



# Thanksgiving Gobbler Softball Tournament



## 2023 Rules of Play

1. The **Softball Canada rules** and the **Host Association Rules** of Play govern this tournament.
2. No protests are allowed: the **umpires' decision is final**.
3. No rulebooks or rule papers allowed on the field during the game.
4. **Players**
  - All players must be registered and Photo ID or Birth Certificates or Health Cards must be available upon request.
  - The penalty for ineligible players is expulsion of the player/ team from the tournament.
  - Unlimited defensive substitution of all the players is permitted.
  - Player may enter and exit the game defensively at any time and in any position.
  - Teams must start each game with 9 players and cannot play with fewer than 8
  - If a player arrives late, they may be added to the bottom of the line up provided you have not gone through the complete batting order.
  - In the event of an injury or illness resulting in a player being removed from the game, there shall be no "out" when the player is due to bat and they are skipped over. If the player later recovers to the point they can play, they can re-enter the game and bat in their original spot in the order.
  - In the event a player is ejected from a game, an "out" shall be recorded each and every time the player's spot in the batting rotation comes up.
  - **A Courtesy runner will only be granted to the base runner as a result of an injury at the time of the play. The Courtesy runner will be the player that is deemed to be furthest away in the lineup.**
  - A coach may use a Courtesy runner for the catcher to allow the catcher to suit up for the next inning upon 2 outs being recorded.
5. **Ejections:**

Any coach and or player ejected from a game as a result of their conduct must leave the ball park within five minutes. Failure to leave within 5 minutes will result in the disqualification of the entire team.

The ejected coach or player will automatically be required to sit out of their next scheduled game.

If a coach or player is ejected from a game they may seek the Tournament Convenors approval in order to coach or play in the next scheduled game. The convener has the right to apply a one game suspension or a tournament suspension depending on the reason why the coach or player were ejected in the first place.

Fans may be allowed to be ejected by an umpire. Harassment and / or misconduct by fans will result in a warning followed by the ejection of the Head Coach, if the warning is not heeded. If a coach is ejected they may seek the Tournament Convenors approval in order to coach the next scheduled game

## 6. Game

Please note Pitching Distances and running Distances

Division	Girls	Girls
	Pitching	Bases
U13 Squirt	38'	55'
U15 Novice	43'	60'

- The plate umpire will keep the official time and will call out the official start time with the first pitch.
- **Round Robin Game duration: No new inning after 60 Minutes or 7 innings, whichever comes first**
- A game suspended by the umpire because of rain or darkness will be considered a regulation game if 3 innings (or 2 ½ if the Home Team is ahead) have been completed in round robin play. For championship or consolation games a regulation game will be 4 complete innings (or 3 ½ if the Home Team is ahead).
- **All championship games will be No new inning after 90 Minutes or 7 innings whichever comes first .**
- An infield ball is permitted only while the pitcher is warming up.
- Home teams are to be decided by a flip of a coin with the umpire presiding. The team that is the farthest away will make the call.
- The official score will be that of the home team and the score sheet turned into the tournament convenor at the end of each game.
- Each team is responsible for supplying a score keeper for each game.
- Blood Rule: All cuts must be covered and a change of clothes made if necessary.
- **The mercy rule is in effect for all games ( 15 runs after 4 complete innings, 10 runs after 5 complete innings).**
- U13 and U15 pool games are maximum 5 runs per inning with 6th and 7th innings open. No inning limits in playoffs and championships..
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## **6. Pitching Rule**

Pitchers in all age categories may start with one foot on the pitching plate, Pitchers of all age categories may leap in the air, land and then release the ball provided they do not establish a second push point also known as a "crow hop".

The ball maybe in the pitchers hand or glove while the sign is taken. With the pivot foot in contact with the pitching plate, the pitcher is required to pause between 2 - 5 seconds before the pitch. A pitcher cannot step backwards after the pause.

- All Pitchers and infielders must wear a pitcher's Protective mask or helmet with protective mask
- A pitcher or coach will not be allowed to ask for an Intentional walk. All batters must receive the required number of pitches to receive a walk
- No limit to the number of innings pitched or batters pitched to by a pitcher in any division..
- Pitchers will not be removed for hitting batters

## **7. Stealing**

- Stealing is allowed, after the ball leaves the hand of the pitcher. Runners are allowed to steal
- Home on a passed ball or wild pitch.

## **8. Lead Off Rule**

- **Runners may leave the base when the ball leaves the pitcher's hand**

## **9. Dropped third strike**

## **10. Infield Fly Rule**

- **Rule is in effect**

**11. Charged Conferences**

- **A Team is permitted 2 defensive conferences per inning. Upon the second defensive conference the pitcher must be removed from the pitching position for the balance of that inning.**

**12. Equipment / Batting Helmets / Ball / Home Plate**

- **All batters will wear a batting helmet with straps done up while at bat and on base.**
- **All teams must adhere to their Insurance Carriers policy regarding Batting Helmets with Cages.**

**13. All bats must meet Softball Canada requirements.**

- **U15, 12" Ball - Softball Canada Standard (Cor .47)**
- **U13, 11" Ball - Softball Canada Standard (Cor .47)**
- **The regular 17 inch Home Plate will be used.**

**14. Bunting**

- **Bunting is allowed in all Divisions.**

**15. Base Runner Advancement**

- **After a fairly hit ball, the advancing of runners is not considered over when the ball returns to the infield.**

**16. Overthrows - Out of Play**

- **All runners, including the batter-runner, will be award 2 bases based on the position of the runners when the ball is thrown.**

**17. Scores / Standings**

- **Scores / Standings will be kept for each game for all divisions.**
- **2 points per win. 1 point for a tie**
- **Plus / Minus run differential to a maximum of 7 runs.**
- **If the Home team is leading or goes ahead in the bottom of the 7th the inning or the last inning the game is over.**
- **Tournament standings will be determined by points. Ties will be broken based on head to head ( in a full round robin), then run differential and then if necessary, Flip a Coin.**

**18. Cheering**

- **Positive cheering only. The conduct of the team, its spectators and the coaches are the responsibility of the team coaches. In the event of harassment or derogatory remarks originating from the players, coaches or fans, the umpires will issue warnings. If these warnings are not heeded, it will lead to the ejection of the individual(s) involved, and the umpire may call the game awarding the non-offending team with a default win.**

**19. The tournament committee reserves the right to amend the tournament format should unforeseen circumstances prevail**

**20. No protests. All decisions rendered on the diamond are final**