

14u Northeast Fast Pitch Softball League

RULES

Constituents: Bobcat Youth League, Jackson Township Athletic Association, Riverdale Youth League, Hamilton Summer League, Angola Kids League, Garrett Softball, and Auburn Girls Softball.

Adopted: 3/25/97

Revisions: 1/2001, 2/2001, 4/2005, 1/2006, 1/2007, 4/2007, 2/2014, 1/2018, 1/2019, 1/2020, 1/2022, 1/2023
Revision 2/2024: Remove Minor girls. These rules will now constitute 14u girls only. 12u & 10u to break off into Dekalb County League.

May not be 15 or older as of January 1 of current year

The National Federation of State High Schools Associations Rule Book will be the official rule book of the league. Rule changes can only be made with Board (Northeast Fast Pitch Softball League) approval, which takes at least a majority of the leagues that played in the previous year or two (2) board members from each league in attendance and a majority vote of board members present. Rule changes, additions, or subtractions may only be implemented prior to April 1.

Below are the exceptions to the NFHS Rules Book the Northeast Fast Pitch League will adhere to.

A. Eligibility

A.1 Players may not play laterally within their original age division. If a team does not have enough players, they must call up players from a level below. If no players are available at the level below, the team must forfeit the game.

A.2 Playing Up: If a shortage of players occurs, a replacement player may be called up from the division immediately below the division being called up to. Called up players must be a registered regular season player within their respective community league. The called-up player shall play only if no other player from the team is able to play.

A.3 High school varsity and JV softball players must play senior level.

B. GAMES

B.1 Games shall consist of six (6) innings. In the event of a weather or safety related interruption of the game that will not allow a resumption of the game that day, four (4) innings shall constitute a complete game, except where the home team is winning after three and one-half innings (3 ½). In such an event, three and one-half (3 ½) innings shall constitute a complete game.

B.2 The start of an inning is defined as the final out of the previous inning. The game shall last one (1) hour and forty-five (45) minutes, allowing for an inning that started before the time limit to completely finish. No inning may start after time limit. Should the game end in a tie, the game shall be over, and the tie is the final score.

B.3 Each half inning lasts for three (3) outs or six (6) runs. No tenth batter rule. An inning will consist of six (6) outs or a maximum of 12 runs.

B.4 The ten (10) run rule applies after four (4) innings (3 ½ innings of the home team is leading).

B.5 All games start as scheduled. There will be a ten (10) minute wait for opposing team to show up or forfeiture will be called. A minimum of eight (8) players are required to start, play, or finish a game or forfeiture will be called.

B.6 Protest of game: A ruling body of two (2) Board (League) members from each league will meet and be presented the facts of the protest and will decide the outcome of the game. The home plate umpire should also attend the meeting.

B.7 Official scoring will be that of the home team scorekeeper. It is up to the visiting team to confer with the home team to reconcile discrepancies.

C. SCHEDULING

C.1 Regular season (May 1st – June 11th). Subject to change.

C.2 An attempt will be made for all teams to play each other twice. When two (2) teams will face each other twice, each team shall be home once (1), on home field. If two (2) teams will face each other only once, the game shall be scheduled on the field that is most readily available. Attempt will be made for each team to have equal home and away games.

C.3 No more than 3 regular scheduled games per week per team. No games will begin after 6:00pm on school nights, before 8:00am any day, or after 7:30pm any day.

C.4 Final regular season schedule shall be completed for player distribution no later than April 20th (subject to change).

C.5 Team rosters must be submitted by April 15th. This roster submission must include name, date of birth, coach contact, team, and uniform number (optional).

C.6 Each league shall submit teams & field availability by a mandatory April 1st deadline to the scheduler. Each league will accommodate scheduling a minimum of one home game per week for each softball team in its league, in addition to a mandatory 1 game per week, per division, to allow for re-scheduled & senior games. If a league cannot accommodate appropriate field space, their teams may forfeit home field advantage. For leagues that would like their teams' home on a specific opening day, they must notify the scheduler by April 1 & provide field space for all their teams to play at home on said date. Conflicts occurring post-schedule or teams/fields not submitted to scheduler by April 1 deadline will be remedied by the affected teams/leagues.

C.7 Half (½) hour between games for field preparation & team warm-ups. No regular season games will be initially scheduled after June 15th. No regular season games will be scheduled on Sundays. All regular season games must be concluded prior to the end of the 3rd week of June. For games not played, the offending team responsible for the re-scheduling will record a forfeit.

C.8 Tournament dates, host, & elimination will be printed on regular season schedule. Tournaments will be single elimination (subject to change). Bracket will be seeded according to regular season record. Awards will be presented to the top two (2) teams. Tournament hosts will provide awards. Tournament shall conclude no later than June 30th.

D. CANCELLED GAMES & RESCHEDULING

D.1 Rain Outs: Games in progress, there will be a maximum 1/2 hour wait for rain to stop before game is called. Umpire will call game. **LIGHTNING: GAME IS CALLED IMMEDIATELY-NO DISCRETION. ANY WARNINGS ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, ALL GAMES & PRACTICES ARE CALLED IMMEDIATELY, INCLUDING GAMES AND/OR PRACTICES ALREADY IN PROGRESS-NO DISCRETION.** All incomplete games called because of adverse weather will resume with the last completed inning, no automatic out for players absent from original line-up. If it is called after four innings or 3 ½ innings if home team leading, it is considered a regulation game.

D.2 Rescheduled Games: To be scheduled within 1 week & PLAYED within 2 weeks. Check with Concession Stand, Umpires & opposing Coach. It is the responsibility of the Home Team to reschedule games, to be within fourteen (14) days of the regularly scheduled game. In the event an agreement isn't reached within one (1) week, the commissioners may set the date to be played.

D.3 Cancellation of games due to weather or wet grounds prior to game start time will be made by the Home Team, with consideration to provide visiting teams & umpires ample notification.

E. BATTING

E.1 All players are to be allowed to bat. The batting order shall consist of all players on the roster & be established at the beginning of the game & shall not be altered during the game (automatic out).

E.2 Batting: All girls must bat per line up. Bat entire roster.

E.3 In the case of injury or sickness, players may leave the batting order & re-enter at both coaches' discretion. Coaches must communicate prior to re-entry or automatic out.

E.4 Bunting is allowed.

E.5 Practice or warm-up swings are prohibited in the batter's box or anywhere on the field when the ball is live.

E.6 Dead Ball: a player that is hit by a ball, whether direct hit or bounce, an award to first base will be granted.

F. RUNNING/SLIDING

F.1 A runner may steal any base. The steal cannot be attempted until after the ball has left the pitcher's hand. The first time a runner leaves early she will be warned & allowed to go back to her base; the second time a runner leaves early; the runner is out. Any girl leaving early after that is out. The team receives the warning.

F.2 Sliding is required at all bases (2nd, 3rd, & Home) when there is a play being made on the runner. An attempt to slide must be made if there is a play. Automatic out if there is no attempt to slide.

F.3 If the umpire should see a runner miss a base, the runner should be called out at that time, no appeal needed, automatic out.

G. FIELDING

G.1 Defensive team will field nine (9) players.

G.2 The fielding positions will be altered so that all players will field at least 1 inning if a team fields three (3) or fewer innings in a completed regulation game. If a team fields 6 innings in a completed regulation game, each player will field at least 2 innings during that game. If a player does not play the required innings in a completed regulation game, they will play an additional inning (3 innings) in the next game.

G.3 Infield Fly Rule Applies: With players on 1st & 2nd or 1st, 2nd & 3rd, with less than 2 outs, if a fair batted ball (not including an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, the umpire shall immediately declare "Infield Fly". Batter is out. Runners can tag up & advance once the batted ball is touched (prior to catching) the same as any fly ball.

G.4 Charged Conference: One conference per inning to mound – the second conference to mound in same inning- pitcher must be pulled. No more than three infielders & the coach can congregate at the mound during a time out. Two (2) offensive conferences per inning.

G.5 Dropped Third Strike: When the catcher fails to catch the third strike, with less than 2 outs & 1st base is unoccupied or anytime there are 2 outs, the ball is in play & the batter becomes a batter/runner with liability to be put out. If batter takes 2 steps toward dugout w/ no intention to go to 1st - batter is out.

G.6 If catcher/pitcher does NOT have possession of the ball, catcher/pitcher must remain in front of home plate and out of path for runner. If catcher/pitcher HAS possession of the ball, catcher/pitcher must straddle home plate leaving a path open for runner. If catcher/pitcher blocks home plate NOT leaving an open path, the runner will be awarded the base. A PATH MUST BE LEFT OPEN FOR RUNNER.

H. PITCHING

H.1 Pitching: Sixteen Foot (16') circle around pitching mound. When the pitcher is in the circle & has control of the ball, the base runner must decide immediately which base they will occupy.

H.2 Limit pitching to four (4) innings. Delivery of one (1) pitch constitutes having pitched one (1) inning. If the game should go into extra innings, then pitchers must be alternated (starting with the 7th inning) regardless of the innings pitched (or not pitched) in the first 6 innings.

H.3 Pitching will be from forty-three (43) feet. The distance shall be measured from the point of home plate to the front edge of the pitching rubber.

H.4 Pitcher is to have 5 pitches in between innings. A new pitcher shall have 10 pitches.

H.5 Re-entry: Starting pitcher only may re-enter one (1) time.

H.6 No balks.

H.7 A pitcher may not strike no more than four (4) batters per game. Once the limit of four (4) is reached, the pitcher must be removed from the pitching position, but can still play in the field.

H.8 Pitcher is to have five (5) pitches in between innings. A new pitcher shall have ten (10) pitches.

J. FIELD & EQUIPMENT

J.1 The baseline will be 60 feet.

J.2 A 12" optic yellow synthetic or leather softball will be used. The home team provides one (1) new game ball and one (1) good used ball.

J.3 Double first bases are requested as a safety precaution. Whenever a play is being made on the batter/runner, the defense must use the white portion & the batter/runner the colored portion. The batter/runner is out when there is a play being made at first base & she only touches the white portion, providing the defense appeals prior to the runner returning to first.

J.3.a When tagging up, the white portion must be used.

J.3.b When there is no play being made at first base, the batter/runner may touch the white or colored portion.

J.3.c Should the batter/runner return, she must return to the white portion.

J.3.d A batted ball hitting the white portion is fair & a batted ball hitting the colored portion is declared foul.

J.4 Glove Specifications: No special gloves are needed.

J.5 No steel cleats may be worn.

J.6 All catchers shall wear complete catching equipment, including mask & chest protector.

J.7 All batters, base runners & on deck batters must wear helmets while on the playing field. Face masks on batter helmets are required.

J.8 All players not playing the field, running the bases, batting or on deck to bat, are to be in the dug-out or off the field.

J.9 Pitchers, 1st and 3rd shall wear face masks.

K. COACHES

K.1 Coaches will be in the coaching boxes when their team is at bat (no players/teammates).

K.2 Coach may deny the right of a player to participate in a game or innings(s) for disciplinary action or unexcused absences from practice. The coach shall submit a complete roster to opposing scorekeeper before the game. Coach shall then designate players who are being disciplined (no automatic out).

K.3 The coaching staff will consist of the Head Coach, one (1) Assistant Coach, & one (1) Scorekeeper per game. The Coach & staff are the only persons allowed on the playing field with the team.

L. CONDUCT

L.1 Throwing Bat/helmet: First infraction-warning given to the team. Second infraction-batter is out. Umpire's Discretion.

L.2 There shall be no smoking on the field or in the dug outs during games or practices. Use of foul language, alcoholic beverages or drugs during games or practices will not be permitted.

L.3 The Head Coach shall be responsible for the actions of the Assistant Coach, Scorekeeper, team, and fans/parents.