

HENDON PARK SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
UMPIRES' CONDENSED RULES FOR 2026 (REV: April 26th 2026)

The Official Softball Canada Rule Book Fast Pitch and Orthodox Pitching Shall Govern With The Following Exceptions:

- Minimum 7 players to start, (maximum 10 on the field). 15 minute grace period. HPSA has no gender requirements; all genders can play in all divisions with no co-ed specific rules in place.
- Pitchers may pitch for 1 team per division as long as they are on the roster. Substitute players may not pitch.
- Leading off and stealing allowed only once the ball crosses the plate, not when the ball leaves the pitchers hand.
- Bunting is allowed. However, the batter may not show bunt and then swing away. This will result in an automatic out; the next occurrence by anyone (either team) is out & ejected.
- Commitment Line halfway between third and home, Safe Line at home. No tagging allowed past the Commitment Line, i.e. always force play at plate. Runner cannot touch the plate except to avoid collision. A runner may not slide at home. A runner sliding at home will be out.
- Home team will supply 1 authorized new ball, visiting team 1 good used authorized second ball.
- When a batted ball is hit out of the field of play (home run or foul), the batting team must immediately send a player to retrieve the ball.
- A full game is 7 innings, and no new inning will begin after 1 hr and 40 min from scheduled start time. The maximum length of a game is the lesser of 1 hour and 50 min or lights curfew. Scores will revert to the last full inning. Ties will stand.
- Teams may give up their at bats for a full inning, or the remainder of an inning, in lieu of having batters/runners intentionally “get out” to speed up the game. Scheduled batters do not lose their at bats, they bat the next inning if their team takes their at bats. This can be done an unlimited amount of times per game.
- Teams must show up at the park rain or shine. Games called due to bad weather or poor field conditions will be considered official after 3.5 innings if the home team is ahead and after 4 innings if the visiting team is ahead or an hour of game time (excluding weather related delays) has elapsed, for both regular season and playoffs.
- Teams may use up to 5 eligible substitution players in any one game, to reach up to 11 players. Substitution players must be identified to the opposing team prior to the start of the game.
- Substitution players may NOT be used as pitchers. Substitution players must bat last (after the regular team members) up until the pre-game officials meeting. After that any player who arrives goes to the bottom of the order in the order in which they arrive. They must be declared at the pre-game meeting
- Unlimited courtesy runners are allowed for a maximum of 4 players (injured or not). The courtesy runner must be the person furthest from the batter in the line-up unless this is an injured player, in which case the runner would then be the next person in the line-up.
- Players may leave the game at any time without penalty as long as the minimum number (7) are left.
- No soccer, hard plastic, or metal cleats are allowed. An umpire can ask a player to remove cleats should they feel they are a safety risk.
- Jewellery can be worn, but is not recommended. A player may be asked to remove their jewellery (excluding any medical id jewellery) if the umpire deems it unsafe or distracting. If the player does not comply they may be removed from the game.
- Bases MUST be 65 feet apart, and the pitching rubber MUST be 46 feet from the plate. The home team is responsible to ensure this is done correctly and in a timely basis using an accurate measuring tool.
- Bases are to be secured 15 minutes before start of game by the home team. Safety bases must be used at First Base.
- Shirts must have sleeves. Shorts are permitted but not recommended.
- Mercy Rule of 7 runs per inning maximum for first 4 innings only. Any subsequent inning is “open”. Should any team be leading by 20 runs after 5 full innings, the game will be ended.
- No smoking, including vaping, in the dugout, field, or spectator areas. No alcoholic beverages/marijuana use in the park at all.
- Only team captains, or a designated captain, may approach the umpire about any aspect of the game.
- Ball must be 12-Inch Red Dot Softball
- All bats must have one of the following symbols to be used:

ASA 2000	ASA 2004	USSSA	ISF 2005
			

- ASA 2013 is not allowed. Bats must also not be on the ASA banned list (https://usa.asasoftball.com/e/build_batlist_one_page.asp).
- Intentional Walks are permitted; should a team wish to do so, they just need to tell the official and the batter will be awarded first base.

Summary of Pitching Regulations

- The pitching action must resemble that of a straight bowling motion or figure eight, no bend in the elbow at peak of the backswing.
- Both feet must start on the rubber with one clear and immediate step forward (no stepping to the side). Foot can drag after release of the ball, hop step is **ILLEGAL**. The pitcher must not make any motion to pitch without immediately delivering the ball to the batter.
- The pitcher may take the ball behind their back on the back swing.
- Pitchers may release the ball **PALM** facing up or down. (As in Orthodox) No turning the wrist during delivery.
- The pitcher must not use a windmill or sling-shot type pitch. The pitching arm may not make a complete revolution in the delivery.
- The pitcher must finish facing forward (**both shoulders square to the plate**). During delivery, **no pitcher’s body should be completely open to a base** i.e. hips in line with home and 2nd (90 degree angle). Some turn is allowed, 45 degrees

Softball Canada Rules that are not being adopted

- We will not be adopting the 2-5 second pause between a pitcher coming set and delivering the ball. A 1-5 second pause will be allowed.
- We will not be adopting the 2013 rule change with reference to the orange/white bag per Rule 2, Sec. 4, i. Bases Note 3 Exception
- Batter staying in the batter’s box - the umpire has the discretion to keep the game moving and ask the player to get back into the box if he feels the player is delaying. If the batter fails to get in the batter’s box in a reasonable amount of time, a strike may be called.
- Three charged defensive conferences - The old rule of one charged conference per inning will remain in effect before a pitcher must be removed from the pitching position.