

ALBERTA INTERCOLLEGIATE WOMEN'S FASTBALL ASSOCIATION

LEAGUE OPERATING RULES - 2007

(Revised February 2007)

A. Facilities

1. Park arrangements including costs for rental, the host team affords as well as game balls. Host and visiting teams are responsible for communicating on park locations, game times and teams involved.
2. Facilities must be properly maintained every second game and have fences, covered dugouts and proper distances marked out. Diamonds fenced at ladies' distance is a goal for all games, especially for play-offs and championships. Other requirements include a concession, washrooms, and good playing field conditions.
3. Visiting team is responsible for its travel expenses (transportation, accommodations, and meals)
4. Labour Day Series and Championship tournament facility costs will be afforded each by the host team, which in turn has the opportunity to charge admission and run a concession to recover costs. Umpire costs will be invoiced equitably by the League.

B. Eligibility

1. Athletes reported on the official team roster must be students of the institution carrying a 60% class load (3 out of 4 classes).
2. The final date for adding players is September 15, 2007. A copy of the final roster must be received by the League Convenor on or before September 19, 2007. Softball Alberta team affiliation lists are acceptable submissions of registration to the League Convenor. For Olds College and University Regina it is requested that the roster include full name, player number, student number, program (and year), email address, and telephone number.
3. Players are eligible to compete for the intercollegiate team for 5 years while attending school. Red shirt members are allowed 1 extra year of eligibility.
4. A maximum of 20 players is allowed on a team. Where there is an injury situation the head coach must apply to the League Convenor to add another player to the roster.
5. A player has to appear on four game sheets to be eligible to dress for playoff games.
6. Minimum Grade Point Average for eligibility to be a member of a team is 2.00.
7. Requests for eligibility rulings and appeals will be directed to the League Convenor who will make a judgement in consultation with a committee of at least three.

8. The League Convenor and Committee will consult the ACAC or Canada West Operating Rules (Section 5) for advice or back-up on rulings.

C. Umpires

1. The two-umpire system will be used and when possible the three-umpire system will be used.
2. If there is only one umpire available, before a given game can be played the participating teams must agree to play the game.
3. Umpires must be Softball Canada carded and should be top rated based on rating by the Umpire-in-Chief for Alberta (Grant Hood). The Umpires Liaison (Bob Constantin) will hold a list of appropriate umpires in consultation with the Umpire-in-Chief.
4. Where umpire travel costs are required they will be afforded out of the League Treasury, a part of umpire fees paid by teams.

D. Affiliation and Insurance

All teams must be affiliated with Softball Alberta (\$100) for the purposes of insurance and liability protection. This must occur prior to any team practises.

E. Uniforms

1. All parts must be matching for the members of the team and numbered (minimum 6" height).
2. Sponsor logos must not be on the uniform, warm-up clothing excepted.

F. Equipment

1. The "Double Base" must be used.
2. The official softball used for League and Championship play will be the Rawlings Optic Yellow, 47 cor, Leather ASA 12Y47L raised seam softball.
3. Each team supplies 2 new balls or 1 new and 1 good used ball (at the umpires' discretion) per game.
4. All equipment must conform to Softball Canada standards.

G. Games

1. The aim is to achieve completion of 7 innings but not to exceed 2 hours in time with the exception of ties. Hence, no new innings should begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes has expired. After 7 innings a tie will be broken using the international tiebreaker rule commencing in the 8th inning.
2. The pitching distance is 43 feet.
3. All other rules shall conform to the current Softball Canada Rulebook.
4. Rainout games are scheduled by arrangement between the teams involved. If the game(s) cannot be made up then the final score is 0-0 and the standings are not affected.
5. Batters must keep one foot in the batter's box between pitches during a turn at bat.

6. A **Default** occurs when a team does not show up for a game or cancel 48 hours in advance of the game. The result is a **\$100 fine** levied against the team in question and payable through league fees for next year.
7. A **Forfeited game** occurs, (a) as per Softball Canada rules or, (b) where a league game postponed in advance by one team is not played before the league schedule is completed. In this case the opposing team must have been prepared to play the game and will be awarded a win in the standings by a 7-0 score until the game is played or if it is not played.
8. **Mercy rule:** The mercy rule will be in effect as per Softball Canada Rules. This is in effect for both league and playoff games.

H. Scorekeeping and Statistics

1. 4-part line-up cards will be used.
2. All teams must ensure there is an official scorekeeper for each game in league play. The score book used by Softball Alberta for Provincial Championships will be the official score book for all League and Championship games.
3. It is recommended that each team have a statistician for home games and when hosting a mini-tournament.
4. **Winning teams** are responsible to email game scores to the League Office (trottier@shaw.ca) within 24 hours of games played (or after a weekend series). Copies of the score sheets must then mailed or forwarded to the League Office as soon as possible.

I. Determination of Standings

Wins and Losses shall be recorded. But, a percentage will be calculated based on the number of wins out of the number of games played to determine positions in the standings.

J. League Schedule 2007

1. League (Conference) play commences on Labour Day weekend, September 1-3, 2007 with a tournament series bringing all teams to one central location.
2. The League will operate as one division in 2007.
 - a. It is planned that each team will compete in @20 games, Championship Tournament games excepted.
 - b. Teams will compete in mini-tournaments every weekend. On each weekend there will be games at no more than two different centres. In some cases teams will compete over two days, and in other cases on one day of a weekend. The maximum games scheduled on one day should be 3 and 5 for the weekend.
3. Location of the Labour Day series will be Edmonton, hosted by University of Alberta.
4. Home teams are determined in scheduling with an attempt to achieve a balanced schedule.

K. Playoffs and Championships

1. Championships are scheduled for October 12-14, 2007 hosted by the 2006 Champions (University of Alberta Green).
2. Seeding for Championship round robin play will be based on league play among teams.
3. Championship play features a round robin format with a single knockout championship final between the top 4 teams. All teams are entered in the League Championships for 2007 in one of two divisions.
4. Home team in all games will be the higher seeded team based on league standings. Bench location is not affected.
5. Select Athletes recognition at the Championship event: Each coach will submit a player of the game from his team during the round robin and championship events.
6. Awards will be presented to the Champions, 2nd place and 3rd place as well as Select Athletes

L. AIWFA and League Meetings

The Annual Planning Meeting for 2007 will be held on Saturday, November 10 in Calgary.

M. Coaches and Athletes

1. Must be in good standing with Softball Alberta and Softball Canada.
2. Players and coaches cannot be involved with AIWFA while on suspension from a provincial association and, therefore Softball Canada and any of its affiliate organizations. All AIWFA teams are affiliated with Softball Alberta or Softball Saskatchewan (University of Regina).
3. Institutions expect club teams to follow a code of conduct. Though not all institutions require a signed agreement on Team Code of Conduct it is strongly encouraged that all teams endorse a Code of Conduct.