



**Proper attire/equipment**

1. Topham Park baseball hat must be worn. Hat must be worn facing forward.
2. Team shirt (numbers should be showing, however allowances will be made for cold weather or rain in this division).
3. Long pants are required (no Shorts or Capri pants). A CHILD WEARING SHORTS OR CAPRIS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PLAYING.
4. Running shoes or plastic cleats (no sandals)
5. All batters and base runners must wear helmets with a facemask.
6. All players in the pitcher position must wear helmets with a facemask.
7. All catchers must wear helmets with a facemask, a chest protector and shin pads. (only equipment provided by the league may be used)
8. Only bats and balls provided by the league may be used.

**PLAYER OWNED HELMETS**

9. All players **must** use their own helmets, which must be approved by the league.
10. Helmets may only be used by the player the helmet was purchased for and may not be shared with other players.
11. The approval requirements for player-owned helmets include:
  - a. The helmet must be CSA approved for softball
  - b. Must be clear of all decals, paint or markings
12. The player/parent/guardian is responsible for the maintenance and inspection of the helmet
13. Approval of a helmet may be denied under the following circumstances:
  - a. If the player/parent/guardian/coach/convenor/umpire detects damage, or it is identified that the helmet is damaged or cracked in any way.
  - b. If the face guard is not attached properly to the batting helmet nor cannot be attached in a way approved by the manufacturer.
  - c. If non-approved modifications, markings, stickers, paint or decals are added to the helmet.

**Field**

14. The bases will be placed 45 feet apart.
15. The pitching machine will be placed at 30 feet.

**Teams**

16. The Convenor and Coach may, at their discretion, replace a player if he/she has not shown up or refused to play three consecutive games.



### **Coaching**

17. Coaches should wear coaches' shirts provided by the league. They must wear proper shoes, no sandals, if they are on the field. Parents helping out must also wear proper shoes.
18. At-bat team coaches are allowed at first and third base.
19. 2 coaches for the team in the field may position themselves in the outfield.
20. Coaches may not touch or assist any player on the field while the ball is in play. Touching or assisting an offensive player will result in an automatic out for the runner. This rule will be enforced after the third game.
21. No smoking of any kind is allowed anywhere in the park. This includes, but is not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, electronic cigarettes, vaporizers and cannabis.
22. As Coaches, it is imperative that you set a good example. Swearing, arguments and insulting remarks are not allowed. Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated. A coach may be asked to turn in their uniform if this arises.
23. Fun cheers will promote a good team concept and enhance the sportsmanship of the game.
24. Involve the parents as much as possible.

### **Game Rules – Structure**

25. Game starting time – as per schedules handed out. 15 minute delay is allowed for players to show up to make a team of at least 8. A team must field at least 8 players or forfeit the game.
26. Each game will consist of 2 innings. We should be able to complete this in 1 hour and 15 minutes.
27. Rain out games will be considered a 0-0 tie.

### **Game Rules – Team in the field**

28. Each team will field one player in all normal baseball positions. Extra players will be utilized in the outfield. Outfielders must not come past the infield line. The infield line is not marked but is considered to be 10ft outside the base line.
29. All players are to play all positions except pitcher at the discretion of the Head coach in cooperation with the child and the parents. This is a safety rule.
30. Players are to be discouraged from chasing the runner and are to throw the ball to the appropriate base. No tagging of runners is allowed.
31. Only players at the correct positions can touch a base. Only the player on 1<sup>st</sup> can make an out at first. Only the player on 2<sup>nd</sup> and the shortstop can make a play at 2<sup>nd</sup>. The shortstop and player on 3<sup>rd</sup> can make a play at 3<sup>rd</sup> base and the catcher is the only player who can make a play at home plate. Players are encouraged to learn to play the various positions correctly.
32. A throw that goes out of bounds is considered a dead ball and runners will follow Rule 46. Out of bounds is when ball is past the screen. Intentional throws out of bounds will advance all base runners to the base they were going to, plus one additional base.
33. Any legally caught flyball, fair or foul, will result in the batter being called out. To eliminate base running confusion, the play will automatically stop and all base runners will return to the base they occupied at the time of the pitch. Infield fly rule does not apply.
34. Players are allowed to play 1<sup>st</sup> base or pitcher once per game but not both. Players must be rotated from the infield to the outfield every inning. The same players should not start in the infield each week. Player rotation sheets must be kept for every game.
35. Play will stop, once a player playing one of the base positions, has control of the ball and touches their base or the ball goes out of bounds. All other players must throw the ball to a base.



Topham Park Minor Softball League	<b>Rules For U8 Division (5-Pitch) 2025</b>	2025/04/07
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**Game Rules – Team at bat**

36. Each batter will receive 5 pitches from the pitching machine. If after 5 pitches the batter has not hit the ball, it will be considered a strikeout. The pitching machine must be operated by one of coaches (not a player). A youth coach operating the pitching machine must wear a helmet.
37. A batted ball striking the pitching machine or pitching machine operator will be considered a dead ball and the batter will be awarded first base.
38. A batted ball, after being touched by a fielder, or a thrown ball that hits the pitching machine is a live ball. Play will continue as if the ball had not hit the machine.
39. A ball that has been batted, thrown, or touched that lands and comes to rest within the pitching machine circle shall be declared a dead ball. If not already at first base, the batter will be awarded first base. All runners will be awarded a base based on their position when the dead ball was called.
40. The pitching machine operator may declare a NO PITCH if and only if the ball is obviously un-hittable. Note that the intent of this rule is to give 5 reasonable pitches. For example, in the event that the pitching machine pitches a ball that is not even close to reaching the plate, then this can be declared NO PITCH. Coaches are strongly encouraged NOT to abuse this rule. If a batter swings at an obviously un-hittable pitch, it shall still be declared a pitch.
41. Players will remain in their starting batting order for the entire game. Score sheets must reflect this. A player batting out of order cannot score a run. During each inning, all batters in the batting lineup will hit during their team's time at bat.
42. The 3<sup>rd</sup> batter of the previous inning will start the batting order of current inning. Both teams will bat an equal number of batters. If one team has 11 and the other 12 then the first batter on the smaller team will bat a 2<sup>nd</sup> time in the same inning.
43. The ball must be hit before any runner may leave their base. Any runner leading off is automatically out.
44. A foul ball is defined as: A hit ball that does not go beyond the ten foot radius from home plate. In addition, normal foul ball rules are also applied.
45. The at bat team's base coaches are the base umpires and will make the decisions on close plays.
46. A runner that has passed the commitment line is considered to be in a force play situation and is out if the defensive player, while in possession of the ball, steps on the base ahead of the runner. Any runner that has passed the commitment line when play is stopped and is not forced out, shall advance to the base they were running to. Any runner that has not passed the commitment line when the play has been stopped legally by the defensive team, shall return to the base they just left. Runners following may be forced back one base if they occupy the base the runner in front of them is returning to, even if they have reached it safely. The commitment line will be marked at the mid-point between bases and will be judged by the base runner's coaches if not marked.
47. Bat throwing is not allowed. One warning per team per game, after which the batter will be called out.
48. Safety bag rule enforced.
49. No base stealing allowed.

**Have a Fun and Enjoyable season.**

Elections take place near the end of the season. Please think about the different positions required to keep the league running smoothly. You are the future of the league. Without parent volunteers, the league will not be able to continue and your children will miss out. New ideas are always welcome.

Please check the Topham Park website [www.tophampark.com](http://www.tophampark.com) for league information, schedules, announcements, etc.