

FLAMBOROUGH MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

As amended Feb 11, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

The 1995 F.M.S.A. Executive was unable to find any preceding F.M.S.A. Constitution in spite of the existence of this league for a number of years. In an attempt to bring some semblance of order and organization, the following articles were drafted, amended and approved by the F.M.S.A. 1995 Executive Committee, and shall take precedence over any preceding Constitution, and shall hereby be known as the F.M.S.A. Constitution.

ARTICLE 1: (Name)

The name of the organization shall be the Flamborough Minor Softball Association, or F.M.S.A.

ARTICLE 2: (Objectives)

This Constitution is to provide organized softball-fastball for all Centres approved by and registered with Flamborough Minor Softball Association. Rules of play for F.M.S.A. shall follow the Softball Canada rules for fast pitch, excepting F.M.S.A. Constitutional Rules changes and specific O.R.S.A. playing rules (as outlined in Softball Ontario publication included as **Appendix "E"** and amended from time to time) that shall take precedence over Softball Canada rules. The purpose of the Association is to organize, develop and promote softball for youth in accordance with the Code of Conduct as outlined in **Appendix "C"**.

ARTICLE 3: (Officers)

The Officers shall be: Past President; President; Secretary; Treasurer; Vice-President; and one representative from each registered Centre on a rotating basis. Term of office to be from January 1st to December 31st. Centres who do not submit any teams for two (2) consecutive years will be removed from list of Centres. They may return to bottom of list in any future year as a "new" Centre.

	2023	2024	2025	Status of Centres – 2020	Status of Centers 2022
Past President	Greenville	Dundas	Lynden	No Team Entries- 2020	No Team Entries-2022
President	Dundas	Lynden	St. George	Fisherville	Ayr
Secretary	Lynden	St. George	Ancaster	Dundas RR	
Treasurer	Freelton	Freelton	Sheffield	Caledonia	
Vice-President	St. George	Ancaster	Binbrook	Princeton	
	Ancaster	Waterdown	Copetown	Voting Centre Only (no office)	
	Waterdown	Sheffield	Greenville	Burlington	
	Sheffield	Binbrook	Dundas	Hagersville	
	Binbrook	Copetown	Freelton	Fisherville	
	Copetown	Greenville		Six Nations	
				Ayr	
				Stoney Creek	

ARTICLE 4: (Protests/Disciplinary Action)

The Protest Committee will be comprised of Past President, President, Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-President. The President will convene a meeting within 7 days of receipt of the protest and select three neutral votes from the committee. The two coaches and their Centre representatives must be notified, at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, to attend the meeting. They will then present their case to the Protest Committee. The Protest Committee will then make their decision. The Committee's decision is final. A formal written response of the decision is to be sent to each Centre Representative.

The Centre Representative must make a game protest in writing, to the League Secretary within 72 hours of the protested game. A fee of \$100.00 must accompany each protest and be payable to the F.M.S.A. This fee will be returned should the protest be upheld or forfeited if the protest is denied. The game sheet must be marked indicating that the game has been played under protest and must indicate the inning, number of outs, score at the time of the protest, and signed by the umpire to indicate a protest was made.

The Protest Committee shall also serve as a Disciplinary Committee. This Committee will meet (as outlined above) in the event of any action(s) by an individual or Centre that adversely affects the continuity of the F.M.S.A. structure or league play. This Committee has the authority to determine what disciplinary action may be taken, using the policies within this Constitution as a guide.

ARTICLE 5: (Duties of Officers and Committee)

a) Past President:

- Shall serve in an advisory capacity, to aid the new President as well as being the agent of continuity between the past administration and the current executive;
- Serve on the Protest Committee.

b) President:

- Calls and chairs meetings as necessary;
- Will only vote in the event of a tie;
- Assist the Secretary in reviewing the Team Roster Sheets to ensure they are in keeping with Article 10 (Teams/Player Eligibility). Advise Centre Representatives of any ineligible players;
- Review and approve draft playoff schedules and budgets submitted to the "Convenors' Meeting" to ensure they are in keeping with the playoff schedule outlined in Appendix B and follow the official playoff format provided by the League Secretary;
- Review final playoff schedules submitted to the "Playoff Meeting" to ensure they are in keeping with the submissions received and approved at the September meeting;
- Ensure Treasurer's Year-end Financial Report and Books are turned in for review by a non-signing officer prior to the March meeting;
- Serve on the Protest Committee.

c) Secretary:

- Shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the Association;
- E-mail all minutes and Association rules to all Centre Representatives and/or post on the F.M.S.A. website (www.leaguelineup.com/fmsa);
- Review with the President, the Team Roster Sheets to ensure they are in keeping with Article 10 (Teams/Player Eligibility);

- Distribute copies of respective Team Roster Sheets to the Division Convenors at the “Convenors’ Meeting”;
 - Receive from all Centres, Proof of Insurance as described in Article 13, for all teams participating in the respective year, by May 1st. On May 2nd, notify any delinquent Centre and affected Division Convenors of failure to provide Proof of Insurance and associated immediate team suspensions until Proof of Insurance is provided;
 - Order and distribute to appropriate Convenors, a current Softball
 - Canada Rulebook, ORSA Constitution, and ORSA U5 Rulebook;
 - Deliver copies of “Official Playoff Format” to each Centre Representative for subsequent delivery to Division Convenor for completion and return to the “Convenors’ Meeting”;
 - Receive, organize, copy, and deliver copies of all proposed Constitution/Rule Changes to Centre Representatives prior to the “Rules Meeting” (no later than October 15th). Amend the original of the Constitution with the approved changes by December 31st, and prepare copies for distribution before the January meeting;
 - Serve on the Protest Committee;
 - Prepare and distribute to each Centre, an annual members roll to include the name, mailing address, e-mail address, phone and fax number of each Centre Representative.
- d) Treasurer:
- Shall keep an accurate record of all monies received and dispersed by the Treasurer and report annually to the Association;
 - Collect league fees, fines, and surplus playoff tournament receipts from all Centres;
 - Purchase Directors and Officers (D & O) Insurance for the F.M.S.A. Executive through the O.A.S.A.;
 - All cheques must be signed by the Treasurer and co-signed by one of the following officers: President, Secretary, or Vice-President;
 - Turn over the year-end Financial Report and Books at the January meeting for review by an approved non-signing officer;
 - Serve on the Protest Committee.
- e) Vice-President:
- Purchase awards for champion and finalist teams;
 - Ensure Centre Representatives have arranged for both the engraving of respective championship trophies and for return of same to the “Playoff Meeting”;
 - Serve on the Protest Committee.

Note: Failure of any Centre to provide an officer during their appointed year or failure of that officer to perform their duties, will result in that Centre being moved to the bottom of the list. The center’s voting privileges will be suspended for three years. Each of the center’s team will pay double the registration fees to play each of the next three years.

- f) Centre Representatives:
- Each Centre shall have one vote at each meeting. New Centres will have a vote after belonging to the Association for two consecutive years, voting in their third year;
 - Relay all information back to their respective Centres;
 - Inform the Treasurer within 48 hours of any injury involving a possible insurance claim;
 - Arrange engraving for trophies that their Centre wins and ensure its return to the Playoff Meeting;
 - Ensure their Centre’s Registrar is familiar with Article 10 (Team/Player Eligibility);

- Ensure a representative (preferably a coach) from each U5 team and umpires attend the U5 Clinic held in April. Any Centre failing to be represented will result in a \$25.00 fine;
- Ensure their Centre's Division Convenor is familiar with Article 6 (Convenors), the F.M.S.A. Rules, and is aware of the Convenors and Playoff Meeting dates;
- Ensure all coaches are familiar with the Constitution of the F.M.S.A.;
- Ensure all diamond locations have washroom facilities;
- Ensure playoff tournament entry fee cheques are delivered to respective Division Convenors at the Playoff Meeting. Failure to deliver playoff tournament entry fee prior to the start of playoff play will result in that Centre not participating in playoffs;
- Ensure their Centre purchases Insurance as described in Article 13 for all Teams and Call-up Teams.

ARTICLE 6: (Convenors)

Each division in the F.M.S.A. must have a Convenor. Each Centre must submit the name of a person who is willing to act as Convenor of a particular division. The Convenor should be the volunteer year end tournament Centre host the Association will allot the division to the Convenor as long as there is no conflict of interest with that division. The Convenor of a division cannot coach, co-coach, manage, etc. a team within the division that s/he is convening. It is the Convenor's duty to operative his/her division smoothly. The Convenor has the authority to make final decisions relative to his/her division provided they comply with this Constitution.

The Convenor's duties to include:

- i. Tabulating scores;
- ii. Tabulate standings (Win = 2 pts, Tie = 1 pt, Loss = 0 pts, Games not played = 0 pts);
- iii. Assign alternative diamond times as required, as per Article 11 (d);
- iv. Get copies of Team Roster Forms from the Secretary;
- v. S/he is the first contact person regarding disagreements;
- vi. Attend or be represented at the "Convenors' Meeting" and provide the following:
 1. Draft copy (in duplicate) of the playoff format set-up in accordance with the playoff schedule outlined in Appendix B, a copy of the official format to be provided via Centre Representative from the League Secretary. This draft should include game dates, times, and diamond allocations.
 2. Budget of Tournament Expenses, in duplicate, and breakdown of team entry fees.
Note: Failure to attend will result in a \$25.00 fine. Failure to present completed playoff information will result in a \$25.00 fine.
- vii. Attend or be represented at the "Playoff Meeting" and provide the following:
 1. A Statement of Regular Season Standings, in duplicate, listing each qualifying Centre, along with total points and final standing.
 2. A Final Playoff Schedule, in duplicate, complete with team names.
Note: Failure to attend will result in a \$25.00 fine. Failure to present completed playoff information will result in a \$25.00 fine. Fines must be paid prior to the start of playoff play or Centre will not be permitted to participate.
- viii. Attend or be represented at the "Evaluation Meeting" and provide the following:
 1. A Statement of Final Playoff Standings, in duplicate, including Champion and Finalist Centre Names;
 2. A Financial Statement of Tournament Receipts and Expenses, in duplicate. Any surplus funds are to be returned with the statement.

3. Return any surplus tournament awards.
- ix. Ensure that a competent representative from your center is in attendance for all playoff games and that representative introduces themselves to the coaches and umpires.

ARTICLE 6.1: (Coaches)

- i. Read and sign-off on the Constitution and Code of Conduct of the Coaches
- ii. The coach must be a non-playing member of the team
- iii. The coach must understand and enforce the Code of Conduct as per the Constitution
- iv. If a coach does not meet this objective, the F.M.S.A. has the right to suspend that team from league and playoff participation
- v. All coaches must report game scores to convenor within 24 hours of the game.
- vi. All coaches must report to the convenor any cancellations and rain outs within 24 hours of the game and provide a rescheduled date within 5 days (otherwise review Article 11(d))
- vii. Only coaches listed on the Team Roster are permitted to sit on the bench and interact with umpires and convenors
- viii. Coaches are NOT permitted to smoke in or around the dugout

ARTICLE 7: (Quorum)

A quorum shall be considered as one half of the voting membership plus one.

ARTICLE 8: (Constitution and Rule Changes)

All proposed amendments or change to the F.M.S.A. Constitution and/or Rules must be submitted in writing and seconded by another Centre on the prescribed forms, one per form, to the Association Secretary by September 30th. All proposed amendments or changes received to be copied and distributed to Centre Representatives prior to the Rules meeting. Only these proposed amendments or changes would be discussed and voted upon at the Rules Meeting. Rules submissions can be discussed amongst centers at the meeting and wording can be changed if voted on new wording. Approved amendments will be finalized prior to December 31st.

ARTICLE 9: (Meetings)

The Association year is January 1 to December 31 of a given year. Meetings may be held the last week of March for entry of teams, end of the regular season schedule for playoff berths, and the Annual General Meeting/Rules Meeting/Playoff Meeting in November. The President will call additional meetings as required.

ARTICLE 10: (Team/Player Eligibility)

- a) An F.M.S.A. approved Team Roster Sheet including all required player information, waivers and signatures (including Special Requests approved by the F.M.S.A.) must be received by the Association Secretary on or before June 15th of said year. Each team using a Call-up Team must attach a copy of the Call-up Team Roster Sheet to each Team Roster Sheet submitted. To be eligible for call-up use, such Call-up Teams' Centre Representative must also have submitted Proof of Insurance to the League Secretary as described in Article 13. Centre name to be included on each Team Roster Sheet. Team Roster Sheets are to have all required information on them when first submitted, time will not be allowed for returning them for completion – they will be considered late and the penalty applied. Secretary will telephone delinquent Centres on June 16th. Any Team Roster Sheets received after June 17th will be charged a \$25.00 fee per team. Any Team Roster Sheets received after June 24th will be

charged an **additional \$25.00 per team**. The penalty for not returning complete Team Roster Sheets and late fees on or before June 30th **will result in loss of all points and exclusion from the playoffs**. The F.M.S.A. approved Team Roster Sheet must include each player's:

- i. Full name;
- ii. Complete municipal/street address, including village and postal code (mailing optional);
- iii. Birth date;
- iv. Telephone number;
- v. Parent signature (under 18).

Note: Team Roster Sheets submitted to F.M.S.A. must be on F.M.S.A. approved Team Roster Sheet forms. Any Centre not submitting the proper Team Roster Sheet forms will be fined \$25.00 per team.

ONLY PLAYERS ON THE TEAM ROSTER SHEETS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR LEAGUE PLAY AND PLAYOFFS.

- b) Registration fee is \$50.00 per team, payable to the F.M.S.A. and sent to the Association Treasurer, on or before April 1st. The fee includes administration and year-end awards. No team to be scheduled into League play unless accepted at the registration meeting. Executive to approve exceptions. Teams registered after the April 1st deadline pay double the registration fee – presently \$100.00 (2 x \$50.00).
- c) Any teams not registered or in a schedule, or Centre Executive, can pay the approximated extra cost per team fee for accident and liability insurance coverage through the League.
- d) Leaders in our Association, including but not limited to, Executive Members, Centre Reps, Team Managers, Coaches, and Playoff Convenors, will refrain from any aggressive recruiting of players from other Centres.

All Centres are encouraged to advertise and promote their programs, but to strictly avoid calling and e-mailing players who played for another Centre in the previous year.

To this end, we would strongly encourage any player or family that feels they have been aggressively recruited by another Centre, to contact their Centre Representative or President of the F.M.S.A. immediately.

Infraction of this rule results in a fine of \$500.00 and/or one-year suspension of the team and/or the Centre's right to play in the F.M.S.A.

- e) Players may be registered in only one division of the F.M.S.A. players should be encouraged to register in an age-appropriate Level in the nearest Centre.
- f) Players should be encouraged to register/play for his/her nearest Centre. Should that Centre not have a team, then the player should be encouraged/directed to the next nearest Centre.
- g) An F.M.S.A. Centre may call-up a player(s) from another F.M.S.A. Centre only if they do not have a lower Level team of their own. A special request must be presented and approved by the donor Centre and the F.M.S.A. at the Team Registration/Diamond Allotment meeting. Such approval will be noted by the League Secretary on the Team Roster for the team receiving approval.
- h) A call-up player may participate as an "elevated player" for only one Centre.
- i) Centres using call-ups (elevated players) from a Centre other than their own without the required special permission from the F.M.S.A. will pay a \$50.00 fine for each game the illegal elevated player participated in. The team will also forfeit any winning game(s) the illegal elevated player participated in.
- j) All fines collected by the F.M.S.A. for whatever reason, are to be donated to: "Ronald McDonald House Charities" before the AGM (November meeting) each year.

ARTICLE 11: (Competition)

- a) In the event a situation arises, which is not specified in the FMSA Constitution, the protocol for arriving at a solution is to consult:
- 1) ORSA Rules
 - 2) Softball Canada Rules
 - 3) A vote of Centre Reps, one vote per centre
- b) All F.M.S.A. evening games must begin at 6:30 p.m. or 8:30 p.m. games starting at 6:30 p.m. shall not begin a new inning after 8:15 p.m. with the exception of U7, U9 and U11 no new inning after 8:00 pm, a new inning starts when 3rd out of preceding inning is made. You must finish the inning you are playing at curfew time unless home team is winning. Games scheduled to begin at 8:30 p.m. have a one-hour and forty-five-minute (1-3/4 hour) curfew with no new inning to start after this time. All games are restricted to a maximum of 7 innings, with the exception of U7, U9 and U11 Level which is restricted to a maximum of 6 innings. Four (4) innings constitute a game if called by the umpire due to weather conditions. A game called by curfew is complete regardless of the number of innings played. All games, regular season and playoff, having reached curfew, and where the score and inning is such that the winning team has been determined, the umpire will declare the game as complete at that point. The final score will revert back to the last complete inning. EXAMPLE: During play in the top of the 5th inning, the 1:45 time curfew is reached; score is 14 to 5 for visitors: Game is over; score reverts back to score after 4 complete innings because home team is limited to 5 runs in bottom of inning and cannot win game. There is a five-run mercy rule per inning at all age Levels except Junior Men (10 runs after 5 or more completed innings). The mercy rule does not apply to the 7th inning or at the U7, U9 and U11 Level, to the 6th inning. There is a mercy rule of 15 runs after 5 innings or at the U7, U9 and U11 Level 4 innings, or any complete inning thereafter except Junior Men (see above). Failure to field a complete team (7 players) within 15 minutes of regulation starting time will result in game forfeiture. The above rule (11a) does not apply to U5, which is governed by Appendix "A".
- c) A safety base must be used at first base in all divisions.
- d) U9 - the home team shall supply the plate umpire
U11 and U13 - the home team will supply BOTH the plate umpire and the base umpire.
U15 to Junior – the home team will supply a plate umpire and a base umpire. Umpires to be Softball Ontario or O.S.U.A. registered umpires. This will include junior umpires. An umpire cannot umpire their own age level or above.
- e) Games cannot be cancelled or postponed unless both coaches agree. Home team must make contact with visiting team by 5:15pm at the latest for 6:30pm games and 7:15pm for 8:30pm games to cancel a game due to weather unless the weather event occurs after that time. When a game is rained out, cancelled or postponed, both coaches must reschedule the game within five (5) days of the scheduled game date, keeping in mind end of season deadlines. Should coaches be unable to agree (within five days) on a new date for the game to be played, the Convenor shall set a date and diamond. Any team not attending a make-up game or failure to comply with any of the above will result in forfeiture of the game points for that game. Games not played (except forfeits) will result in no points for either team. A forfeited game where the home Centre is not given notice in enough time to cancel umpires and diamond liners will result in the visiting Centre paying ½ of the total game costs to the home Centre (e.g., 48 hours' notice needed).

- f) The F.M.S.A. requires all participating Centers to use the same CASA approved option colour ball. For U17 and U19 division, the F.M.S.A. requires all participating Centres to use Worth or Rawlings Core 0.47 balls. Any changes to the Core and Manufacturer will be agreed upon each year at the March “Team Registration” Meeting.
- g) If a team fails to finish a game, they automatically forfeit the game to the other team
- h) Stealing of home shall not be permitted at the U11 level.

ARTICLE 12: (Regular Season and Playoff Structure) **SEE ALSO APPENDIX “B”**

- a) The regular season schedule for the U5 division will be 10 games over 10 weeks, with the season beginning 2 weeks after the start of the regular season for all other divisions.
- b) The regular season schedule will consist of 14 games for U7 to U13 divisions and 16 games for U15, U17, U19, and Junior divisions. The schedule will be played over 12 weeks with start and finish dates to be established prior to the start of each season by the F.M.S.A.
- c) All regular season games are to be played by dates given in Appendix B under regular season in order to be counted in the final standings. Any games played during the designated Rain Out Dates must be communicated to the convenor immediately.
- d) The “Playoff Meeting” will be held the Thursday evening before the 1st playoff week.
- e) Each age division will be scheduled to play on specific nights of the week for the regular season schedule, in accordance with the following:

U5	➡	Wednesday
U7	➡	Monday
U9		Thursday
U11	➡	Tuesday
U13	➡	Wednesday
U15	➡	Thursday

- f) Games at the U5, U7, U9, U11, U13, and U15 Levels shall be scheduled for a 6:30 p.m. start. A Centre wishing to start U15 Level games at 8:30 p.m. will be required to make such a request to the F.M.S.A. when team commitments are declared.
- g) U17, U19, and Junior games to start at 8:30 p.m. A center wishing to start U17 level games at 6:30pm will be required to make such a request to the FMSA when team commitments are declared.
- h) All teams will participate in the Playoffs.
- i) Any ties occurring in the league standings will be resolved by using:
 1. Results achieved when the two tied teams played each other;
 2. Most runs scored in head-to-head play;
 3. Coin toss.

ARTICLE 13: (Insurance)

All Centres are required to purchase Liability and Accident Insurance through O.R.S.A. or O.A.S.A. for all participating Teams and Call-up Teams. Proof of Insurance must be provided to the League Secretary by May 1st of the respective year. Failure to provide Proof of Insurance to the Secretary: For any Centre failing to provide Proof of Insurance, all of the delinquent Centre’s Teams or Call-up Teams will be suspended from play until Proof of Insurance is provided.

The F.M.S.A. will purchase Directors and Officers Insurance through the O.A.S.A. for the F.M.S.A. Executive.

FLAMBOROUGH MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

F.M.S.A. RULES

1. All players are put in the batting line-up and bat in order, including elevated players. Unlimited substitution for field position is allowed. Equal playing time is strongly encouraged. In U11 and U13, players shall not play the full game in the same position and will play a minimum of one inning in the infield. No player shall sit twice before all players sit once, and players shall not sit consecutive innings. (Junior Men will comply with the rules of nine-substitute in). If a player is injured and unable to continue, or is ejected from the game, then one of your substituted players can replace the injured or ejected player.
2. A complete batting order with first and last name, and shirt number, must be given to the opposing team before the game begins. For Junior Men, a complete batting order (including your D.P. if used) with subs listed on the score sheet, will be given to the opposing team before the game begins. Elevated players for all divisions must be identified on the score sheet.
3. Each team will be allowed to play with 7 players, without penalty. If any additional player(s) arrive after the start of the game, they may enter the game providing they are able to play 3 defensive innings. They will be added to the bottom of the batting order at the time of entry.
4. If a player is injured, his/her name may be stroked from the batting line-up. No penalty, providing you still have seven players remaining on your roster.
5. Players must play six (6) F.M.S.A. league games (four (4) for Junior Men), for their Centre, to be eligible for the playoffs. The executive may review any exceptions before the playoffs begin. Players unable to play the required minimum games during regular season due to injury (verified by a doctor's certificate) must be reported to the convenor. Teams must play ten games of the schedule to be eligible for the playoffs.
6. All players must play a minimum of 3 innings defensively, not necessarily consecutive innings, except U19 and Junior – no minimum inning requirement. An elevated player ("Call-up Player"), provided from an eligible Call-up Team to any division, is to play no more than three (3) defensive innings (in the field) if enough players of the regular Team are in attendance. Eligible Call-up Players are permitted to pitch. Non-F.M.S.A. players may be elevated from a lower level from that Centre provided they come from an eligible Call-up Team, but not permitted to pitch. Eligible Call-up Players must be placed at the bottom of the batting order but are permitted to bat for the full game, regardless of defensive innings played. Non-compliance with this rule will result in game forfeiture regardless of which inning the opposing coach detects such non-compliance.
7. No player may play for teams below or across his/her registered division. A player may participate with higher divisions. Should both games be on the same day, the player must play for the team with whom s/he is registered, unless the coach of the lower level permits otherwise.

8. Except where prohibited by law, teams must be the same sex. U5, U7 and U9 teams are a mixed gender. For U11 and up, boys may not play on teams registered in a girls' division.
9. U11 and U13 teams may use the same pitcher for a maximum of three (3) innings. Any pitcher's appearance, during an inning, constitutes an inning. Upon entering the first tie-breaking inning, pitchers on both teams will be given an opportunity to pitch up to two (2) innings in addition to the maximum of three (3) innings allowed during the first seven (7) innings (six (6) innings for U11) of the game. **The conference rule is waived in these divisions.**
10. A coach, manager, or player, will be ejected from any game for the following reasons: searing, intent to injure, fighting, using abusive language, or being abusive to an umpire. A coach, manager, or player asked to leave (by the umpire) the playing area (including the bleachers) will immediately do so, or the game will be forfeited to the opposing team. The coach, manager, or player, will be ejected for the remainder of that game, plus suspended for the next game. The suspended player's coach shall report the suspension to the convenor of his/her division immediately after the game. The convenor shall advise the coach of the opposing team for the next game, of the suspension. The suspended player, manager, or coach, must sign both score sheets at the next game s/he attends, and will serve his/her suspension at that game. Forfeiture if player plays or manager/coach coaches.
11. No team can be registered or participate in the F.M.S.A unless it is coached by a person who is a non-playing member of that team. A coach must understand and enforce the Code of Conduct as per the Constitution. If a Centre has a coach that does not meet this objective, the F.M.S.A. has the right to suspend that team from league and playoff participation.
12. There can be only ONE registered PWSA or OASA player per FMSA house league team allowed. The player must be identified when teams are submitted and also identified on the rosters when submitted. Failure to identify the player at either time will result in the player being expelled from the team for the season. The PWSA/OASA player may NOT pitch or catch at any time for an FMSA team.
13. Cheering shall be done in a positive manner, directed at encouraging one's own team, not taunting the other, nor trying to deliberately distract the other team from playing the game.
14. In all divisions, U5 through U17, pitchers must wear a certified pitchers mask or a batting helmet with a face shield.
15. In all divisions, U5 through U17, outfielders must be positioned at least 10 feet behind infielders at the time of the pitch.

FLAMBOROUGH MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

TOURNAMENT RULES FOR PLAYOFFS

ALL REGULAR SEASON RULES APPLY EXCEPT AS NOTED BELOW:

1. All tournaments are to be double-knockout seeded playoffs; i.e., 1st plays 8th, etc. home teams determined by Final League standings during the regular season. The higher standing team will be the home team and have the choice of dugouts regardless of what park they are playing in throughout the tournament. In U7 ONLY, if there are 8 or more teams, the league will be split into 2 smaller divisions with 2 separate double knockout tournaments.
2. All games to be seven (7) innings, with no new inning to start after 1 ¾ hours except for FINAL GAMES, which will be seven (7) innings, or until a winner is decided. Except U7, U9 and U11 all games will be six (6) innings, with no new inning to start after 1 ½ hours except for FINAL GAMES, which will be 6 innings, or until a winner is decided. **LAST GAME AND IF NECESSARY, GAMES ARE CONSIDERED FINAL GAMES.** Time starts when first pitch is made.
3. Mercy Rule – same as regular season.
4. A game tied after seven (7) innings or the last completed inning and 1 ¾ hour time limit, is to be played out until a winner is decided. The International Tie Breaker Rule will be used at the start of the next inning and any inning thereafter to decide the winner. ***International Tie Breaker:*** Starting with the top of the 8th inning or the inning after the time curfew, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat, with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half-inning being placed on second base. (U19 Boys and Junior Men – the player who is running can be substituted in accordance with the substitution rules). **NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO MERCY IN THE INTERNATIONAL TIE BREAKER INNINGS.**
5. Only protests regarding ineligible players and violation of F.M.S.A. rules are allowed and shall be decided by the Tournament Convenor. A team caught using an illegal player will forfeit the remaining games. A team guilty of violating F.M.S.A. rules will forfeit the protested game. No other protest is allowed. The Umpire's decisions are final.
6. For U9 and up, the Host Centre is to supply two umpires per game. The Home Plate Umpire must be an experienced, mature Level 1 (or higher) Softball Ontario- or OSUA-carded Umpire. At the U11 and U13 levels, the Base Umpire must be a mature Junior umpire (U17 and above) or the Host Centre has the option of providing either two Softball Ontario-, or two OSUA-carded Umpires, as described above, per game.

At the U15 and higher age levels, the Base Umpire must be an experienced, mature Level 1 (or higher) Softball Ontario- or OSUA-carded Umpire. The Host Centre has the option of supplying either two Softball Ontario-carded or two OSUA-carded Umpires, as described above, per game. **Carded:** paid the required fee and obtained a card with number for current year.

Umpires must be at an age level ABOVE the level they are umpiring. Example: U15 game must be umpired by U17 age or older, **regardless** of carded Umpire status.

7. The Host Centre will supply balls. All games will start with a new ball and a good used ball.
8. The Host Centre **will not** charge spectators at the gate and **will not** take a collection during the game.
9. The Convenor and tournament committee members will announce rain dates at the time of the rainout.
10. If one team is not prepared to start the game at the scheduled time, that team will forfeit the game. There is no 15-minute grace period.
11. Official Team Lists shall be available to the Convenor throughout the tournament. Only those players whose names appear on the Team Lists will be eligible to play in that game. Coaches must be prepared to prove elevated player's eligibility.
12. Each team will supply an official scorekeeper for each game that is NOT a member of their coaching staff. The two scorekeepers must verify the score at the end of each complete inning.

FLAMBOROUGH MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

APPENDIX “A” – Part 1

F.M.S.A. U5 DIVISION RULES

Flamborough Minor Softball Association Amendments to the O.R.S.A. Official U5 Rules (last amended 2005)

INTRODUCTION

1. F.M.S.A. offers a U5 division for BOYS and GIRLS on mixed teams.
2. U5 in the F.M.S.A. is an introductory division, designed to encourage children to participate in the game of softball.
3. F.M.S.A. uses the **O.R.S.A. Official U5 Rules** for our U5 division. All centres must have copies of the **O.R.S.A. Official U5 Rules** at the start of every season. Some of the O.R.S.A. U5 rules have been altered or deleted to better accommodate the Flamborough League. The “*F.M.S.A. Amendments to the O.R.S.A. Official U5 Rules*” clearly outlines what rules have been altered or deleted. It also outlines any rules that have been added. In all cases, SPECIAL, ALTERED OR ADDED RULES TAKE PRECEDENCE. Finally, when in doubt, rely on regular Softball Canada rules and common sense.
4. It is the responsibility of Center Representatives to ensure that ALL U5 coaches from their respective centres have access to the official rules and amendments including any special or altered F.M.S.A. U5 rules. Centre Representatives must understand the rules and amendments and be available to advise/guide U5 coaches in their centres. Further, it is the responsibility of ALL U5 coaches from ALL centres to read and understand ALL official rules and amendments.

It is important to remember that these rules and guidelines are in place to ensure CONSISTENCY and FAIRNESS for ALL centres. Rules and guidelines are necessary to provide structure and order, even at the U5 level.

The **O.R.S.A. Official U5 Rules** along with “*F.M.S.A. Amendments to the O.R.S.A. Official U5 Rules*”, are to be followed as outlined. It is NOT optional for coaches or centres to alter or change these rules or guidelines from one centre to another or one game to another. FOLLOW THE RULES AND GUIDELINES AS THEY ARE OUTLINED. NO EXCEPTIONS! Any rule changes or exceptions are considered at the F.M.S.A. year-end rules meeting ONLY.

SPECIAL F.M.S.A. RULES: PLAYING FIELD LAYOUT AND DIAMOND LINING

1. The baselines from home to 1st, and home to 3rd, shall be marked.
2. The playing line from 1st to 3rd shall be marked. This line is drawn to mark the dead ball zone and runs from the 10-foot mark (home to first) of the first base line to the 10-foot mark of the third base line (home to third). Any ball not batted past this line shall be clearly ruled a dead ball by the umpire.
3. Batters' boxes are to be marked for all games. [O.R.S.A. Official U5 Rules, Diagram 2 \(p20\)](#)
4. A **halfway mark** shall be shown between 1st and 2nd, 2nd and 3rd, and 3rd and home, to assist the umpire in designating appropriate bases for base runners.
5. A **50-foot arc** must be shown when lining the diamond for U5. This arc is drawn from the centre of the playing line that runs from 1st to 3rd. The 50-foot arc must be extended to the playing field boundaries (fences along 1st and 3rd.)
6. Base path distances are 45-feet.
7. A **safety base** is to be used at 1st base.
8. A **pitcher's plate** OR a **marked pitcher's spot** must be shown when lining the diamond for U5, as per [4-7 O.R.S.A. Official U5 Rules \(p7\)](#) – ***"A pitcher: who shall play in the infield, and must assume a set position with both feet across the pitcher's plate until the ball is hit."***
9. The distance from home plate to 2nd base is 63'-7".

SPECIAL F.M.S.A. RULES: AGE AND NUMBER OF PLAYERS

1. All players must **as a minimum be 4 years of age in the calendar year that they are playing in**: in other words, a player must be no younger than 4 years of age as of December 31 of the current season, **NO EXCEPTIONS**.
2. No player **can be older than 5 years of age in the calendar year that they are playing in**: in other words, a player must be no older than 5 years of age of December 31 of the current season, **NO EXCEPTIONS, unless approved by F.M.S.A.**
3. The proper number of players in U5 is 11. A team may play an official game for purposes of points in the standings with a minimum of 7 players.
4. [Delete 1-2 O.R.S.A. Official U5 Rules \(p1\)](#).
5. A team with 11 players or more, bats all players and fields 11 players even if the other team has less than 11 players. Alternates are substituted in and out as the game progresses. Unlimited substitution is allowed, and **ALL PLAYERS MUST PLAY, unless they are ill, injured, or refuse to play. No one player may sit for 2 consecutive innings, until all other players have sat at least 1 inning, unless ill, injured, or they refuse to play.**

6. **ON DEFENSE**, a team fields however many players they have; a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 11. BOTH TEAMS DO NOT HAVE TO PLAY WITH THE SAME NUMBER OF PLAYERS, BUT BOTH TEAMS MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 7 PLAYERS for the game to be considered official for purposes of the standings. **Less than 7 players is a forfeit. Both teams less than 7 players: both forfeit and no points for either team.**
7. **ON OFFENSE**, both teams must have all of their players in attendance listed in both score books. In the case of 11 players or more, the offensive team bats all players. If a team has fewer than 11 players, they are to bat however many players they have listed, **AND THEN go back to the top of their order to start over. In this case, the team continues hitting until they have batted the same number of players as the defensive team.**
8. **Coaches are both encouraged and expected to rotate players in and out of different defensive positions and play everyone as equally as possible.**
9. **Delete 4-2 and 4-3 and 4-6 O.R.S.A. Official U5 Rules (pp5-7).**

SPECIAL F.M.S.A. RULES: EQUIPMENT

1. A **9-inch regular hard baseball** is to be used, and the home team must supply it.
2. Each team to supply their own batting Tee.
3. Each team must supply **6 batting helmets** complete with chin straps. They are to be worn when at bat, on deck, and when running the bases – no exceptions.
4. Refer to **2-5 O.R.S.A. Official U5 Rules (p2)** for rules regarding catcher's equipment.
5. Each player must have a **team shirt with individual number**. Baseball caps are recommended.
6. The defensive **pitcher must wear a helmet and face mask**.
7. Bats can be **wood or aluminum** and must not be bigger than **2.25"** in diameter.
8. **Delete 2-6 O.R.S.A. Official U5 Rules (p2).**

SPECIAL F.M.S.A. RULES: UMPIRES

1. The Home Team will provide, at minimum, a knowledgeable plate umpire. All umpires must be familiar with the official U5 rules. All Umpire decisions are final.

SPECIAL F.M.S.A. RULES: GAMES AND CURFEW

1. **All games** are subject to a **1 ½ hour curfew, from the scheduled start time**. For example, a game is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. but actually starts at 9:15 a.m. curfew is still 10:30 a.m., NOT 10:45 a.m.
2. All teams must make the effort to play a **minimum of 2**, to a maximum of 5 innings in every game. Curfew applies.

3. **All evening games are to start at 6:30 p.m. with a 15-minute grace period** for late arrivals. **No new inning can start after 8:00 p.m.** However, the last inning must be completed if the home team is losing, *even if this means that the game will finish after 8:00 p.m. (the home team is simply finishing an inning, they are not starting a new one).*
4. **Less than 7 players for 1 team or both teams, after the 15-minute grace period, is a forfeit.** Late arrivals after a game has started go to the bottom of the batting order. Both scorekeepers must keep track of any line-up changes or additions.
5. In consideration of the age of the participants, it is acceptable for both teams to have a maximum of 2 “adult helpers” on the field to help **GUIDE** the players on defense. **Adults are NOT to touch the ball or interfere with a play.** If in the judgement of **EITHER** umpire, an “adult helper” on the field **INTENTIONALLY** touches the ball or interferes with a play, all runners go to **HOME**, including the **BATTER**.
6. A game is considered to be complete after any number of full innings. In the event the game is called due to weather, the score will revert back to the **last COMPLETE inning**, even if **only 1 complete inning** has been played.
7. Delete *all of O.R.S.A. Official U5 Rules, page 9, and up to “Playing Rules” page 10.*

SPECIAL F.M.S.A. RULES: WHEN IS TIME CALLED?

1. When any **defensive player** has control of the ball **inside of the 50-foot arc** and in the judgement of the plate Umpire there is no attempt to make any play on any of the base runners, **TIME WILL BE CALLED.**
2. **ANY defensive player** may have time called by standing motionless and holding the ball in the air above his/her head, **AS LONG AS S/HE IS INSIDE THE 50-FOOT ARC**, including the **adjacent foul territories.**
3. Base runners will be awarded the **closest base** as shown by the **half-way mark** when time is called.
4. Delete *3-7 and 3-8 O.R.S.A. Official U5 Rules (p4).*

SPECIAL F.M.S.A. RULES: WHEN IS A STRIKE CALLED?

1. **3-strike rule IS NOT TO BE APPLIED** for the **1st six (6) weeks** of any season.
2. **After 6 weeks, strikes are to be called, and 3 strikes means the batter is out.**
3. **A strike is when:**
 - (a) The ball is swung at by the batter and is **completely missed**, or if the batter swings and **hits the Tee only**, but not the ball.
 - (b) The ball is dead hit or fouled by the batter when s/he has **less than 2 strikes.**
 - (c) Delete *3-5 O.R.S.A. Official U5 Rules (p4).*

SPECIAL F.M.S.A. RULES: MISCELLANEOUS

1. On defense, the ball **must be thrown either overhand or underhand**, not bowled or deliberately bounced to a base, or the **runner will be deemed safe**.

Last Batter

2. The **COACH or SCOREKEEPER** of the team at bat must notify the Umpire when the last batter is up. The Umpire must notify the defensive coach. **Failure to notify the defensive team of last batter will nullify the play and the last batter must bat again.**
3. **Delete 6-10 O.R.S.A. Official U5 Rules (p16).**
4. **On last batter, the ball must come to HOME. The ball must be thrown over the playing line at least once, unless a fair hit ball off of the Tee is fielded in front of the playing line. The catcher is the ONLY player allowed to touch home plate with the ball, to get runners with last batter status out. The pitcher is the only player allowed to assist the catcher in the home plate area.**
See *O.R.S.A. Official U5 Rules (pp12-13)*.
5. **The ball must be thrown in from the pitcher to the catcher. The pitcher cannot run the ball into the catcher during all plays not just last batter.**
6. **Delete 7-1 and 7-2 and Diagram 4 O.R.S.A. Official U5 Rules (pp16-17, 22).**

SPECIAL F.M.S.A. RULES: IMPORTANCE OF PLAYING ALL OF THE GAMES

1. Coaches and parents are expected to work co-operatively with respect to ensuring that **every scheduled U5 game is played** – weather permitting – regardless of whether or not a game ends up being an official forfeit.
2. For example, 1 team has less than the 7 needed to play an official game for purposes of the standings, but the other team has 11 or more players in attendance. It is not unreasonable for all parties involved to ensure that both teams are divided up to allow for the playing of an exhibition game.
3. The forfeited game will still be awarded for the purposes of the standings. The exhibition game will be just that: exhibition or practice. However, all of the children will still have been given the chance to play.

SPECIAL F.M.S.A. RULES: REGULAR SEASON PLAY AND YEAR-END CHAMPION

1. **The F.M.S.A. U5 division WILL NOT have year-end playoffs unless the F.M.S.A. Constitution is amended on any given year to allow for them.**
2. Regular season play, and the points accumulated during the **regular season**, are to be used to determine the **year-end LEAGUE CHAMPION** each season.
A Win = 2 pts A Loss = 0 pts A Tie = 1 pt
3. **Teams must play a minimum of 8 of the scheduled 10 league games in order to qualify for the year-end league championship – REGARDLESS OF THEIR WIN/LOSS RECORD.**

4. **Forfeited games** count as “**games played**” as long as both teams are present and **ready to play**. A team “**phoning in a forfeit**” does not get credit for a game played, but the **winning team does**. It is **not optional** for teams to not play a scheduled game, and each take 1 point for a tie.
5. In the event of a tie at year end, the league champion will be determined by:
 - a) **Best record, with most games played** (i.e., Team 1: 8 games played, 8 wins and 0 losses = 16 pts. Team 2: 10 games played, 8 wins and 2 losses = 16 pts. TEAM 2 WOULD BE CHAMPIONS by virtue of playing more games.)
 - b) **Record of head to head games.**
 - c) **Differential of total runs for and against throughout the season.** (i.e., Team 1: 100 runs for and 50 against: differential of +50. Team 2: 200 runs for and 60 against: differential of +40. Team 3: 80 runs for and 20 against: differential of +60. TEAM 3 WOULD BE CHAMPIONS based on the higher run differential.)
6. **All scores are to be reported to the convenor via e-mail by BOTH TEAMS on a weekly basis.**
7. F.M.S.A. to purchase and provide “**CHAMPIONS**” medallions for the year end winners and “**PARTICIPATION**” medallions for all other U5 participants from all centers each season.
8. The F.M.S.A. U5 medallions are to be distributed to the appropriate centres at the final F.M.S.A. playoff meeting (end of July – 1st of August).
9. Each centre to distribute the F.M.S.A. U5 medallions to their respective teams as they see fit (at a centre’s year-end banquet, for example).
10. Centres to pay a fee of **\$80.00 to enter a U5 team** in the F.M.S.A.

FLAMBOROUGH MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

APPENDIX "A" - Part 2

F.M.S.A. U7 DIVISION RULES

The U7 Division is open to mixed teams carrying both boys and girls on their roster. Refer to Appendix "B" for age eligibility to play. Any other birth date constitutes an exception and must be presented to the league before the season begins.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The distance from home plate to 2nd base is 63'-7".
2. Bases shall be **45'** apart, **pitching rubber at 30'**, with an **8' circle** around the pitching rubber.
3. A **11" softball** will be used.
4. Bats must be aluminum, no more than **33 inches** long, and **no more than 2.25"** in diameter.
5. The defensive pitcher must wear a helmet with ear flaps and chin strap.
6. Catchers must wear a helmet with a face mask, chest protector, and shin guards.
7. No metal or removable plastic cleats are allowed. Molded rubber is acceptable.
8. Games will begin at 6:30 p.m., 15-minute grace period – with no new innings to start after 1 ½ hours.
9. A game will consist of 6 innings. Games must be three (3) completed innings to be an official game. A time curfew is complete regardless of number of innings played. The final inning must be completed unless the home team is winning.
10. An inning is over when three (3) outs are made, or five (5) runs have been scored in the inning. A Game Mercy may be declared when there is a 15-run lead after 3 or more completed innings.
11. The SIXTH inning will be an open inning.

12. Games tied after six (6) innings are scored as a tie. Both teams must report their scores to the Division Convenor.
13. A team shall be comprised of 10 players, 4 of whom can be outfielders. A team may play with 7 with no penalty.
14. Equal playing time is encouraged. All players must play at least one inning in an infield position within the first 3 innings of a game, including playoffs. All players must be scheduled to play two (2) of the first 3 innings per game.
15. The infield fly rule does not apply.
16. Runner can advance on the base path if there is an infield hit without a force play on. For example if there is a runner on third (with non on any other base) and the batter up to bat hits at minimum an infield hit, then the runner on third base can advance home and score. Same scenario if there is a runner on second base with no other runner on first base, and the batter up to bat hits an infield single, then the runner on second can advance to third base only as it was an infield hit. If the batter were to hit a ball to the grass, the runner could advance from second to home. For non-forced plays, the defensive player must tag the runner in order for an out to occur.
17. Players hurt while batting, example a batter hits the ball but it grazes their fingers or they trip running out of the batters box, they must continue to run to first base to remain safe. If they leave the field and head to the dugout they will be called out.

DEFENSIVE PLAY

1. The defensive pitcher must line up on either side of, but not in front of, the Offensive Pitcher, outside the circle, until the pitch is released.
2. Time will be called when: In the opinion of any umpire on the field, an INFIELDER ONLY on defense, has control of the ball in the INFIELD AREA ONLY and has “frozen” the runners from advancing (i.e., the infielder is holding the ball and is not making or attempting to make a play on a runner). The Defensive Pitcher will turn the ball over to the Offensive Pitcher.
3. The Offensive Pitcher must make every attempt to avoid contact with a ball thrown in an attempt to make a defensive play. If a thrown ball unavoidably hits the Offensive Pitcher, the ball is dead, and runners must return to the base last occupied at the moment of contact unless forced to advance.
4. If the Offensive Pitcher intentionally touches or interferes with any defensive attempt to field a thrown ball, the ball is dead, runners must return to the base last touched at the moment of contact unless forced, and the runner closest to scoring will be called out.
5. **Pitchers can not touch any bases (including home), ball must be thrown to a base to record an out.**

OFFENSIVE PLAY

1. The Offensive Pitcher, an adult or coach of the team at bat, will pitch. The Offensive Pitcher must remain neutral and may not leave the eight (8) foot circle.
2. The Offensive Pitcher may have 3 warm up pitches before each inning.
3. The Offensive Pitcher will pitch 5 pitches to the batter with a simple underhand delivery. The Offensive Pitcher can pitch from anywhere within the 8ft circle, starting with both feet inside of the 8 foot circle however the lead foot can finish outside the 8 foot circle line.
- 4.
5. Batter will receive a maximum of **5 PITCHES** and will be called out **AFTER 5 PITCHES or 3 STRIKES, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST**. Batter cannot be called out on a foul ball unless caught or the **FOUL BALL IS THE 5TH PITCH**.
6. A foul ball will count as a strike.
7. If a pitch hits a batter, the ball is dead and a **pitch** is declared. There will be no bunting.
8. The Offensive Pitcher must make every attempt to avoid contact with a hit ball. If a batted ball unavoidably hits the Offensive Pitcher, the ball is dead and the batter is awarded first base. All other base runners will remain on their base unless forced to advance by the batter being awarded first base.
9. If the Offensive Pitcher intentionally touches or interferes with any defensive attempt to field a batted ball, the ball is dead, and the batter is declared "Out". All runners must return to their base.
10. A runner may not leave the base until the batter hits the ball. Leaving the base in anticipation of a hit will be called a "Lead Off", and the runner is called "Out". Runners may return to the base on a fouled hit. No stealing is permitted.

FLAMBOROUGH MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

APPENDIX “A” - Part 3

F.M.S.A. U9 DIVISION RULES

The U9 Division is open to mixed teams carrying both boys and girls on their roster. Refer to Appendix “B” for age eligibility to play. Any other birth date constitutes an exception and must be presented to the league before the season begins.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. There are no defensive coaches on the field.
2. No base stealing (ball has to be hit to run).
3. There are no walks allowed and this applies to league play and playoff tournament.
4. A batter can not run on his or her third strike.
5. Pitchers in the U9 division only will pitch 4 pitches to the batter.
 - a) If the batter strikes out or hits the ball the play stands.
 - b) Any count on the batter will stand after the 4 pitches.
 - c) The coach will come onto the field to pitch.
 - d) If the pitcher had managed to get 2 (two) strikes on the batter, then the batter will receive 1 (one) pitch which must be put in play or the batter will be called out.
 - e) If the batter had 1 (one) strike called then they would receive 2 (two) pitches.
 - f) If no strikes were called on the batter, then the batter would receive 3 (three) pitches.
 - g) If at the end of the coach pitch and the ball is still not put into play (with the exception of a foul ball), and the player does not hit they are out.
 - h) If the last coach pitch was a foul ball then the batter will receive one more pitch and if it is not put into play or it is fouled, they are out.
 - i) The coach pitcher must start on the pitching mound and remain within the circle when pitching.

- j) After pitching the coach pitcher must not interfere with the defensive teams ability to field the ball. If the umpire determines that the coach pitcher hindered the defensive teams ability to field the ball the batter will be called out.
6. There are no home runs, 2 bases only are allowed.
 7. No pitcher can pitch 2 consecutive innings.
 8. No player shall sit out 2 consecutive innings.
 9. Coaches may use up to 4 outfielders.
 10. **11” softball** will be used
 11. Bases shall be **45’** apart, **pitching rubber at 30’**, with an **8’ circle** around the pitching rubber.
 11. A complete game is 6 innings. No new inning to started after 1.5 hours (8:00pm) with a 6:30pm start time.

FLAMBOROUGH MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION
APPENDIX “A” – Part 4
F.M.S.A. U11 DIVISION RULES

RULES AND REGULATIONS

11” softball, 45’ bases, 35’ pitching distance, home plate to 2nd base is 63’-7”

Start time 6:30 pm (15 minute grace period – then forfeiture)

Complete game – 6 innings. No new inning after 1.5 hours (8:00pm for 6:30pm start)

A new inning starts when the 3rd out of the preceding inning is recorded.

4 consecutive inning constitutes a game, if called due to weather conditions.

A game called by curfew is complete regardless of the number of innings played.

5 runs maximum per inning, except the 6th inning, which will be open

Mercy/Runs Ahead Rule – 15 runs after 4 innings, or any complete inning thereafter

All players are put in the batting line-up and bat in order. Each team will be allowed to play with 7 players, with out penalty. Additional players, who arrive after the start of the game, may be added to the bottom of the batting order, at the time of entry, provided they are able to play 3 defensive innings.

Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 3 innings. Any appearance by the pitcher (even 1 batter) is considered an inning. Pitchers must wear a certified pitching mask or a helmet with a face shield.

The defensive conference rule is waived.

No player shall sit out twice until all players have sat out once. No player shall sit out 2 consecutive innings. All players must play a minimum of 3 innings defensively. Players shall not play the full game in the same position and shall play at least 1 inning in the infield.

The batter is out on the 3rd strike, whether the ball is caught or not. The ball remains live.

The infield fly rule is not in effect.

Base runners may leave the base when the ball crosses the plate.

A player cannot advance home on a steal, passed ball or wild pitch. A player must be batted in, or can advance home if it is part of a continuation of play (eg overthrows after a hit ball). A player cannot advance home on a steal during a catcher's attempt to throw out a runner during a steal from 1st to 2nd or 2nd to 3rd (a player cannot advance home on an overthrow as this will encourage the catchers to throw). Continuation of play versus a steal will be determined by the umpire(s).

Players must appear in 6 league games to qualify for playoffs. Teams must play in 10 regular season games to be eligible for playoffs.

FLAMBOROUGH MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION
APPENDIX “A” – Part 5
F.M.S.A. U13 DIVISION RULES

RULES AND REGULATIONS

11” softball, 55’ bases, 38’ pitching distance, home plate to 2nd base is 77’-9”

Start time 6:30 pm (15 minute grace period – then forfeiture)

Complete game – 7 innings. No new inning after 1.75 hours (8:15pm for 6:30pm start)

A new inning starts when the 3rd out of the preceding inning is recorded.

4 consecutive innings constitutes a game, if called due to weather conditions.

A game called by curfew is complete regardless of the number of innings played.

5 runs maximum per inning, except the 7th inning, which will be open

Mercy/Runs Ahead Rule – 15 runs after 5 innings, or any complete inning thereafter

All players are put in the batting line-up and bat in order. Each team will be allowed to play with 7 players, with out penalty. Additional players, who arrive after the start of the game, may be added to the bottom of the batting order, at the time of entry, provided they are able to play 3 defensive innings.

Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 3 innings. Any appearance by the pitcher (even 1 batter) is considered an inning. Pitchers must wear a certified pitching mask or a helmet with a face shield.

The defensive conference rule is waived.

No player shall sit out twice until all players have sate out once. No player shall sit out 2 consecutive innings. All players must play a minimum of 3 innings defensively. Players shall not play the full game in the same position and shall play at least 1 inning in the infield.

The batter is out on the 3rd strike, whether the ball is caught or not. The ball remains live.

The infield fly rule is not in effect.

Base runners may leave the base when the ball crosses the plate.

Players must appear in 6 league games to qualify for playoffs. Teams must play in 10 regular season games to be eligible for playoffs.

FLAMBOROUGH MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION
APPENDIX “A” – Part 6
F.M.S.A. U15 DIVISION RULES

RULES AND REGULATIONS

12” softball, 60’ bases, 40’ pitching distance, home plate to 2nd base is 84”- 10-1/4”

Start time 6:30 pm (15 minute grace period – then forfeiture)

Complete game – 7 innings. No new inning after 1.75 hours (8:15pm for 6:30pm start)

A new inning starts when the 3rd out of the preceding inning is recorded.

4 consecutive innings constitutes a game, if called due to weather conditions.

A game called by curfew is complete regardless of the number of innings played.

5 runs maximum per inning, except the 7th inning, which will be open

Mercy/Runs Ahead Rule – 15 runs after 5 innings, or any complete inning thereafter

All players are put in the batting line-up and bat in order. Each team will be allowed to play with 7 players, with out penalty. Additional players, who arrive after the start of the game, may be added to the bottom of the batting order, at the time of entry, provided they are able to play 3 defensive innings.

All players must play a minimum of 3 innings defensively. NO player shall sit out twice until all players have sat out once. No player shall sit out 2 consecutive innings.

Runners can leave the base when the ball leaves the pitcher's hand

The infield fly rule is in effect.

Dropped 3rd strike rule is in effect.

Players must appear in 6 league games to qualify for playoffs. Teams must play in 10 regular season games to be eligible for playoffs.

FLAMBOROUGH MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

APPENDIX "A" – Part 7

F.M.S.A. U17 DIVISION RULES

RULES AND REGULATIONS

12" softball, 60' bases, 43' pitching distance, home plate to 2nd base is 84"- 10-1/4"

Start time 6:30 pm (15 minute grace period – then forfeiture)

Complete game – 7 innings. No new inning after 1.75 hours (8:15pm for 6:30pm start)

A new inning starts when the 3rd out of the preceding inning is recorded.

4 consecutive innings constitutes a game, if called due to weather conditions.

A game called by curfew is complete regardless of the number of innings played.

5 runs maximum per inning, except the 7th inning, which will be open

Mercy/Runs Ahead Rule – 15 runs after 5 innings, or any complete inning thereafter

All players are put in the batting line-up and bat in order. Each team will be allowed to play with 7 players, with out penalty. Additional players, who arrive after the start of the game, may be added to the bottom of the batting order, at the time of entry, provided they are able to play 3 defensive innings.

All players must play a minimum of 3 innings defensively. NO player shall sit out twice until all players have sat out once. No player shall sit out 2 consecutive innings.

Runners can leave the base when the ball leaves the pitcher's hand

The infield fly rule is in effect.

Dropped 3rd strike rule is in effect.

Players must appear in 6 league games to qualify for playoffs. Teams must play in 10 regular season games to be eligible for playoffs.

FLAMBOROUGH MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION APPENDIX “B”

The following does not form part of the F.M.S.A. Constitution, and is subject to annual adjustment, in compliance with the Constitution.

Note: The dates below are voted upon at the November Rules Meeting.

In the years which the U17 Boys age division is invited to participate in the Ontario Summer Games (currently every other year), the F.M.S.A. playoff dates and schedules can be amended such that the U17 Boys playoff dates will not conflict with the dates of the Ontario Summer Games. The revised F.M.S.A. playoff dates will be published as soon as the dates for the Summer Games are known.

1. **2025 REGULAR SEASON** for U7, U11, U15 and U19 starts Monday, **May 12th** and ends **Friday, August 1st**, with **Tuesday, August 5th** thru **Thursday, August 7th** left open for make-up games.

2025 REGULAR SEASON for U9, U13, U17, and Junior starts **Monday, May 5th** and ends **Friday, July 25th**, with **Monday July 28th** thru **Wednesday, July 30th** left open for make-up games.

2025 REGULAR SEASON for U5 starts **Tuesday, May 20th** and ends **Friday, July 25th**

No Playoff Meeting will be held. Convenors will communicate playoff schedules after the make-up game dates by e-mail/phone to Centre Reps and teams in their division..

2. There will be **no playoffs for U5.**
3. **U9 and U13 Playoffs** – 1-week format-August 5th to 10th (Tuesday thru Sunday)
4. **U17 and Junior Playoffs** – 1 weekend format-August 8th to 10th
5. **U7 and U11 Playoffs** – 1-week format-August 11th to 16th (Monday thru Saturday)
6. **U15 and U19 Playoffs** – 1 weekend format-August 15th to 17th

Playoff games are scheduled on a non-overlapping basis to allow the use of call-ups. Convenors should avoid scheduling back-to-back games, however if this is unavoidable, a minimum of ½ hour break is mandatory. In the event of rainouts, games must be rescheduled on the next designated date. No team will be required to play **more than three (3) games** on any day.

If a division has more than 6 teams (or at the convenor's discretion), the convenor may decide to expand the weekend format to begin play on an earlier night in the week. This will allow scheduling to more easily accommodate the number of games required to be played and have completed by the Sunday. **The division convenor will communicate the decision to expand the weekend format to all coaches in the division not later than June 1.**

Scheduling for the playoff tournament draw, regardless of the number of teams participating, should follow the formats as published in Softball Canada's publication, "*How to Make a Tournament Draw*". Copies of these tournament draws will be made available by the F.M.S.A. Secretary.

AGE LEVEL STRUCTURE FOR 2025

Level	Birth Year Range
U5	2020-2021
U7	2018-2019
U9	2016-2017
U11	2014-2015
U13	2012-2013
U15	2010-2011
U17	2008-2009
U19 Female	2006-2007
U20 Male	2005 - 2007
U21 Female	2004-2005

* 2015 AGM voted to allow a team to use up to 2 one-year overage players providing there is not a team of their age to play on. **This excludes U19/Junior categories.** These players may not pitch or catch and must be identified on the roster and on the game sheet.

* 2014 AGM voted to combine U19 and Junior and to adopt the Ontario Select Softball Tournament Association Eligibility rules. Girls ages 17-20 and 2 players up to 2 years older who cannot pitch.

FLAMBOROUGH MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

APPENDIX “C”

FMSA COACHES - CODE OF CONDUCT

Good coaching:

Patience, respect for other coaches, convenors and officials, fairness of play and encouragement offered to all players, sportsmanlike conduct in victory or defeat, willingness to do fair share of the work on the team, a positive attitude

Results of good coaching:

Positive role model for the team, respect from individuals and the organization, more credibility with other teams and ball clubs, a smoothly running team and organization, less strife, more fun, continued development of self and players

The following actions are unacceptable for a coach:

Foul language, disrespect for an individual or a team, petty or unsportsmanlike conduct, physical or verbal abuse of any kind, to an individual or a group, derogatory comments regarding an individual or a group, bad temper, rudeness or lack of patience with players, infractions which result in expulsion from a game, negative attitude with any of the players.

What are the consequences of unacceptable behavior?

Investigation by non-partisan committee, followed where inappropriate behavior or action is validated, by discipline - verbal warning, written warning, game suspension, multi-game suspension, season suspension, loss of position, refusal of position in following year(s), as well as, on a personal basis, loss of respect and creditability as an individual, contributing to degradation of the image and reputation of the FMSA.

ALL FORMAL ALLEGATIONS, COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS WILL BE INVESTIGATED FULLY AND WILL BE DEALT WITH IN A TIMELY AND CONSISTENT MANNER BY THE APPROPRIATE CENTRE AND IF NEEDED, EXCALATED TO FMSA EXECUTIVE.

FMSA PLAYERS - CODE OF CONDUCT

Good play:

Support of teammates, respect for the authority of the coaching and umpiring staff, willingness to work hard and try your best, pleasant, friendly and co-operative manner, respect for opposing teams, adherence to the rules of the game, sportsmanlike conduct in victory or defeat, good attendance and attention at games and practices.

What is the result that you can expect from exhibiting these attributes?

The respect of your teammates, coaches and opponents, the opportunity to improve your baseball and life skills, being part of the achievements of the team, making friends, having fun, learning to work together and develop personal responsibility and accountability.

As a player, you should not:

Use foul language, rude actions or gestures, exhibit a lack of respect for teammates, coaches, officials, opposing teams, bad temper, physical or verbal abuse to others, ignorant or trash talking.

What are the consequences of unacceptable behavior by a player?

Investigation by non-partisan committee, followed where inappropriate behavior or action is validated, by discipline - verbal warning, written warning, game suspension, multi-game suspension, season suspension, loss of position, refusal of position in following year(s), as well as, on a personal basis, loss of respect and creditability as an individual, contributing to degradation of the image and reputation of the FMSA.

ALL FORMAL ALLEGATIONS, COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS WILL BE INVESTIGATED FULLY AND WILL BE DEALT WITH IN A TIMELY AND CONSISTENT MANNER BY THE APPROPRIATE CENTRE AND IF NEEDED, EXCALATED TO FMSA EXECUTIVE. ALL PLAYERS ARE EXPECTED, AT ALL TIMES ON FIELD AND AT PRACTICES, TO REFLECT A SPORTSMANLIKE ATTITUDE AND RESPECT FOR THE GAME, THE COACHES, TEAM MEMBERS, OPPONENTS AND OFFICIALS. PLAYERS MUST BE AWARE THAT THEY WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

FMSA PARENTS - CODE OF CONDUCT

How can parents of FMSA players help to create a great baseball season?

Encourage the team as well as the individual, exhibit a positive and pleasant deportment at games and practices, offer assistance to the team where appropriate, and demonstrate respect for the abilities and the authority of coaching staff and umpires.

As a result of this:

You become part of the team, by extension, you have the respect of your child and his/her team. You can consider yourself part of their achievements.

As a parent, you should never do the following:

Use foul language, interrupt games or practices with personal comments, opinions or calls, make derogatory comments of any kind, use physical or verbal abuse of any kind, show disrespect by word or deed, for the authority of the coaching staff or umpires, encroach or interfere for the purpose of distracting or otherwise affecting players, harass players, coaches or other officials.

What would be the consequences of inappropriate behavior by a FMSA parent?

The players are the ones who will ultimately suffer in many ways for parents' bad behavior. Investigation by non-partisan committee, followed where inappropriate behavior or action is validated, by discipline - verbal warning, written warning, game suspension, multi-game suspension, season suspension, loss of position, refusal of position in following year(s), as well as, on a personal basis, loss of respect and creditability as an individual, contributing to degradation of the image and reputation of the FMSA.

ALL FORMAL ALLEGATIONS, COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS WILL BE INVESTIGATED FULLY AND WILL BE DEALT WITH IN A TIMELY AND CONSISTENT MANNER BY THE APPROPRIATE CENTRE AND IF NEEDED, EXCALATED TO FMSA EXECUTIVE. PARENTS IN ATTENDANCE AT GAMES AND PRACTICES REPRESENT STRONG ROLE MODELS FOR THEIR CHILDREN. FOR THE SAKE OF PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS, THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF AUDIENCE BEHAVIOR SHOULD BE EXERCISED AT ALL TIMES.