



## ECSPL: 2024 Rules and Regulations

### 1. Mandatory Equipment Requirements:

- a. The home team will supply the following equipment for the game.
  - Home plate. Mat measuring 2 Feet x 3 Feet (24 inches by 36 inches). This mat should be made of plywood.
  - First, second, and third bases. First base must also have a safe base. The base path distance should be measured at **65 feet**.
  - Game ball supplied by the League. Home team is responsible for supplying a NEW game ball for each and every home game.
  - Pylons for the commitment line and outfield baselines. Consider using a water-soluble spray can for marking the scoring line.
- b. The pitcher is required to always wear a protective mask. See 16 for further details.
- c. No metal cleats or spikes allowed.
- d. Bat Requirements: All bats used in the ECSPL are required to be USSSA approved. Bats must have one or both symbols to be used in play. Symbols are depicted below.



This is the new safety standard for Canada softball and has insurance implications. If there is a bat violation (a player uses a bat without one of these symbols), the opposing coach should bring up the issue to the umpire immediately following the play. The batter will be called out and the runners will return to their previous positions. It is important to understand that with official umpires at our tournament this violation can result in ejection from the game. If the infraction is noticed before a play is made on the ball, allowing the batter to choose another bat is recommended.

**2. National Softball Association(NSA) rules apply where the league rules do not conflict.** Teams will be able to access the NSA rule book through the league website.

**3. The team that is batting will supply the home plate umpire.**



**NOTE:** Each team should have only 2 to 3 people umpiring per game to ensure continuity from inning to inning. The coach should be the *primary* umpire and all umpires should be introduced prior to the game beginning.

**4. Game will commence only if there is:**

- a. At least 8 players per team, with at least 3 players of each gender.
  - A 2 inning grace period may be applied to the start of a game when there are less than 8 people to make up a team. Rule 4b still applies.
- b. The game will still commence if there are only 2 women, with the following stipulations:
  - The team that is short will only be allowed 9 players on the field.
  - The team that is short will be penalized with an automatic out in the second, fourth, and sixth innings, and each 2 innings thereafter.

**5. Batting Order:**

a. Up to 15 players may be put in the batting order. The batting order is considered a 7/3 format, 7 males and 3 females; however, a team may use an EH (extra hitter). This allows for a potential of 8 males and 3 females in the batting order. A 12<sup>th</sup> batter is permitted but must be a female. In other words, every extra hitter after 11 must be alternating in gender.

b. Substitution Rule: This rule applies to any player not beginning the game in the official batting lineup and penciled in as a substitution on the score sheet. Entry into the game is permitted at any time, however can only be done once. If the player that entered as a substitution is subbed out, they are ineligible to reenter the game again.

c. Three of each gender must be in the top ten of the batting order

d. At least 3 women must occupy the playing field at all times.

**6. No children under the age of 16 may play. Parents/guardians of children aged 16 and 17 must fill out the “Informed Consent and Assumption of Risk Agreement” and submit it to League President(Nate Feller) prior to participating in any league play.**

**7. Anticipation Rule applies.** Base-runners are not permitted to “lead-off”, however grace is extended in the event of accidental “lead-offs”, regardless of contact being made with the ball by the batter.

**8. On an overthrow:**

a. If it lands and stays inside the fence (playing area), it will be a live ball, and the runner can continue to advance.

b. If it rolls beyond or lands outside the fence (playing area), only 1 extra base will be given.

- The advancement will take place from the base that the runner was already advancing to.

**9. The Commitment Line is 20 feet from home plate.** If the runner crosses the commitment line, it is considered a force play at home plate and the runner must go home.



## **10. Home Plate**

- a. No sliding, player is automatically out.
- b. Defensive player (catcher) may play either the mat or the home plate to make the play. Under no circumstances is there to be a tag made.
- c. The runner is to run across an imaginary line even with the first base line.
- d. Do not run in front of home plate or touch the plate or mat, either will result in an out.

## **11. First base**

- a. Must have a safety bag (orange), which is to occupy the outside of the baseline.
- b. Runner must tag the orange safe base unless advancing to second. If runner is obviously advancing to second base the first baseman must make every attempt possible to stay out of the way of the runner. (The easiest way to do this is to move inside the baseline towards home plate.)
- c. First baseman must play the white base and not block the runner.
- d. Runners using the orange safety bag must turn out (right), if intending to stay on first. If the runner turns into play (left), after using the orange safety bag, they are fair game.

## **12. Bodily contact on any base, except for the potential tag, is strictly forbidden.**

Tagging is obviously permitted, but with common sense regarding safety so no injuries will occur. When tagging is attempted both the runner and the defensive player must try to avoid any unnecessary contact. This must be adhered to under all circumstances

## **13. Bunting is NOT permitted. Anyone bunting/chopping at the ball will be called out.**

## **14. Batter must hit the third strike fair, or the batter is out. A foul ball that is directed toward the catcher and is caught does not have to reach a certain height to be called an out.**

**15. Walk Rule:** When a male batter, with a female on deck, is issued a four straight ball walk, with no strikes, the male is awarded second base and the female on deck is given the option to hit or walk to first.

## **16. Pitching:**

- a. The pitch is to have an arc of **6 to 12 feet** from the ground. If there is not enough arc, or too much arc it is the umpire's responsibility to call no pitch (ball). If the batter hits the ball, play continues.
- b. The pitcher is expected to be courteous and ensure the batter is ready before pitching the ball. However, if the batter is in the batter's box, he or she should be paying attention.
- c. Pitching distance (from home plate to the "mound") is 50-60 feet. This **MUST** be adhered to for the pitchers safety. It is highly recommended that coaches mark this line prior to the game with a water-soluble spray can (pylons are not an option here).



d. The pitcher is required to always wear a protective mask while the ball is in play. (Ask Matt Brown for suggestions on equipment if guidance is needed.)

**17. All games must be at least one of the following:**

- a. 7 innings or 1½ hours, whichever comes first.
- b. A minimum of 5 completed innings. In the event of darkness or a rainout, if 5 innings are not completed the game must be played at a later date and considered a new game.
- c. Played to a maximum of nine innings, in the event of a tie at the end of nine innings it will be documented a tie game.

**18. A team can score a maximum of 7 runs per inning, with the exception of the last (7th) inning, which has no limit.**

**19. In order to play in the year end tournament, players must have played in at least 3 regular season games with their respective team.**

**20. Once the batter has entered the batter's box he or she may not switch hit during that time at bat.**

**21. Mercy rule:** If a team is leading by 21 runs after 4 innings or any complete inning thereafter the game will be called. However, if both teams agree they may continue to play for practice or fun. The score posted on the website will be a maximum of a 21 run differential no matter if the final score is more.

**22. In the event that the city's fields are closed, teams are not permitted to play.** The City of Edmonton does not allow play on wet fields as damage may be caused to the field, or injuries may result from the wet conditions. The field update line is 780-496-4999 ext. 1. Games cancelled due to inclement weather will need to be rescheduled. Contact the League Scheduler(Andrew Crossman) to find out about additional fields that may be available or coaches are free to reschedule and book their own fields and times.

**23. Disputed calls:** Only the coach or team representative of each team is allowed to raise disputes with the other team's coach/representative or umpire. Any other player disputing calls will be warned by the umpire that only the coaches are allowed to dispute calls. If you are a player talk to your coach/representative and let them deal with the problem. If you are the coach/representative keep control of your team and use your common sense when dealing with disputes. If any player other than the coach/representative continues to dispute calls after being warned the league executive is to be notified and they will address the problem.

**24. Our league follows a zero tolerance policy for violence on or off the field, before, during or after the game.** If any player or fan strikes or pushes another player both coaches/representatives must report the situation to the league executive. The executive will review the situation and decide



whether the players or teams will face discipline, which could include fines, suspensions, or expulsion from the league. Any decisions made by the executive will be at their discretion and will be final.

**25. Coaches/Representatives are responsible for their players behaviour at all times.**

Any player intentionally aggravating the opposing team will be warned. If the behavior continues the league executive will be notified after the game and address the situation.

**26. Courtesy runners:** Courtesy runners are allowed if they meet the stipulations below; but the batter must make it to first base, and the courtesy runner will sub in at that point for the batter.

a. The batter became injured during the game and only an injury will allow you to have a courtesy runner. If you are tired or don't feel you are 100%, you still must run. Injuries incurred prior to the start of the game do not allow you to have a courtesy runner, even if it is further aggravated during the game.

b. The only player allowed to run is the previous out of the same gender as the batter.

c. If the batter makes it passed first to second, or further, then the batter will not be given a courtesy runner.

**27. Above all else remember that we are a Christian league, and we are out to have a good time playing sports and have some fun. We should all strive to play and interact in a way that allows all that we do to be for the glory of God.**

Any issues involving rule discrepancies or disputes are to be brought up to the league executive in charge of rules and enforcement: Matthew Brown (email: [c\\_omedy@hotmail.com](mailto:c_omedy@hotmail.com))