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PLAYING RULES

1. LINE UP CARDS

- 1.1 Lineup cards should be used for each game (league and playoff) and can be obtained from Softball Ontario, Softball Canada or other sources.
- 1.2 A 4-part lineup card must be used. 1 copy to the opposing team, 1 copy to the Home Plate Umpire, 1 copy to the official scorer, if there is one, and 1 copy for yourself.
- 1.3 Uniform numbers, defensive positions, and first and last names are to be on the lineup cards.

2. START TIMES

- 2.1 Teams should be at the diamonds at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time in order to warm up properly and to complete their lineup cards.
- 2.2 There shall be a minimum of 25 minutes between OUS doubleheader league games and the time may be longer or shorter if both teams agree.

3. UMPIRES

- 3.1 An Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) is required as per the OUS/Softball Ontario Letter of Understanding.
- 3.2 There must be 2 carded umpires at all games.
- 3.3 Umpires must either be Softball Ontario or Softball Canada carded.

4. UNIFORMS

- 4.1 Minimum uniform will be matching tops. Team name displayed on matching uniform tops worn in-game must be the school name/mascot of the university which the team represents.
- 4.2 At this time, we will not stop teams from having sponsor logos on their uniforms, so long as the logo is not a "billboard". Teams should note that the Ontario University Athletics and the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association do not allow sponsor logos or recognition on game uniforms.
- 4.3 Logos on warm-up shirts/jackets are allowed.
- 4.4 There is no set colour that a team must wear.
- 4.5 Players do not have to wear matching sliding shorts or caps.
- 4.6 In case of inclement weather, over-wear may be worn but all players must be able to produce a number, if requested by a coach or umpire, matching the one listed on the official lineup card.

5. EQUIPMENT

- 5.1 A safety base must be used at first base.
- 5.2 The official ball must be used in all league games and the OUS Championship Tournament. The official ball is Worth Red Dot; YellowPX2RYLC,0.47 Core 12'ball.
- 5.3 The host will provide 1 new ball and 1 good, used ball for each game.

6. DIAMONDS

- 6.1 Diamonds must meet a minimum set of standards as set out by the diamond committee and must include:

- Fences (covers included)
- Baselines
- Outfield
- Player benches/Dugout area
- Washrooms (Port-a-potties are acceptable)
- Diamonds are groomed
- Lines – Fair/Foul

- 6.2 Any teams found to be hosting on diamonds that do not meet the minimum standards will forfeit all games played on that diamond. Note: Playing on backup diamonds, that do not meet the minimum standards, is allowed as long as both coaches agree.
- 6.3 The host team must have permits for all diamonds, including the backup diamonds. Permits must be carried by the host team.
- 6.4 All diamonds must be lined properly, as per the current Softball Canada Rulebook.
- 6.5 All diamonds must be approved by the OUS Executive by May 1st each year.

7. LENGTH OF GAMES

- 7.1 If teams are tied after 7 innings, teams will immediately move to the International Tie Breaker.
- 7.2 Once a game has started and is called due to darkness, weather, or other circumstance, an official game will be at least 5 innings.
- 7.3 Should darkness, weather or some other unforeseen circumstances arise prior to the starting of a game, a game may consist of 5 innings but both teams must agree to play 5 innings prior to the start of said game.
- 7.4 Should weather become a major factor in getting games completed, the host team has the right to reschedule the times of games, and the games may consist of 5 innings.
- 7.5 A regulation tie game shall be declared if the score is equal when the game is called at the end of five or more completed innings, or if the team second at bat has equaled the score of the first team at bat in the incomplete inning, reverting to Playing Rule 7.2 and may only be deemed a regulation tie if the game is called due to darkness, weather, or other extenuating circumstances that prevent the game from going to International Tie Breaker as per OUS policy for tied games.
- 7.6 A game that is tied and not played out to the International Tie Breaker rule will result in both teams being assessed a 0-7 loss in the standings, with exception to Playing Rule 7.2.

- 7.7 A game that is not played out through 7 full innings for any reason, with exception to Playing Rule 7.2, will result in both teams being assessed a 0-7 loss in the standings.
- 7.8 A game which falls under Playing Rule 7.6 or 7.7 will have the 0-7 loss assessed immediately, with no opportunity to complete the game later in the season.

CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

1. CHAMPIONSHIP HOST

- 1.1 An OUS host will be determined by the scheduled rotation by January 1st each year. The scheduled team will declare by this deadline if they are going to host the Provincial Championships and agree to all terms of the OUS hosting guide.
- 1.2 If the scheduled team does not declare by January 1st that they will host the Championships, the Executive will first offer teams within the same region as the scheduled team the opportunity to submit bids if they are interested in hosting the Championships. If no team from that region submits a bid, the Executive will offer all teams in the OUS the opportunity to submit bids if they are interested in hosting the Championships. Any team who hosts Championships must agree to all terms of the OUS hosting guide. If no team offers to host the Provincial Championships, then the OUS Executive will host.
- 1.3 Bids should include, at a minimum, the diamonds proposed where Championships will be held (minimum 2 diamonds with lights), as well as any other redeeming information regarding the team's proposal. In the event that the Executive is required to decide between competing bids for the Championships host, the Executive will use positive features provided in the bid to come to a decision. The Executive may request additional information from any or all teams who have submitted bids before coming to a final decision on Championships host.
- 1.4 The Executive will select and announce the Championships host no later than March 31st each year.
- 1.5 The rotation is based on the following regions:
- Central: Brock, McMaster, University of Toronto, University of Guelph, and Ryerson University
 - East: University of Ottawa, Carleton, Queens and York
 - West: Laurier, Western, University of Waterloo and University of Windsor

2013 - University of Toronto
2014 - Western
2015 - Queens
2016 - Guelph
2017 - Laurier
2018 - University of Ottawa
2019 - McMaster
2020 - University of Windsor
2022 - Brock
2023 - Waterloo
2024 – Carleton
2025 – Ryerson
2026 – York

- 1.6 All teams travelling to the OUS Provincial Championships are required to stay at the host hotel. Those who choose not to stay at the host hotel will be assessed a \$150 contribution payable to the OUS. Host hotel rates are to be negotiated and must first be approved by the OUS Executive.
- 1.7 The OUS Executive shall select a Tournament Convenor for the Provincial Championships. The Tournament Convenor will be in full control of the event (and may use Executive input as needed) effective Friday of Championship weekend at 12:00 PM.

2. QUALIFYING FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

- 2.1 Eight teams will qualify for the Championship Tournament.
- 2.2 The seeding of teams will be those with the highest winning percentages following regular season play.
- 2.3 In order to take into account rainouts and ties due to rainouts, winning percentage will be calculated using points. The points earned are divided by the number of points available (including forfeits but not including rainouts) to produce a ranking.
- 2.4 Points are based on regular season play and are assigned as follows:
 - 2 points – win
 - 1 point – tie
 - 0 points – loss
- 2.5 If after ranking, teams are tied, the following (in order) will be used to break the tie. [For

the second and third tiebreakers, ONLY the runs scored in the games between the teams that are tied are counted.]

- First - Head to head
- Second - Head to head runs AGAINST
- Third - Head to head (runs for) - (runs against) i.e. plus/minus
- Fourth - Overall runs AGAINST
- Fifth - Overall (runs for) - (runs against) i.e. plus/minus
- Sixth - Coin Toss.

2.6 All above tie-breakers will be calculated with tied teams.

3. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- 3.1 The host will provide a cost estimate for the OUS playoffs. NOTE: All teams that attend the Championship will submit a fee to the Championship host to aid in covering costs of the tournament. The fee will not exceed \$370. A refund will be issued to all teams not qualifying for the Championship.
- 3.2 The Tournament Convenor or his/her delegate shall have the power to alter the playoff format as he/she sees fit after consultation with the member/participating teams.
- 3.3 A MVP will be selected from the gold medal game by the OUS Executive members present at the tournament and will be presented with the Doug Parry Championship MVP Award during the medal ceremony.
- 3.4 A coaches meeting for the Championships will be conducted on Friday evening following the banquet.

4. DETERMINATION OF HOME TEAM FOR CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

- 4.1 Home/away teams for the championship game will be decided by a coin flip.

5. PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 5.1 Qualifying for National Championships will be set out as per Canadian Collegiate Softball Association standards.
- 5.2 Teams must notify the Executive of the intent to participate for the next year by February 1st. In the second round for invitations, teams must declare they are participating as soon as a team accepts. A deposit as set out by the Canadian Collegiate Softball Association is required and the deposit will be refunded if the team attends the National Championship. If the team fails to attend, depending on the circumstances, the deposit may be forfeited. The decision of the Canadian Collegiate Softball Association Executive is final.

6. LENGTH OF CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

- 6.1 Once a game has started and is called due to darkness, weather, or other circumstance, an official game will be 5 or more innings.
- 6.2 Should weather become a major factor in getting games completed, the Tournament Convenor has the right to reschedule the times of games, and the games may consist of 5 innings.

7. OUS CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 7.1 The OUS Championship will be a double-knockout bracket event with a single championship game.
- 7.2 The top 4 teams from each division with the highest winning percentages will qualify for the Championship tournament and will be placed in double knockout brackets in a 1 vs 4, 2 vs 3 format.