

St. Thomas Optimist Softball

ATOM DIVISION (U7/U9)

1. Emphasis is to be placed on learning the fundamentals of the sport, good sportsmanship, and having fun.
2. Unless otherwise specified, all rules are those recognized by Softball Ontario
3. Diamonds will be prepped by City Staff ahead of Games
4. Squirt level players will be assigned as Umpires for each game
5. Umpire cards are to be signed by the Home Team coach, even if the game is forfeited
6. Coaches are responsible for placing bases into sleeves before the game (first coach to arrive)
7. "Home" team coach is responsible for returning bases to equipment bins after each game
8. Scores are to be kept by each team in the score books provided
9. Scores are to be reported by the Home Team after each game
10. A maximum of 10 defensive players will be allowed on the field. Teams must have a minimum of 7 defensive players on the field
11. If a team has less than 7 players the game is forfeited and recorded as a 1-0 Loss
12. In case of forfeits, the players may be shared across teams and a fun scrimmage or practice can take place on the field - umpire is to stay and assist as needed
13. Players from the division below (Timbit) may be called up to a maximum of 10 players on the bench
14. Players who have been called up must wear their own team shirts and follow all Atom rules of play
15. No innings will begin after 75 minutes from the start of the game.
16. Maximum of 7 innings to be played per game
17. Umpire will call last inning at their discretion but is not required to do so
18. If games are rained out after at least 45 minutes of play, the score recorded will be the score as of the last complete inning. Games rained out before 45 minutes of play will be rescheduled.
19. Coaches or volunteers will pitch to their own batters until after the first tournament is complete
20. After the first tournament, players will pitch to their own team's batters
21. A player may pitch a maximum of two innings per game
22. Pitchers must wear a fielding mask and use an underhand pitching style - no windmill pitching
23. Pitchers must pitch from within the pitching circle and are encouraged to pitch from the rubber mound
24. Pitchers must start with both feet together and facing home plate, one step is allowed - jumping is not permitted - one foot must remain on the ground until the ball has left their hand
25. Each batter will face a maximum of 5 pitches. Strikes and balls are not recorded.
26. If the batter does not hit a fair ball within 5 pitches they will be called Out.
27. The umpire will count pitches and announce when the batter is on their last pitch
28. Stealing bases is not allowed, batters may only advance after a fair ball is hit
29. Balls hit to the outfield (to the grass at Lions Park, past the baseline at Doug Tarry Complex) will allow base runners to advance a maximum of two bases
30. Balls hit to the infield will allow baserunners to advance a maximum of one base
31. If a ball is overthrown and goes out of play, it is considered a dead ball and runners must stop. The Umpire will call TIME and runners will not advance
32. Sliding into base is allowed except at first - no sliding into first base
33. When there are two outs and the player who will be catcher for the next inning is on base, that player can be switched for the last player who was out so they can get their gear on before the next inning
34. Every inning has a six-run limit. There is a maximum of 7 innings per game
35. Catcher must wear the leg guards, chest protector, and catcher's helmet.
36. Catcher must not block the base path or home plate when a runner is advancing from third. Runners advancing from third base will be called safe if the catcher is blocking their path. Catcher must stand in front of home plate to receive the ball and make the tag/force out play
37. Batters/base-runners must wear a helmet with face mask until they have entered the dugout
38. During the regular season a tied game remains tied - only tournament games are played out

Ball: 11" soft core ball

Pitcher: In the pitching circle - from the rubber is preferred

Base Distance: 50 feet