



BRAMPTON

Brampton Madoc Softball Rules



B.M.S.L.



EST. 1978

BRAMPTON MADOC SOFTBALL RULES - 2009

Ratified & Approved by AGM

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SECTION 1 – EXECUTIVE

An Executive shall consist of the following will govern the Brampton Madoc Softball League (BMSL):

1. The Executive Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Statistician, Social Convenor and Executive Member at Large).
2. The Team Captains.
3. The immediate Past President (non-voting).
4. Directors appointed by the Executive Officers to assist in the operation of the league.

The Executive Officers will be nominated and elected by the players of the league at the annual general meeting. The AGM will be scheduled between the end of the regular season play and November 30th. In the election of Executive Officers, simple majority of votes will determine winners.

Team Captains will be confirmed by the players of their respective teams no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of a playing season. Captaincies will terminate at the close of the current playing season. Captains, who wish to be Captains in the following season, may do so only if approved by the Executive Officers.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT

- To oversee the operation of the league.
- To represent the league.
- To chair league meetings.
- To be responsible for the booking of facilities.
- Upon consulting with the league's Executive Officers, to perform whatever function is necessary for the successful continuation of the league.

VICE PRESIDENT

- To assist the President.
- To completely control the use of spares and the assigning of replacement players as required.
- To forward any and all requests from league members received on the league line to the appropriate executive member for resolution.

TREASURER

- To be responsible for the league's finances.
- To pay all debts incurred by the league from league funds.
- To collect or arrange for collection of all moneys to be received by the league.
- To prepare annually one (1) financial statement, to be completed before October 31st.
- To have a current financial report available at every meeting.

SECRETARY

- To prepare and distribute all league correspondence and documents.
- To take and prepare minutes of league meetings and distribute copies to Executive Officers.
- To perform duties as requested by the Executive.

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STATISTICIAN

- To generate and maintain league player roster.
- To observe player attendance.
- To prepare and distribute player lists to Team Captains at the start of the season.
- To generate team standings during the season.
- Maintain official league rules.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER AT LARGE

- To perform various functions as requested.
- To recruit and coordinate sponsors for league teams.

SOCIAL CONVENOR

- To arrange social functions for the league as he/she sees fit or organize social events as requested by the Executive Officers.
- To arrange publicity as required.

NOTE: There is nothing to prevent executive officers from assisting each other with their respective functions.

CAPTAINS

- To know the league rules.
- To *educate* players concerning play rules and league intent.
- To *ensure* that players abide by his/her and other captain's or umpire's decisions during games.
- To keep score, or have score kept, in prescribed manner.
- To maintain team equipment.
- To report team equipment needs to the league executive.
- To install bases for home games & remove bases after the last game.
- To represent team at team meetings.
- To attempt to control players who are overly aggressive in play or vocally abusive.
- To notify Vice-President when a spare or replacement player is required for their team.
- To check on consistently absent players.
- To bring problem players to the attention of an Executive Officer.
- To deliver, or have delivered, score sheets after each league game.
- To choose an Assistant, if required.

ASSISTANT CAPTAINS

- To assist the Captain in performing his/her duties.

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SECTION 2 - ORGANIZATIONAL RULES

1. A season commences on the date of the opening games and terminates at the end of the playoff games.
2. The BMSL season will consist of a number of scheduled games in a regular season, as determined by the Executive Officers. Additionally there will be a playoff series.
3. In the event of ties for league standings at the end of the regular season play, winners shall be determined as follows:
 - a) Number of Points (Win = 2, Tie = 1, Loss = 0).
 - b) Win/Loss record of two teams involved against each other.
 - c) Least number of Runs Against (defence).
 - d) Most number of Runs For (offence).
 - e) Run Differential (Difference between Runs For and Runs Against)
 - f) Coin Toss
4. Score sheets are to be completed in full (both teams, date, time, score, umpire) and given to the Statistician within two weeks of the game date. Score sheets not received will be recorded as a loss.
5. The league will consist of a number of teams supported by registration and approved by the Executive Officers.
6. Each team will consist of a specific number of players as determined by the Executive Officers.
7. Players must be 19 years of age or over.
8. Male and Female players will be distributed to the teams as evenly as possible as determined by the Roster.
9. Assigned players who for whatever reason, become spares, must remain so for the remainder of the season. Only at the discretion of the Executive Officers shall a player return to a team as a permanent player or be reassigned.
10. A player who misses three games in succession or a total of five games, without reasonable excuse, or without notifying his/her Captain, may be removed from their team at the discretion of the League Executive and the Team Captain.
11. A player of the same sex must replace players withdrawing or who are removed from a team.
12. Annual General Meeting: All players are to be notified in writing of the time, date and location of the AGM at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.
13. Players shall not use league equipment for other than scheduled games unless permission to do so is first sought and granted from an Executive Officer.
14. Team shirts will remain the property of the league until the end of the season. Players leaving the league must surrender their shirts to their Captain. Any player who refuses to surrender his/her shirt will be barred from the league in the future.

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15. Organizational rules may be changed only at the Annual General Meeting by the membership present, by a simple majority vote.
16. The Executive can change league play rules at any time by a simple majority vote.
17. Rules: Matters of interpretation of organizational rules will be decided upon by the Executive Officers.
18. Captains may pick an Assistant. The Executive, in particular, the Vice-President must be notified of the Assistant's name and phone number.

SECTION 3 - PLAY RULES 2009

1. League play rules are those of the Slo-Pitch Ontario Association Handbook & Softball Canada Rules. Exceptions or additions to those rules follow.
2. The batting order MUST alternate MALE and FEMALE at all times.
3. All players must bat.
4. A late player may enter the game at any time. They are to be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
5. Pinch-hitting is not allowed.
6. No switch-hitting in one trip at bat.
7. The batter will not advance to any base on any ball ruled dead by the umpire. Base runners will also be governed by this rule.
8. Each team's trip to bat will conclude after three (3) outs have been recorded or nine (9) players have been to bat.
 - **The seventh (7th) inning is no different than any other.**
 - The ninth batter is out if the ball precedes him/her to any base. Any run(s) scored before the ninth batter is put out count, unless he/she fails to make it to first base safely, no matter how many are out.
 - The ninth batter cannot be walked.
 - If a hit ball is deliberately thrown dead, all runners including the ninth batter will advance to home plate.
 - Opposing pitchers will pitch to the ninth batter until such time as the batter either hits the ball into play or is struck out.
9. Rules relating to infield fly balls do apply.
10. The wearing of a chest protector, helmet and mask by the catcher is mandatory.
11. All players are required to wear their issued uniform shirt during play. Upon the attention of the umpire **by each of the opposing Captains**, any player not wearing their issued uniformed shirt during his/her turn at bat (according to batting line-up), will automatically be recorded as an out. They will be allowed to field a defensive position without penalty. **The first two weeks of the season will be exempt to ensure all players have been issued a shirt.** Captains will carry a

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spare shirt given to the team. In the event a lost or damaged shirt, the Executive should be contacted and a new shirt will be ordered at the expense of the player.

12. A player in a batting order cannot sit out two or more innings unless he/she is willing to do so. A player not in the batting order cannot play in the field.
13. At NO time will a defensive team have more than SEVEN (7) male players on the field.
14. No more than seven (7) players will play in the infield until such time as the batter puts the ball in play. At least three (3) females must play in the infield. For the purpose of this rule, the infield positions are as follows; Catcher, Pitcher, First Base, Second Base, Third Base, Short Stop, and a position equivalent to Short Stop between First and Second Base. The infield is the gravel area between the first and third base lines, from home plate to the grass line.
15. Base stealing of second (2nd) and third (3rd) is allowed. Runners cannot leave a base until the ball crosses home plate. When a catcher returns the ball to the pitcher, a **stopped runner must return** to the base from which they last came.

A runner may advance to home plate if:

- The ball is hit.
 - After tagging up on a caught fly ball, or when a catcher deliberately puts the ball into play by throwing it to any other player except the pitcher. (If a throw back to the pitcher is high, low or wide and the pitcher misses the ball, that throw will be considered to be for the pitcher. NO stealing may take place).
 - He/She is forced by batters being walked or he/she is being awarded home by the umpire. If in the umpire's judgement a runner does steal home, that runner is OUT. Any other base runners must return to the base they left if they advanced during that play.
 - After the ball has been hit, runners can advance bases, including home plate, by continuing to run until such time as the ball is returned to the pitcher in the pitching area, or the umpire rules a stoppage in play (Time).
 - If on a live ball thrown (or put) into play BY THE CATCHER to any base in an attempt to throw the runner out.
 - A live ball is considered to be a ball in play until it is returned back to the pitcher
 - There is no stealing from 3rd to home on a "pass ball" when a runner has had possession of 3rd base on a PREVIOUS PLAY
16. No Lead offs until the ball crosses home plate.
 17. Courtesy Runners: during a game, each team will be permitted the use of three (3) courtesy runners. The courtesy runners must be of the same sex as the person being replaced. In place of a fourth substitution, an out shall be recorded. Because a player can enter or leave a game at any time, a normal player substitution cannot be used to circumvent this rule. A substitute runner may be any player listed on the teams' batting order.
 18. It is the intent of the BMSL, that all batters be given a reasonable chance to hit the ball. It is therefore the responsibility of the pitcher to change the speed of the pitch to give the batter a reasonable chance at making contact with the ball. **The object of League pitching is not to gain a strikeout.** The pitcher must pitch the ball in a slow, underhand delivery with the ball being in view at all times. Spinning or curving the ball is not allowed. If in the opinion of the umpire, a pitcher is spinning or curving the ball or pitching too fast, the pitch shall be called a ball and the pitcher given

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a warning by the umpire. If it continues the pitcher shall be replaced. It is at the **Batter's** discretion to ask for the pitcher to slow down the ball.

19. A line at forty (40) feet from home plate shall be marked. Pitchers do not necessarily have to stand at the pitching line but both the **pitchers' feet must be behind the 40-foot line when the ball is released.**
20. A team must have eight (8) players present at the scheduled game time. A five (5) minute grace period will be given. At least three (3) of those eight (8) must be female. If either of these two conditions is not met, the game is forfeited (See Play rule #29). **Players must notify their Captain if they are going to be absent.**
21. Each game will consist of seven (7) innings. If for any reason a game must be discontinued, the game will be considered complete when the fifth inning has been played, or 4 1/2 if the home team is winning. A discontinued game in which the fifth inning has not been completed *may* be rescheduled. All games must start on time even if the umpire has not arrived. No new inning shall start after **1 hour and 10 minutes** from the time the game starts. The start time should be announced by the umpire. If the home team is leading at the middle of a final inning the home team does not bat.
22. Extra innings will not be played in tie games except in the quarter, semi-final and final games of the play-offs. Tie games will be allowed in the round robin portion of the play-offs.
23. The umpire will resolve disputes arising during games. If no umpire is present or the umpire requires clarification of a league rule, **the 2 captains may help resolve the issue.** If the dispute cannot be resolved, the complaining captain must tell the opposing captain of his/her intention to protest the game. All complaints must be made to an Executive Officer within forty-eight (48) hours of the relative game. **The Executive will consider only written protests.** There will be a protest fee of \$100.00 (cash only) to BMSL with the written protest. This fee will be refunded to the protesting team *only* if the protest is upheld. The decision by the Executive is final.
24. During the play-offs home team will be given to the higher seeded team. Only during the final game will there be a coin toss. The higher seeded team will call the coin toss.
25. Play-off match-ups are based on regular season standings. (See General Rules Section for format, Organization Rule #3 for Tie Breaking)
26. All batters and base runners must wear a helmet that protects the ears.
27. If an umpire ejects a player from a game that person's team captain must call the league line at (416) 388-8473 or by email info@frontiertire.net and report the incident. The Executive has the option of suspending the player for more than that game. The President or Vice-President will relay the decision of the Executive to the Captain. A minimum of three (3) Executive members is required to vote on this action. All decisions of the league Executive are final.
28. All teams should ensure they have the same score at the start of each inning.
29. Bases will be set at a distance of fifty-five (**55**) feet.
30. Use of Spares will be completely controlled by the Vice-President. Deadline for requesting a spare will be 8:00 p.m. on the Monday night preceding the game by calling the League Line at (416) 388-8473 or by email info@frontiertire.net. Once a spare is assigned to a team they **MUST** play even if

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the absent player(s) show up and the team is at full membership. If the opposing team has room, then the opposing team may use the spare player.

Types of Spare Players:

Full Time Spare: is an individual registered to play their season on a needs basis. The Full time Spare has priority over other *League Members Spares* as they have paid a fee to play the entire season as a spare player only.

League Member Spare: is a player registered as a full time player on a set team but who in addition, has signed up to be a *League Member Spare* player in the event that another team, for that date, requires a spare.

League Member Spares **cannot** be used in the playoffs; however, a *Full Time Spare* may play in the playoffs but **only** with notification by the team captain to the Vice-President that their team will be playing with less than eleven (11) players and a spare, if available, would be required.

Spare players **cannot** play for the same team for more than two (2) consecutive weeks. Captains may call for spare(s) if they will have less than eleven (11) players available for their game. However, spares will be assigned to teams in a forfeit situation first.

31. If for any reason a team does not have the required number of players at game time the team may;
- Pick up a *Full Time Spare* from the previous game (but not a *League Member Spare*).
 - Pick up a *League Member Spare* who happens to be in attendance **ONLY** to avoid a forfeit (8 players, 3 female).
 - If your pitcher is away, you cannot get another league pitcher to cover unless you have less than 8 players, 3 of which are female.

At the home plate meeting, the captains of each team must notify the other team of their use of spares for that game. Each spare player must be noted at the bottom of the score sheet for league tracking purposes.

If the captain has not phoned to request a spare by the 8:00 p.m. Monday deadline (call to the League Line at (416) 388-8473 or by email info@frontiertire.net) then one **cannot** be picked up, unless you are in a forfeit situation.

32. A male batter who receives four consecutive balls is to be awarded second base. Base runners advance, only if forced. The runner is allowed to steal 3rd base. The following batter, male or female must still bat.
33. Bunting is only permitted to female players. No bunting allowed by Males! It is the decision of the Umpire to clarify if the batter was deemed to intentionally bunt the ball.
32. The rule pertaining to cancelled games and rain outs on a scheduled evening of play is as follows:

For the first and second scheduled evening games of play, regardless of rain, all players must be present at the diamonds ready to play. Team or teams failing to have the sufficient number of players ((8) see section 3 rule 19) put themselves in a forfeit position. Captains must inform their team-mates of any cancelled games.

In the event the first two games are called off due to rain, the third game will automatically be called as a rain-out, no attendance will be necessary.

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Should the first game be played and the second game called due to rain, teams that are to play the third game must appear at the diamond regardless of rain. It is the decision of the Umpires to cancel any games due to rain. If the 3rd game is cancelled because the first two are rainouts, a member of the executive will notify Captains. It is the responsibility of the Captains to inform their respective team-mates.

There is only one rainout make up game to be replayed at the end of the regularly scheduled season. If there are multiple rain-outs to be replayed the Executive will decide on which games should be replayed.

If the City of Brampton has cancelled the evening's games due to the diamonds being unplayable, the executive will contact all team Captains and notify them of the unplayable conditions. Captains are to inform their respective team-mates of the unplayable conditions.

RULE PERTAINING TO SAFETY BASE

One half of the base is white and is to be securely fastened in fair territory and the other half is orange and is to be securely fastened in foul territory.

The following rules apply to the use of the double base.

1. If a batted ball hits any part of the white portion, it is a fair ball, if it hits completely on the orange portion it is a foul ball.
2. If a play is being made at first base on a ball hit to the infield, the batter-base runner's first attempt at first base **must** be to the orange portion of the base, otherwise he will be called out.
3. A defensive player shall only use the white portion of the base at all times.
4. Once a base runner has attained first base then he must use the white portion of the base.

This includes:

- After over-running first base, the base runner must return to the white portion of the base.
- After rounding the first base, if applicable, the base runner must return to the white portion.
- When tagging up, the base runner must use the white portion.
- When there is an attempted pick-off play, the base runner must return to the white portion.

EFFECT

If the base runner uses the orange portion at any time after the first attempt at first base and is not in contact with the white portion, then he is considered to be out of contact with the base and is to be called out if tagged or leads off.

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SECTION 4 - GENERAL RULES

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the intent of The Brampton Madoc Softball League to be a fun recreational league in which players of all ages and abilities may play with equal enjoyment.

FEES

- Annual registration fee to be determined by the Executive Officers.
- Upon request, players who resign prior to the commencement of play will be refunded the registration fee less \$5.00.
- **Up to the third week** of play, upon request to the treasurer (only), players who resign will be refunded the registration fee less \$5.00. No refund will be made until players' shirt is returned.
- Players who resign **after the third week** of play will receive no refund.
- Players who give no notice of resignation will receive no refund.
- Full time players joining up to the third week of play will pay the full registration fee. Players joining the league after the third week will pay as determined by the Executive.
- Spare players will pay a fee determined by the Executive.
- No one other than the treasurer shall collect any fees from players.
- Refunds will be the responsibility of the league treasurer.
- Players accepting refunds cannot attend any league functions without paying normal admission.
- Fee schedule relates to full time and spare players.

GENERAL

- Player trades are not allowed. If for personal reasons, a player finds that he/she is not able to play for his/her assigned team, the player will be placed on the spares list. In this event, the Executive will make every effort to assign the player to the first team requiring a player of the same sex. These players will be given priority over other players on the spares list, only in regard to being assigned a full time position on a team.
- Spare players from the immediate previous year wishing to become full time players in the current year will be preferred to newly registered players.
- For registration an applicant may **ONLY** request to be paired with one (1) other player.
- Team sponsors may only designate their sponsor player (and spouse) and team captain (and spouse)
- Player draft will be done in a blind format with every effort made to balance each team equally.

PLAYOFF FORMAT

- To be determined.

SCORE SHEET MARKING

- Mark all male players in every second name box on the left side of the score sheet.
- Mark all female players in the alternate name box on the right side of the score sheet. (Across from the empty box on the Male side)
- In the top diagonal portion of each of the inning boxes, mark the name of the batter.
- At the end of each inning mark a heavy line after the third (3rd) out.