

Tab 2

# **Jersey Strong Softball Specific Rules & Bylaws**

Standard Play Rules Governed by USA Softball:

<https://www.usasoftball.com/official-rulebook/>

Bat Compression Reference: [Non-Linear Thresholds Listing](#)

## **1. Rosters & Players**

### **a. Player count**

- i. Minimum roster-count of 12 players, minimum 3 players must be women

### **b. Free Agents**

- i. Free agents will be added to a roster in the event a team cannot meet the minimum in this specific order:
  - 1. Upon request by the team manager communicating to JSS management.
  - 2. If option 1 has been exhausted, communication between JSS management and team manager agrees for that team to take on any free agents to fill open roster spots. Roster maximum is 15 players.

### **c. Playoff Eligibility**

- i. Anyone who is rostered is eligible for the playoffs, there is no game requirement.
  - 1. Only female subs are allowed for playoffs.
  - 2. Only males that are filling in for extenuating circumstance are allowed to play

### **d. Injuries**

- i. Injury designations will be applied once a player's injury has been reported and communicated to JSS management. This allows management to process roster substitutions.

- ii. **Note:** If an injured player is replaced on the roster, that player will not be eligible to return for the remainder of the season. If medical clearance is required, it must be provided by the player's physician. The player replacing the injured participant will be responsible for payment for the remainder of the season.

#### e. Subs

- i. First time players filling-in will need to complete a waiver,
- ii. Men are allowed to fill in up to 4 weeks (8 games) for a specific team during the regular season.
  - 1. A player will no longer be allowed to sub for the team and must join the roster, at a reduced rate, based on games remaining in season.
  - 2. All games played by the player will count toward playoff eligibility. This can occur after roster locks only if the player meets the 4 week requirement
- iii. Women will be allowed to sub at any time (including playoffs).

#### f. Roster Locks

- i. Rosters will lock at week 3 of the regular season (regular season game numbers 5 and 6)
- ii. any add/drops due to injuries and/or extenuating circumstances must be made prior to playoff games being scheduled. You must alert Jersey Strong Sports Management of any exceptions described.

## 2. Field Administration

#### a. Check-In

- i. A valid form of ID will be required to check-in before games, as well as postseason games.

#### b. Waivers

- i. Every player will be required to sign a waiver (either Electronic or In person) A copy will be sent or presented to each player.

## c. Equipment

### i. JSS Standard Equipment

1. Softballs
  - a. Balls for each game will be stamped with USA certification, measure 12" in diameter and will utilize a .52 / 300 lbs core
2. Strike Mats
  - a. Orange strike mats measuring 17"x25.25" will be used
3. Safety Home Plate
  - a. A 2nd standard size home plate will be used as a safety base for runners to target when trying to score
4. Cones
  - a. Cones will be placed in outfield as minimum play markers for outfielders
  - b. A cone will also be placed as a half way marker on the 3rd base line as a commitment marker for runners.

### ii. Player Equipment Checks

1. All bats that players intend to use must have the new USA or older ASA softball stamp
  - a. Bats having multiple stamps will be allowed as long as they contain one of the above stamps
2. Composite bats are subject to compression testing, as well as randomized testing throughout the season as needed.
  - a. Bats passing testing will be given a league sticker to be placed on the handle; for each calendar year.
3. If a bat has not been tested / suspected of being tampered or does not have the USA or ASA stamp and comes into question while being used during a game, the bat will be pulled aside and tested.
  - a. Any bat that fails compression, has been tampered with or contains an illegal stamp, will be removed from the game and will be recorded by JSS management and will not be allowed to be used during play.
4. Any bats that contain the USA softball or older ASA softball logos that appear on the non-approved bat listing with certification markings will not be suitable for play

- a. Listing of non-approved bats here: [USA Softball Certified Equipment: Non-Approved Bats](#)

iii. **Footwear**

1. Metal cleats are not allowed
2. TPU molded plastic cleats, turf shoes or other athletic footwear are allowed for play.

iv. **Pitchers & Fielders**

1. Fielders are allowed to wear masks
2. Pitchers are recommended to wear a mask at minimum and/or shin guards.

v. **Player Conduct**

1. **Code of Conduct**

Jersey Strong Sports Leagues maintains a zero-tolerance policy for disrespectful, threatening, insubordinate, or unsportsmanlike behavior. Derogatory comments or actions directed toward any individual's gender identity, sexual orientation, or personal choices will not be tolerated. This policy applies to both players and spectators. Any individual found in violation may be ejected from the event and may face suspension or permanent removal from future JSS events without refund.

2. **Team Responsibility and Game Control**

Each team is responsible for the conduct of its players and spectators. Team managers are expected to help prevent and address any disrespectful or unsportsmanlike behavior. If warnings are issued by the umpire or site manager and the behavior continues, the offending player and/or team manager may be ejected from the premises. If a game becomes uncontrollable due to excessive misconduct by either or both teams, the umpire or site manager may terminate the game. In such cases, both teams may be assessed a 7–0 forfeit loss.

3. **Facility Cleanliness**

Teams are expected to dispose of all food, beverage containers, and trash properly. Dugouts and bench areas

should be left clean and in the same or better condition than they were prior to the game.

4. **Alcohol Policy**

All participants and spectators must comply with posted rules and signage regarding alcoholic beverage consumption at the facility.

## 3. Gameplay

### a. Lineups

#### i. Standard Lineups

1. 10 players on the field maximum, 3 of which must be women at all times, whenever possible, minimum of 7-players to field and play the game.
2. Lineups must rotate either 3 men followed by 1 woman or 1 woman followed by 3 men.
3. If a roster has equal numbers of men & women, lineups may rotate 1 woman followed by 1 man or 1 man followed by 1 woman.
4. Each team will be required to have, at minimum, a writeup of their lineup to present to the opposing team / umpire.
5. JSS Management will run a “source of truth” book that will be the official score & lineups.

#### ii. Penalties

1. If a team has to play with less than 3 women on the field, the below table outlines the penalties the team will be required to play with

Men in Field	Women in Field	Allowed On Field	Out Taken?	Penalty
7	3	10	No	N/A
7	2	9	No	Anyone can bat. Girls rotate in batting order.
7	1	8	Yes	The lone female can bat in any female batting standard positions (4,8,12,16 or 1,5,9,13). If additional males are in the lineup to bat, the last position in the order must be a female and the team will take an out unless there are enough players to reach the next female spot. If the female is on base, the last batted out is the pinch runner for female. Pitcher covers home on plays
7	0	Cannot Play	No	Team forfeits
6	4	10	No	N/A
6	3	9	No	Team plays with 9 in field. No out penalty.
6	2	8	Yes	Anyone can bat. Girls rotates in batting order. Pitcher covers home on plays.
6	1	Cannot Play	No	Team forfeits

## b. In Game rules

- i. Standard game rules are governed by the latest USA Softball Rules:

<https://www.usasoftball.com/official-rulebook/>

- ii. Standard USA Softball Rule FAQs

1. When can I slide?

- a. Head or feet-first sliding into 1st base or the safety home plate will not be allowed and will be recorded as an out.
- b. Head or feet-first sliding into 2nd & 3rd base is allowed.

2. How does recording an out at home plate work?

- a. Any plays at home plate are force plays
- b. Players trying to record an out at home must be touching any part of home plate to record out. An out will not be recorded if player is only the touching strike mat
- c. Runners must touch the safety home plate to record a run. If a runner touches the standard home plate an out will be recorded with no run recorded.

- iii. Jersey Strong Softball Specific Rules

1. Pre-Game Rules

- a. Mercy Rule run differential per inning
  - i. 15-runs after the 4th
  - ii. 12-runs after the 5th
  - iii. 10 runs after the 6th
- b. Runs-scored limit per inning & Home Runs
  - i. 7-run maximum limit per inning

- ii. Home run limit
  - 1. 5 per team per game
  - 2. Subsequent home runs hit will be charged as outs and any runners on base will remain at their base.
  - 3. Inside the park home runs are unlimited
  - 4. If a batter hits an over the fence home run that is under the 5 max home run limit, any runs greater than 7 that are on base (including batter) will be counted.
    - a. Example: If runners are on 1st & 2nd, these would count for runs 7 & 8 of the inning and the batter (who accounts for run 9) hits an over the fence home run, runs 7,8 & 9 would count. Inning would come to an end for team at bat.

c. Game Timing

- i. Regular-season games will have a timing of 75 minutes, no time-limits for playoff games.
- ii. At the 65-minute mark, the umpire and site manager are to call out last-inning before players go to bat at the next top of the inning - no runs-scored limit once this is called.

d. Forfeits

- i. Team(s) will have 15 minutes to take the field before a forfeit will be declared.
- ii. Winning team will be awarded a 7-0 victory
- iii. A second forfeit will necessitate communication from JSS management to the team forfeiting to be ensure that this practice does not continue
- iv. 3 + of forfeits will risk that team being removed from the schedule, as well as forfeited games

not being rescheduled, in addition to no refunds being issued

## 2. At bat & runners

### a. Batter Count

- i. Batters start with a 1-1 count
- ii. no courtesy fouls with 2-strikes on the count.

### b. Walks:

- i. 3-walks limit per inning.
- ii. After 3 walks, batters will remain at plate until a ball is put in play or a strike out is recorded.

### c. Courtesy Runners

- i. All players needing a courtesy runner will be designated before game
- ii. All pinch runners are last batted out regardless of gender.

## 3. Fielding Rules

### a. "No Man's Land"

- i. When a female is at bat, this is defined as a zone player must not enter before a ball is legally batted into play (in fair or foul ground)
- ii. Cones & a painted line (when available) will be placed in the outfield 150ft from home plate. The space between this line and the dirt edge of the infield is designated "No Man's Land".
  1. If a player lines up in "No Man's Land" and a ball is batted into play, if an out is recorded, batter will be awarded the base they would have arrived at safely and any out recorded on the play are null/void.

### b. 5th infielder

- i. Teams will be allowed to have a 5th infielder if they choose.
- ii. When a female is at bat, all infielders need to have their feet on the dirt before the ball is batted legally into play (in fair or foul ground).

- c. Throwing players out at 1st from outfield
  - i. Only women may throw out women at 1st base from the outfield.
    - 1. A woman batter will be awarded 2nd base if a man throws a woman out at 1st
  - ii. Men or women may throw a man out at 1st base

## c. Standings & Schedules

### i. Schedules

- 1. Team schedules will be posted in a reasonable time-frame before the season and playoffs begin to allow for planning and communication by team managers. Schedules will be balanced as best as possible by JSS.

### ii. Standings

- 1. Standings updates will be posted in real-time or as soon as possible whenever game results are available.
- 2. Tie breaks
  - a. Team with the same standings will have ties broken as follows for seeding:
    - i. Head-to-head record
    - ii. Run differential
    - iii. Runs allowed
    - iv. Runs scored