

RNWSA SOFTBALL INFORMATION AND RULES:

Philosophy:

1. The area of the Association encompasses northwest Regina.
2. The Association provides no-cut, equal participation T-Ball/Softball. The basic objective of RNWSA is to provide an opportunity for children to participate in and enjoy a team sport.
3. The Association provides T-Ball and Softball programs in the following divisions:

Division	Age (during current playing year)
T-Ball	5 and 6
A-Ball	7 and 8
Mites	9 and 10
Squirts	11 and 12
Peewee	13 and 14
Bantam	15 and 16
Midget	17 and 18

4. T-Ball/Softball is provided to teach the players the basic rules and it is hoped that coaches will not create an excessively competitive atmosphere in these, their fun years.
5. Coaches, assistant coaches and parents shall not criticize umpires and game officials at any time and shall encourage the same attitude amongst all fans and players.
6. As the objective is to teach the children the basics of the game of softball, coaches are urged to rotate their players so that each has the chance to play all infield and outfield positions.

RULES:

7. All rules and general concepts of the game other than those specifically mentioned herein shall comply with the Official Rules of Softball as adopted by Softball Canada.
8. All catchers must wear a mask, chest protector and shin guards. All of these items are provided by the league. Helmets are also provided by the league and must be worn by both batters and base runners.

9. *A game shall consist of 5 innings.* No new inning is to commence within 10 (ten) minutes of the scheduled starting time of the next game or after 8:50 pm. Three innings will constitute a full game in the event of a late start or game called because of rain, etc. If a game is complete and time is still available, the extra time may be utilized in exhibition play.
10. All players must use only those bat provided by the league; any personal bats brought by players will be made available to all players of both teams for use.
11. Under no circumstances shall players be allowed to wear screw-in cleats or metal spikes.
12. In T-Ball and A-Ball, all players present at the game may play in the field, even if one team has more players than the other. In T-Ball, each team will be limited to seven (7) in fielders, (regular positions plus an additional shortstop between 1st and 2nd).
13. In A-Ball coaches, assistant coaches or parents from the batter's team will do all the itching. A player may play in infield adjacent to the adult pitcher to act as the pitcher.
14. In all other divisions nine defensive players can be used with unlimited substitution. In all divisions only six infielders (including the pitcher) will be allowed. The infielders shall play at the regular playing positions.
15. All players of the team shall be listed in the batting order prior to the start of the game, and all players shall bat in that sequence. This means that all players bat in rotation, whether or not they play in the field. When the offensive team comes to bat, they will begin batting at the place in the batting order where the last out occurred in the previous inning. A later player shall be added to the bottom of the batting order. **ALL CHILDREN SHOULD PLAY AT SOME TIME. EACH PLAYER MUST PLAY AT LEAST TWO (2) INNINGS PER GAME.**
16. In T-Ball, a ball is considered fair when the ball is hit off the tee and lands in fair territory. The ball must be hit far enough to land beyond the arc, which is marked on the infield between the baselines. The arc is marked at a distance of nine (9) feet from the front of home plate. A hit is considered valid if the ball travels the required 9-foot distance, even though the batter may have struck the tee simultaneously with the ball. When the batting tee alone is hit, the umpire will call a strike even though the ball may have ended outside the 9-foot arc. A batted ball which does not travel the required 9-foot distance shall be considered a foul ball, with the batter being out if the ball is caught before the ball touches the ground. If the ball is not caught, it shall be considered a dead ball and base runners may advance.
17. A strike-out occurs when a third strike is called, or when a batter swings and misses on a third strike or when a third strike has been tipped by the batter and the ball is caught by the catcher before it hits the ground. The batter is also out

and may not become a base runner on a called third strike, which is not caught by the catcher for all divisions, *except Bantam and Peewee*. In T-Ball a strike-out occurs when the batter misses the ball or hits only the tee on the 3rd strike.

18. An offensive team shall be considered OUT when the defensive team has made three outs.
19. A pitcher may not pitch more than 2 innings in the Mites Division and not more than 3 innings in Squirts, Peewee and Bantam-Midget Divisions.
20. When a pitcher has been substituted in a game, he may not return to pitch in that game. He may, however, be used in unlimited substitution at any of the other positions.
21. *Lead Off Rule* – A base runner cannot leave his base until a pitched ball leaves his pitcher's hand. Any base runner who leads off before the ball leaves the pitcher's hand will be called "OUT" by the umpire.
22. *Overthrow* – All overthrows which result in the ball outside the playing area will entitle the base runner to advance a maximum of one base, in addition to the base to which the runner was advancing at the time the overthrow is made, and the play then becomes dead until the umpire calls the resumption of play. Any overthrown ball which remains inside the playing area, including foul territory, is alive and base runners may advance any number of bases under liability of being put out in their attempted advance.
23. A batter will be called out for throwing a bat. This rule is at the discretion of the umpire in what he feels is a throwing motion.
24. In T-Ball and A-Ball only, base runners can advance ONLY ON A HIT. For other divisions the runner may advance at the risk of being put out.
25. T-Ball – In order to avoid injury, the catcher shall stand to the right and 4 feet behind the umpire when the ball is being batted. After a ball is hit the catcher may take position at home plate.
26. T-Ball – The TEE-BASE shall be located directly behind home plate. Players should be told they must touch home plate in order to score a run, and not the Tee-Base.
27. T-Ball – Pitchers and fielders must not be any closer than the pitcher's mound (26') to the batter when the ball is hit. A violation of this rule on a fair hit entitles the batter to advance to 1st base if he or she was put out on the hit, which entitles all other base runners to advance one base, regardless of which base they occupy.
28. A minimum of seven (7) registered players is required for playing an official game. Any team not having 7 players will forfeit the game, but will be allowed to practice,

or play for recreation (if the team borrows players from the other team). *Under no circumstances will unregistered players be allowed to play or practice with any RNWSA team.* The assigned umpire will stay at the teams request.

29. If a regulation team has taken the field within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled start time, the opposing team will be awarded a win by default.
30. The *Playing Area* shall consist of a direct line extending from each side of the backstop, or everything inside a fenced area.
31. Diamond Dimensions:

	BETWEEN BASES	BETWEEN HOME & 2 ND	PITCHING DISTANCE	BALL SIZE
T-BALL	40'	56'	26'	11"
A-BALL	45'	64'	26'	11"
MITES	45'	64'	28'	11"
SQUIRTS - BOYS	50'	71'	33'	11"
SQUIRTS – GIRLS	50'	71'	31'	11"
PEEWEE - BOYS	55'	78'	38'	11"
PEEWEE – GIRLS	55'	78'	35'	11"
BANTAM/MIDGET	60'	86'	40'	12"

32. *Pitching Delivery* – Shall be as stated in the official Softball Canada Rules. In other words windmill pitching is allowed.
33. *Score Sheets* are to be signed by each coach and turned into the umpire by each coach upon completion of each game.
34. *Persistent problems* involving a player, coach or umpire should be referred to the League Executive by reporting the matter to the Division Commissioner.
35. If a coach knows in advance he will be unable to field a team or he will not be showing up because of threatening rain, he is asked to notify the other coach as well as the Commissioner. An umpire will be assigned to a diamond unless he is notified of the cancellation.
36. Coaches are requested to keep their players and spectators well back of the baselines, behind the backstop areas, and well back from the batter to avoid injuries. LET'S HAVE "NO" INJURIES THIS YEAR.
37. *Until the May long weekend*, there will only be one game per evening during the week starting at 6:00pm. There are no Saturday games and diamonds may be used for playing rain-postponed games. *Beginning the Tuesday, following the*

May long weekend there will be two games per evening beginning 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm respectively for all divisions.

38. Practice diamonds are available and may be obtained by contacting the Division Commissioner. Rescheduling rained out games or changing times or dates for Games shall be the responsibility of the coaches involved.

PLEASE NOTE: The Division Commissioner must be informed of all such changes, thus insuring that equipment and umpires will be available for the game.

39. Tournament Games will be played on the last weekend of June before school is dismissed for summer vacation (weather permitting) or during the following week. Awards will be presented to all teams. Schedules for play-offs will be handed out to coaches by the Division Commissioners.
40. First team on ball schedule is home team.