

Optimist Softball Rules

PEEWEE (Gender-Inclusive)

Ages 13 to 17

Stress that this is a developmental program – emphasis should be placed on learning the fundamentals, good sportsmanship, and having fun.

1. Unless otherwise specified, all rules are those recognized by Softball Ontario.
2. There should be a min of 7 and a max of 10 players on the field anything less the team must forfeit. In the case of forfeits, a fun game will be played and players will be shared to create equal teams. The umpire will not stay in the event of a forfeit.
3. Calling across other players from teams who are not playing is allowed and that player can wear their own team shirt to a maximum of 10 players on the bench.
4. Stealing can occur once the ball has left the pitcher's hand.
5. On the 3rd strike, if the catcher drops the ball, the batter may run to 1st base only IF 1st base is not occupied.
6. Players will pitch to the opposing team from the beginning of the season, following the rule of no pitcher is allowed to pitch more than two consecutive innings – they may resume pitching after one inning off. All players MUST be given a chance to pitch at least once in the season if they wish to.
7. The pitch must be delivered in one revolution of a windmill (no more allowed) or straight underhand.
8. Pitchers must face home plate and have both feet together at the start of the pitch but are allowed one-step forward during delivery; however, they must keep one foot touching the rubber mound during the duration of pitch.
9. Once the pitcher has the ball within the pitcher's circle, the base runner cannot advance a base; no stealing bases after the third strike unless the catcher drops the ball (rule 5).
10. Sliding is strongly encouraged.
11. If there are two outs and the catcher for the next inning is on base, they should be switched with the last out OR furthest from batting.
12. All games are 1 hour and 30 minutes long; no new innings may begin after time limit. Every inning has a 6-run limit, no exceptions. Max of 7 innings per game.
13. During regular season, tied game stay tied; only during tournaments are games played out.
14. All safety equipment must be worn and helmet must be strapped on. Tucked in shirts are required due to safety reasons.
15. The diamond is set up prior to the game. No infield practices are allowed; all practices are to be in the outfield or off the field.
16. To provide safe playing conditions for the players, a call of safe will be made to the runner coming in from 3rd base IF the catcher is standing on the base line or home plate. The catcher should stand in front of home plate to ensure safety. Encourage the catcher to stand in front of home plate.
17. The infield fly rule will apply.
18. There are to be NO noisemakers at regular season and/or tournaments. IE: air horn, cow bell, whistle, etc.
19. Bat must be an official softball bat, only 2 ¼" in diameter, CSA & NSF – **NO** American bats. Wooden bats must be gripped.
20. There will be NO mercy rule.

Ball: 12" official softball (soft-core ball)

Pitcher Distance: 40 feet

Base Distance: 60 feet