

Orléans Softball Operating Rules

Player Eligibility:

1. Only players who are assigned to an Orléans Softball House League (HL) team, who are not playing competitive ball on a regular basis (i.e., not carded players) may play regular season or playoff games. Each player shall have on file with the Orléans Softball a registration form signed by her/his parent/guardian, or in the case of a non-minor, herself/himself.
2. For purposes of player placement or draft, the Registrar will provide to the Age Directors complete lists of players by division. The Director will then provide each Division Convenor with their respective lists. The Division Convenor, with the appropriate HL Director shall conduct a draft or shall provide team rosters to all coaches in the division. Rosters must be kept current through communication from the Coach to the Convenor, to the Registrar and HL Director.
3. A player may be drafted/assigned to only one HL or Select team. With Executive approval, a player may play for a team one division immediately up or down from her/his division.
4. If a player permanently leaves a team (illness, moves, quits, etc), the Coach is to notify the Division Convenor who will contact the Registrar for the purpose of supplying the Coach with the next registrant on the waiting list for that division. The request may be made at any time during the regular season. (NOTE: for some divisions, the waiting list may be quite long, and these children would just love to play even if it is for only a few games. The list is in order of the date the application was received by Orléans Softball).

Playing the Game:

5. All play shall be in accordance with Softball Canada Rules except as issued in these Operating Rules and in the Division Playing Rules.
6. **Long pants are mandatory at all playing levels of Orléans Softball** (capris are not considered long pants). The Umpire shall not allow a player wearing pants that do not provide suitable leg protection to participate in a game. Jewellery is not permitted unless it is a medical alert bracelet. Running shoes or non-metal cleats are to be worn.
7. Players registered with Orléans Softball must supply their own CSA approved batting helmets and face guards (cage). All pitchers must have face guards. Chin straps shall be attached to the helmet, adjusted properly, and always fastened with the strap under the chin when a player is on deck, at bat, or running the bases. The umpire shall not allow play to start or continue until head protection is properly secured.
8. It is the responsibility of the home team coach to lay out the bases and the pitching rubber and have the diamond ready for play by game time pursuant to the *Orléans Softball Rules & Dimensions Table Summary*. They are also responsible to ensure that all field equipment is put away and locked up in the green box after the game.
9. The home team shall provide game balls; one new ball and a second ball in good condition.
10. For the regular season, the home team shall be determined from the schedule supplied by Orléans Softball.
11. To begin play in a regular season or play-off game, a team must have at least 6 players present for U14 and under and 6 players for teams above U14. At least 5 of the players listed on the game sheet and present for the start of the game must be from the regular team. Failure to meet these conditions within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time of the game, or during the game, shall result in forfeiture of the game and the score will be recorded as 1-0. Notwithstanding the 15-minute grace period, a game shall commence as soon as a team has reached the minimum number. A team may play with minimum of 6 players with no penalty.
12. All players present for the game shall be registered on the game sheet and shall come to bat in

that order regardless of whether they played defensive positions that inning. No changes in the batting order are permitted once the game commences. Names of players arriving late shall be added to the bottom of the lineup. Players who leave the game because of injury, ejection, or early departure shall be simply skipped over unless the provisions of Rule 11 or Rule 16 apply.

13. The home team will keep the official game score and will provide the Umpires with the GAME SHEET containing the game statistics. The Umpires will sign the sheet and deliver it to Orleans Softball (see GAME SHEET for details).
14. Defensive Positions: Assignment of players shall be at the discretion of the coach, and there shall be unlimited substitutions. The coach shall follow the "Fair Play" rule and give equal instruction; equal support and fair (may not be equal) playing opportunity to encourage skills and confidence in the various positions. For the U5 teams, defensive players will rotate after every 2 batters except for the catcher who will catch for the entire inning.
15. "Fair Play": During every game, the number of defensive half innings played by the most played player and the least played player shall vary by no more than one defensive half inning.
16. Injured Player Substitution: A team can only substitute a base runner in the case of an injury to the base runner. The substitute base runner must be the last scheduled batter, not necessarily the last out.

NOTE: An injured player who is batting must become safe on base to be eligible for a substitute runner. If an injured player cannot take his/her turn at bat, he/she can only be skipped over once (notify the umpire and the other team). If the injured player cannot bat the next time, he/she must either be removed from the game both offensively and defensively; or can remain in the game and will be considered an automatic out. The decision does not put the team in jeopardy of the "Fair Play" Rule.
17. Catcher Substitution: If during any inning when there are 2 outs, and the next innings' catcher is on base, the last scheduled batter is to replace the catcher on base. Such a change provides the catcher time to get ready to play in the next inning. Ask for "Time" to be called to do this substitution.
18. For U14 and above divisions, a call-up pitcher shall not replace a designated team pitcher who is present and able to pitch for a game, nor will a call-up pitcher pitch more outs in that game than a designated pitcher that is present.
19. Year-End Wrap Up or Playoff Tournament: See wrap-up rules.
20. Year-End Player Evaluation Sheets: The coaches for each team will complete an evaluation for each player and submit to the House League Director at the beginning of the Year-end wrap up.

Rule Changes:

21. Any rule changes must be reviewed and approved by a committee consisting of the appropriate HL Director, as applicable, the Division Convenor, and the Umpire-in-Chief.