

# FITZROY HARBOUR LADIES SOFTBALL LEAGUE

## Constitution

### 1. **AIM**

The aim of the league is to provide an opportunity for women to play softball in a non-competitive, fun league.

### 2. **Structure**

The league consists of 6 teams, each with a captain. Captains are members of a committee that also includes a Chairwoman or Co-chairwomen, a Treasurer and a Statistician. The Treasurer can also be a captain, and the Statistician can hold any other position on the committee. Each member of the committee has 1 vote on decisions. The captains' vote should represent the majority of the team members. Some decisions can be made without first consulting team members to ensure expediency.

### **Terms**

Chairwoman - maximum three (3) years  
Treasurer - maximum two (2) years  
Statistician - no limit  
Captain - one (1) year

### 3. **Chairwoman, Treasurer and Statistician**

The Chairwoman, Treasurer and Statistician will be selected by a vote of the players if more than one person volunteers or is nominated for any position. This voting will be held at the end of season banquet.

### 4. **General Meeting**

A General Meeting will be held prior to the first regular season game to allow each member to vote on any issues requiring change.

### 5. **Season Format**

There will be ten (10) regular season games beginning in May.

### 6. **Playoff Format**

This will be a round robin tournament allowing all teams to play the same number of games.

### 7. **Fees - \$70** *(25-05-2002)*

The fees are used to cover the cost of diamond rentals, umpires, T-shirts, new equipment and the end of season banquet. Extra money can be carried over from one season to the next for other expenses and the purchase of any equipment necessary to start the new season. If a player is not a member of the FHCA or ~~another West Carleton Community Association~~ *(24-04-2003)*, an additional \$15 (single) or \$20 (family) will be collected and turned over to the FHCA. Both of these fees must be paid by the second regular season game.

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## 8. Registration - Priority

- 1) Players returning from the previous year
- 2) Players returning after pregnancy, illness or special circumstances
- 3) Players on the waiting list in the following order:
  - a) New players living in Fitzroy or with a Fitzroy mailing address
  - b) New players living in West Carleton
  - c) Players returning after an absence not due to pregnancy, illness or special circumstances
  - d) New players living outside West Carleton

**All players must be women 19 years or older.**

**All new players should be asked about their softball experience to assist the Captains when they are drafting their team.**

~~No players can play in a competitive league and this league at the same time. All players joining this league that were in a competitive league in the previous year must play in the outfield for the first two (2) years.~~

~~If there is a shortage of players, these rules could be waived as a last resort. (19-04-2004) (04-05-2006)~~

## 9. Spares

Players on the "Spares" list must pay \$3.00 per game. (01-05-2003) This is due at game time and given to the Captain of the team who is responsible for turning this over to the treasurer the same night.

Captains can only pick up a spare if they have less than 9 (04-05-2006) players. If at game time it is discovered the other team has 10 (04-05-2006) players, a spare can then be added. (01-05-2003)

~~Regular~~ (04-05-2006) Any player sparing for another team is included in the batting order and can play any position except for the mentioned situation in "10. Pitching – 3)". (04-05-2000) Spares coming into the game after the fourth inning for any reason are not allowed to bat. If a player has left the game, the batting order continues but with no out for the exiting player. (04-05-2006)

## 10. Pitching

Pitching is a key element in ensuring that teams are as evenly matched as possible. In order to facilitate this the following rules apply:

- 1) Each team is allowed only one (1) "A" classified pitcher
- 2) A pitcher can only pitch three (3) innings or nine (9) outs

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- 3) Only an "A" classified pitcher (when absent) can be replaced by another teams "A" pitcher
- 4) If both "A and "B" pitchers are absent, a team may use a non-pitching player for the entire game (01-05-2003)

## 11. Draft

Each team consists of 13 players including the Captain. The draft is done in three (3) rounds in the following order: Pitchers, Catchers, and General Draft. The Captains draw numbers from 1 to 6 (3 times – one for each round) to determine the order in which they pick. The Captains pick from 1 to 6 then 6 to 1. At the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> round of the General Draft, the Captains pick themselves. If a captain is a pitcher or a catcher, they get an extra pick at this point because they will have already chosen themselves in the other rounds.

## 12. Captains

A previous captain must wait at least one season before being a captain again. Captains must have played at least two seasons in the Fitzroy Harbour Ladies Softball League. If there is a shortage of volunteers, these rules could be waived as a last resort.

## 13. Trophies

There are two (2) trophies in the league:

*the Hearty Award (2001, 2004, 2007 ...)*

- this award was donated by Jane Hearty in memory of her late husband Darryl
- this is given out every three (3) years
- this award is given to someone who has in someway given or contributed to the league
- anyone playing in the league can nominate another person
- the Committee and/or Mrs. Hearty will decide on the winner

*Most Sportsmanlike Player*

- this award was donated by Tom and Ursula Palubiski in 2000
- this is given out every year
- all players vote on who they think is the most sportsmanlike player for the current year (originally donated as "Most Runs Across the Plate" but changed due to the Aim of the league – fun, non-competitive) (01-05-2003)

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## Game Rules and Regulations

Rules and regulations of the Canadian Softball Association apply with the following exceptions:

1. Each game consists of a maximum of seven (7) innings or 1½ hours of play. (Time to be noted by home plate umpire.) If the top of an inning starts before the 1½-hour mark, it may be finished, but if it runs over the 1¾-hour mark the game must end and the score is taken from the last complete inning. The Plate Umpire must invoke this rule. Games start at 6:30pm and 8:15pm and it is up to the Umpires and the Captains to make sure they start on time. If the early game ends early and everyone is ready to start, the late game can start prior to 8:15pm. Because of this, Captains should ask their players to arrive by 8pm for the late game.
2. Four (4) complete innings must be played for the game to count. Rained out games resulting in less than four (4) innings must be rescheduled.
3. No leading off the bases before the ball leaves the pitchers hand.
4. A pitcher may pitch a maximum of three (3) innings or nine (9) outs.
5. There is a maximum of thirteen (13) players per team. ~~If each captain agrees and each team has a minimum of ten (10) players present, a rover may be used in the outfield.~~ If one team has enough players to use a rover but the other team does not, the team with more players will provide a rover when the other team is in the field. This player may change throughout the game but at no time are they included in the other teams batting order. (04-05-2006) A rover may come into the infield to make a play on a ball, but she must start in the outfield when the ball is being pitched.
6. The infield fly rule is in effect for all games. The batter is immediately out when she hits an infield fly with runners on first and second base, or runners on first, second or third base with less than 2 out.
7. Each team will bat a maximum of once through the batting order or three outs. The number of players on the larger team dictates the number of batters. The last batter can not be walked. She must hit or be struck out. Once the batter hits, the play is to home plate to end the inning unless a third out play is made in the field. If the third out is not made or if the ball doesn't get to home plate before the batter, the run scores and the inning is over.
8. A team may play with only seven (7) or eight (8) players. In this case the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) or ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) batter is not considered an out. Seven (7) of the players must be from the original team.
9. The pitching mound is a minimum of 40 feet from home plate.

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10. There is to be 60 feet between the bases.
11. A safety bag is to be used on First base; the runner must touch the orange side if there is the possibility of a play on First; failure to do so results in an automatic out. The First base player must touch the white side if there is the possibility of a play on First; failure to do so results in the runner being safe. This rule is to help avoid collisions or other accidents.
12. In the event of inclement weather, the Chairwoman will contact the Captains to report any cancellations. The Captains will then contact their players. **If players are not contacted they are expected to arrive at the diamond at the scheduled time.** Once a game has started, it is the umpire's decision to call a game due to bad weather. All rained out games will be rescheduled at the end of the regular season.
13. Players arriving late to a game may be added to the bottom of the batting order.

## Captains Responsibilities

1. Captains must draft a team.
2. Captains must determine the game line-up and field positions
3. Home team Captain supplies the game ball.
4. Each Captain must ensure equipment is brought to the field and returned to the basement storage area. Bats and other equipment must be stored in their proper bags.
5. Captains must act as a representative of the team on the field and at committee meetings.
6. Captains must ensure all fees (league and FHCA) are collected on time and given to the Treasurer. This includes fees from spares which are due on game night.
7. The home captain is responsible for turning the diamond lights on and off before and after the late game. *(11-04-2002)*
8. Captains must provide to the Chairwoman a "Player List" at the end of the season. This list shows what position each player prefers and has a recruit for Captain for the following season. *(12-04-2001)*
7. Captains are responsible for resolving any type of disputes/conflicts throughout the year. The Captain with the problem is to contact the other Captains and the Chairwoman to arrange a meeting to discuss the issue. A minimum of 4 Captains must be present to make any resolutions. The Captain initiating the meeting must

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relay the results to any missing Captains. *(12-04-2001)*

*Ladies  
fastball*

