

Goldhawk Softball Association

MIXED SLO-PITCH RULES & REGULATIONS 2025

1. ONLY 2025 GOLDHAWK SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION REGISTERED PLAYERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN LEAGUE GAMES OR PRACTICES.

- Final team rosters for registered players must be submitted before the first game, but no new registration forms will be accepted after **June 16th**
- **There is a maximum number of 20 players on a team roster**
- Non-registered players must not be allowed to participate in
- practices, league or exhibition games, strictly for liability reasons.
- There cannot—and will not—be any exceptions to this rule.
- Any person who participates in practices or exhibition games, and who is not registered with the league, hereby accepts any and all risks associated with his/her participation.

2. ALL PLAYERS IN THE GAME LINEUP MUST WEAR THEIR TEAM SHIRT (league approved) OR THEY BECOME INELIGIBLE TO PLAY THAT GAME (IN PLAYOFFS ONLY)

- During cold or inclement weather, extra clothing can be worn over the team shirt.
- Captains must inform the league if a player's jersey cannot be worn due to extenuating circumstances.
- *Remember, sponsors are extremely important to our league and their name exposure is key.*

3. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES MAY BE BROUGHT TO, OR CONSUMED IN THE PARK OR PARKING LOT

- Anyone in contravention of this rule will be expelled from the league.

4. (A) "SAFETY FIRST" MUST AND WILL BE THE MOTTO OF EACH PLAYER IN THE LEAGUE.

- Before the games begin each night, players should inspect the playing field for any and all foreign objects (i.e.: glass, rocks, sticks, ruts, holes) and remove what can be removed, and make others aware of depressions, holes, etc.
- Potentially dangerous situations such as obstruction or interference will be strictly called and may be construed as rough play.
- If rain has caused the infield or outfield grass to be slippery, the umpire, or one coach can elect not to play the game.
- Rain outs will be called at 6:30 once the playing conditions are considered unplayable or unsafe. Teams are expected to come to the diamond to find out the game status.
- **Team captains must notify the league executive by 3pm on game days if they intend to forfeit a game or will be charged \$65 to cover the umpiring costs.**
- **Team captains must notify the league executive by 12pm on the Friday before any games on the playoff weekend to avoid the \$65 umpiring charge.**
- Games may be called earlier by the Executive. They will contact team captains; the Executive will not make a decision if called, so don't call them.
- **If both captains can agree, they can decide to call games if they feel like a rain out is imminent. Contact must be made before 3pm. If contact is not made, teams are expected to show up to the diamond like usual.**

(B) ALL FORMS OF JEWELRY WILL BE ALLOWED

- All players will be required to sign a waiver on registration that indicates that there are responsible for any injury that may occur as a result of wearing jewelry and will hold no liability against the league in any form.
- If it is evident and/or confirmed to an official that a player is pregnant, then for reasons of safety, the player will be requested to remove herself from the game and if she refuses, the umpire will eject her.

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- 5. AS PER THE GOLDHAWK PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT (ATTACHED) ROUGH PLAY OR FIGHTING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND WILL RESULT IN EXPULSION FROM THE GAME AND POSSIBLE SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION FROM THE LEAGUE.**
- 6. AS PER THE GOLDHAWK PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT (ATTACHED) UNSPORTSMANLIKE ACTIONS OR DISPARAGING REMARKS TO UMPIRES, OPPOSING PLAYERS OR SPECTATORS ARE NOT PERMITTED.**
 - Offenders may be expelled from the game at the umpire's discretion and face possible suspension or expulsion from the league.
- 7. ONLY THE COACH MAY APPROACH THE UMPIRE TO DISCUSS RULE INTERPRETATION.**
 - No arguments on judgment calls.
 - The umpire's decisions are final.
 - No game protests are permitted.
- 8. BOTH TEAMS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INFORMING ASIF KHAN OF THE SCORE FROM GAMES**
 - Both the winning and losing teams are required to take a photo of their score sheet and send it to Asif Khan via text or email within one week of the game. Failure to receive the score within one week will result in the game being scored a loss for the winning team.
 - **(TEXT: 416-564-4820) (EMAIL: akhan1866@gmail.com)**
- 9. NO METAL CLEATS ARE PERMITTED.**
 - Running shoes or soft rubber soled shoes, and shoes with plastic cleats are acceptable. Violation of this rule will result in immediate ejection from the game
- 10. ONLY PLAYERS PRESENT CAN BE IN THE BATTING ORDER.**
 - Late arrivals must be placed at the bottom of the order.
 - In the instance where a team only has 7 players present, but 8th on the way. The 8th player may be added to the bottom of the order and will be **considered an auto out until they arrive**. In the Playoffs, players will not be allowed to be added after a team has gone through the line-up once.
- 11. EACH TEAM IS ALLOWED A MAXIMUM OF 10 PLAYERS ON THE FIELD (MINIMUM 8).**
 - Unlimited defensive substitutions are allowed.
- 12. (A) EACH TEAM MUST FIELD A MINIMUM OF 2 FEMALE PLAYERS AT GAME TIME OR THE GAME IS DEFAULTED.**

(B) IF ONE OR BOTH TEAMS HAVE MORE THAN 3 FEMALE PLAYERS PRESENT, THEN A MINIMUM OF 3 FEMALE PLAYERS MUST BE ON THE FIELD DEFENSIVELY.

(C) AT ANYTIME, ONLY A MAXIMUM OF 7 MALE PLAYERS CAN BE ON THE FIELD DEFENSIVELY (EXCEPT UNDER 12(E) CONDITIONS).

(D) AT GAME TIME, ANY TEAM UNABLE TO FIELD 3 FEMALE PLAYERS WHEN THE OTHER TEAM HAS 3 OR MORE FEMALE PLAYERS, CAN ONLY FIELD 7 MALES AND 2 FEMALES—BUT AN AUTOMATIC OUT WILL BE LEVIED.

 - Subsequently, if a female player arrives late, she must be inserted at the bottom of the lineup and becomes the 10th player on the field.

(E) IF BOTH TEAMS HAVE ONLY 2 FEMALE PLAYERS IN THE GAME THEY ARE ALLOWED TO PROCEED WITH 8 MALE PLAYERS AND 2 FEMALE PLAYERS DEFENSIVELY.

 - Subsequently, if a female player arrives late, she must be inserted into the current game defensively at the beginning of a new inning, therefore allowing the current inning to be completed.

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- At this point the game will proceed under rule 12(d) with 7 males on the field defensively for both teams.
- (F) TEAMS MAY RECRUIT MALES PLAYERS IN ORDER TO FIELD UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 7 MALE PLAYERS DURING THE REGULAR SEASON ONLY.**
- (G) BATTING ORDERS MAY NOT HAVE MORE THAN 3 MALE PLAYERS IN ROW.**
- 13. (A) NO IN-FIELD WARM-UPS AFTER 6:20 PM**
- (B) TEAM MUST EXCHANGE LINEUPS BY 6:25 P.M. WITH THE PLAYERS THAT ARE PRESENT.**
- Game time is 6:30 p.m. sharp.
 - Failure to field the required minimum number of players by 6:40 p.m. will result in a forfeited game.
- (C) ALL TEAMS MUST SUBMIT AN OFFICIAL SCORECARD TO THE UMPIRE BEFORE THE START OF A GAME.**
- If no Umpire is present at the game, the winning team is responsible for delivering the completed scorecard to the Umpire. **NO NICKNAMES TO BE USED ON OFFICIAL SCORECARDS.**
- 14. (A) BASE DISTANCES SHALL BE 65 FEET APART.**
- (B) THE PITCHING DISTANCE SHALL BE NO LESS THAN 50 FEET FROM HOME PLATE.**
- 15. (A) ALL DEFENSIVE PLAYERS, EXCEPT THE PITCHER AND CATCHER, MUST BE BEHIND THE 1ST/2ND AND 2ND/3RD BASE PATHS, UNTIL THE BALL IS HIT AND/OR BUNTED.**
- No outfielders can come off the grass until ball has passed the base line
- (B) WHEN A PLAYER IS BATTING, OUTFIELDERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO STAND LESS THAN 150' FROM HOME PLATE UNTIL THE BALL HAS BEEN HIT. THIS RULE DOES NOT APPLY TO THE ROVER POSITION.**
- Pylons will be placed at the 150' mark along the 1st and 3rd base lines.
- (C) WHICHEVER PLAYER STARTS THE INNING AT ROVER CANNOT SWITCH FROM THAT POSITION DURING THE INNING**
- (D) IF THE DEFENSIVE PLAYER CROSSES THE LINES OUTLINED IN (A) OR (B), THE BALL WILL BE DEEMED DEAD AND THE BATTER IS AWARDED 2ND BASE. ALL OTHER PLAYERS ON BASE WILL BE ADVANCED BY FORCE.**
- (E) ALL PITCHERS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR AND NSA-APPROVED MASK**
- 16. (A) BUNTING IS ALLOWED BY WOMEN ONLY.**
- (B) A 3RD STRIKE FOUL BUNT WILL BE CALLED AN OUT, WHEREAS A SWINGING 3RD STRIKE FOUL BALL WILL NOT BE CALLED AN OUT (THIS RULE APPLIES TO FEMALE PLAYERS ONLY).**
- 17. (A) IF THERE IS A PLAY AT 1ST BASE, THE BATTER/BASE RUNNER MUST TOUCH THE ORANGE BAG WHEN OVERRUNNING 1ST BASE TO AVOID BEING "IN PLAY" AND THEREFORE LIABLE TO BEING TAGGED OUT WHILE OFF 1ST BASE AND THE DEFENSIVE PLAYER MAKING THE FORCE PLAY AT 1ST BASE MUST TOUCH THE WHITE BAG.**
- (B) AFTER TOUCHING THE ORANGE BAG WITH NO OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO GO TO SECOND BASE, THE BASE RUNNER MAY RETURN SAFELY TO FIRST BASE.**
- (C) IF THE BASE RUNNER TOUCHES THE WHITE BAG AN ATTEMPT MUST BE MADE TO GO TO SECOND BASE, THE BASE RUNNER WILL BE DEEMED TO BE IN PLAY AND MAY BE TAGGED OUT WHILE OFF THE BAG. FAILURE TO MAKE THE ATTEMPT TO SECOND MAY RESULT IN THE RUNNER BEING CALLED OUT.**
- 18. STEALING BASES NOT ALLOWED. VIOLATION OF THIS RULE WILL RESULT IN THE RUNNER BEING CALLED OUT. A PLAYER WILL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE A STEP OR TWO OFF THE BAG AND RETURN SAFELY UPON A SWING BY THE BATTER (ANTICIPATION). UMPIRE HAS FINAL SAY IN THE SAFE/OUT RULING IN THIS CASE.**

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19. (A) THE LEAGUE WILL ALLOW SLIDING INTO 2ND AND 3RD BASES ONLY. SLIDING INTO 1ST OR HOME ON INITIAL APPROACH IS NOT ALLOWED AND THE RUNNER WILL BE CALLED OUT. Players are allowed to slide back into 1st base after making the turn.

- The intention of this rule is to eliminate all possible contact with the defensive base player by allowing the runner the option to slide in a tight play and avoid physical contact.

(B) IF THE DEFENSIVE PLAYER IS INTENTIONALLY OBSTRUCTED FROM MAKING A PLAY BECAUSE OF AN ONCOMING SLIDING BASE RUNNER WHO IS CLEARLY IN THE DEFENSIVE PLAYERS PATH, THE UMPIRE WILL IMMEDIATELY CALL THAT PLAYER OUT AND THE PLAYER WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR WITH FUTURE ELIGIBILITY IN THE LEAGUE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE EXECUTIVE AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

20. A BASE RUNNER PASSING THE COMMITMENT LINE (20 FEET FROM HOME PLATE) CANNOT RETURN SAFELY TO THIRD BASE ONCE OVER THE COMMITMENT LINE, THE PLAYER CAN ONLY PROCEED TO HOME PLATE. THE COMMIT LINE IS BASED ON THE POLE CLOSEST TO HOME PLATE.

- Failure of the runner to go home after passing the commitment line will result in an automatic out.
- The play at home is a "force play and no tag is necessary.
- The base runner must not touch home plate (by penalty of an automatic out) but must pass by home plate in foul territory to avoid the possibility of a collision.
- In the case of a fly ball to the outfield the runner from 3rd will be allowed to pass the commit line and still return to the bag to "tag-up" before going home

21. A PLAYER MAY "BACK-UP" THE CATCHER; HOWEVER, THE INITIAL PLAY MUST BE MADE TO THE CATCHER.

- If the catcher misses the throw unintentionally, the other player may make the play.
- The intent is to allow the catcher to make the play at home plate.
- If the play is made by another player (other than stated above) the runner will be ruled safe

22. (A) THE COURTESY RUNNER RULE FOR THIS LEAGUE IS AS FOLLOWS:

- Each team is allowed 5 runners per game. Can be used for any player (including more than once)
- Substitute runners for either gender, should be the last batter out, or the farthest in the line-up away.
- The intent of this rule is to allow a break to a player who may have been shaken up during a play or while running bases after batting, it is not to remove a slower runner in favour of a quicker one.
- Players **aged 65** or older during the calendar year of the season may have unlimited use of courtesy runners and are exempt from the **"maximum 5 courtesy per game"** and "1 courtesy per player" rules listed above. This rule will apply for both the regular season and playoff games.
- *(Remember, the league is concerned about every player's health and well-being. We want to avoid injuries as much as possible. In light of this, the onus will be on the coaches to monitor their players and if someone is hurt or injured before or during game time, they should scratch those players who could possibly do more harm to themselves by continuing to play.)*
- An injured player can continue to bat and have a courtesy runner of the same gender for up to a maximum of 2 consecutive weeks in a season.
- **There will be NO RUNNERS FROM THE FENCE. All runners are required to get to 1st base before requesting a courtesy runner. No runners are allowed to start their run from touching or behind the fence.**

(B) THE WALK RULE FOR OUR LEAGUE IS AS FOLLOWS:

- If the batter (male or female) is walked (intentionally or not), with a male batter up next, the walked batter will be awarded 1st base.
- If a male batter is walked, intentionally or not, with a female batter up next, the walked male batter is awarded 2nd base and the female batter must bat.

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- The intent of this rule is twofold:
 - i) To penalize the defensive team to the extent that a possible force out of double play is avoided by allowing 1st base to remain open
 - ii) To allow the female batter to remain involved in the game.

23. TIED GAMES ARE ALLOWED (THERE ARE NO EXTRA INNINGS) IN REGULAR SEASON ONLY & ROUND ROBIN PORTION OF PLAYOFFS.

24. (A) WHETHER DURING LEAGUE, PLAYOFF OR TOURNAMENT PLAY, THE BOTTOM OF THE 7TH INNING OR LAST INNING WILL NOT BE PLAYED IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE MAXIMUM RUN DIFFERENTIAL OF 5.

- That is, a team who has already lost the game by less than 5 runs is not required to return to play for the bottom of the 7th inning.

(B) A MAXIMUM OF 5 RUNS PER INNING MAY BE SCORED BY EACH TEAM EXCEPT FOR THE SEVENTH (7TH) INNING WHICH HAS NO MAXIMUM.

(C) There will be a 10-run mercy after 5 innings that will automatically end a game. The team losing by 10 runs may choose to continue the game in regular season only. In this event, the final score will stand as determined by the full game played. In the Playoffs the game is over after 5 innings without exception.

25. IF THE GAME IS CALLED THE LAST COMPLETE INNING WILL DETERMINE THE SCORE.

- Five (5) complete innings must be played for the called game to be considered a regulation game.
- If the home team is batting and is ahead, or the game is tied at the time the called, that inning is considered complete.
- No new innings will be started after 8pm up to August 12th. No new innings will be started after 7:50pm after August 12th.

26. IF A TEAM HAS A SHORTAGE OF FEMALE PLAYERS (LESS THAN 3), THEY CAN CALL ANOTHER TEAM AND ASK A FEMALE PLAYER TO FILL IN FOR THEM (PLAYERS MUST BE REGISTERED AS GOLDHAWK PLAYERS).

- During regular season games only, female call-up players may bat anywhere in the batting order.

27. REGULAR SEASON GAMES WILL BE UMPIRED BY CARDED NSA UMPIRES. IF FOR SOME REASON THE UMPIRE DOESN'T SHOW, THE TEAMS ON THE FIELD ARE RESPONSIBLE TO SELF UMPIRE THEIR GAME

28. IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY IN THE PLAYOFFS, PLAYERS MUST HAVE PLAYED A MINIMUM OF 8 GAMES DURING THE REGULAR SEASON.

- Any exceptions to this rule must be agreed to by the majority of the League's captains.
- Games that are rained out or cancelled for any reason are counted as games played for all players on the roster.

29. ALL PLAYERS IN THE BATTING ORDER (MALE AND FEMALE) MUST SIT OUT AT LEAST ONCE, BEFORE ANY PLAYER SITS OUT TWICE. THIS RULE WILL BE A PLAYOFF RULE ONLY WITH THE FOLLOWING PENALTY:

- The inning will be forfeited immediately and will be scored as "5 – 0" with the team in violation scoring "0".
- This rule is applied separately to the male and female rotation.
- Female players will have the option of being pitched to with an 11" ball at the request of the player. The count remains the same regardless of when the ball is changed in the at bat. The female batter is responsible for notifying the umpire/pitcher of which ball they want.

30. FOR ALL GAMES AFTER AUGUST 12TH, BATTERS WILL BEGIN WITH A 1-1 COUNT TO SPEED UP GAME PLAY

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31. A HOME RUN WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE CALLED FOR ANY BALLS HIT INTO THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF THE PLAYING FIELDS:

- DIAMOND #1: Any air born ball that hits the trees or balls hit to the parking lot, or umpire loses sights of ball
- DIAMOND #2: Bushes/trees in fair territory and the asphalt path in center.
- When a home run is hit, the batter and **all existing runners and immediately sit and don't need to continue to round the bases.**

32. No player starting in the outfield (1 foot on the grass) may make the force play to 1st base. Violation of the rule will result in the runner being awarded 2nd base.

33. MINIMUM PLAYER AGE REQUIREMENT

- All players must be a minimum age of 18 at the end of the calendar year.
- Each team may have a maximum of 5 male players, 21 years of age and under.
- Sons and daughters of existing players will be "grandfathered in" and will not be included in the maximum of 5. This does not apply to female players.
- The age of the players will be determined by the calendar year (player age will be determined by the age of the player at the end of the calendar year)

34. LEAGUE STANDINGS

- Final standings for the season to determine playoff positions is determined in the following order
 - Points
 - Head to Head
 - Runs Against

35. OFFICIAL EQUIPMENT

- All bats must have the 120 thumbprint sticker on them to be legal. if using a wooden bat must have the words official softball engraved on the bat.
- Only catchers, pitchers and 1st base players are allowed to use a "trapper" style baseball glove.

36.

OTHER RULES

- For any rules not conversed by Goldhawk Softball Association rules, the league will default to the NSA rule book in all cases.

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GOLDHAWK CODE OF CONDUCT

The Standards of Conduct shall serve as a guideline for how individuals are expected to behave when participating in Goldhawk sponsored or endorsed activities. When players participate in an event sponsored or endorsed by Goldhawk, the player indicates, by their registration in the event, they agree to represent Goldhawk in a way that does not detract from the reputation of Goldhawk and to act morally and display sportsmanship-like behaviour, before, during and after any event. Guidelines of conduct include BUT **ARE NOT LIMITED TO** the examples outlined below.

PLAYERS SHALL NOT:

- Use drugs, except for medical purposes while competing, socializing and/or using Goldhawk facilities.
- Consume alcohol while competing or spectating.
- Strike, attempt to strike or otherwise physically abuse an official, opposing player, spectator or coach.
- Smoking of any kind (including vaping) is not permitted in the dugout, bench or on the field.
- Intentionally engage in or incite participants and/or spectators to engage in abusive or violent action.
- Use obscene gestures, profanity or disrespectful language.

VIOLATION of the Standards of Conduct may result in:

- Suspension from the game
- Suspension from the Goldhawk League
- Forfeiture of Goldhawk individual or team awards
- Ejection from the game.

PROCEDURE for Implementing the Code of Conduct:

- Only the umpire may approach the captain and only captain may approach the umpire when the Code of Conduct has been abused
- The Umpire will advise the Captain of the offending player's behaviour and place a warning to the ENTIRE team.

PENALTY for violation of Code of Conduct:

- First Offense: 1-game suspension, \$50 fine to the individual players' team.
- Second Offense (in one season): 3-game suspension, \$100 fine to the individual players' team.
- Third Offense (in one season): Lifetime ban from the league, \$200 fine to the offending players' team.
- Multiple Players Involved: League officials may deduct points from the offending team/teams in addition to individual penalties.