

Tavistock Church Fastball League Rules (Revised Spring of 2025)

1. Please refer to the schedule for game start times. Rescheduled games will begin at the time agreed upon by the participating teams. Games are to be 7 innings maximum, but no inning shall begin more than 1hr. 50mins after the first pitch is thrown. Refer to Rule #10 for playoff curfews.
2. Teams can start a game 1 player short (8), that said in this scenario the 9th batter would be an automatic out. If a player is rejected and the team cannot field 9 players, the game is forfeited, that said a team with an injured player can resort to playing with 8 players without forfeiting.
3. The league rules to follow the OASA, Softball Ontario and Canada, and are superseded by the following league rules:
4. Minor Team entering the league will have the choice to field and bat 9 Players plus a DP per the OASA, SO, and SC and league rules, or the team may elect to bat all or part of the roster, with unlimited fielding substitutions.
5. The criteria that would allow a player to play in the league are as follows:
 - a. The player does not play for another fastball team,
 - b. The player has played in the league for 2 or more years,
 - c. The players is U20 or younger, and still participate in minor ball,
 - d. The player does play in another men's fastball league as a positional player,
 - e. The player does pitch for another men's fastball league but intends to play as a positional player with the CFL,
6. If a player is new to the league, a pitcher and want to pitch in the CFL, the team/player will need to notify the league president, pitch in a minimum of 3 games and participate in at least 6 games total to be eligible for play-offs.
7. Prior to play-offs league team reps will meet and decide if the pitchers skill level matches the league intent. The pitcher in questions maybe asked not to pitch for the play-offs as a result. At this time any new player for the current season that is eligible for play-offs can also be reviewed by the league.
8. A team that has a pitcher pitch without notifying the league will result in the **immediate one-game suspension of the player, and the team will forfeit all games in which the ineligible player appeared.**
9. All teams must represent a church. **Minor Teams entering the league do not need to represent a Church, All teams and players will demonstrate proper conduct and sportsmanship towards teammates, opponents and umpires.**
10. RAINOUTS and CANCELLATIONS: The home team is responsible for cancelling umpires and the diamond for **all** game cancellations. Games cancelled for reasons other than weather, must be done so 24hrs in advance (Baden asks for 48hrs), or the cancelling team will forfeit (this includes if both teams show up, but one is short players). **Games cancelled due to weather must be cancelled 2 hours before game time.** Failure to cancel without sufficient time, in either case, will result in a fine in the amount of the cost of the game to the offending team, including umpires. If a game is cancelled in advance for other reasons, let the president know so that the diamond may be used by other teams needing to reschedule games. The team which cancelled the game is responsible for getting two possible dates for rescheduling, within 7 days. If neither of those dates suits the opposing team, then it is the opposing team's responsibility to come up with two more dates. **These games must be played before Play-offs.** Playoff games scheduled for a

Sunday or Monday, must be cancelled by end of day on the preceding Friday, or the game will result in a forfeit.

11. Players must be at a minimum of 6 games to be eligible for playoffs. Games missed due to injury may count towards games played for that player, but they must attend the game (uniform not necessary) and have their names on the game sheet. Game sheets, or electronic scoring must be available if this comes into question.
12. **LEAGUE FEES: to be paid payment terms to be determined by the League Treasurer, terms to be communicated to teams via email.** A \$25.00 fee per game will be imposed for late payments. If after 3 games the offending team has not paid the league fees including penalties, they will start to forfeit games as well as continuing to incur the \$25/game fee. In this instance, the cancellation of diamond and umpires will follow rule #5.
13. **MERCY RULE: If a team is ahead by 10 or more runs at the end of the 5th or 6th inning, all games will end. Unless agreed upon by both teams**
14. Home team must update the website the day after the game with game results. It is the visiting team's responsibility to check that the score matches what they have. Scorekeepers are to keep all score sheets and record names of both umpires.
 - a. **PLAYOFF GAMES:** The league urges teams to play twice a week. League standings determined by:
 - b. **POINTS,**
 - c. **MOST WINS,**
 - d. **SERIES WINNERS,**
 - e. **RUNS FOR MINUS RUNS AGAINST IN SERIES,**
 - f. **COIN FLIP**
15. Play-off format to be decided in the Spring meeting, if any changes are to be considered those are to be proposed for the meeting prior to play-offs.
16. All playoff series' will be best 2 out of 3. If the competing teams in the **championship series only**, wish to play more games, those teams will be responsible for paying for the diamonds and umpires. Ties will not stand, the International Tie Breaker rule will be used to break ties in the Round Robin or Semi-Finals, beginning after either the 7th inning or the time limit of 1hr 50mins is up. The Final series will have no time limit; therefore the ITB will begin after the 7th inning.
17. A DESIGNATED RUNNER (DR) will be allowed in each game. He will be announced at the beginning of each game to the umpires and the opposition and before being used each time (only once per inning). He can be used defensively but the team loses their DR privileges for the remainder of that game.
18. Sec. 5. DESIGNATED PLAYER. (Fast pitch ONLY)
 - i. A "DESIGNATED PLAYER", referred to as a "DP", may be used as a batter for any defensive player, provided it is made known prior to the start of the game and his name is entered on the line-up sheet as one of the nine hitters in the batting order.
 - ii. The starting DP may be substituted and may re-enter one time, as long as he returns to the position in the batting order that he occupied when he left the game.
 - iii. The name of the defensive player for whom the DP is batting (known as the "DEFO"), will be placed in the tenth (10th) position on the line-up sheet.
 - iv. The starting player listed as the DP must remain in the same position in the batting order whenever he is in the game.

- v. The DP and his substitute, or replacement, may never play offence at the same time.
 - vi. The DP may be substituted for at any time, either by a batter, runner, or by the DEFO for whom he is batting.
- b. NOTE: The DEFO replacing the DP is not a substitution.
 - c. If the starting player is replaced on offence by the DEFO, or by a substitute, the DP is considered to have left the game.
 - d. If replaced by the DEFO, this reduces the number of players from ten to nine. If the DP does not re-enter, the game may continue and legally end with nine players.
 - e. If the DP re-enters, he may play offence and defense (continue the game with nine players), or he may bat in his original place in the batting order, and the DEFO returns to the 10th position and plays defense only again.
 - f. Placing the DP in a position in the batting order other than his starting position is considered an Illegal Re-Entry.
 - g. The DP may play defense at any position. Should the DP play defense for a player other than the DEFO, that player will continue to bat, but not play defense, and is NOT considered to have left the game.
 - h. The DP may play defense for the DEFO and that person IS considered to have left the game, reducing the number of players to nine.
 - i. The DEFO may be substituted for at any time, either by a legal substitute or the DP for whom he is playing defense. The DEFO may re-enter the game one time, either in the 10th position, or in the DP's position in the batting order.
 - j. If returning to the number 10 position, he will again play defense only, but may play in any defensive position.
 - k. If returning to the DP's position in the batting order, he will play offence and defense, and the game will continue with nine players.
19. Under the insurance policies, helmets must have ear flaps when batting. Effective April 2006, players will be permitted to wear metal cleats.
 20. EJECTIONS: If a player is thrown out during a game, he sits out that game, and the involved parties provide the President with details of the event, and a decision will be made if further suspensions are warranted. Recurring suspensions will be dealt with harsher suspensions. Suspensions are to be carried forward to the next year.
 21. PROTESTS or APPEALS must be made in writing to the league President accompanied by a \$25.00 cheque. Fee will be returned if the protest is valid.
 22. Each team is to have an official voting person attend all meetings. A \$25.00 fee will be imposed to your team if there is no representative present.
 23. PITCHING: Effective 2019, pitching regulations will default to OASA rules.
 24. SAFETY-BAG: In spite of recent changes to the OASA regulations, the league will continue to enforce safe plays at first by mandating that outs be recorded only off of the white bag. The only circumstance where a first-base player will be allowed to step on the safety (orange) bag to record an out, will be as a result of a passed ball or wild pitch on third strike where the ball falls towards the first base side. Players are encouraged to use consideration while running through at first, keeping in the mind the safety of everyone involved.