

Grey Bruce Ladies Fastball League Constitution 2025

	Signature	Name/Position	Date

Revision History

Year	Description of Revision
2025	Edits : 14.0 Playoffs - NO time limit for ALL playoff games. Minimum $\frac{1}{3}$ games played to be eligible (rounded UP). 13.0 Warm ups - 1 MINUTE, 3 pitches, balls permitted. 13.1 Cleats - NO METAL CLEATS permitted.

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2024	Adjustment to Section 13.0 Warm up. 13.1 added details added for reference of shoe rules. Additional details listed under section 14 related to roster tally throughout regular season.
2023	Updates made to section 14 - playoffs. Minor changes throughout
2022	Changes made to 5.0 – roster changes, 6.0 – approved payment method, and 13.1 – change to playoff eligibility criteria
2020	Changes made to 6.0 – fee payment schedule, 7.0 – word change, 8.0 – word change, 11.0 – further clarification, and 13.0 – update on two out catcher rule.
2018	Complete review and significant changes throughout.
2015	In the event of a game forfeit, it will be the responsibility of the forfeiting team to provide payment to one of the executives for the cost of the Umpires and diamond rentals before their next game. (old rule was to hand in the cheque before May 1 st).
2014	5. Rosters – removed “Each team is eligible to sign not more than twenty players.” 8. Missed Meetings – no cheque required. Changed from \$25 to \$10 fine. 12. Game Rules – added “No time limited for play-off games”

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1.0 GENERAL TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

1.1 Membership

Membership in the League will be composed of those teams that agree to abide by the Constitution and bylaws set forth by the League. Membership of players and teams are valid for the current year only. Teams wishing to obtain membership shall confirm entry at/or immediately following the Annual General Meeting.

1.2 Executive

The Executive will consist of at least one (1) representative from each team. Each team will be permitted only one (1) vote. A team representative must be present at each League meeting. There will be a financial penalty to any team that does not provide a representative to a League meeting (see 6.0 Fee's).

The team representative will be responsible for making decisions on behalf of their team. Decision criteria is considered 51% majority vote. If time does not permit an in-person meeting/voting, email voting is acceptable.

2.0 OFFICERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

There will be four (4) Officers of the Executive and will be as follows.

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

Officer positions will be determined by way of rotation by team. See Appendix A for past rotation. All Officers of the Executive shall be elected for a minimum two-year period. Presidential terms start on odd years. Treasurer terms start on even years. Officers shall be voted upon at the Annual General Meeting by the Executive.

Officers not carrying out their assigned duties may be relieved of their position in the following manner. • A special meeting will be called by the President (or Vice President if the Officer to be relieved is the President).

- A three quarters (3/4) majority vote is required by those in attendance at the meeting.
- A replacement may be appointed by the remaining Executive to fill the vacant position.

2.1 Duties of the President

- Responsible for calling and chairing all league meetings.
- Appoints any special committees
- Represents the Organization to external parties.
- Casts a tie-breaking vote only
- Has the power to enforce the constitution and by-laws of the Organization

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- Administers the funds of the League in conjunction with the League's Treasurer and/or Secretary

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2.2 Duties of the Secretary

Shall record ☐

and promptly submit the minutes of the Executive Meetings to the President.

2.3 Duties of the Treasurer

- Keep an accurate record of all monies received and disbursed by the league.
- Prepare a financial statement for presentation at the Annual General Meeting and at each Executive meeting.
- Shall pay all bills and other obligations contracted in the name of the Organization by cheque only. Cheques drawn on the Organization bank account must be signed by at least two (2) of the following; Treasurer, President, Secretary or any person designated by the Executive.
- Maintain team rosters and any additional paperwork.

3.0 NON- OFFICER OF THE EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

3.1 Duties of the Team Representatives

- Produce and submit team roster
- Maintain copy of League Constitution and have available at all games

3.2 Duties of the Statistician

- Receives all game scores and applicable statistics
- Provides invoice for late stats submission
- Reschedules games as outlined in section 7.0 Cancelled Games
- Maintain communication with local media regarding schedule changes

3.3 Duties of the Web Master

- Upload scores to GBLFL website
- Maintain content on GBLFL website

3.4 Duties of the Scheduler

- Produce regular season schedule in conjunction with the guidelines outline in section 10.0 Schedule.
- Ensure applicable timeslots are allocated for reschedule games in the regular season schedule.

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3.5 Grievance Committee

The Grievance Committee will be made up of Team Representatives and Executive members not involved in the dispute. Its duties are to consider suspensions, protest and disputes. See section 12.0 Grievances.

4.0 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the Organization shall be held in March INTERNAL USE



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4.1 Order of Business

- Minutes of the last annual meeting
- President's written report
- Presentation of the financial statement
- Old business (matters pertaining to last year)

- Election of Officers
- Amendments of the Constitution and By-Laws
- New business (matters pertaining to the future)
- Adjournment

5.0 ROSTERS

Final rosters are due June 15th of the current year and must include first and last names. Any alterations and/or addition to the player's list after June 15th must be approved by voted on by all other teams in order to be valid.

Any player not on the final roster will be considered an illegal player. Implications of using an illegal player are outlined in Section 8.0.

6.0 FEES

League fees will be paid in two installments, with the amount pre-determined by the Treasurer. The first installment will be due on May 15th, followed by the second installment due on June 15th. Payment must be made to the Treasure by e-transfer to greybruceladiesfastball@gmail.com, cash and cheques will not be permitted.

If there are any outstanding league fees on July 15th (including fines), the team in poor financial standing must forfeit all further games until the owing fees are paid. These games will not be rescheduled. In order to play in playoffs; all teams must be in good financial standing, indicating that all fees, and fines are paid at the time of playoffs.

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6.1 Missed Meetings

7.0 CANCELLED GAMES

There are only four circumstances in which a game can be cancelled; (1) inclement weather, (2) mechanical failure, (3) funeral/death or (4) an emergency or unforeseen circumstances as approved by the Executive.

Teams responsible for the game's cancellation must contact the following; umpires, opposing team representative, diamond representative, WebMaster, President and Statistician.

In the event of cancellation due to any of the aforementioned the game WILL NOT be rescheduled. Every reasonable attempt will be made to avoid scheduling one team with three games in a single week. If a team is not able to field a team in their assigned timeslot, that game will be considered a forfeit.

8.0 FORFEITED GAMES

In the event of a cancellation which does not meet the four outlined criteria above, the game will be considered a forfeit. If a team forfeits a game with less than 24 hours' notice, it will be the responsibility of the forfeiting team to provide payment to the Executive in the amount of \$150 to cover the cost of the umpires and diamond rentals. Forfeits with greater than 24 hours' notice are not subject to financial penalty, but any applicable points will be awarded to the opposing team.

In the event of an emergency, opposing teams will split points and all players on both Rosters will receive a completed

Should an illegal or non-rostered player be used, that team shall automatically forfeit that and any other games that player was used in. Non-rostered players are not covered under the league's insurance policy, and thus unable to play. Roster can be updated throughout regular season while covered under ORSA.

Should a team fail to provide a minimum of eight (8) players at game time, that team will forfeit any applicable points. Teams can play with eight (8) players without any penalties. Teams may mutually agree to lend players to opposing team to utilize the diamond and umpires as an exhibition game, and no applicable fees will be charged.

9.0 COMMUNICATION

All communications related to league business shall be communicated through an Officer of the Executive, or Executive member.

10.0 SCHEDULE

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Regular season schedule shall be produced immediately following confirmation of teams. Schedule shall be distributed to all team representatives by May 1st such that teams can review and identify any conflicts. Once

the schedule is struck (no later than May 10th), all items addressed in section 8.0 Forfeits are applicable. Schedule will be made public on the website after approved by the executive.

11.0 TIME FRAMES

Cancellation due to weather must occur at least two hours prior to game time. The home team is responsible for cancelling the game after consulting with the diamond representative.

The team cancelling/forfeiting the game is required to notify the umpires, the other team, diamond representative, Statistician and WebMaster. The game rescheduler or president will provide the date, time and location of when the cancelled game will be played.

12.0 GRIEVANCES and COMPLAINTS

Any grievances or complaints against another team or player(s) must be submitted in writing to the President and will be reviewed by the Grievance and Complaints Committee.

The committee will review the complaint and vote on whether or not the grievance is valid. If valid, the committee will then request the Executive to review the team and/or player(s) membership. This is not a protest.

13.0 GAME RULES

The Grey Bruce Ladies Fastball League will be governed under the rules set out each year by the Softball Canada rule book, with the exception of the rules as follows.

With two (2) out and the offensive catcher safely on First, Second or Third base and the play dead. Time will be called, and the catcher/base runner will be replaced with the Offensive team's last out. This rule must be followed during the regular season, but during playoff's, it is the teams' decision if they choose to replace the catcher. This is allowed during playoffs as there is no time limit.

Batters hit by the pitcher: the pitcher will be warned by the Umpire after the third time, and on the fourth hit batter, the pitcher will be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of that game.

The pitching distance will be 43 feet, and the base distance will be 60 feet.

There will be no new inning started after 1 hour, and 20 minutes from start of play.

The first four innings, there will be a maximum of five (5) runs per inning. Commencing the fifth inning and any innings, thereafter, shall be considered open.

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WARM UP – SOFTBALL CANADA Rule 4.4 wherein new pitcher has 1 minute to deliver maximum of 5 pitches in first inning or at pitching change; 1 minute to deliver 3 pitches in subsequent innings etc. (see rulebook). Warmup balls are permitted within the 1 minute time frame.

Mercy rules shall be ten (10) runs after five (5) innings and any complete inning thereafter.

Umpires and coaches are to keep their **teams hustling off and on the field** between innings.

Time limit will not be in effect for play-off games.

A completed game is defined as any game which has incurred four complete innings of play.

13.1 Playing the Game

Any team and/or player(s) taking legal action against the League, its Officers or Executive will be immediately suspended from the League for the remainder of the playing year.

Any player ejected from a game by the Umpire for rough play or fighting will automatically receive a three (3) game suspension. Any player ejected for rough play or fighting will also come under review by the League for their membership and may result in suspension of their League membership.

Any teams entering and included in the league, using outsourced insurance (ie. PWSA) must adhere to equipment requirements for their age group (ie. Defensive masks) while participating in GBLFBL game play.

Uniforms are not necessary, but teams should be wearing ball shirts or shirts of similar colour is encouraged.

Any changes to team jersey colour shall be approved by the league at the Annual General Meeting.

Cleats – Absolutely NO metal cleats will be allowed or tolerated during GBLFBL game play for any reason. No exceptions. If the player is unable to provide an alternative acceptable format of footwear, they will be ejected from the game.

A player must play in a minimum of 1/3 (in the event this number includes decimal, it will be rounded UP to nearest whole number) of the regular season games to be eligible to play in League playoffs. Veteran players that are unable to play their required minimum number of games due to pregnancy or injury will be subject to a vote to determine eligibility to play in playoffs.

Teams starting with nine (9) players shall continue the game without penalty if a player is taken out of that game due to injury.

13.2 Substitutions

Substitute runner rule: unless an injury has occurred during the game, the need for a substitute runner must be declared at the plate prior to the game start. In this case, that person requiring a substitute runner MUST

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stop at first base. If the runner passes first and rounds to second, they are called out. At this point, play is dead and those who have advanced must return to their base(s).

Another option is to play with nine or ten players and make substitutions as per Softball Ontario rules.

Unlimited Substitution Rule: Unlimited substitution of defensive players is an option for all games but is not mandatory.

13.3 Scorekeeping and Submission of Scores

Full names (last name and first initial acceptable) must be used on the score sheet. Teams will be required to have score sheets from the regular season available for the year- end play-offs in case score, game or player verification is required.

Scores must be submitted by the winning team to the website via email greybruceladiesfastball@gmail.com and news@bayshorebroadcasting.ca within 48 hours of the game.

In the case of a tie, it is the home team's responsibility to report the score.

Failure to submit your score within the 48-hour time frame will result in a \$10.00 fine made payable to the Grey Bruce Ladies Fastball League.

During the regular season the following point procedure will apply:

- Win – 2 points. • Tie – 1 point
- Loss – 0 points
- Forfeit – win goes to the non-offender.

If teams are tied for positioning at the end of the season, the following procedure will apply in order to break the tied.

- Team with the most wins places higher, if still tied then
- Team with best record for/against team(s) tied with will place higher, if still tied then
- Team with the best runs for/against team(s) tied with will place higher, if still tied then ☐ A toss of coin will decide which team will place higher.

14.0 PLAYOFFS

Throughout playoffs the following will apply:

- The highest placing team from the regular season is always the home team.
- **-Player(s) must have played a 1/3 of the season to be eligible to play** - Mercy rule still in effect (13.)
- If teams are tied for positioning at the end of the season, the following procedure will apply to break the tied.

☐ Team with the most ☐ wins places higher, if still tied then

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Team with best record for/against team(s) tied with will place higher, if still tied then

☐ Team with the best runs for/against team(s) tied with will place higher, if still tied then

☐ A toss of coin will decide which team will place higher.

- **Time limit will not be in effect for ALL play-off games**

NEW THIS YEAR: ROSTER REGULAR SEASON TALLY emailed digital copy of roster/team attendance which teams are responsible for keeping up to date and submitting to league prior to your first playoff game.

15.0 AMENDMENTS

No amendments and/or alterations shall be made to any part of this constitution and by-laws except by a twothirds majority vote of members present and in good standing at the Annual General Meeting. Any problems not covered by the constitution and by-laws will be solved by organization's Officers and Executive under the control of the President.

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