

GIRLS FASTPITCH SOFTBALL

Juniors 2024 U.S.S.S.A with the following exceptions:

1. The pitching distance shall be 40 feet AND the bases shall be 60 feet apart, 11” ball.
2. **There will be no walks. The coach comes in after the pitcher walks the batter. Coach will assume the count and complete the at bat. If the batter has 0 strikes, the coach gets 3 pitches. If the batter has 1 strike, the coach gets 2 pitches. If the batter has 2 strikes, the coach gets 1 pitch. The Umpire will call strikes that the batter doesn't swing at. If the batter fouls off the last pitch, they will receive another pitch. Coach is allowed 3 pitches max.** If pitcher hits three batters in the same inning, she will be taken out for the remainder of the inning or moved to a new position. She must be replaced with new pitcher for the remainder of that inning.
3. THROWN BAT – Carelessly throw bat will constitute the following: First offence will be a team warning. Second offence and any subsequent violation the offender will be ruled out. NOTE: a reminder at home plate by the Umpire does not constitute a warning for either team.
4. This age group will play six (6) inning games.
5. This age group will allow teams to play up to 10 players in the field (6 infielders including pitcher & catcher, and 4 outfielders).
6. All infielders will be required to wear a face mask. We encourage outfielders to wear a face mask as well but it is not required.
7. PER GAME RUN RULE: If the winning team leads by 11 runs after the losing team bats in the 4th inning, the game is over.
8. TIME LIMIT: No new inning shall start after 1 hour and 15 minutes. After the completion of 6 innings or Time limit has expired and the score is tied the game will be considered tied.
9. RUN LIMIT per inning, instead of a batter limit. When a team scores **5 runs** in an inning the inning ends IMMEDIATELY after the 5th run crosses the plate.
Example:
Team "A" has bases loaded, no outs, and the 5th run will be scored by the girl on third base. Even if batter hit's a grand slam home run, **ONLY THE RUN ON THIRD BASE COUNTS.**
10. **Drop third strike is not in effect.**
11. **STEALING and Leading Off Will Not Be Allowed**
12. CONTINUOUS BATTING: A continuous batting rule will be used in this age division, allowing managers to bat all of the players in attendance. In the event any player suffers an injury or must leave the game for any reason (except ejection) the team involved will not be forced to take an out when that player's turn comes up in the batting order. If a player is EJECTED, the team involved **MUST TAKE AN OUT** when that spot in the order comes up.

13. **FREE SUBSTITUTION:** Unlimited defensive substitution is allowed.
14. **COURTESY RUNNER:** The courtesy runner for a pitcher, catcher, or injured player shall be the player that made the last out, or in the first inning, the last batter in the lineup. Use of a courtesy runner is optional.
15. **MUST PLAY RULE:** Every player who is present for a game **MUST PLAY AT LEAST 2 INNINGS OF DEFENSE AND BAT ONCE PRIOR TO THE END OF THE FOURTH INNING.** **EXCEPTION:** If a player is present, but is injured or is being disciplined by the coach, and will **NOT** be playing, the home plate umpire and opposing coach **MUST BE NOTIFIED PRIOR TO THE START OF THE GAME.** The coach has the option of playing or benching a late arriving player. If the coach decides to play the player, the player must be inserted at the end of the line-up. This must be noted in the score book.
16. **MUST BAT RULE:** The losing team, at its option, must have its turn at bat (within the framework of the time limit rule (#6), even if due to run limit restrictions they cannot catch-up.
17. **CHEERING:** Only positive cheering directed at your own team or players is permitted. (No screaming or taunting of the other team or players will be tolerated.)
18. **Rosters-** A player can be moved up from the younger league but not borrowed from another team in age group only to meet 9 number of players. (This player cannot play in front of or sub for a roster player, except disciplinary reason.
19. **Defensive face masks are required for pitchers.** If parent elects not to force their child to wear a face mask, they must sign a waiver relieving the league and coach from all liability.

UMPIRE DISCRETION: Not every ballpark is the same. Some have on-deck circles for batters, coach's boxes along first and third bases, etc. while other parks do not have them. Safety is a concern for every Umpire. Therefore we ask all coaches, parents and players to abide by the ground rules the umpire establishes regarding placement of on-deck batters, base Coaches, equipment in and around dugouts, all players except the on-deck batter being safely inside dugout, etc.

COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES CONCERNING PARENTS AND FANS:

There is a serious shortage of people who are willing to be umpires today, and the mistreatment of the officials is a prime factor. We remind coaches and players of the following things:

- Coaches are held responsible for the conduct of parents, players and fans of their team.
- If an umpire is having a problem with unruly fans, the coach will be asked to take care of the situation. If the problem persists, the umpire has the right to cancel the remainder of the game and declare a forfeit victory for the opposing team.
- The League strongly recommends that a coach consider removing a pitcher that has hit numerous batters and/or displays little or no pitch control during the game.

RULES TO EXPEDITE THE GAME:

Umpires are being instructed to strictly adhere to the rules between half-innings for getting teams quickly on and off the field. Pitchers will be allowed five pitches between half-innings in the first inning and only three pitches between half-innings from the second inning on.