

HSA Softball Rules

10 & Under League

USFA Recreational League rules will be enforced unless specifically addressed otherwise herein.

I. General Provisions:

35 ft. pitching distance

11" ball .47 core ASA

60 ft. base path

Play as maximum of six innings per game unless tied at the end of regulation play. Time limit for a game is 1 hour 20 minutes (80 minutes), which means no inning can start after the 1 hour 20 minutes has expired. When the time limit expires during an inning, the inning will be completed, unless a team is mathematically unable to tie or win. The next inning is considered to have started as soon as the last out is made in an inning. Extra innings, in case of a tie, can be played as long as the 1 hour 20 minutes has not expired. Games ending in a tie after time has expired will be considered to have ended in a tie. They will not be played off at a later time.

Game time is to begin at the umpire's designation. Game clock should be started only after all scheduled umpires are ready on the field and the home plate umpire has announced "play ball" to the coaches. It is recommended that both head coaches meet with the umpires near home plate to discuss any ground rules, etc. and the home team's pitcher should start warming up on the mound 5 minutes prior to the scheduled game time.

If time expires and one team is mathematically unable to win in the bottom half of that inning, then the game should end. This is the **only** mercy rule in effect. All games are a minimum of 70 minutes and will only conclude at the end of an inning regardless of the score. This means that if a team is mathematically eliminated very early in a game, we are obliged to play a minimum of 70 minutes and complete the current inning.

A complete game, because of rain or other circumstances, is three innings.

A team must have 8 players to start a game. For teams playing with 8 players, outs are not taken for the 9th or 10th positions in each innings

batting order. Pull ups from the league below are allowed and encouraged to make 9. If pull ups cannot be found, with the agreement of both coaches, a player from the same league may be used, but only to make a 9th player. Any pull-ups or pull-overs must play in the outfield and be placed in the bottom of the batting order.

If a player shows up late, and if included, would make the 9th player, that player will replace the pull up/over unless both coaches agree to leave that replacement player in. If 2 players show up late, and if included, would make a team of 10 players, then any pull-ups or pull-overs must be removed from the game.

All players will play in the field and be in the batting order.

II. Baserunning:

Base runners can leave the base after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. The first occurrence, per game, of a base runner leaving their base before the ball leaves the pitcher's hand, will result in a warning to the offensive team by the umpire. Base runners will be out should they leave their bases early after their team has received a warning. However, leniency should be exercised by the umpires during the early portion of the season.

Stealing 2nd or 3rd base is allowed only when a girl is pitching. A runner can only steal one base at a time. The base runner cannot advance on an overthrow made as an attempt to throw out the would-be base stealer.

Stealing of home is allowed when a girl is pitching. She must slide if there is a play at the plate for safety reasons.

No infield fly rule.

III. Batting:

Inning ends when either 3 outs occur or **5** runs are scored by the offensive team. Maximum runs scored per inning will be set at **5**. If the fifth run is score while a player is at bat (i.e. pass ball), that player's at bat ends and she leads off the next inning with a new strike/ball count.

There is no dropped third strike rule, although the ball is still live.

Bunting or Slap Hitting is allowed.

Only one offensive time out per inning allowed. The second time out in an inning will result in an out being called on the batter.

IV. Fielding:

No "Overthrow Rule". Runner is allowed to proceed to the subsequent bases until the ball is either controlled in the circle or by a player ahead of the runner. Umpire will stop play when the ball is controlled by a player in the circle (all runners remain at the base they have reached) or ahead of the lead runner (runner behind the lead runner may advance to an open base at their own risk).

Since all players will play in the field there may be several extra girls in the outfield. Therefore, no outfielder can position herself closer than 5 yards (15 feet) from the infield dirt.

Infield Play: There will be a consecutive game minimum for each girl to play in the infield (i.e., there will be no girl in the 10U league that plays less than 3 innings in the infield for 2 consecutive games). Infield includes pitcher and catcher positions.

- If a player or a player's parent does not want a girl to play an infield position, this request should be discussed with the league commissioner of the league prior to implementing.

Modification (Applies to Fall Season Only):

Each girl must play a minimum of 1 inning in the infield (includes catcher and pitcher) per game.

V. Pitching:

Warm-up pitches by the pitcher between innings are limited to 5. Starting pitchers at the beginning of the game and new pitchers get 10 warm-up pitches.

For the Spring 2014 season there will not be any pitching limits. We encourage coaches to allow more than one girl to pitch if they have more than one girl interested in pitching. The only time a player will be allowed to pitch in more than one game in a day is the year end tournament.

We encourage each Coach to allow 9-year olds to pitch if the girls are interested.

A pitcher removed from the mound can return one time during a game. On a second visit to the mound in an inning by the coach, the pitcher must be removed.

No 4 walks/hits batter rule in effect. Coach does not come in to pitch. Inning ends when either 3 outs are recorded or the maximum **5** runs are scored by the offensive team.

There are to be no illegal pitches called on a pitcher. An illegal pitch is considered a no pitch with no change in the ball/strike count.

Coaches are not to openly complain about a pitcher crow hop. Crow hopping is to be called only at the discretion of the umpire.

A strike is to be called on any batter, if in the opinion of the umpire, that attempts to fake bunt or waive the bat in front of the plate for the purpose of distracting the pitcher.

VI. Other:

If a batter/runner becomes injured or ill during her at bat or while on base, the offensive player who made the last out will be substituted for her. If at bat, the substituted player inherits the count of the injured/ill player. If the injured/ill player is able to return to the game, the earliest she may return is when her team returns to defense. If she is unable to return or if her place in the batting order comes up before she is able to return, her place in the batting order will be skipped without penalty to her team.

If a player becomes injured/ill and leaves the game while on defense, she may return to the game during the same ½ inning. If she is unable to return or if her place in the batting order comes up before she is able to return, her place in the batting order will be skipped without penalty to her team.

Home team is to keep the official score book. Visiting team will manage the mechanical score board and responsible for making sure the equipment ends up back in the Field 4 after the last game of the day/night.

Both coaches from the last game of the day/evening are responsible for making sure that all score board equipment, rakes, screens, intercom

equipment, tees, practice balls, and pitching machines are properly stored and locked in the field house. Please be sure to check the batting cages on your way out. Coaches please make sure that the dugouts are litter-free after each game.

Sporting chatter is allowed and positive cheering is encouraged. Any taunting of or verbal abuse on a player on the opposing team will not be tolerated. Loud chanting/screaming when the pitcher is about to release the pitch or the batter is about to swing is strongly discouraged.

Only coaches/parents with specific coaching duties (head coach, base coaches, pitcher, dugout manager, warm-up pitcher) during the game will be allowed inside the field fence.

Games scores are to be reported to the league commissioner each week. Team records or head to head results will have no bearing on seeding or tie-breaking activities for the end of year Spring Park tournament. Pool games only will be used for tournament bracket seeding.

The Hoover Softball Association (HSA) will not tolerate umpires that only seem interested in getting the game over with, so they can leave or get paid. Any negative reports related to this type of action by an umpire to the commissioner of softball will result in the umpire not being allowed to umpire any more this year at H S A.

League Policy: Games balls provided by the league are not to be given out unless the coach has purchased a replacement ball for the league. If game balls are to be given out, these balls should be purchased in advance by the coach.

Any revision, modification or addition to these rules communicated to the league by the League Commissioner, Softball Commissioner or League President will serve as an amendment to this set of rules.