



# COMPETITIVE SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

## FALL 2025 & SPRING 2026

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### 10U SOFTBALL

Any rule not covered in the league rules below will be covered under the USA Softball Official Rules of Softball

#### 1. Playing Field

- a. Bases are set at a distance of 60 feet.
- b. Pitching is set at a distance of 35 feet.

#### 2. Equipment

- a. Bats must be marked “Official softball” by the manufacturer. Bats marked “baseball” by the manufacturer are not permitted.
- b. The ASA/USA Softball certified mark is not required on bats.
- c. The ball is an 11-inch softball, yellow optic with red stitch with a .47 core or under and a ball compression of 375.0 or under.
- d. Each defensive player must have a glove and fielder’s facemasks are strongly encouraged.
  - i. Exception - fielder’s facemasks are MANDATORY for the pitcher position.

#### 3. Players, Coaches & Substitutes

- a. Line-ups must be submitted with player names and jersey numbers at least 10 minutes prior to the start of the game.
- b. Late players are added to the end of the line-up.
- c. There are 9 defensive positions; pitcher, catcher, first base, second base, short stop, third base, right field, center field, and left field.
- d. Outfielders must be on the edge of the grass to be considered in the outfield. They do not have to be positioned deep in the outfield grass.
- e. Free substitutions are allowed during a game.
- f. The first base dugout is designated for the home team.
- g. No “razzing” or screaming at any opposing team or players shall be allowed.
- h. If a team has 10 or more players in their game and one of the players gets injured or has to leave the game, when the player’s batting spot comes up the batter will be skipped without incurring an out. If the team has only 9 players, then the batting spot of the player that has left the game will incur an out when the spot for the player comes up.

#### 4. The Game

- a. Six (6) innings, or 75-minute time limit, will constitute a complete regulation game. If the game is tied after both teams have played six (6) complete innings or the time limit has expired, the



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game is over. NOTE: If Official time has expired, the umpire will allow the game to complete the inning in consideration of the score and Home team assignment. There is no hard clock.

- b. Tie games at the end of regulation play will remain a tie.  
A called game will be considered complete if four or more innings have been played or if the team second at bat has scored more runs in three innings than the other team has scored in four innings. Or: A called game will be considered complete if 60% of the time has been played. The final score will be the score from the last completed inning.
- d. A called game considered incomplete will be resumed at the exact point where it was stopped.
- e. Run Rule – If a team is leading an opponent by at least 12 runs after four complete innings, or eight runs after five complete innings have been played, the game shall be officially over and the team in the lead shall be declared the winner.
- f. One defensive conference is permitted per inning without penalty. The second defensive conference will result in the pitcher being removed.
- g. Play stops whenever the pitcher has control of the ball in the pitcher's circle.
- h. There will be a 5-run limit per inning.
- i. Players are not allowed outside the dugout during a game unless playing a defensive position or playing offense as a runner, batter, or on-deck batter.
- j. One defensive coach is allowed on the field during play. This coach must stay within 5 feet of their dugout entrance.
- k. Players and coaches must line up and shake hands with their opponents at the conclusion of every game.

### 5. Pitching

- a. USA Softball fast pitch rules are in effect.
- b. No more than 1 minute or five pitches are allowed as warm-ups between innings. For excessive warm-up pitches, the pitcher will be penalized by awarding a ball to the batter for each excessive warm-up pitch thrown.
- c. A batter hit by a pitch of the player/pitcher with an effort to avoid being hit is awarded first base. Note: The batter must make an effort to avoid being hit by the pitch.
- d. If three batters in a single inning are awarded first base because they are "hit by pitch" from a single pitcher, the offending pitcher must be replaced for the remainder of the inning. This goes for any inning pitched. Pitchers can do this for as many innings that the game lasts.
- e. Pitching Limits - There are no restrictions on how many innings a player may pitch in 12U. However, it is strongly encouraged to continue to utilize multiple pitchers.

### 6. Batting

- a. Incorrect batting order:



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  - i. If the error is discovered before a complete at bat, the correct batter may assume the pitch count with no penalty.
  - ii. If the error is discovered after a complete at bat but prior to the first pitch to the next batter an out is declared.
- b. Teams will have a continuous batting order for all players, regardless if they are playing defensively.

### 7. Batter/Runner

- a. Dropped third strike. A dropped third strike occurs when the catcher fails to cleanly catch a pitch, which is the third strike. The pitch is considered not cleanly caught if the ball touches the dirt before being caught, or if the ball is dropped after being caught, and not cleanly and clearly possessed by the catcher.
  - i. The dropped third strike will be ruled as follows: When there are less than two outs, and first base is unoccupied, a dropped third strike is a live ball and the batter and all base runners may advance at their own discretion. The out is completed/recorded by one of the following:
    - 1. Batter was physically tagged out by a defensive player prior to reaching first base.
    - 2. Batter forced out at first base.
  - ii. When there are less than two outs, and first base is occupied prior to the pitch, a dropped third strike is ruled a strikeout and all base runners may advance at their own discretion.
  - iii. When there are two outs, a dropped third strike is a live ball regardless of whether first base is occupied or unoccupied. The out/inning is completed/recorded by one of the following:
    - 1. Batter was physically tagged out by a defensive player, prior to reaching first base.
    - 2. Batter forced out at first base.
  - iv. If bases are loaded, the out/inning can also be completed by a force out at home plate. A player possessing the ball simply steps on home plate before the runner on third reaches home plate.
- b. The “Look Back” rule is in effect. If a runner is between bases while the pitcher has the ball in the circle, the runner must immediately choose to advance or return to base. Failure to do so will result in an out.
- c. The “infield fly” rule is in effect.



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- d. There will be tight bases and stealing. A runner cannot leave a base to attempt a steal until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- e. If a runner is obstructed by a fielder without the ball, the runner is awarded the next base. No fake tags.
- f. A fielder cannot catch a ball with any part of the uniform or equipment detached from its proper place on their person.
- g. If a runner intentionally interferes with a fielder attempting to play the ball, the runner is declared out.

### 8. Umpires

- a. The game officials will be (2) FBSA umpires.

### 9. Scoring

- a. The home team is responsible for the Official scoring of the game.
- b. The visiting team is responsible for operating the scoreboard.

<b>Rule Summary – 12U Softball</b>			
Game Duration:	75 minutes or 6 innings	Infield Fly Rule:	In effect
Pitching:	Player pitch	Look Back Rule:	In effect
Pitching Distance:	35 feet	Official Inning:	3 outs or 5 runs
Base Distance:	60 feet	Tight bases:	Yes
Mercy Rule:	12 runs after 4, 8 after 5	Stealing:	Yes
Forfeit:	Official score recorded as 6-0	Stealing Home:	Allowed
Pitching Limit:	3 innings per pitcher, per game, innings pitched are non-consecutive		