**2018 Executive**

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Umpire Co-ordinator –

Umpire-In-Chief -

**HEFL Rules of Play**

**General Rules**

1. All teams are encouraged to complete all of their league games.

2. Other than inclement weather, games cancelled with less than 24 hours notice will be considered a forfeit and the cancelling team will be responsible for any umpire and diamond fees incurred.

3. T-Ball & Tyke – See attachment re t-ball & tyke rules of play.

4. Unlimited Substitutions & Everyone Bats – All Divisions

5. HEFL adheres to the Softball Ontario Code of Conduct.

**Equipment**

1. The safety base will be used in all divisions.

2. Players in midget division & under , all minor ages offensive players and bat handlers must wear a helmet with a cage. This includes tyke and t-ball.

3. Atom, Squirt, Lassie will use the 11 inch size softball. Peewee & up will use the 12 inch size softball.

**Game Length**

1. All league games will be regulation 7 innings.

2. All innings to be completed (except for walk off win) and no innings are to be stopped mid play due to time limit.

3. No new innings – Peewee & Under - to start after 90 minutes of play

 -Bantam/Midget/Junior – to start after 120 minutes of play

It is understood that due to local diamond restrictions teams/umpires may agree at ground rules to no new inning to start after 80/110 minutes.

4. Umpires must confirm start/end times at ground rules. Agreements made at ground rules prior to the start of the game will stand.

5. Games called early due to unsafe playing conditions – 5 innings or 60 minutes of a 90 minute game or 90 minutes of a 120 minute game will be considered a complete game. Incomplete games will be replayed (following Softball Canada rules) , unless both teams agree otherwise.

**MERCY RULE**

All Divisions – Runs limited to 5 max per inning. If the 5th run is scored by a steal, the batter at bat returns to bat first in the next inning.

All Divisions – Unlimited Runs allowed in the 7th Inning. No run limit per inning.

Peewee & Under – Mercy rule is 15 runs after 5 innings.

Bantam/Midget/Junior – Mercy rule is 10 runs after 5 innings.

**# of Players**

1. 7 Players will be considered a team with no penalty. The 8th & 9th players are NOT counted as outs.

**Officials**

1. Home Team will provide 2 Softball Ontario registered or carded umpires.

2. Umpires should be older than the division playing.

3. In the event that a center has only one umpire -visiting team may choose **not**be play and be awarded the win by forfeit - OR -

-visiting team may choose to play  -this will be considered a completed game and the final score will stand

4. Coaches are encouraged to remain calm and approach the umpire for quiet conversation if a call is in question.