

Rookie Division Rules

Barrhaven Children's Softball is a traditional pitch softball league that for the most part follows the Softball Canada rules. In establishing its final set of rules, has taken into account several factors:

1. The age and developmental abilities of the players
2. The diamonds we play on
3. The philosophy that the league is a recreational league where as our unofficial motto states:
"The player comes first"
4. The opinions of the coaches who must try to teach the game to their players. Some rules will be adjusted by coaches and will need to be finalized before the playoffs.

Game timing and diamond set up

Home team is expected to arrive with the equipment bag and set up the diamond by 6:00 so both teams can have an opportunity to warm up so that games can be under way by 6:30.

Base path is 45 feet in Rookie.

Pitching is done by the coach from 30 feet away – teaching the batter to wait and assess the pitch before the swing. No player can be closer than the line between first and third base.

Traditional 3 outs per inning.

Rainouts

The decision to cancel or stop a game is made at 6:30 or when conditions dictate by a majority decision of the coaches (and umpire if present). The definition of "rain" is subjective. Players may agree to play in a light rain but NEVER in a situation where lightning is present. For the purposes of a weather based decision a complete game is viewed as a minimum of 3 full innings. It is acceptable to take a "rain delay" to see if the rain will diminish but this should be no more than 20 minutes. If the game is rained out, a full replacement game will be rescheduled at another time and place agreed on by both teams.

Final Inning

The final inning cannot be played if light or weather conditions make it unsafe. As a general guide, but **NOT A HARD RULE** – the last inning should not start after 7:45. Temperature will also dictate how long a game can be played. Common sense and safety should be the determining factors

Safety-Related Rules

1. **Hit by bat:** Two situations have the potential of leading to a player being hit by a bat.
 - a. **Thrown bat:** A bat is considered thrown if it leaves the immediate area of the batter's box. One warning per person given in Novice and one per team in Junior and Senior followed by an out.
 - b. **On deck batter too close to the plate:** There is no "on deck batter" in Novice, a safe distance down the base path is required in Junior and Senior.
2. **Contact at first base:** Fielder on white, runner touches ONLY ORANGE. Runner is out if they contact fielder who is on the white base. Runner is safe if fielder contacts them on the orange base or blocks their path to second if they are not attempting to make a play at first. A bonus base is awarded if the runners movement to second is impeded.
3. **Contact at home plate:** Contact at home plate is to be discouraged in all situations. This is the responsibility of both the catcher and the runner:
 - Catchers only touch the home plate not the runner to make the play. No tags of the runner are allowed between the commit line (one third of the way back to third from home plate).
 - Runners are encouraged to NOT touch home plate but to run BEHIND it. They can touch the plate BUT this is discouraged.
2. **Contact on the base paths between fielders and runners:** A runner is out if they contact a fielder who is attempting to field a ball (thrown or hit). A runner is safe and given a bonus base if they are slowed down by contact with a fielder who is not actively fielding a ball.
3. **Hit by a batted ball:** If any player is injured by a batted ball all play stops immediately as a dead ball rule until the damage can be assessed. The player hit by the ball will not be out. Following any required aid the batter returns to the batter's box as if the pitch had not occurred.
4. **Safety always comes first – and stops every play**