

2023/24

Summer PSL Ground Rules



Perth Softball League

2023/24

Summer Competition Ground Rules 2023/24

[To be read in conjunction with the current Softball Australia (SAL) Rule book]

1 REGISTRATION

- 1.1 It is required to ensure all participants, including coaches, umpires, scorers, and officials, are registered and insured on revolutioniseSPORT database before taking part in any competition. All players are required to be registered before they take the diamond – there will be NO 72-hour allowance after the game has finished (due to COVID tracking requirements).
- 1.2 Individual player registrations MUST be completed by the individual member themselves. The individual players name MUST be as per current birth certificate, birth extract, or driver's licence/Australian passport.

Failure to comply with Rule 1 will result in:

1st Club offence - Loss of 2 match points for each and every game the Individual player has played in.

2nd and every Club offence there after - Loss of 4 match points for each game the Individual player has played in.

2 CLEARANCES AND PERMITS

Clearances and permits for the 2023/24 Summer Season need to be completed by 31st December 2023. Any clearances or permits completed after this date are not valid and will result in the player being ineligible.

3 TEAM SHEETS AND LINE UP CARDS

- 3.1 For all divisions (other than U12 and U14 Juniors and Vets): Umpires must receive a line-up card before the game starts. This will include Full names, Uniform Number, Batting order and Fielding Position. An example card can be found on the Perth Softball Leagues webpage. It is the responsibility of the home team scorer to provide the line-up card which needs to be filled out by both scorers.
- 3.1.1 Any player, coach or official ejected from the game shall be recorded on the Team Sheet by the Umpire.
- 3.1.2 Designated Runners (DR) need to be listed on the Team Sheet and line-up card.
- 3.1.3 For all divisions, bench players may enter the game at any stage and be added to the line-up card and Team Sheet.
- 3.1.4 If bench player takes the diamond, you must write the innings they entered the game next to their name or they will be taken out of revolutioniseSPORT by PSL Summer.
- 3.2 ONLY ONE Team Sheet needs to be completed for each game, and it is the responsibility of the home team to submit it at the end of the game (in the box located at the bar). The Team Sheet needs to be filled out by BOTH home and away teams which include: Game Date and Time, Location, Division, Team Names,

Scores, Team List (Full Names), Umpires, MVP Votes and any Protest or Report Information. Any player, coach or official ejected from the game shall be recorded on the Team Sheet. At the conclusion of the game both scorers and umpires are required to check and sign the Team Sheet.

- 3.3 Team lists, match results and MVP votes must be submitted by both teams using the revolutioniseSPORT database no later **than 2 days after the game or 5pm on the Monday, whichever comes first.**
- 3.4 MVP votes are to be completed by the Plate Umpire in consultation with the scorer/s. 6 votes in total to be awarded: 3, 2 and 1.
- 3.5 ~~For COVID tracing purposes, if a bench player does not take the diamond, cross out their name on the team sheet so the name is still legible.~~

Failure to comply with Rule 3:

1st offence – official warning

2nd offence – loss of 2 points (offending team)

3rd offence – loss of 2 points to every club team for that fixtured round

4 UNIFORMS

- 4.1 Players must be in Club uniform by week four (4) of the season commencing, unless prior approval for an extension of time has been obtained from PSL. Failure to do so may incur a loss of 1 point per game.
- 4.2 All players within a same team must wear uniforms alike in colour, trim and style. Uniforms are described as being a club playing shirt and either club playing shorts “or” club softball/baseball style pants, which are all the same colour, trim and style (ie, stripe down each leg). No short shorts, bike shorts, leggings or tracksuit pants will be accepted.
- 4.3 Coaches shirts must be in Club colours.
- 4.4 Jackets can be worn but must be Club Colours.
- 4.5 As per Australian Softball Federation, playing shirt numbers must be at least 152mm high and worn on the back. Only whole numbers 1-99 can be used.

5 UMPIRES

- 5.1 All senior divisions must supply 2 Base Umpires per scheduled fixture. Senior Plate Umpires will be provided by the PSL Umpiring Coordinator.
- 5.1.1 All junior divisions the HOME team is to supply a plate umpire and the AWAY team is to supply 2 base umpires. A two-man umpiring system may be used if there is a level 1 umpire on the field. The base umpire must be wearing a blue shirt or green shirt if umpiring in an official capacity as a single base umpire.
- 5.1.2 Exception: U12s & U14s only require a Plate Umpire and 1 Base Umpire.
- 5.2 ALL Club umpires must wear enclosed footwear.

- 5.3 Teams failing to provide base umpires will lose 2 points per non-attending umpire. A two-man umpiring system may be used if there is a level 1 **or higher** umpire on the field. **The base umpire must be wearing a blue shirt or green shirt if umpiring in an official capacity as a single base umpire.**
- 5.4 Where an official rostered umpire does not attend at the designated start time for any fixture, the two competing teams must mutually agree to appoint someone to do the role and the game must proceed. Non-attendance by a CLUB umpire must be recorded on the game sheet. The appointed plate umpire is to be paid.
- 5.5 Plate Umpire fees (\$25 each team) are to be handed to the umpire by each coach during the coaches' conference before the game's commencement. Games do not start until money is paid. Failure to comply will result in a 7-0 forfeit.

6 GAMES

- 6.1 2 points will be awarded for a win, 1 for a draw and 0 for a loss. Ladder position will be determined by winning percentage (points divided by games).
- 6.2 A wash-out or game cancelled due to heat will result in 0-0 draw. **No teams will be entered into Revsport.**
- 6.3 Forfeit received will be rewarded with 2 match points, forfeit given will be awarded 0. A team list for the team that received the forfeit may be entered into Revsport at the discretion of PSL Summer.
- 6.4 The team listed first in the fixtures is the "home team" and shall use the third base dugout, field first, and supply 3 matching game quality balls.
- 6.5 Game Times:
- 6.5.1 All senior games will be 90 minutes or 7 innings – Complete the innings. **(Capping of time refer to 6.7)**
- 6.5.2 Under 16's games will be 90 minutes – Complete the innings. **(Capping of time refer to 6.7)**
- 6.5.3 Under 12's and Under 14's games will be 90 minutes – time will be called and the game will revert back to even innings, unless the 2nd team at bat is still in front, then scores shall stand.
- 6.5.4 No new innings shall start with 5 minutes or less remaining to the scheduled finish time. A new innings is defined as 'beginning immediately after the final out of the previous innings'.
- 6.6 No warmup pitches are to be taken if a pitcher is relieved or changed within the last 15 minutes of the game.
- 6.7 Capping of extra time of all Senior and Junior U16s games - Play is to cease no more than 15 minutes after the scheduled finish time. If the game has not concluded after the additional 15 minutes, time will be called and the game will revert back to even innings, unless the 2nd team at bat is still in front, then scores shall stand. *See Finals section for Finals rules.*
- 6.8 A Speed-up runner may be used for the Catcher or Pitcher after 2 outs. Runner should be any eligible player **off the bench in the batting lineup** but may not be one of the next 4 batters.
- 6.9 Under 14's A speed-up runner may be used for the Catcher only when 4 runs have crossed the plate. This is to keep the game moving and may not be used at the same time as rule 6.8.

- 6.10 Under 16's A speed-up runner may be used for the Catcher only when 7 runs have crossed the plate. This is to keep the game moving and may not be used at the same time as rule 6.8.
- 6.11 The 9th Run Rule will apply throughout the season including Finals for the lowest competition grade and Vets. When the 9th run of any innings is recorded, the innings is terminated/side-away and no more runs can be recorded for that innings. A Batting side can only record a maximum of nine (9) runs per batting innings.
- 6.12 In the lowest competition grade (and Vets), there will be NO automatic out if a team is playing with 8 players. The team will bat through the line-up as per usual with NO automatic out.
- 6.13 If a pitcher hits 5 batters with the pitched ball during 1 game, that player must be removed from the pitching position. **Failure to remove the pitcher in this situation will result in a 7-0 forfeit.** This rule applies to ALL divisions. **This must be written on the sheet and signed by the plate umpire.**
- 6.14 Designated Runners may be used – and need to be listed on Team Sheet and Umpire's Line-up Card prior to the game commencing. This player may come on to run once an innings for any member of the team occupying a base. This player may not take the field in another position.
- 6.15 To maximise player safety, a runner shall be called "out" when the runner does not slide OR attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and attempting to make a tag.
- 6.16 Run ahead rule
- Division 1
- 15 runs after 3 innings
 - 10 Runs after 4 innings
 - 7 runs after 5 innings
- For all other grades including Junior Divisions, the following Run Ahead Rule applies:
- 20 runs after 3 innings
 - 15 runs after 4 innings
 - 10 runs after 5 innings
 - (Innings 2½, 3½ or 4½ if team 2nd at bat is ahead)
- 6.17 Permission must be gained from both teams and umpires prior to Live Streaming, videoing or Photographing any games. Clubs have members that can NOT be on Social Media or choose not to be Live Streamed, Videoed or Photographed.

7 SENIORS

- 7.1 Metal cleats may be worn by players participating in Senior Games.
- 7.2 Players may play up all season with no restrictions on fielding position or batting order position.
- 7.3 Players may play down during the season with a limit of one club grade below their regular considered grade, and must field in the outfield and bat at the bottom of the line-up.

7.4 A fill in player may only be used in order to field a team of 9.

7.5 The maximum of 3 "fill in" players can be made up of by NO more than 2 players playing DOWN a grade.

7.6 Where a club has 2 teams in the 1 division, player movement between teams is considered the same as downward movement and subject to the same restrictions. Players are eligible for finals in whichever team they play more games, and cannot play finals for the other team in the same grade.

7.7 If a player has played more games in a higher grade during the season, they cannot play in the lower grades finals.

7.8 Players must have participated in 5 games with their club during qualifying rounds before being eligible to play finals.

7.9 State League players must play in the highest divisions for their club, but NO LOWER than division 2 at any time. Players in State League teams must also abide by this rule if they also play for another club.

7.9.1 Any player under the age of 16 is exempt from Rule 7.9

7.10 To qualify for Finals for Summer competitions, State League players must participate in 5 Summer comp games prior to the 31st December 2023.

7.11 All divisions may start and finish a game with 8 players. The 9th batter is an automatic out EXCEPT in the lowest competition grade.

7.12 In all divisions additional eligible players may take the diamond at any stage during the game. Once a player takes the diamond, their name needs to be added to the Team Sheet and umpires Line-up card.

7.13 Any junior age player who plays in a Senior team shall be classed as a senior player and is subject to the same player movements as regular senior players. Junior players may play up to 5 games before permanent senior team grade is determined.

Failure to comply with Rule 7 will result in Ineligible Player Penalties (IPP):

7-0 forfeit awarded to the opposition team

8 JUNIORS

8.1 No Metal Cleats to be worn in Junior Games.

8.2 U12's ONLY, No player shall remain on the bench for more than 1 inning unless injured or due to illness.

8.3 U12s and U14s only:

8.3.1 Players are to play defence at least every second innings.

8.3.2 If a player is injured, falls ill or is taken out of the game for any other reason, this will not constitute an automatic out and the batting line up will shift up one position.

8.3.3 In any game starting with 8 players, the 9th batter will NOT be an automatic out.

8.3.4 Any team may borrow a maximum of 2 pick up players from the opposition to be able to field a team of 8 or 9. Teams need to record on the team sheet any pick up players used by the opposition team so the game count is accurate.

- 8.3.5 The "In Field Fly Rule" does NOT apply.
- 8.3.6 Teams may have up to 13 players in a game line-up at any one time.
- 8.3.7 Any players who are aged 9 years or under as of the 31st December 2023 will be classed as 'gender neutral' for the purpose of these rules, and therefore not considered in the total 'boy count' for a team.
- 8.3.8 There is no limit to the number of boys registered to a team, however only 3 boys over the age of 9 as of the 31st December 2023 may be on the field and/or in the bating line-up at any one time.
- 8.3.9 U14's ONLY – Pitchers and catchers may only play a maximum of 3 innings in that position during any one game. This includes finals. If at least 1 pitch is thrown, it constitutes an innings.
- 8.3.10 U12's and U14's, to improve the standard of females pitching in the Womens Competition (Summer Competition), female pitchers MUST start and pitch at least 2 innings of every game.
- 8.3.11 In U12's and U14's, time and side away is called when the third out is made or at the end of play which the 6th run crosses the plate. A batting side may only record a maximum of 6 runs per batting innings.
- 8.3.12 U12's and U14's, the batting side will bat through the team including bench players to a maximum of 13 players until 6 runs are score or 3 outs made. Only 3 boys may bat in the lineup.
- 8.4 All Junior players must meet the following criteria:
- 8.4.1 U12s - must be 11 as at 31/12/23 for Summer Competition 2023/24
- 8.4.2 U14s - must be 13 as at 31/12/23 for Summer Competition 2023/24
- 8.4.3 U16s – must be 15 as at 31/12/23 for Summer Competition 2023/24
- 8.4.4 U18s – must be 17 as at 31/12/23 for Summer Competition 2023/24
- 8.5 Dispensations for players who are out of the required age brackets will be considered under special circumstances. Please email PSL Summer at perthsoftballwomens@gmail.com to submit dispensation requests and attach supporting documentation.
- 8.6 Players aged 12 and under are NOT PERMITTED to play in Senior games.
- 8.7 Pitchers in U12s, U14s and U16s are REQUIRED to wear a face mask. PSL Summer also recommends pitchers in U18s to wear a face mask.
- 8.8 All players in U12's and U14s are REQUIRED to wear a mouth guard. PSL Summer also recommends players in U16s and U18s to wear a mouth guard.
- 8.9 Where a club has 2 teams in the 1 division, player movement between teams is subject to the following restrictions: must field in the outfield and bat at the bottom of the line up. Players are eligible for finals in whichever team they play more games, and cannot play finals for the other team in the same grade.
- 8.10 Any junior age player who plays in a Senior team shall be classed as a senior player and is subject to the same player movements as regular senior players. Junior players may play up to 5 games before permanent senior team grade is determined.
- 8.11 Players must have participated in 5 games **prior to the 31st December 2022** within their age group during qualifying rounds before being eligible to play finals in that grade. Note: Players may still play in a higher age group without restrictions.

- 8.12 Juniors may only play a maximum of 2 games in one round TOTAL across all competitions. Including Finals.
- 8.13 In U16s, time and side away is called when the third out is made or at end of play which the 9th run crosses the plate. A batting side may only record a maximum of 9 runs per batting innings.

9 Pitching Distance and Ball size

- 9.1 Pitching Distance
 - 9.1.1 U12s & U14s – 40 feet
 - 9.1.2 U16s & U18s – 43 feet
 - 9.1.3 Seniors – 43 feet
- 9.2 Ball Sizes:
 - 9.2.1 U12s & U14s – 11 inch ball
 - 9.2.2 U16s & U18s – 12 inch
 - 9.2.3 Seniors – 12 inch

10 THE 2 GAME RULE

- 10.1 Senior players may play 2 games in 1 day/round in order to field a team of 9 10 in another grade.
 - 10.1.1 A 10th player DR may NOT be used under the 2 game rule.
- 10.2 The additional game is defined as the game played by a player, in a grade which would be considered an alternate grade to their regular team.
- 10.3 Players may play “up” all season without position/batting line up restrictions.
- 10.4 Players may play “down” during the season with a limit of one club grade below their regular considered grade and must field in the outfield and bat at the bottom of the line up.
- 10.5 In ALL senior games there is a maximum of 3 ‘fill in’ players allowed. Fill in players are those players who are not regularly a part of that team.
 - 10.5.1 The maximum of 3 “fill in” players can be made up of by NO more than 2 players playing DOWN a grade.
- 10.6 Junior players not currently playing in a permanent Seniors team are exempt from the limit count.
- 10.7 When submitting the Team Sheet, any player listed who is playing their additional game should have “Additional Game” or “AG” written next to their name and the division in which they usually play.

Failure to comply with rules 10.1 to 10.6 will result in Ineligible Player Penalties (IPP):

7-0 forfeit awarded to the opposition team

11 GROUNDS

MIRABOOKA

11.1 The HOME team is responsible for raking the diamonds at the end of their game.

HERB GRAHAM

11.2 The HOME team for the first game of the day is required to lift the back net, and the HOME team for the last game of the day is required to drop the back net.

11.3 The HOME team for each game is required to supply the bases, home plate and pitching plate (unless supplied by SWA).

11.4 Pitching mats may only be removed for safety reasons as deemed by the Plate Umpire.

12 INCLEMENT WEATHER OR UNSUITABLE CONDITIONS

12.1 In the event of inclement weather, PSL have the power to suspend games prior to the games commencement. After the game has commenced, it is the Plate Umpires responsibility to suspend a game due to weather conditions.

12.1.1 Saturday games will be cancelled if the predicted temperature is due to be 40C or more. PSL will make this decision at 3pm Friday for U14's and 5pm Friday for **Saturdays** games. PSL will notify all clubs via email and Facebook.

12.2 Where the heat policy is invoked under Softball Australia's Hot Weather Guidelines:

A break of 5 minutes will be taken after 40 minutes play, regardless of the innings timing. The umpires should use their discretion if a half innings or completed innings is close, to take the break then, even if this is before 40 minutes.

In all cases when the Heat policy is invoked it is mandatory to take the 5 minute break.

In high risk range, The Chief Umpire may direct an earlier break.

In timed games, no additional time will be added to game times played under the Hot Weather Guidelines.

12.3 If a game is suspended and conditions do not improve after 15 minutes, the game is to be called off.

12.4 3 completed innings constitutes a game (or 2 ½ if the second team at bat is in front). If 3 Innings completed (or 2 ½ if the second team at bat is in front) score stands.

12.5 All cancelled games that have not completed the required innings, shall result in being a Nil all (0-0) draw.

12.6 All games called a washout are required to be recorded on revolutioniseSPORT as a **draw** 0-0.

12.7 Games cancelled due to inclement weather will not be replayed (except Finals or when PSL has made the direct discretionary decision to replay a match).

12.8 Time lost through injury will not be made up.

- 12.9 In finals, 3 innings must be played except in the case of the run ahead rule. Finals may need to be rescheduled.

13 POSTPONEMENT AND RESCHEDULING OF GAMES

- 13.1 No team shall postpone matches with the intent to play them at a later date.
13.2 No games shall be rescheduled without the prior consent of PSL Summer.

**The penalty for breaching Rule 13:
“No Game” status is applied to the game
Loss of 2 points to both participating teams**

14 WITHDRAWALS AND FORFEITURES

- 14.1 When a team withdraws after the commencement of the season, all points and runs scored in matches involving that team shall be cancelled. If the withdrawal/disbandment occurs after a completed round of fixtures then all points and runs count.
14.2 In the event of a withdrawal, teams are to notify PSL as soon as possible via email at perthsoftballwomens@gmail.com
14.3 Teams that are unable to field a side have 24 hours prior to the commencement of their game to advise PSL Summer via email of their decision **to forfeit**. Email: perthsoftballwomens@gmail.com

Should a team forfeit a game after the 24 hour deadline they will lose 2 match points for the first offence. Subsequent offences will see 2 match points deducted from each club team.

15 PROTESTS and DISPUTES MISCONDUCT COMMITTEE

- 15.1 The Plate Umpire must be notified of the intention to protest at the time of the incident. The Plate Umpire is to notify opposing coach and scorer, so details of the incident **and time** can be recorded on both score books and the game sheet.
15.2 The umpire must sign both teams scorebooks and the Score Sheet.
15.3 For the protest to be considered, **it a written statement** is to be forwarded to PSL Summer **via email within 72 hours** of the incident occurring. Email: perthsoftballwomens@gmail.com
15.4 Any submission outside of the 72 hour deadline will not be addressed.
15.5 If the protesting team won the game, the protest will not be heard.
15.6 The P&D Committee shall consist of three neutral members appointed by the PSL Registrar. All matters are to be referred to the PSL Summer Chairperson. Decisions of the P&D Committee shall be notified to the clubs concerned within 7 days.

16 MISCONDUCT/DISCIPLINE

- 16.1.1 In the case of any ejection all information MUST go on the scoresheet, why, how, reason, time etc. All parties are required to prepare and send in a written statement to the PSL Summer Secretary to be received by no later than 72 hours after the completion of the game. Email perthsoftballwomens@gmail.com
- 16.1.2 All parties will be notified within 7 days of the occurrence whether a hearing is required or not.
- 16.2 Any ejected person MUST leave the grounds.
- 16.3 Any member that has a dispute under review cannot take the diamond until the dispute has been resolved.

17 FINALS

- 17.1 Division 1 Grand Final will play 7 innings with no time limit. If drawn after 7 innings Tie Breaker rules apply.
- 17.2 In all divisions, as soon as time has lapsed and even innings has been played, Tie Breaker commences at the top of the next innings if it is a drawn game.
- 17.3 Once a player takes the diamond for a team in finals, that player is not permitted to drop to a lower grade for any other finals. This carries through the entire finals series. "FILL IN" juniors are exempt to this rule (but not junior aged players permanently playing in a senior team).
- 17.4 Once a team is knocked out of finals, players are eligible to move UP to a higher grade for subsequent finals.

**Failure to comply with Rule 17 will result in:
7-0 forfeit awarded to the opposition team**

18 EXEMPTIONS

- 18.1 Clubs have the right to apply for exemptions if they feel a player is eligible. The PSL Summer Committee reserves the right to accept or deny exemption requests. ALL EXEMPTION REQUESTS NEED TO BE EMAILED TO THE PSL SUMMER COMMITTEE at perthsoftballwomens@gmail.com along with supporting documentation for the claim.

19 GRADING / PROMOTION / RELEGATION

- 19.1 In each division, the team who finished at the top of the ladder after the completion of the regular season WILL be promoted to the next highest division in the following season.
- 19.2 In each division, the teams who won the grand final, played in the grand final, and who came second on the ladder after the regular season will be CONSIDERED for promotion to the next highest division in the following season.

- 19.3 In each division, the team who finished in last position on the ladder at the conclusion of the regular season will be CONSIDERED for relegation to the next lower division.
- 19.4 PSL reserves the right to promote and relegate teams based on previous season's performance and/or upon relevant information supplied to PSL. Grading requests sent in from clubs before the start of the season are taken into CONSIDERATION however the final decision lies with PSL.
- 19.5 Team nominations that are received after the official closing date will be graded as PSL sees fit.

20 CODES OF CONDUCT

- 20.1 The Codes of Conduct for ALL participants are clearly set down in the Softball Australia and Softball WA Member Protection Policy. These have been made available to Clubs for distribution and are located on the Softball WA website. The PSL Committee requests that all Club Secretaries forward the Code of Conduct to all Members, parents, spectators, coaches, and players. The Codes of Conduct will be strictly adhered to over the current playing season.

For any queries regarding these Ground Rules please email perthsoftballwomens@gmail.com