

2026 Juniors Rules

We adhere to the USA/ASA softball rules with the following exceptions:

1. PLAYERS

- a. The fielding team will consist of 9 players.
- b. All players will bat in consecutive order. Late arriving players will be added to the bottom of the batting order. In the event of injury, the player is removed from the batting order. No penalty will be applied to injured batters removed.
- c. Players may be freely substituted with no limits, to any position, on a dead ball situation.
- d. REGISTERED TRAVEL BALL PLAYERS are allowed to register and play in-house rec ball – within their program guidelines. Exception – travel ball players may not pitch or catch in rec league games.
- e. Please follow your program guidelines for rotation, i.e. on/off the bench, in-field/outfield positions, etc. Please remember, this is Recreational Softball, players should have equal play time.

2. SUBSTITUTIONS

- a. Teams must be able to field 8 players or must forfeit the game 15 minutes after start time. In the event of injury during a game, a team may continue play with less than 8 players. In the event of a forfeit – if players/parents have travelled for a game - let the girls play for fun and experience – if possible.
- b. Teams expecting less than 9 players may call-up players from the age group below OR pull from another U18 team. All subs must be registered within their respective leagues. Exception - Coaches may not pull subs laterally from another U18 team during tournaments.
- c. Any substitute may not pitch/catch unless approved by both the directors of the teams involved. Thus, the coach must plan in advance and communicate this need/reason to program directors prior to the start of any game.

3. GAME PLAY

- a. Run rule per game – 5 runs per inning, up until the end of the 3rd inning, 12 runs after 4 innings, and 10 runs after 5 innings.
- b. Games can end in ties.
- c. Balls will be 12”
- d. Dropped 3rd strikes are permitted.
- e. Runners may steal.

4. GAME TIME LIMITS

- a. Games will be 75 minutes or 7 innings, whichever comes first.
- b. When the time limit is reached – the current inning will continue until completed or the home team is ahead. A new inning will not begin after the time limit has been reached. Umpires may not call the game until 75 minutes is completed.

5. CONDUCT

- a. There shall be no harassment of a player by any coach, spectator, or player. This will include “baiting” members of one team by a coach, spectator, or player(s). This behavior can result in forfeiture of the game.
- b. Each program has a form of Zero-Tolerance Policy. The hosting facility/program will enforce their policy. THIS WILL APPLY TO ANYONE ON THE PARK GROUNDS. Any coach, player or spectator that uses foul or abusive language or that is under the influence of alcohol or any other controlled substance is subject to ejection from the park or other disciplinary action.

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6. PARK RULES/CONCESSIONS

- a. All teams are responsible for the liter in their dugouts, bleachers and around their diamond. We ask for your assistance in keep the PARK LITTER to a minimum at all locations.
- b. We encourage patronage of each other's concession stands. All programs use the proceeds from the concession sales to aide their programs. Please do not bring store bought food/treats.
- c. Only coaches, players and umpires are allowed in the dugout and on the playing field.
- d. Dugout gates are to stay closed at all times.
- e. Please do not allow players to climb on or sit upon the dugout walls. Players must stay behind the fence in the dugout, unless they are on-deck and wearing a helmet. Players must have a helmet on if standing above the dugout fence at East Side Diamond #2. This is for the safety of the players.
- f. Pitching distance is 43 feet.
- g. Pitchers must wear face protection. Defensive players are strongly encouraged to wear face protection.
- h. Metal cleats are **NOT** allowed. This is due to Rec League Insurance policies. Please make sure all players have rubber cleats.
- i. No jewelry is allowed, for the safety of the players.

REMEMBER:

- These are kids.
- This is a game.
- Coaches are volunteers.
- Umpires are human.
- No college scholarships will be determined by this game.
- HAVE FUN!