed area, the population of the area between the player's residence and the team's playing field must be included when classifying the team.

NOTE: This rule (b) has been inserted to cover areas which have been annexed by larger centres or have been taken over by Regional Government.

(c) Teams may draw their players from a radius of 25 km from their playing field.

In certain situations the O.R.S.A. Executive may, upon written request from the team's and league executive, grant permission to a player to play for his/her nearest team which is over 25 km from the player's permanent residence. However, under no circumstances will the O.R.S.A. Executive give per-

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mission to such a player over 25 kms if a release is needed from another O.R.S.A. team which is closer to the player than the one seeking permission.

Any team receiving permission to use **one** player over the 25 kilometre radius will retain their classification providing the population is still within the classification of the team, **but two players shall raise the team to "A" classification.** Teams which are classified "A" may be allowed one over mileage player with special permission.

(d) **Junior and Intermediate Men/Ladies Fast Pitch.** Division teams may upon yearly permission from the O.R.S.A. Executive, sign up to three (3) Special Permission or Over Population players, while still remaining in their original classification. "Definition" Over Population are players who during their career have played at least 5 years of Minor or Intermediate in O.R.S.A. Such players are now residing in a Centre which is over O.R.S.A. population. It shall be up to **Centres** requesting these players to prove the players' years of service.

(e) Written requests including positive proof of residence, for players requiring special permission must be in the hands of the O.R.S.A. Secretary, stating full particulars, before June 1st. Requests will be dealt with within the first week in June by a committee appointed by the President. Such special permission must be obtained each year.

(f) Teams wishing to play their home games on another field at a location other than that which would normally be considered theirs, may do so. The distance for drawing players in such cases shall be measured from the location which would normally be used or from the village or hamlet whose name the team bears. The village or hamlet must have a playable regulation softball field at that location. This rule is for Minor teams only.

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(g) All matters pertaining to players and their rights must first be dealt with by the local league executive before presentation to this Association for further action. No action will be taken on any matter unless it is clearly stated in writing, giving all particulars relating to the case.

(h) Any player who moves away from his/her district after June 1st shall be allowed to play for his/her team for the remainder of the season.

(i) A player must play for his/her nearest team. Should that team not desire his/her services they must sign his/her release, then the next nearest team has first claim on his/her services. Such releases must be obtained each year.

(j) No player who has changed his/her residence after April 1st shall be granted a certificate unless he/she has satisfied the O.R.S.A. qualifications of the bona fides of such change with complete and definite information regarding such change of residence. Application for transfer with all required information must be made to O.R.S.A. Secretary by June 1st.

(k) With approved Special Permission, minor players from separated and/or divorced parents may play for the Village of either parent, providing they reside at this address for part of the playing year.

(l) Legal Guardianship through Family Court may be used for extenuating circumstances for Special Permission requests.

(m) Students and professional athletes returning to their home areas, may play for a Village providing their address meets mileage and population rules.

(n) Intermediate Men's and Ladies' Fast Pitch teams only: Teams may draw their players from a radius of 32 km from their playing field. The total population is to be less than 20,000. All teams entering play downs are allowed up to a maximum of 3 import players (i.e. over mileage and/or overpopulation). Any players that have played in the O.R.S.A. for 5 seasons and have

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moved out of the area are not considered imports. A grandfather clause will be in effect for these players to continue to play in the O.R.S.A.

Entries for the Grand Championship must be received by the Secretary-Treasurer by July 15 providing there is a host for the Tournament.

Any Junior age player that signs an O.A.S.A. or a P.W.S.A. certificate be eligible to sign an O.R.S.A. certificate for Intermediate Men or Ladies providing he/she meets the O.R.S.A. Residence Rules without Special Permission. Maximum of 2 players allowed.

For Intermedidate Men only: Pitching Rule is the same ISC e.g. one foot on the rubber.

(o) MINOR TEAMS – O.R.S.A. will allow up to 2 players per team be from a centre above O.R.S.A. population but within mileage as per O.R.S.A. This is for Midget and under – the team to play "A" Division. Special permission must be sought from the O.R.S.A.

(p) That a centre will be able to form an OASA/PWSA team from multiple O.R.S.A. qualified and registered teams, for Midget and under, that still fit the O.R.S.A. criteria.

Rule IV

O.R.S.A. PLAYOFFS – TEAMS

(a) All teams must comply with dates set for O.R.S.A. Playoffs.

All series are to be 2 out of 3 unless O.R.S.A. allows a 3 out of 5 series. **Except Intermediate Ladies and Intermediate Men Fastpitch. See Grand Championship rules.**

All O.R.S.A. Playoff and Tournament games shall have precedence over other games, playoffs or tournaments of your league. Any team unable to field a team, whose players are honouring the privilege of representing our Province or Country in any sport, shall be respectfully

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granted a written "special permission" with a conditional grace period not to exceed 5 days past the O.R.S.A. deadline.

If only 1 or 2 teams are entered in a Classification (e.g. "A") the O.R.S.A. Executive reserves the right to move 2 teams from "B" with the largest population to "A" Division.

(b) In playoff competition the home team shall:

1. The 1st game of the 1st round must be "scheduled" 8 days before deadline or home team loses right to host 1st game. In the playoffs, the 1st game is to be "scheduled" no later than 4 days after the deadline of the previous round. The Home team makes the arrangements or loses the right to host the 1st game. "The coordinator has the right to set the dates and locations." **Exception: East-West of Toronto series.**

2. Telephone the visiting club within 48 hours after completion of a round and also phone the O.R.S.A. Division Co-ordinator. This must be done 48 hours before the start of a round.

3. Failure to do so may result in the loss of the home game.

4. The home team must notify the convener of the date, time and location of a home game. Failure to do so could result in the forfeiture of the game.

5. If the Home team or the visiting team does not have 9 players at the scheduled game time, because of uncontrollable circumstances, may have a grace period of 30 minutes. However, at the arrival of the 9th player, the game must start immediately.

6. In all minor series weeknight games will not start before 6:30 p.m. If the second and third games are scheduled on the same day they will be played on a weekend with sufficient and reasonable time to travel.

(c) If, in the opinion of the O.R.S.A. Executive, any Team or League is holding up the playoff schedule for the Team's or League's special advantage, the O.R.S.A.

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Secretary shall assess the offending Team or League with the cost of telephone calls and any other expenses incurred, which shall be paid by such Team or League before they can continue in the playoffs.

(d) Any team that defaults the 1st game of a series may lose the series at the discretion of the Executive. Any team that defaults the 1st or 2nd game of a series shall play the 3rd game, if necessary, at the home field of the opposing team, regardless of any arrangement made at the 1st game. **If a team fails to play a game in the first round of the O.R.S.A. playdowns, the centre must pay a \$100.00 Penalty Fee.**

(e) Minor teams defaulting a game or series shall be assessed a minimum of \$10.00 per game. Junior teams shall be assessed a minimum \$10.00 per game. These assessments shall be for administration expenses. Any Minor team that defaults a series by refusing to play for any reason, the person responsible may receive disciplinary action.

(f) The Teams are restricted to 17 signed players in any one season. The Teams must carry their O.R.S.A. Players Certificates to all O.R.S.A. games and produce them if requested. Failure to produce the O.R.S.A. cards may result in forfeiture of game.

(g) All O.R.S.A. playoffs in Intermediate series must be played under floodlights unless other arrangements are agreed to by both teams.

(h) All umpires officiating at the O.R.S.A. games must be duly registered on Umpire Cards issued by Softball Ontario.

(i) Teams suffering financial loss through games due to default, for any reason, may make a claim in writing to the O.R.S.A. within 3 days, showing just cause for the claim. If a team cancels less than 48 hours before the scheduled game, a maximum penalty of \$500.00 may occur. The Executive will assess the claim and if approved, it shall be paid by the defaulting team.

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Failure of payment will result in the Centre at fault, not to be in good standing.

(j) Coaches and managers need not sign the official game sheet and the financial sheet before a game unless he or she so desires.

(k) All Affiliated teams shall be allowed to enter the O.R.S.A. playoffs.

(l) If requested, the O.R.S.A. may appoint neutral qualified umpires and/or set dates and location for a third game. **The cost of umpires must be shared.**

(m) Replacement of players who are incapacitated is not allowed.

(n) Home team is to give the opposing team two dates to play, however if teams cannot agree, O.R.S.A. may set dates for games to be played. No team shall have to play ball on Sunday in the O.R.S.A.

(o) **Cancellation of a game:** Rain or unfit playing field are reasons for a cancellation of a game (lack of players by either team is not.) The Management of the home team shall be responsible for communicating directly with the visiting team and the convener, should a game have to be cancelled due to rain or unfit playing field. At the same time, arrangements shall be made for a re-schedule date.

(p) Each team participating in playoff games must pay their own travelling expenses. In the event of a third game being necessary and the game being played is on the home grounds of either competing team, the gate receipts shall be divided as follows:

The O.R.S.A. share is deducted first, then umpire fees, the cost of balls and the rental of field and lights. After which, the balance will be divided three-fifths to the visiting club and two-fifths to the home club.

(q) In minor series, after the first game of any East (of Toronto)/West (of Toronto) series, the second and third game (if necessary) will be played on the return diamond, the same day (if possible), with rest between

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the two games — (so each team travels just once to each other's park). The teams will flip to determine who is the home team if the third game is necessary.

(r) All League Officials, Team Officials and Players affiliated with the O.R.S.A. must at all times agree to abide by the O.R.S.A. rules.

(s) All decisions shall be confirmed in writing, a copy of which shall be forwarded to teams concerned, one copy to President and one copy placed on file.

(t) If a game is suspended due to inclement weather teams must wait at least one hour in order to try and resume play.

Rule V

O.R.S.A. Playoffs — Conveners

(a) The Conveners shall appoint two (2) duly qualified umpires for all playoff games, except as otherwise provided, and shall make all other arrangements as shall be necessary. The Convener is to ensure players' signatures on the certificate are consistent with those on the game sheet. The Convener is to be the Official scorekeeper or is to appoint one at the game he/she is convening. **The Convener is to get Umpires to put his/her number on the game sheet prior to the game starting.**

(b) In case of an emergency created by the failure of umpires to appear at a scheduled game, the convener or his/her appointee shall make the necessary arrangements to appoint a substitute or substitutes, with written agreement of the officials of both teams participating.

(c) The convener of the first game will ascertain before the commencement of the game by a toss of a coin which of the two teams will receive the home grounds for the third game. In the case of a 3-of-5 series, the coin flip will determine location of third and fifth games. **The team that wins the flip also gets**

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home game not just the chance to host the 3rd or 5th game. This does not apply to East-West Series.

(d) In the event that a convener has more than one game in the same night, he or she shall appoint a duly qualified person or persons to act on his or her behalf at any other game or games, after first having made all arrangements including umpires. The convener shall supply his/her appointee with proper identification, which shall be good only for the game for which they have been appointed. The Convener will supply the appointee with the necessary forms for the game for which they have been appointed to convene.

(e) The convener or his/her appointee shall have charge of each playoff game and shall personally supervise the signing of the playoff sheets with each individual player's signature and number prior to the player participating in the game.

(f) No member of a Club shall act as a convener or umpire any game in which his/her club is participating.

(g) The convener shall have the right to examine and supervise the methods used for handling gate receipts at any or all Association playoff games and report accordingly.

(h) The convener only shall be fully responsible for forwarding the official reports and the O.R.S.A. share of gate receipts to the O.R.S.A. Secretary-Treasurer, all of which must be remitted at least once each week except in the case of protest of final game in which case the report must definitely be in the hands of the O.R.S.A. Secretary-Treasurer within 24 hours from the game time.

(i) In all playoff games, the O.R.S.A. **Must** receive 20 percent of gross gate with **total gate** shown on financial sheet.

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NOTE: The minimum O.R.S.A. Share shall be \$10.00 for any playoff game up to and including final game except for Junior Games where minimum share shall be \$10.00.

(j) Home team must notify the convener of the date, time and place of home game. Failure to do so the home team shall forfeit said game.

Grand Championship

That the O.R.S.A. Executive be allowed to add a Host team to the Grand Championships at their discretion.

All teams registered in Intermediate Men and Intermediate Ladies compete in Grand Championship Tournament in July on the weekend prior to the Civic weekend. (Rain out date is the following weekend.) Each team participating in Grand Championship is to pay \$350.00 of which \$250.00 goes to the Host.

Men's winner of tournament is to be O.R.S.A. Representative at the Eastern Canadian Intermediate "C" tournament the following year, and also gets a berth in the ISC Worlds the following year, if they so desire.

Winners of the Men's and Ladies' Grand Championships will receive a trophy.

Centres wishing to host the Grand Championships are asked to submit their bid to the O.R.S.A. secretary-treasurer.

All grand championship tournament games will be 7-innings with mercy rule of 7 runs after 5 innings in effect. International tie breaker rule is in effect.

Entries for the Grand Championship must be received by the Secretary-Treasurer by July 15 providing there is a host for the Tournament.

Any Junior age player that signs an O.A.S.A. or a P.W.S.A. certificate will be eligible to sign an O.R.S.A. certificate for Intermediate Men or Ladies providing he/she meets the O.R.S.A. Residence Rules without Special Permission.

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Maximum of 2 players allowed.

For Intermedidate Men only: Pitching Rule is the same ISC e.g. one foot on rubber.

Tournaments

(a) Tournament Hosts must be declared by March 31 of the playing year or no Tournament will be held in that Division. Bids received by the Annual Meeting will receive first priority.

(b) All minor tournament games have a time limit of 90 minutes. The finals have no time limit, but use the mercy rule.

(c) Bantam and older games have a mercy rule of 7 runs after 5 or more innings. Peewee and under games have a mercy rule of 10 runs after 5 or more innings.

(d) The international tie-breaker rule is used after 7 innings.

(e) The coin flip for home team and exchange of lineup cards will be done 15 minutes before game time. The home team will use the bench along first base.

Rule VI - Trophies

(a) The winners of all the various O.R.S.A. series become the holders of a trophy. No team is to receive an O.R.S.A. trophy unless accepted by one of the coaches or players of the winning team at the banquet, and each winning team must acknowledge they will be at the banquet to accept trophy.

(b) Trophies must be returned to the O.R.S.A. Secretary-Treasurer by August 1st of each year.

(c) The Trustees of the Trophies shall be the President, Vice-Presidents, and Secretary-Treasurer.

Rule VII - Protests

(a) If a game is protested "Rule 11 — Protests" in the Softball Canada Rule Book shall be followed with the exception that Section 7 Clause C of Rule 11 shall not apply (concerning protest for ineligibility).

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In the case of a protest concerning ineligibility the following O.R.S.A. rule will apply:

If a team has one or more player/s failing to meet the eligibility rule of the O.R.S.A. This team will be disqualified from future play.

Suspension resulting from such a disqualification shall be dealt with by the O.R.S.A. Executive Protest Committee.

The time allowed to Protest an ineligible player, should be within 48 hours, a reasonable time, depending upon the nature of the case and the difficulty of obtaining the information to which to base the protest.

(b) Protests arising out of Association Playoff games must be faxed or hand delivered to O.R.S.A. Secretary within 24 hours of the completion of the game and signed by the manager or designate of the club. A fee of **\$75.00** cash, money order or certified cheque is to be sent Priority Post to the O.R.S.A. Secretary immediately.

(c) A copy of the Protest will be faxed to the club protested against by the O.R.S.A. The club protested against must fax or hand deliver within 24 hours after receiving such notice a letter of defence to the O.R.S.A. Secretary before the protest can be dealt with. A fee of **\$75.00** cash, money order or certified cheque to be sent Priority Post to the O.R.S.A. Secretary immediately.

(d) All protests must be phoned to the O.R.S.A. Secretary within 24 hours of protested game, provided that such protests are confirmed in writing as set out in section (b).

(e) The Club losing the protest may forfeit their protest fee and the Executive shall have the power to refund such sum.

(f) All leagues will have complete charge over their own teams until completion of their schedule.

(g) The Protest Committee shall consist of Members

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of the Executive appointed by the President and the Committee's decision shall be final.

(h) No member of the ORSA Executive shall be eligible to serve on the Club or League Executive or any Committee in connection with any protest or question involving directly the Club or League he/she represents. Nor shall any member of the ORSA Executive be eligible to vote on any question raised by, or affecting the Club or League he/she represents.

(i) Any monies received during the season and playoffs or from any protest action may remain the property of the O.R.S.A.

(j) Any team found to have illegal player(s) will forfeit the current series.

(k) Under no circumstances will the O.R.S.A. or its officers be held liable for claims arising from any cause.

NOTE: Clubs or players who knowingly play against ineligible players, and who wilfully conceal this knowledge from the Association, until it shall suit their convenience to use it in any protest which may arise, shall then be considered equally guilty with the offending club or players and shall be dealt with accordingly.

Rule VIII Suspensions And Expulsions

(a) Any Association, League, Manager, Coach or player member of this Association who violates the Constitution or By-Laws or refuses to abide by the decision of the Executive shall be expelled or suspended.

(b) Teams, coaches, managers or players may be suspended by the Executive for knowingly:

1. Permitting betting or improper conduct by players or officers at games.

2. Offering, agreeing, conspiring or attempting

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to lose any games or being interested in any pool or wagers thereon.

3. Playing with or against a player, coach or manager who has been expelled or suspended.

4. For unsportsmanlike and undesirable conduct or for intentionally downgrading the image of the O.R.S.A.

5. Playing with or against a professional player.

(c) The Executive, upon written request, has the power to re-admit by resolution and majority vote of the Executive any Club, League or Player suspended.

(d) Any Club in default of a Playoff game: All players on such club shall be suspended from further O.R.S.A. competition. This suspension to remain in effect until all expenses incurred as a result have been fully paid by the defaulting team. Applications for reinstatement will then be considered by the Association Executive.

(e) Any offense of a flagrant nature such as the use of obscene language or an assault upon an umpire, manager, coach, player, convener or executive member shall be cause for immediate removal of that person from the game. The umpire shall within 24 hours forward full particulars to the Secretary of the O.R.S.A. with a copy to the Umpire-In-Chief. In such cases, the removal from the game automatically places that person under suspension from all further activities until reinstated.

Rule IX Playing Rules

(a) O.R.S.A. teams, except as noted elsewhere in this book, play Softball Canada 9 player fast pitch rules, which means no D.P., but allows re-entry. Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget, Jr. and Intermediate Men's and Ladies teams may use the D.P.

(b) The playing rules shall be those as laid down in the Softball Canada Rule Book with the following

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exceptions:

(c) The Softball Canada fencing and dimensions of fencing rules do not apply.

Each field must have an adequate backstop.

(d) Atom boys ball is for boys under 10 years of age before January 1st of the playing year. Use 11-inch ball, pitch 30 feet, run 45 foot bases and leave the base after the ball crosses the plate.

(e) Midget down to Atom boys are 7 innings, but 5 constitute a game.

(f) Junior Girls to Lassie Girls play 7 innings, but 5 constitute a game.

(g) Junior Men, Junior Ladies, Intermediate Ladies, Intermediate Men play 7 innings but 5 constitutes a game.

(h) Helmets: It shall be necessary for all players in all men's, ladies' and minor fast pitch to wear a batting helmet while batting and running the bases. Lassie and Atom Girls, Atom and Squirt Boys must have chin straps properly worn. In all series, all helmets worn must be fully enclosed with two ear flaps, a foam liner and a peak.

Starting in 2015, teams Midget age and under offensive players must use a helmet with a cage.

(i) All catchers in minor ball, Midget and down, must wear chest protectors, helmet with a mask and throat protector, and shin guards.

(j) A sweater or shirt constitutes a uniform. The colour combinations and style must be similar for all playing members of the team. Each uniform must have a number on it, minimum 3" in height. No identical numbers can be worn. Uniforms are not grounds for protest.

(k) No steel spikes are allowed in minor ball.

(l) In all final series, there is no time limit, except PeeWee and under, but the mercy rule is in effect.

(m) Managers of teams are required to bring these

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amendments of playing rules to the attention of the umpires.

(n) Ties: In all O.R.S.A. playoff games, ties will be broken by playing an extra inning(s). The International tie breaker rule will not be used.

(o) If neutral diamond is requested, then all costs to be split between the teams involved.

(p) Defensive Conference rule is to be in effect for all Divisions.

(q) That the O.R.S.A. have the 2 Out Catcher Rule Optional for all Divisions. eg. if catcher is on base and 2 are out, he/she can have last available batter run for him/her with no penalty.

(r) Atom Divisions continue as in the past: only Exception "Infield fly not in effect".

EAST/WEST OF TORONTO SERIES

(a) In all minor series weeknight games will not start before 6:30 p.m. If the second and third games are scheduled on the same day they will be played on a weekend with sufficient and reasonable time to travel.

(b) In minor series, after the first game of any East (of Toronto)/West (of Toronto) series, the second and third game (if necessary) will be played on the return diamond the same day (if possible) with rest between the two games, so each team travels just once to each other's park. The teams must flip to determine who is the home team if third game, is necessary.

(c) The convener of the first game will ascertain before the commencement of the game by a toss of a coin which of the two teams receive the home grounds for the third game. In the case of a 3-of-5 series, the coin flip will determine location of third and fifth games. **The team that wins the flip also gets home game not just the chance to host the 3rd or 5th game. This does not apply to East-West Series.**

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Rule X Governing Of Leagues

All O.R.S.A. rules to apply as well as the following:

(a) The Annual Meeting of all organized Leagues are to be held before third Saturday in April.

(b) The Officers elected at the Annual Meeting shall be President; First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents; and Executive Members.

(c) These officers with the President and Secretary of each Affiliated Club shall form the League Executive unless individual club organizations do not include the office of President and/or Secretary, then officials named and accepted as representatives will act.

(d) Two Auditors shall be appointed at the Annual Meeting.

(e) The League President and Secretary shall be delegates to the O.R.S.A. Annual Meeting. Their expenses shall be paid by the League they represent. If the League they represent has paid its Association dues and has sent in all players certificates and players fees for all teams by **June 6th** of the current season, they will be in good standing.

(f) The representatives of any League that is not in good financial standing are automatically barred from the O.R.S.A. Executive.

Duties of League Secretary-Treasurer

(a) It shall be the duty of the Secretary-Treasurer to notify in writing the Secretary of each club that was a member in the League in the past season, of the time and place of the Annual Meeting.

(b) To send to the Secretary-Treasurer of the O.R.S.A. within one week of the Annual Meeting of the League, the names of the Officers of the League and the name and address of the Secretary of each Club in his League.

(c) To notify the Secretary of each affiliated club at least 12 hours before the time of all Executive Meetings.

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(d) To keep an accurate record of all League and Executive meetings, a register of all players in the league, of the standing of all teams in the league. The same is to be open for inspection by the Manager of any affiliated team and the Secretary of any affiliated club.

(e) To keep a record of all monies received and expended. This record is to be audited once yearly by the auditors and open for inspection by the O.R.S.A. Executive.

(f) To send to the Secretary of each club the forms for the signing of players.

(g) To collect from each club, their share of the Association dues, their share of League expenses, together with players fees by **June 6th** of the playing season. He/she shall send to the O.R.S.A. Secretary-Treasurer, the league fees together with the certificates of all players of all teams properly signed.

Failure to do this bars the league entry from going into the O.R.S.A. Playoffs.

League Meetings

(a) The recommended order of business is found under Article X in this book.

(b) At Annual, General and Executive Meetings, no club shall have more than two votes, except in the case of the President who shall cast the deciding vote in case of a tie.

(c) The President and Secretary of each club shall represent and vote for their club, proxies may be allowed. A club representative cannot vote if the club he/she represents has not paid its Association fees, League fees and the fees of all players on his Club team.

(d) No Club Representative can vote on a question raised by, or affecting the Club he represents.

(e) At League and Executive Meetings, **four** club representatives shall form a quorum.

(f) The league executive shall have charge of the

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affairs of the league and it shall be their duty to draw up a schedule.

(g) The League Executive shall appoint Umpires according to O.R.S.A. rules.

(h) The League Executive shall hear protests within the League which must be lodged strictly according to O.R.S.A. rules found elsewhere in this book.

(i) It shall be the duty of the League Executive to prevail upon some prominent citizen or organization to donate a trophy for the league championship, to be competed for annually.

The Clubs of the League

(a) It is the responsibility of the club Secretary-Treasurer to give to the League Treasurer any fees that may be levied by the Executive and to have players fees paid to the League Secretary.

(b) To notify the League Secretary of the name and address of the officers of his/her Club, and the number of his/her own telephone.

(c) To open his/her books at any time for inspection by the Auditors of the O.R.S.A.

(d) To have some responsible person take the admission at the gate at each game or have a collection taken up.

(e) To notify the visiting team before they leave their home town of the unfitness of his/her team's playing field.

(f) To notify the League Secretary within one hour of the final game, if his/her team wins the league championship.

(g) Leagues operating with one or more teams with over 20,000 population or with ineligible players can play in the schedule. The presence of such teams must be made known to the O.R.S.A. Secretary-Treasurer before the first game.

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Co-Operation Invited . . .

Your co-operation in adhering strictly to these Rules and Regulations is earnestly requested by the President and Executive of the O.R.S.A. In doing so, you will be rendering a great service, as well as upholding the good reputation that this Association enjoys from the sporting public.

Keep the newspapers well informed as to the outcome of each League game, also league standings. Newspapers are glad to have this news. Officers of all home Clubs are requested to prevail upon newspaper reporters to list accounts of all games under the heading of O.R.S.A. (Ontario Rural Softball Association).

League Secretaries must furnish the Association Secretary with the names, addresses and phone numbers of all Club Secretaries.

All together, we are here for a bigger and better O.R.S.A. Co-operation is the key to success.

After all, it's a small world we're living in, when one gets mixed up in Rural Sport. You get to know hundreds of real sports who become a real asset to you in the business world.

The spirit of Rural Sport is embodied in the following phrase "For when the great Scorer comes to write against your name, He writes not how you won or lost, But how you played the game".

Champions Of The O.R.S.A.

Available on the Ontario Rural Softball website