

## East County ASA 2015 Winterball Rules

These rules will be followed during the East County Winterball League's 2015 Season. East County Teams will follow all East County Rules. Outside leagues are to follow East County rules when playing at East County fields.

### 6U Rules

1. No umpires are provided for 6U games and no official score will be kept.
2. An Official Game shall be two (2) innings with no new inning after fifty (50) minutes of play. A Regulation Game shall be four (4) innings.
3. Official ball is a Worth 10" Sof-Dot and the home team provides the game ball.
4. Three (3) offensive coaches are allowed on the field (pitcher, first base and third base).
5. Coach Pitch
  - a. All 6U games are Coach Pitch.
  - b. Designated pitchers must have at least one foot in the pitching circle when the ball is pitched.
  - c. Each batter will be offered three (3) pitches with additional pitches for fouled last pitches.
  - d. If no pitch is hit in fair territory, the batter will be allowed up to three (3) swings from a tee.
  - e. Bunting is not permitted.
6. Teams will bat through the entire lineup each half inning.
7. Late players should be added to the bottom of the lineup.
8. The last batter in the lineup is encouraged to touch all bases.
9. Runners will advance station to station on infield hits, and extra bases for outfield hits.
10. Runners will not advance on overthrows or when the ball has been returned to the infield.
11. Runners making an out via strikeout, force out, or tag out will return to the bench.
12. Each time three defensive outs are made, the bases should be cleared before the next batter.
13. All players can play defense at one time. Infield will consist of pitcher, 1st base, 2nd base, 3rd base, and shortstop. Outfield will consist of the balance of team players.

### 8U Rules

The **8U Divisions** will be playing regulation ASA rules with the following supplements.

#### 1. Length of Games and Ties

No new inning shall start after one hour and twenty minutes, Any inning started before one hour and twenty minutes shall be completed. The length of the game is contingent on the umpire's judgment of weather and darkness. The umpire keeps the official time of the game. It is necessary for the official scorekeeper to get an official starting time from the umpire at the start of the game.

## East County ASA 2015 Winterball Rules

A tie game reaching the time limit will remain a tie. Games tied after seven (7) innings, but not reaching the time limit will continue until the tie is broken or the time limit is reached. The International Tie Breaker Rule will be in effect after seven (7) innings if the time limit has not been reached.

Any game, which is called by the umpire, will be a regulation game if one hour of playing time has elapsed.

### 2. Pitching

Pitching masks are required in all divisions for East County teams. Outside leagues shall follow their own league rules in regards to pitching masks.

There will be unlimited pitching during the Winterball season.

Coach pitch will occur at the start of the season and continue until the season's 4<sup>th</sup> week point (October 4<sup>th</sup>). From October 5 to October 25, coach pitch will only occur if the bases are loaded. From October 26 through the end of TOC, there will be no more coach pitch. Also, during the coach pitch part of the season, two coaches for the defensive team may be on the field to help instruct their players, but the coaches must remain in the outfield and not hinder the flow of the game. If this becomes a distraction then the Executive Board may choose to discontinue having coaches on the field.

During the initial coach pitch portion of the season, when a pitcher throws four balls, the coach from the offensive team will pitch three pitches to the batter. If the ball is put in play, then it becomes a live ball. If the player doesn't put the ball in play after three pitches, then the batter is out. If the batter fouls off the third pitch, the batter will receive another pitch until the player either puts the ball in play or strikes out. During the second portion of coach pitch all rules above remain valid, except the coach will come out to pitch if bases are loaded.

### 3. Playing Time

Every player shall play a minimum of two (2) innings in the field per game. No player may sit two innings in a row. Managers must make an attempt to play each player to help them develop their skills. Outside leagues will follow their own rules on playing time.

A continuous batting order rule is in effect where all players bat in the same order every inning. If a girl is injured and not able to continue to play, her spot in the batting order will be recorded as an out only the first time she would have batted. If a girl is injured running the bases and is unable to continue as a runner, the last batter before her in the lineup, not on base, will replace her as a pinch runner.

Ten (10) players are allowed to be played defensively. The extra fielder must be played in an outfield position. All outfielders must be in an outfield position prior to each pitch, but may move anywhere after the pitch. An outfield position is defined as being in a position and at a depth normally played by an outfielder. If you have questions about the depth ask your umpire.

## East County ASA 2015 Winterball Rules

Unlimited defensive substitution is allowed for all players, except for pitchers. All rostered players must appear on all lineups. Absent players must be marked accordingly on the lineup sheet for the official scorekeeper.

Pitchers being removed from the pitching position may be returned to that position only one time provided that the pitcher has never been removed from the defensive lineup. Once a pitcher has been removed from the defensive lineup, that player may not return as a pitcher in that game.

### **4. Run Rule**

If a team scores four (4) runs in any one inning, except the seventh inning, their half inning is ended regardless of the number of actual outs at the time. Only four (4) runs count officially regardless of how many may score. There will be unlimited scoring in the seventh (7th) inning only and that inning will be played as usual.

If either team leads by 10 runs and 4 innings or 8 runs after 5 innings, the game shall be terminated by the plate umpire and shall be a complete game.

### **5. Protection and Safety**

Catcher's throat protectors, and batting helmets equipped with chin straps and NOSCAE face guards are mandatory. Batting helmets must be worn at all times by all players at bat, on deck, and running the bases. Any player participating as a first (1st) or third (3rd) base coach must wear a batting helmet. Rookies may not participate as a base coach. Helmets must remain on batters, runners, and youth base coaches until they return to the dugout. Players not leaving helmets on while in the field of play are subject to ejection by the umpire. Players warming up pitchers must wear a catcher's helmet with face mask and throat protector. Ice hockey style masks are allowed.

### **6. Dugouts and Infield Practice**

The home team is located on the first (1st) base side and the visiting team is located on the third (3rd) base side. Field preparations and back-to-back game times do not allow for infield practice. It is up to the coaches or manager to warm up at the nearest, convenient area that does not interfere with spectators and visitors.

### **7. Players and Pool Players**

A game may start with only eight (8) players. The missing player must be placed at the end of the lineup in the scorebook. An out will not be recorded each time the missing player is scheduled to bat. The official scorekeeper must notify the umpire at that time.

Pool players must be taken from a lower division. A pool player may never be used if enough regular team members are available. The intent of the pool player allowance is to fill in a team so that the game can be played, not to improve, strengthen, or create a new team. Abuse of the intent of this rule will result in an immediate forfeiture of the game.

### **8. Stealing**

## East County ASA 2015 Winterball Rules

Runners, when stealing, are only allowed the base that they are advancing to (one stolen base per pitch). They are not allowed to advance past that base even if the ball is over-thrown or missed. The intent of the rule is to encourage the catchers to attempt to throw the runner out.

The ball is alive and in play on a steal. A runner not standing on a base can be declared out.

A runner in sole possession of an illegally stolen base shall be returned to the correct base, without liability to be put out, when the ball becomes dead. A runner standing on a base alone cannot be tagged out.

A runner at third (3rd) base may not steal home. A play at a base or an overthrow to the pitcher does not release the runner.

A runner on third (3rd) base may only score:

- On a fair, batted ball.
- On a fair or foul fly ball that is legally caught and the runner has legally tagged up before going home.
- On a walk, if forced.

### 9. Miscellaneous Playing Rules

The dropped third strike rule is not in effect.

No infield fly rule.

### 10U, 12U and 16U Rules

The **10u, 12u and 16u** Divisions will be playing regulation ASA rules with the following supplements.

#### 1. Length of Games and Ties

No new inning shall start after one hour and thirty minutes, the inning must be completed. The length of the game is contingent on the umpire's judgment of weather and darkness. The umpire keeps the official time of the game. It is necessary for the official scorekeeper to get an official starting time from the umpire at the start of the game.

A tie game reaching the time limit will remain a tie. Games tied after seven (7) innings, but not reaching the time limit, will continue until the tie is broken or the time limit is reached. The International Tie Breaker Rule will be in effect after seven (7) innings if the time limit has not been reached.

Any game, which is called by the umpire, will be a regulation game if one hour of playing time has elapsed.

#### 2. Pitching

All East County pitchers must wear a protective facemask when pitching in a game or live batting practice. Outside leagues shall follow their own league rules in regards to pitching masks.

## East County ASA 2015 Winterball Rules

There will be unlimited pitching during the Winterball season.

### 3. Playing Time

Every player shall play a minimum of two (2) innings in the field per game. No player may sit two innings in a row. Managers will make an attempt to play each player to help them develop their skills. Outside leagues will follow their own rules on playing time.

*10u and 12u Division:* A continuous batting order rule is in effect with the entire roster batting in the same order every inning.

*16u Division:* At the discretion of the manager, either nine (9) batters OR the entire roster may be played. If a manager chooses to bat nine (9), ASA Substitution Rules must be followed. If a manager chooses to bat the entire roster, they will have unlimited defensive substitutions. If you bat nine (9) then, every player must play six (6) defensive outs.

If a girl is injured and not able to continue to play, her spot in the batting order will be recorded as an out only the first time she would have batted. If a girl is injured running the bases and is unable to continue as a runner, the last batter before her in the lineup, not on base, will replace her as a pinch runner.

Unlimited defensive substitution is allowed for all players, except for pitchers (rule not applicable for Major Division teams choosing to bat nine (9) – See above). All rostered players must appear on all lineups. Absent players must be marked accordingly on the lineup sheet for the official scorekeeper.

Pitchers being removed from the pitching position may be returned to that position only one time provided that the pitcher has never been removed from the defensive lineup. Once a pitcher has been removed from the defensive lineup, that player may not return as a pitcher in that game (Managers choosing to bat nine must follow ASA substitution rules).

### 4. Run Rule

*10u:* If a team scores four (4) runs in any one inning, except the seventh inning, their half inning is ended regardless of the number of actual outs at the time. Only four (4) runs count officially regardless of how many may score. There will be unlimited scoring in the seventh (7th) inning only and that inning will be played as usual.

*12u and 16u:* If a team scores six (6) runs in any one inning, except the seventh (7th) inning, their half inning is ended regardless of the number of actual outs at the time. Only six (6) runs count officially regardless of how many may score. There will be unlimited scoring in the seventh (7th) inning only and that inning will be played as usual.

If either team leads by ten (10) runs and 4 innings or 8 runs after 5 innings, the game shall be terminated by the plate umpire and shall be a complete game.

### 5. Protection and Safety

Catcher's throat protectors, and batting helmets equipped with chin straps and NOSCAE face guards are mandatory. Batting helmets must be worn at all times by all players at bat, on deck,

## East County ASA 2015 Winterball Rules

and running the bases. Any player participating as a first (1st) or third (3rd) base coach must wear a batting helmet. Helmets must remain on batters, runners, and youth base coaches until they return to the dugout. Players not leaving helmets on while in the field of play are subject to ejection by the umpire. Players warming up pitchers must wear a catcher's helmet with facemask and throat protector. Ice hockey style masks are allowed.

### 6. Dugouts and Infield Practice

The home team is located on the first (1st) base side and the visiting team is located on the third (3rd) base side. Field preparations and back-to-back game times do not allow for infield practice. It is up to the coaches or manager to warm up at the nearest, convenient area that does not interfere with spectators and visitors.

### 7. Players and Pool Players

A game may start with only eight (8) players. The missing player must be placed at the end of the lineup in the scorebook. An out will not be recorded each time the missing player is scheduled to bat. The official scorekeeper must notify the umpire at that time.

Pool players may only be taken from a lower division (a non-competitive team in the same division constitutes as a lower division). A pool player may never be used if enough regular team members are available. The intent of the pool player allowance is to fill in a team so that the game can be played, not to improve, strengthen, or create a new team. Abuse of the intent of this rule will result in an immediate forfeiture of the game.

### 8. Miscellaneous Playing Rules

- Dropped third strike rule is in effect.
- Infield fly rule is in effect.
- Stealing of home is permitted.

### All Teams

- 1 All teams must submit a final player roster to East County by week 4 of the season (Oct 5). No new players may be added after that.
- 2 Must deliver a copy of the team line-up to the official scorekeeper at least 15 minutes before game time. Last name and first initial at a minimum, full name preferred with player shirt number should be used for the official line-up.
- 3 Ensure that trash from surrounding areas is properly disposed in the waste receptacles provided and ensure the cleanliness of their own dugout prior to leaving the field.
- 4 Home team will provide the game ball with one good backup
- 5 ALL teams (includes outside leagues) will submit a player roster at the start of the season. No new players may be added to a roster after the season's 4<sup>th</sup> week.

### Umpires

- 1 Umpires will be paid \$45 at the start of each game from the home team. If playing a single game, then both teams split the cost at \$22.50 a piece.

## East County ASA 2015 Winterball Rules

- 2 Umpires will be provided by East County Winterball League from a professional umpire association
- 3 Umpires control the game
- 4 Only team managers are allowed to call time-out to discuss with the umpire the outcome of any decision
- 5 Umpires are not to be harassed by anyone
- 6 If the manager of a team believes an umpire's actions are unprofessional, the manager should bring the matter to the attention of the league's Umpire in Chief or League Board Member on duty.
- 7 Any game, which is called by the umpire, will be a regulation game if one hour of playing time has elapsed

### Scorekeeper

- 1 Each team shall appoint at least one (1) volunteer to act as the team's official scorekeeper
- 2 The HOME team must supply the official scorekeeper for the game. The league's official scorebook shall be used. It is located in the snack bar and shall be returned at the end of the game.
- 3 Games held on outside leagues fields, will use their official scorebook if one is available. If one is not available, then the HOME manager will provide a scorebook to be utilized as the official scorebook.
- 4 The official scorekeeper will get the official game start time from the umpire and record it in the scorebook
- 5 All final scores for each game played at the end of the day will be emailed to the East County Webmaster and will be posted on the East County Website under the "Standings" tab.

**Any situation not covered by these rules, the board member on duty will defer to the regular season rules for guidance. If the question is still not answered, then the board member's best judgment will be used.**

### Disciplinary Action

ECASA Managers and coaches and parents shall be familiar with the disciplinary action as listed in the ECASA Disciplinary policy.

The East County Amateur Softball Association expects and demands nothing less than exemplary conduct from all players, managers, coaches, parents and spectators at all ECASA functions. This statement of disciplinary policy represents the first warning to, players, parents, coaches, managers, and spectators regarding conduct. Managers/Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, parents, and spectators. Misconduct will not be tolerated.

The following conduct by any participant, member or game official will be subject to Disciplinary Action:

*Unsportsmanlike conduct:* This includes, but is not limited to the use of profanity toward another person during or resulting from any ECASA activity including but not limited to practices, pregame warm-ups, games or post game activities, etc.; throwing equipment in a display of emotion during any of the aforesaid times; verbal or physical abuse of another person

## East County ASA 2015 Winterball Rules

during any of the aforesaid times; abusive conduct, harassment or intimidation directed at a game official; the use of alcohol during an ECASA practice or game; any type of similar, unspecified conduct.

*Disregard for the Rules/Policies/Procedures of ECASA:* This includes conduct portraying a disregard for the rules, policies and/or procedures of the sport or of ECASA in general.

The board shall set the disciplinary action for violation of either of the above categories, with a minimum of: ejection from the remainder, if any, of the game and the area surrounding the playing field (failure to comply with the ejection shall result in the forfeit of the game by the team represented); if the violation occurs after the game, there will be an automatic 1-game suspension if the incident occurs on ECASA property.

In all cases, any incident involving the above categories of conduct shall immediately be reported orally to the Board member on duty. The Board Member shall first determine if further action is necessary, above and beyond the minimum requirements. If it is determined that further action is necessary, Board Member will contact the other members of the board, the President of ECASA, and a disciplinary hearing shall be scheduled. All subjects of the disciplinary hearing shall receive notice of said hearing in writing and shall have the right to present witnesses and statements on their behalf.

The official statement of game official, if applicable, statements of persons regarding the conduct in question, and any other relevant statement shall also be presented at said hearing. The hearing board has the right to set a reasonable time limit for each statement presented. The hearing shall be conducted within 15 days of the above notice given to all subjects of the hearing. A written record shall be kept of all disciplinary proceedings and decisions. No verbatim recording or transcript of the proceedings shall be allowed.

The disciplinary hearing may result in any of the following decisions:

- no further action
- written reprimand
- suspension for any time period deemed appropriate except that a finding of abusive physical contact shall require a minimum of a one year suspension
- expulsion from any ECASA functions

A find of abusive physical contact shall be reviewed by the Executive Board and may result in a suspension from all ECASA activities, including games, practices, all-star tournament, traveling teams, etc. After review, the party in question will be contacted in writing of any further suspension for other ECASA activities.

All expulsions shall be reviewed by the Executive Board, after which the Executive Board may expel the person from all of ECASA events. If an appeal is submitted, the board's decision shall remain in effect until the Executive Board's appeal ruling.

Disciplines may carry over into the next season. The decision of the hearing board or committee shall be by majority vote.



## East County ASA 2015 Winterball Rules

The hearing board or committee shall within 3 business days of the hearing issue a written decision as to further disciplinary action, if any. Said decision shall be delivered to the Board President and the party/parties involved.

*Appeals:* An appeal of a decision of a sport board disciplinary hearing to the ECASA Executive Board will be considered only under the following circumstances:

- The decision was expulsion
- The basis for the appeal is that the board violated the ECASA Disciplinary Policy at the disciplinary hearing

In order for the Executive Board to consider a request for an appeal, a Notice of Appeal must be delivered to the ECASA President within 30 days of the board ruling. The Notice of Appeal must include all reasons why the Executive Board should consider the appeal. These reasons must be limited to the two above listed circumstances. Upon receipt of the Notice of Appeal, the ECASA President shall present it to the Executive Board for review. If 2/3 of the Executive Board votes that the reasons for the requested appeal meets the above criteria, the President shall appoint a three-member Executive Board Panel to conduct the appeal hearing. A majority decision of that panel will be final. The panel may rule for vindication, uphold the league ruling, or render any other decision the panel sees fit. The panel will notify the parties involved and the ECASA Board President within 3 days of its decision.

Any ECASA member or participant may also report incidents of unsportsmanlike conduct, disregard for the rules, policies or procedures to a board member for review by the board. The procedures outlined above shall be followed for such reports.

If a manager, coach, player, parent or spectator of an outside league is involved in an incident, they may be subject to the disciplinary actions as listed above. A report of all the details of the offense will also be forwarded to the outside leagues Board President.

It is our hope that these procedures will never have to be used, but as our league grows so does the possibility that someone will violate the Code of Conduct. Because our main concern is for the enjoyment and recreation of the hundreds of parents, coaches and children who are out to enjoy team and family time together, we will not be tolerant of continued violations of the Code of Conduct.

## East County ASA 2015 Winterball Rules

### East County Winterball League Playoff Rules

ASA rules with the following exceptions:

- Time Limits - Bracket: No new inning after 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- Time Limits - Championship game: No time Limit – 8u games - 6 innings, 10u Comp, 10u Rec, 12u Comp, 12u Rec and 16u games - 7 innings.
- Run Limits – Bracket:
  - 8u and 10u – 4 runs per inning
  - 12u and 16u – 6 runs per inning
- Run Limits – Championship game:
  - 8u – 4 runs per inning
  - 10u – 6 runs per inning
  - 12u – Comp – No Limit
  - 12u – Rec – 6 runs per inning
  - 16u – 6 runs per inning
  - 8u, 10u, 12u Rec and 16u the last inning open.
- All Games tied after the time limit will start the next inning using the “International Tie Breaker” Rule.
- Championship game tied after 7 innings will start the top of the next inning using the “International Tie Breaker” rule.
- Mercy rule will be in effect in all instances and games ended when a team leads by 10 runs and 4 innings or 8 runs after 5 innings.
- The teams will be seeded for bracket play based on their season ending standing.
- Team listed on the top of the bracket will have the 1st base dugout unless the team plays back to back games on the same field.
- The bracket’s lowest seed will be the home team.
- Home team will provide official scorekeeper. Managers and umpires are required to sign score sheet after each game and winning team will turn it into the snack bar.
- 8u division – No Coach pitch during the playoffs based on pitching during the season.
- All other division supplemental rules apply.
- All teams will make the playoffs (excluding 6u). All divisions will play a single elimination tournament.