

FLAMBOROUGH MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

“CONSTITUTION”

As amended November 30, 2011

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 fastpitch excepting F.M.S.A. constitutional rule 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.

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Status of Centres – 2012</u>
Past President:	Ancaster	Dundas R.R.	Burgessville Year 3
President:	Dundas R.R.	Fisherville	Simcoe Year 4
Secretary:	Fisherville	Freelton	
Treasurer:	Freelton	Millgrove	<u>Suspended Centres – 2012</u>
Vice-President:	Millgrove	Greensville	
	Greensville	Jarvis	<u>Centres with no 2010 entries</u>
	Jarvis	Hagersville	Copetown
	Hagersville	Dundas GSL	Rockwood
	Dundas GSL	Six Nations	
	Six Nations	Caledonia	<u>Centres with no 2011 entries</u>
	Caledonia	Puslinch	Carlisle Rockwood
	Puslinch	Brantford	Copetown Simcoe
	Brantford	Princeton	Dofasco Smithville
	Princeton	Lynden	Hagersville Stoney Creek
	Lynden	St George	Jerseyville Strabane
	St George	Waterdown	Onandaga
	Waterdown	Sheffield	Oneida
	Sheffield	Ancaster	Puslinch

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 lists and registration forms to ensure they are in keeping with Article 10 (Team/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 “Convenors Meeting”.
- Review Post-Playoff Financial reports submitted to 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.fmsa.ca).
- Review with the President, the team lists and registration forms to ensure they are in-keeping with Article 10 (Team/Player Eligibility).

- Distribute copies of respective team lists to the Division Convenors at the “Convenors Meeting”.
- Upon receipt, send copy of Insurance coverage to all Centre Representatives.
- Order and distribute to appropriate Convenors, a current Softball Canada Rulebook, ORSA Constitution and ORSA T-Ball 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 Oct. 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.
- Arrange and pay accident and liability insurance for all centres registered in the Association.
- Deliver a copy of the accident and liability insurance to the League Secretary for subsequent delivery to all Centre Representatives.
- 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. Their voting privileges will be suspended for three years. Each of their teams 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 T-Ball team and umpires attend the T-Ball 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.

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 he/she is convening. It is the convenor’s duty to operate 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, Game not played = 0 pts);
- iii) Assign alternative diamond times as required, re: Article 11(d);
- iv) Get copies of team player lists from the Secretary;
- v) He/she is the first contact person regarding disagreements;
- vi) Attend or be represented at the “Convenor’s 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 Rep. from the League Secretary). This draft should include game dates, time 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.

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 changes 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. 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 January for preparation of the year, last week of March for entry of teams, end of the regular season schedule for playoff berths, a fall meeting for an evaluation of the year and the Annual General Meeting / Rules Meeting in November. The President will call additional meetings as required.

ARTICLE 10: (Team/Player Eligibility)

- a) An FMSA approved Roster Sheet including all required player information, waivers and signatures (including Special Requests approved by the FMSA) 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 Roster" to each team list submitted. To be eligible for call-up use, such teams must be insured through the F.M.S.A. Centre name to be included on each team list. Registration forms are to be in same order as team list (alphabetically). If Centre has two teams in a Division - registration forms should be attached to appropriate list - they are treated as separate teams. Lists 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 applies. Secretary will telephone delinquent Centres on June 16th. Any Team Lists received after June 17th will be charged a \$25.00 fee **per team**. Any Team Lists received after June 24th will be charged an **additional \$25.00 per team**. The penalty for not returning complete team rosters and late fees on or before June 30th **will result in loss of all points and exclusion from the playoffs**. The FMSA 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: Rosters and registration forms submitted to FMSA must be on FMSA approved roster and registration forms. Any centre not submitting the proper forms will be fined \$25 per team.

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

- b) Registration fee is \$70.00 per team, payable to the F.M.S.A. and sent to the association treasurer, on or before April 1st. The fee includes administration, accident and liability insurance for each team 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 pays

double the registration fee - presently \$140.00 (2 x \$70.00).

- 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 FMSA immediately.

Infraction of this rule results in a fine of \$500 and / or one year suspension of the team and / or the Centre's right to play in the FMSA.

- 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 FMSA Centre may call-up a player(s) from another FMSA 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) 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. 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 (1¾ 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 Atom level which is a 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 play-off, 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 6 runs in bottom of inning and cannot win game.

There is a six-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 Atom level, to the 6th inning. There is a mercy rule of 15 runs after 5 innings or at the Atom Level 4 innings, or any complete inning thereafter except Junior Men (see above).

Failure to field a complete team (8 players) within 15 minutes of regulation starting time will result in game forfeiture. The above rule (11a) does not apply to T-ball, which is governed by **APPENDIX: “A”**

- b) A safety base must be used at first base in all divisions. Notwithstanding ORSA base distance rules, Atom bases to be set 50 feet apart.
- c) Atom and Squirt – the home team will supply the plate umpire and the visiting team will supply the base umpire.
Peewee to Junior – the home team will supply a plate umpire and a base umpire.
Umpires to be Softball Ontario or OSUA Carded umpires, this will include junior umpires.
An umpire cannot umpire their own age level or above.
- d) Games cannot be cancelled or postponed unless both coaches agree to reschedule the game. When a game is rained out, cancelled or postponed, both coaches must reschedule the game within five (5) days of the scheduled game date. 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)
- e) The FMSA requires all participating centres to use the same CASA approved optic colour ball. For Bantam & Midget divisions, the FMSA require 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.

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

- a) The regular season schedule for the T-Ball 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 Grasshopper to Squirt divisions and 16 games for PeeWee, Bantam Midget 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 the end of week 12 (week 10 in the T-ball division) in order to be counted in the final standings. The Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before the “Playoff Meeting” are to be left open for make-up games.
- d) Any un-played games can be rescheduled and played prior to the “Playoff Meeting” (see e below). Results of these games must be communicated to the Convenor immediately.
- e) The “Playoff Meeting” will be held the Thursday evening before the 1st playoff week.
- f) Each age division will be scheduled to play on specific nights of the week for the regular season schedule, in accordance with the following:
- **T-Ball** **Wednesday**
 - **Grasshopper** **Monday**
 - **Atom** **Tuesday**
 - **Squirt** **Wednesday**
 - **PeeWee** **Thursday**
- g) Games at the T-Ball, Grasshopper, Atom, Squirt and PeeWee levels shall be scheduled for a 6:30 p.m. start. A Centre wishing to start PeeWee 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.
- h) Bantam, Midget and Junior games to start at 8:30 p.m.
- i) All teams will participate in the Playoffs.
- j) 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.

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 encouraged. (Junior Men will comply with the rules of nine-substitute in). If a player is injured and unable to continue or 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 8 players. If only 8 are playing, the 9th batting position is an automatic out. If the 9th player or 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 and the 9th batting position would no longer be an automatic out.
4. If a player is injured, his/her name may be stroked from the batting line-up. No penalty, providing you still have eight players remaining on your roster.
5. Players must play in **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 Midget and Junior – no minimum inning requirement. An elevated player to any division is to play no more than three (3) innings in the field if enough players of that division are in attendance. Non-F.M.S.A players may be elevated from a lower level from that Centre provided they come from a team that is insured through FMSA, but not permitted to pitch. 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 he/she is registered unless the coach of the lower level permits otherwise.
8. Except where prohibited by law, teams must be the same sex. T-Ball and Grasshopper teams are a mixed gender. For Atom and up, boys may not play on teams registered in a girls division.
9. Atom and Squirt 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 Atom) 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: swearing, 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 he/she 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.

FLAMBOROUGH MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

“CONSTITUTION”

As amended November 30, 2011

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.
2. All games to be seven (7) innings with the exception of Atom which will be six (6) innings with no new inning to start after 1 ¾ hours except for FINAL GAMES, which will be 7 innings, or until a winner is decided. Except Grasshopper to 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 it's turn at bat, with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half-inning being placed on second base. (Midget 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 TIEBREAKER INNINGS.**
5. Only protests regarding ineligible players and violation of FMSA 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 FMSA rules will forfeit the protested game. No other protests are allowed. The Umpire's decisions are final.
6. For Atom 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 Atom and Squirt level the base umpire must be a mature Junior umpire (bantam 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 Peewee 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 to mean: 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: Peewee game must be umpired by Bantam 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 nor 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.

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“CONSTITUTION”

As amended November 30, 2011

APPENDIX “A” – Part 1

F.M.S.A. T-BALL DIVISION RULES

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

Introduction

1. F.M.S.A. offers a T-Ball division for BOYS and GIRLS on mixed teams.
2. T-Ball 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 T-Ball Rules* for our T-Ball division. All centers must have copies of the *O.R.S.A. Official T-Ball Rules* at the start of every season. Some of the *O.R.S.A. T-Ball 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 T-Ball Rules*” clearly outline 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 PRECEDENT. 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 T-Ball coaches from their respective centers have access to the official rules and amendments, including any special or altered F.M.S.A. T-Ball rules. Center Representatives must understand the rules and amendments and be available to advise/guide T-Ball coaches in their centers. Further, it is the responsibility of ALL T-Ball coaches from ALL centers 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 centers. Rules and guidelines are necessary to provide structure and order, even at the T-Ball level.

The *O.R.S.A. Official T-Ball Rules* along with *The F.M.S.A. Amendments to the O.R.S.A. Official T-Ball Rules*, are to be followed as outlined. It is NOT optional for coaches or centers to alter or change these rules or guidelines from 1 center to another or 1 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. *Delete the word “imaginary” from 3-1 (Pg. 3) of the O.R.S.A. Official T-Ball Rules.*
3. Batter’s boxes are to be marked for all games. *See Pg.20 of the O.R.S.A. Official T-Ball Rules diagram 2.*

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 50ft. arc** must be shown when lining the diamond for T-Ball. This arc is drawn from the center of the playing line that runs from 1st to 3rd. **The 50 ft. arc must be extended to the playing field boundaries (fences along 1st and 3rd)**
6. Base path distances are 60 ft.
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 T-Ball, **as per rule 4-7 (b) Pg. 7 of the O.R.S.A. Official T-Ball Rules** - "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".

❖ **Special F.M.S.A. Rules - Age and Number of Players**

1. All players must **as a minimum be 5 years of age in the calendar year that they are playing in.** In other words a player must be no younger than 5 years of age as of Dec. 31 of the current season **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
2. No player **can be older than 6 years of age in the calendar year that they are playing in.** In other words, a player must be no older than 6 yrs. of age on Dec. 31 of the current season. **NO EXCEPTIONS unless approved by F.M.S.A.**
3. The proper number of players in T-Ball 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 (Pg. 1) in the O.R.S.A. Official T-Ball Rules**
5. A team with 11 players or more, bats 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 11 players. **The 12th, 13th, 14th etc. Players sit out for that inning both on offense and defence, and are to be substituted into the game in the next inning.** 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 11 players as well.**

For example: 7 players only, team bats 1-7. THEN, the 1st hitter at the start of the inning hits again and is now the 8th batter in that inning. The number 2 hitter at the start of the inning hits again and is now the 9th batter in that inning, etc. to a maximum of 11 hitters. For the next inning, you would start where you left off, and the batting order would become continuous to a maximum of 11 hitters each inning. In this case, no one player would end up last batter every inning.

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 (Pgs. 5&6) and 4-6 (Pg.7) of the O.R.S.A. Official T-Ball Rule*

❖ 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 rule 2-5 (Pg.2) of the *O.R.S.A. Official T-Ball Rules for rules regarding catcher's equipment.*
5. Each player must have a team **shirt with individual numbers**. 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 (Pg. 2) of the O.R.S.A. Official T-Ball Rules.*

❖ Special F.M.S.A. Rules – Umpires

The home team will provide, at minimum, a knowledgeable plate umpire. All umpires must be familiar with the official T-Ball rules. All umpire decisions are final.

❖ Special F.M.S.A. Rules - Games and Curfew

1. All games are subject to a **1.5 hr. 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 defence. 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 Pg. 9 and up to “Playing Rules” on Pg. 10 of the O.R.S.A. Official T-Ball Rules.*

General Playing Rules

❖ Special F.M.S.A. Rules - When is Time Called?

1. When **any defensive player** has control of the ball **inside of the 50 ft. 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 THEY ARE INSIDE THE 50 FT. 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 (Pg. 4) of the O.R.S.A. Official T-Ball Rules*

❖ Special F.M.S.A. Rules - When is a Strike Called?

1. **3 strike rule IS NOT TO BE APPLIED for the 1ST 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 he/she has **less than 2 strikes**.
4. *Delete 3-5 (Pg. 4) of the O.R.S.A. Official T-Ball Rules*

❖ Special F.M.S.A. Rules – Miscellaneous

1. On defence, 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 (Pg. 16) of the O.R.S.A. Official T-Ball Rules*
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 rule 5-7(c) Pgs. 12-13 of the O.R.S.A. Official T-Ball Rules.**
5. *Delete 7-1 and 7-2 (Pgs. 16&17) as well as page 22 (diagram 4) of the O.R.S.A. Official T-Ball Rules*

❖ Importance of Playing All of the Games

1. Coaches and parents are expected to work cooperatively with respect to ensuring that **every scheduled T-Ball 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.

Regular Season Play and Year End Champion

1. **The F.M.S.A. T-Ball 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.**
10. **A win = 2pts. 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 :
 1. **best record, with most games played** (i.e. Team 1 – 8 games played – 8 wins 0 losses = 16pts. Team 2 – 10 games played – 8 wins, 2 losses = 16 pts. **TEAM 2 WOULD BE CHAMPIONS** by virtue of playing more games.
 2. **record of head to head games**
 3. **differential of total runs for and against through out the season.**
E.g. – Team A – 100 runs for and 50 against – differential of + 50
Team B – 100 runs for and 60 against – differential of + 40
Team C – 80 runs for and 20 against - differential of +60
Team C 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 T-Ball participants from all centers each season.
8. The F.M.S.A. T-Ball medallions are to be distributed to the appropriate centers at the final F.M.S.A. playoff meeting (end of July – 1st of Aug.).
9. Each center to distribute the F.M.S.A. T-Ball medallions to their respective teams as they see fit (at a center’s year end banquet for example).
10. Centers to pay a fee of **\$80.00 to enter a T-Ball team** in the F.M.S.A.

FLAMBOROUGH MINOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

“CONSTITUTION”

As amended November 30, 2011

APPENDIX “A” – Part 2

F.M.S.A. GRASSHOPPER DIVISION RULES

The Grasshopper 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. Bases shall be 60' apart, pitching rubber at 30' with an 8' circle around the pitching rubber.
2. A 9” hard T-ball will be used.
3. Bats must be aluminum, no more than 33 inches long and no more than 2 ¼” in diameter.
4. The defensive pitcher must wear a helmet with earflaps and chin strap.
5. Catchers must wear a helmet with a facemask, chest protector and shin guards.
6. No metal or removable plastic cleats are allowed. (Molded rubber is acceptable).
7. Games will begin at 6:30 p.m. (15 minute grace period) with no new innings to start after one hour and 30 minutes.
8. A game will consist of 6 innings. Games must be three completed innings to be an official game. A time curfew game is complete regardless of number of innings played. The final inning must be completed unless the home team is winning,
9. An inning is over when three (3) outs are made or six (6) 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.
10. The SIXTH inning will be an open inning.
11. Games tied after 6 innings are scored as a tie. Both teams must report their scores to the Division Convenor.
12. A team shall be comprised of 9 players. A team may play with eight but must be prepared to take an automatic out when at bat.
13. 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 of the first three innings per game.
14. The infield fly rule does not apply.

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.

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 pitcher will begin with both feet on the rubber, with ONE step toward the batter as the pitch is simultaneously released.
4. Batter will receive a maximum of **5 PITCHES** and will be called out **AFTER 5 PITCHES or 3 STRIKES, WHICHEVER COMES 1ST**. Batter cannot be called out on a foul ball unless caught or the **FOUL BALL IS THE 5TH PITCH**.
5. A foul ball will count as a strike.
6. If a pitch hits a batter, the ball is dead and a **pitch** is declared. There will be no bunting.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.

APPENDIX “B”

“THE FOLLOWING DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE FMSA 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 Bantam Boys age division is invited to participate in the Ontario Summer Games (currently every other year), the F.M.S.A. play-off dates and schedules can be amended such that the Bantam Boys play-off dates will not conflict with the dates of the Ontario Summer Games. The revised F.M.S.A. play-off dates will be published as soon as the dates for the Summer Games are known.

- 1) 2012 REGULAR SEASON for Atom, Peewee and Midget starts **Monday, May 7th** and ends **Friday, July 27th**, with Monday, July 30th thru Wednesday, August 1st left open for make-up games.

2012 REGULAR SEASON for Grasshopper, Squirt and Junior starts **Monday, May 14th** and ends **Friday, August 3rd**, with Tuesday, August 7th thru Thursday, August 9th left open for make-up games.

2012 REGULAR SEASON for Tee-Ball starts **Tuesday May 22nd** and ends **Friday July 27th**.

The Playoff Meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 2nd**. Convenors in Atom, Peewee and Midget will communicate playoff schedules after the make-up game dates by e-mail \ phone to all Centre Reps and teams in their division by August 8th.

- 2) There will be no playoffs for Tee-Ball
- 3) Grasshopper and Squirt Playoffs - 1 week format
August 7th to August 12th (Tuesday thru Sunday)
- 4) Bantam and Junior Playoffs - 1 weekend format
August 10th to August 12th
- 5) Atom Playoffs - 1 week format
August 13th to August 18th (Monday through Saturday)
- 6) Peewee and Midget Playoffs - 1 weekend format
August 17th to August 19th

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 games on any day.

If a division has more than 6 teams, the convenor may decide to expand the weekend format to begin play on an earlier night (Wednesday or Thursday). This will allow scheduling to more

easily accommodate the number of games required to be played and have completed by the Sunday.

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 2012:

<u>T-Ball</u>	2006-2007	<u>Peewee</u>	1998-1999
<u>Grasshopper</u>	2004-2005	<u>Bantam</u>	1996-1997
<u>Atom</u>	2002-2003	<u>Midget</u>	1994-1995
<u>Squirt</u>	2000-2001	<u>Junior</u>	1993-1991