



BUCHANAN PARK LADIES SOFTBALL LEAGUE

RULES AND REGULATIONS – 2024

1. TEAMS

- a) Equal play rules are in effect. All players must play three innings per game with unlimited substitutions. All new players **must** either attend a rating clinic or self rate in order to play in this league.
- b) The continuous batting rule is used. All players must be listed in the batting line up to start the game and will bat in turn throughout the game.
- c) Players arriving late may be added to the bottom of the batting line up. Coaches must inform the opposing coach and the umpire of such additions.
- d) The maximum number of players on the field of play is 10.
- e) The minimum number of players on the field of play is 8.
- f) In order to prevent defaults:
 - (i) The coach of the shorthanded team must substitute by borrowing player(s) from any of the other 7 teams, up to the required 8 players. These players must be chosen and approved by their coach.
 - (ii) If the substituted player is from the opposing team, they may play any position except pitcher and must be approved by the opposing coach.
 - (iii) Defaulted games will be scored 7 – 0 in favour of the non-defaulting team.
- g) If a player is injured running the bases a substitute player may be used to “pinch run” for this player. This substitute must be the last player to be “out” previous to the injured runner. The decision to use a “pinch runner” in the event of an injury is to be made by the player only (not the coach). Once this is exercised, the injured player is declared for the rest of the game and cannot go past 1st base.
- h) If there is a physical problem that prevents a player from running all of the bases, this should be brought to the attention of the opposing coaches as well as the umpire prior to the start of the game and each time they come to bat. This player becomes a declared batter and may not proceed to run past 1st base for the remainder of the game.
- i) A coach may use a Courtesy runner for the catcher to allow the catcher to suit up for the next inning upon 2 outs being recorded.



2. GAME CONDITION

- a) Regular season games start at 6:15 PM and may be defaulted at 6:30 PM at the discretion of the Umpires. Umpires must allow teams to attempt to avoid defaults.
- b) Starting the second Tuesday after the Civic holiday in August games will start at 6:00 PM and may be defaulted at 6:15 PM at the discretion of the Umpires.
- c) A regulation game consists of 7 innings.
- d) No new inning will start after 8:00 PM. If there are a few minutes before it is the discretion of the umpires.
- e) The Umpire has the authority to call any game due to inclement weather or darkness.
- f) In the case of inclement weather or darkness (at the Umpire's discretion), 4 complete innings will constitute a complete game. If less than 4 complete innings are played before the game is permanently halted, the game will be rained out and no points will be awarded in the standings. Rained out games will not be rescheduled. All four diamonds must complete 4 innings.
- g) In the event of a tied score after 7 innings during the season, the game will end tied and 1 point will be awarded to the teams in the standings.
- h) No games will be played on extremely wet and slippery grass or diamonds. This will be determined by the convener / committee by 5 p.m. If it is determined that some diamonds are playable the dry diamonds will be played and teams not able to play will be rewarded 1 point and 7 runs each.
- i) At all regular scheduled and play-off games, the home team will have the 3rd base bench.
- j) If games are to be cancelled due to bad weather, it will be posted on the website (www.buchananparkladies.weebly.com) by 5:00 p.m. No one will be emailed or called individually by the convener or committee.



3. EQUIPMENT

- a) There will be equipment designated for the use of the Ladies League only.
- b) Players on the field must wear their team's park shirt.
- c) No metal cleats can be worn.
- d) Helmets and straps will be worn by all players when at bat and when running the bases in games and practices.
- e) Proper catchers pads, masks and helmets will be worn by all catchers in games and practices.
- f) No exposed items (including jewelry) judged by the umpire to be distracting to the opposing team may be worn.
- g) Double bases will be used in all games.
- h) Coaches must wear their coaching shirts at all games.
- i) Any hats worn on the field are to be proper baseball hats. It can be worn with the peak to the front or back.

4. GAME RULES

***League has adopted rules from the Softball Rule book, Ontario & P.W.S.A. amendments**

- a) An inning will consist of 5 Runs or 3 Outs, whichever comes first. It will be unlimited in the 7th inning.
- b) The third strike does not have to be caught to record the out.
- c) A live ball leaving the field of play. Umpire to award bases according to the rule book.
- d) The umpire may warn a batter who throws a bat while batting endangering anyone. 2nd offense restricted to bench. Throwing of equipment or flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct, profane language, will result in player(s) or team personnel being ejected from the game. Further disciplinary action may be taken by the Park Executive.
- e) **At diamond #1, a ball reaching the city sidewalk or roadway in fair territory, is considered a home run without exception.**
- f) **Diamonds 2 & 3** are open fields. With the same rule as Diamond 1.
- g) **At diamond #4, any ball clearing the walkway in fair territory in Left field is considered a home run; Any ball landing on the walkway or rolling past the walkway in Left field in fair territory is considered a ground rule double. Any ball landing on the walkway in front or to the right of the clubhouse is considered a home run.**



GAME RULES CON'T

- h) A captain must be designated each game and only this person may question an umpire regarding rule interpretation(not judgment calls).A coach or players(s) violating this rule will be ejected.
- i) If opposing teams do not agree on the score, the home teams score sheet will be considered correct.It is therefore,important that scores be checked after each inning, by both scorekeepers.
- j) Umpires,Coaches, and Players should be treated fairly and with respect at all times. At no time should anyone be bullied verbally or physically. Umpires, Coaches, and Players must Refrain from the use of profanity, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language. Buchanan Park Ladies League takes this very seriously and has a zero tolerance policy.
- k) Pitching follows the Ontario Softball Rules, with the exception that girls may take one step back off the rubber with the non-pivot foot during their wind-up.
- l) **All known Pitchers and Catchers MUST be drafted as a pitcher or catcher to play that position.**

5. Play-offs

In the event of a tie for a position, it will be decided by:

- i) Head to head play
- ii) Total runs for and against (against each other)
- iii) Total runs for and against for the season against everyone.

All children must stay behind the players bench. They cannot be sitting on the bench.

There is NO Smoking on the Buchanan Park property, according to Hamilton Bi-Law.

