



## **Seasonal Rules**

Rev. 9/8/2023

### **Section 1 – General**

The playing rules for intramural games shall be of the OFFICIAL RULES OF SOFTBALL (Fast Pitch) as published by USA Softball (USAS), except as specifically modified by the rules as stated herein. Supplemental age division rules will be provided each season.

- A. The Executive Board has the responsibility for the enforcement of league rules. They shall implement and enforce these rules, the leagues By-Laws and all other such directions given by the Board. Any questions, comments, complaints, or other correspondence regarding rules, regulation, and policies should first be directed to the Executive Board. In making any discretionary decisions, the Executive's Board primary duty shall be to act in the best interest of sportsmanship and fair play.
- B. The requirements of the Rancho GSL Playing Rules shall not be suspended or modified by agreement between Managers, Coaches, Umpires or any other person
- C. The official diamond for each division shall have the distances as follows:

<b>Division</b>	<b>Pitching</b>	<b>Baseline</b>
6-U	20 feet	45 feet
8-U	30 feet	60 feet

10-U	35 feet	60 feet
12-U	40 feet	60 feet
14/16-U	43 feet	60 feet

- D. If illegal pitching distances or baseline distances are discovered during the game, the umpire shall allow the illegal distance to be corrected upon discovery. They must then be corrected to the legal distance(s), if possible.
- E. The home team shall be responsible for providing the official scorekeeper.
- F. Final scores need to be reported to the league UIC in a timely manner.

### **Postponement or Cancellation of Games**

- A. Games may be postponed or canceled by the Board member on duty due to inclement weather, heat, field conditions, or emergency situations only
- B. Games may be canceled or postponed by the Executive Board with 24 hours' notice, for any reason.

### **Personnel on Field and in Dugout**

- A. Managers and Coaches shall remain within the confines of the dugout area during the game with the exception of base coaching and to call pitches (defensive team allowed ONE coach on bucket to call pitches).
- B. Only the Manager or Coach shall be out of the dugout for the purpose of calling pitches. He/She shall remain adjacent to the dugout and shall be seated at all times. He/She and bucket/seat shall be in play.

### **Field Prep**

- A. Home team shall be responsible for pre-game field preparation (marking baseline, placing bases etc.).
- B. Following every game, each team shall clean their side of the FIELD and BLEACHER area, making sure all trash is in trash cans.

## **Section 2 – Equipment**

- A. Full coverage batting/running helmets with face mask must be worn by the batter, base runner(s) and on-deck batter, including catchers warming up pitchers.
- B. Metal Cleats are permitted only in the 14 & older divisions.
- C. ALL pitchers 8u-14u must wear a face mask while on the mound.
- D. All bats shall meet USA Softball rules and guidelines and have the USA approval stamp; altered bats shall not be permitted.
- E. Game balls provided by the league shall comply with current USA certification requirements. Game balls will be the following but may change due to availability/stock:

6u – 10" Rawlings SR10RYSA RIF-1, Champro, or comparable  
 8u – 10" Rawlings SR10RYSA RIF-1 or comparable  
 10u – 11" Rawlings R11RYSA RIF-10 or comparable  
 12u – 12" Rawlings C12RYSA (Dream Seam), CFP's, or comparable  
 14u/16u – 12" Rawlings C12RYSA (Dream Seam), CFP's, or comparable

## **Section 3 – Players and Substitutes**

- A. Players shall be on the playing field no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to game time to enable the coach to conduct pre-game warm-ups and line-up card preparation.
- B. Line-up cards must be submitted to the umpire at the pre-game meeting. Line-up cards shall include only players present at game time (including First and last names and player numbers) and the designated starting pitcher.
- C. Copies must be given to the opposing coach, official scorekeeper and umpire. This shall be the official batting order for the game. The lineup may include the current week's pitched innings. b. Every player must be listed in the scorebook and shall become a batter in the order in which their name appears in the scorebook. Once the batting order is established, it shall remain the same for the duration of the game.
- D. Any player NOT present at the playing field at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to game time may be ruled absent at the team coach's discretion.
- E. Any player who is not present at the official start time may be placed at the end of the batting order.
- F. If the order has batted through completely and the first batter has hit twice, the player arriving late shall not be eligible to play in that game, unless it brings the line-up to nine (9) players. If the batting order has completed, discretion between both managers and umpire to add the new arriving player- keeping in the spirit of sportsmanship.
- G. In all divisions, a courtesy runner shall be allowed for the pitcher and/or catcher only. The courtesy runner is designated as the last recorded out.
- H. Should a player be removed from the game, an out shall be recorded each time the removed player's turn comes up in the batting order.

Exception: If the player is removed due to an injury, illness or emergency, an out shall be recorded for that batter for only the first time that batter's name is reached in the order; unless it causes the line-up to drop below nine (9) players (Shorthand Rule shall then apply).

- I. If a player is injured during the game, but reaches a base safely, the last recorded out shall be allowed to pinch run for the injured player and an out shall be recorded for the injured player's next at-bat. The injured player may not return to the game. The coach has the option of taking a one-time time-out at the time of the injury.
- J. Coaches shall report all pitching changes to the umpire.
  - a. If not reported, this shall be considered an illegal substitution. Should the opposing coach protest the illegal substitution, the pitcher in question may no longer play in the pitching position for the duration of the game.
  - b. The coach may bench a player for a game for reasons of their attitude, manner of dress, tardiness and/or any other unsportsmanlike conduct during practices and/or games. This must be reported to the League Player Agent.
- K. Free defensive substitutions shall be permitted for all defensive players, including pitchers, provided that the minimum playing and pitching limitations are followed.
- L. Batting line-up shall consist of all players present
- M. A standard nine (9) player defense shall be used. (Exception: 8u – 10 defensive players shall be used with four (4) players a minimum of 10 feet behind the baseline.)

- O. If a team has less than nine (9) players to start or continue a game and Pool Players are unavailable, the other Team shall provide a shared player in order to prevent a forfeit.  
(Exception: A shared player shall not substitute for an ejected player).
- P. A fifteen (15) minute grace period from scheduled game time shall be permitted to allow a team to field nine (9) players. The grace period shall be included in the game time limit.
- Q. The game may be started on time by using up to three (3) shared and/or pool players. A team may start with eight (8) players and finish with eight (8), except as a result of a player being ejected from the game by the umpire. In the event of an injury during the game, a team may finish the game with seven (7) players. If a team falls below the required number of players, the game shall be declared a forfeit.
- R. 6u – A team may start and finish a game with any number of players. Scheduled teams shall use shared players, if a team is short players.

### **Section 4 – Pool Players**

- A. The purpose of pool players is to fill a roster when a known shortage of players will drop the team roster below 9 players for a game.
- B. Pool players must bat last in the line-up.
- C. Pool players must play the outfield.
- D. Once the pool player has been assigned, she must bat and play at least two defensive innings.
- E. Pool players may be taken from 1) the same age division for the current season or 2) from the lower division.

### **Section 5 – The Game**

- A. The home team shall be designated by them being listed 2nd on the schedule, and shall occupy the 1st base dugout. Home team shall bat last in the inning. Visiting team is listed 1st on the schedule and shall take the 3rd base dugout. EX. Visitor (3rd base) VS Home (1st Base)
- B. The game shall consist of:
  - a. 6u – three (3) innings
  - b. 8u – six (6) innings
  - c. 10u – seven (7) innings
  - d. 12u – seven (7) innings
  - e. 14u/16u – seven (7) innings
- C. There shall be a time limit on all games that will be established by the current UIC and/or board. The season's time limit will be set for the current season and conveyed to all teams prior to the start of the season by the current UIC and/or board. Time set each season may be adjusted, season to season, as needed and established before the first game or opening day of the season. Once the season game time has been set it will remain during the duration of the regular season play. Separate time limits may be established for TOC, tournaments, and Championship games.
  - a. At minimum the game shall be: One (1) hour and twenty (20) minutes, where after no new inning shall commence.
  - b. The umpire will keep the official start of the game.
  - c. All started innings shall be completed unless stopped by darkness, weather conditions, Run Mercy Rule, or Drop Dead time (UIC shall state DD time).
  - d. A new inning shall start with the last OUT made in the previous inning

- e. Use/implementation of a drop dead time may be used and established by the current UIC and/or board on a season to season basis.
- D. At the umpire's discretion, an official game may be delayed, called or canceled due to inclement weather, darkness and/or unsafe conditions.
  - a. If such a game has completed at least one (1) hour of playing time and the home team is behind and has NOT completed their at-bat, the game shall revert to the prior inning and be considered the official score.
  - b. If such a game has NOT completed one (1) hour of play, the game shall be rescheduled and replayed or continued subject to field availability.
    - i. Replayed if less than one (1) inning played;
    - ii. Continued if one (1) inning or more was completed
- E. Infield practice between innings shall be limited to five (5) warm-up pitches, or one (1) minute.
- F. The home team shall furnish a scorekeeper who shall secure the signatures of the umpire and both managers at the end of the game.
- G. Scheduled game time is forfeit time.