



2020 Tri-County Youth Softball Rules

I. Organization and Competition

Official Rules

1. The current USSSA Softball Rulebook will govern league play, except when superseded by these local rules.
2. The league reserves the right to act on situations not covered by these local or USSSA softball rules. All interpretations and/or rule intents will be made by the league.
3. Coaches or Umpires may not deviate from these rules.

II. Players/Coaches

A. Age Control and Divisions

1. The age control date is the player's age prior to January 1, 2020.
2. The following age group criteria will be used in 2020 Tri-County Youth Softball League:
Girls: 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U and 16U.
3. Players of a younger age shall be allowed to play in an older age division by one age year with parental consent. Older age players are not permitted to play in a younger age division.

B. Conduct

1. Any player, coach, parent or spectator ejected from a game by umpire or because of unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for the next game at which his/her team plays, a forfeited game does not count.
2. If player, coach, parent or spectator has second offense, this can result in automatic expulsion from the league as deem necessary by league directors.
3. The league reserves the right to suspend any players, coaches, managers, parents and spectators for unbecoming conduct or actions before, during, or after a game.
4. Use of any tobacco products, alcohol or drugs of any form is PROHIBITED!
5. Persons under the influence of alcohol or drugs shall be removed from the park.
6. All coaches on the field must complete criminal background check with local agency and complete NAYS coaches' certification or equivalent certification.
7. All coaches must have Rec. Dept. issued Coaches or NAYS ID badge on person at all games.

III. General Playing Rules

1. Continuous batting order. If a player leaves game due to injury or illness their position in batting order will be skipped and no penalty assessed to the offensive team. The umpire, scorekeeper and opposing team must be notified when a player leaves the game. The player may re-enter the game without penalty. If a player is ejected from the game their position in batting order will be recorded as an out.
2. Free substitutions with a minimum of two (2) innings or six (6) outs as a defensive player.
3. Teams may start game with eight (8) players; if a team has less than (9) players they can pick up player/s from the pool selection (up to max. of nine (9) players 12U & Up and ten (10) players for 10U & Lower) within this league. Pool players cannot play the pitchers position in ALL age divisions. If team only has (8) players the (9th) batting position will be an out until (9) player enters game. During EOS Tournament NO pool players will be allowed.
4. 12U & 16U age divisions may play with (10) players which consists of (6) infielders and (4) outfielders if both coaches agreed during home plate meeting before game.
5. No extra innings if time limit has expired - game will be scored a tie.
6. Grace Time – Fifteen (15) minutes on first game, none on any other games.
7. Bats – Official softball bats that does not exceed 34" long or 2 ¼" barrel diameter – with BPF 1.20
8. Home Team is responsible for keeping official scorebook & scoreboard.
9. Mercy Rule – (10) after (4) innings, (8) after (5) innings.
10. Exposed jewelry - See USSSA Rule 2. Sec. 5 and eyeglasses must be sports type or worn with a strap.
11. New Pitcher's Rule – Prior to the pitch, the Pitcher will now only require the pivot foot on the pitcher's plate.
12. Each team must provide one (1) approved "USSSA Official Fast Pitch Softball" to umpire prior to each game.
13. Head first sliding is NOT allowed in this league.
14. All Player Pitchers are required to wear Pitcher's Mask while playing pitcher's position in all age divisions.

15. Courtesy Runner may be used for the Pitcher of record or catcher at any time by the last batter not on base.

IV. Age Division - Special Rules

6U – Coach Pitch / Tee Ball

1. One (1) hour time limit – no new inning after (1) hour
2. 5 innings and 5 runs per inning
3. No infield fly rule, No stealing, No bunting, No drop third strike rule
4. No catcher is required for this age division
5. Teams can play all players on the field for defense, if playing a catcher there will be (6) infielders and rest outfielders that must start each play behind restraining line (20) feet or “edge of grass” from 1st to 3rd base
6. Eleven inch (11”) Optic yellow official USSSA Stamped .47 cor. 375 comp. fast pitch softball will be used.
7. The player pitcher must have both feet in the pitchers circle even with or behind (but not in front) of the pitcher’s plate till ball is batted. No defensive players may play in front of an imaginary line extended across pitchers rubber from 1st baseline to 3rd baseline
8. A semi-circle foul line shall be placed 10’ from the back of home plate. A ball hit from the tee or a pitch but does not leave this area is consider a foul ball, the semi-circle foul line is in fair territory
9. Two (2) defensive coaches are allowed in the outfield only behind players
10. The Coach Pitcher must start pitch with both feet in the pitcher’s circle and must leave field opposite side the ball is put into play. If playing with NO catcher one offensive coach must be behind home plate to catch pitches and throw back to pitching coach to speed up game.
11. Coach Pitch – Each batter will receive three (3) pitches from the pitching coach in which batter can miss, foul or hit in fair territory if not they will be given (2) chances to put ball into play from the tee, on the 2nd attempt if they miss or foul ball off tee the batter is out.
12. Bases shall be fifty (50) feet with hash marks halfway between 1st & 2nd, 2nd & 3rd, 3rd & home. Play will stop when pitcher or any defensive player has possession of the ball inside pitchers circle or lead runner has stopped advancing. The umpire will determine what base the runner will advance too. If multiple runners on bases the lead runner will determine where other runners can advance.
13. Only (1) one base per base runner on over thrown ball to 1st base.
14. Any ball hit from the batting Tee the batter and all base runners are limited to no more than two (2) bases.
15. There will be NO underhand rolling of the ball. Throws on defense must be attempted to be made overhand. If an out is made by rolling the ball the batter/base runner will be called safe.
16. Pitcher’s Plate @ 35’ with a circle of 8’ radius.

8U – Coach Pitch

1. One (1) hour & ten (10) time limit – no new inning after (1) hour 10 minutes
2. 5 innings and 5 runs per inning
3. No infield fly rule, No stealing, No bunting, No drop third strike rule
4. Catcher must have required equipment – mask, full helmet, chest protector, leg guards & throat protector
5. Teams can play with a maximum (10) players on the field for defense (6) on infield and (4) in outfield, outfielders must start each play behind restraining line (20) feet or “edge of grass” from 1st to 3rd base
6. Eleven inch (11”) Optic yellow official USSSA Stamped .47 cor. 375 comp. fast pitch softball will be used
7. The player pitcher must have both feet in the pitchers circle even with or behind (but not in front) of the pitcher’s plate till ball is batted. No defensive players may play in front of an imaginary line extended across pitchers rubber from 1st baseline to 3rd baseline
8. The Coach Pitcher must start pitch with both feet in the pitcher’s circle and must leave field opposite side the ball is put into play
9. Coach Pitch – Each batter will receive five (5) pitches from the pitching coach. If after (2) strikes or (5) pitches the (5th) pitch is fouled off, the batter will receive another pitch until either a strike out or the ball is put in play. If the batter does not swing at the (5th) pitch it is called an out
10. Bases shall be sixty (60) feet with hash marks halfway between 1st & 2nd, 2nd & 3rd, 3rd & home. Play will stop when pitcher or any defensive player has possession of the ball inside pitchers circle or lead runner has stopped advancing. The umpire will determine what base the runner will advance too. If multiple runners on bases the lead runner will determine where other runners can advance
11. One (1) defensive coaches are allowed in the outfield only behind players
12. Pitcher’s Plate @ 35’ with a circle of 8’ radius

10U

1. One (1) hour & twenty (20) minute time limit – No new inning after (1) hour (20) minute
2. 5 innings and 5 runs per inning
3. Maximum of ten (10) defensive players on the field
4. Eleven inch (11") Optic yellow official USSSA Stamped .47 cor. 375 comp. fast pitch softball will be used
5. 10U Division will be unrestricted play same as 12U Division
6. (35) Feet pitching distance
7. No dropped 3rd strike rule
8. If a pitcher has a combination of walks and/or hit by pitcher of four (4) batters in a single inning, the offensive team coach will pitch the rest of the inning. **10U Coach Pitch Rule:** See 8U Coach Pitch Rule #9 and during 10U Coach Pitch there is NO walks, hit by pitcher, pass balls, wild pitches or stealing of bases. Coach Pitch Rule will be in effect till Spring Break begins (1st Week of April) then after Spring Break will be Kid Pitch only unless both Head Coaches agreed to continue the Coach Pitch Rule at home plate meeting before the game
9. Three (3) defensive conferences allowed per game – Penalty on the 4th will be automatic removal of the pitcher, the pitcher can play another position on defense but cannot pitch again.
10. Pitching Distance: 35 feet with circle of 8' radius

12U

1. One (1) hour & twenty (20) minute time limit – No new inning after (1) hour (20) minute
2. 6 innings and 5 runs per inning
3. Maximum of nine (9) defensive players on the field. (See Playing Rules III 4.)
4. Twelve inch (12") Optic yellow official USSSA Stamped .47 cor. 375 comp. fast pitch softball will be used
5. Three (3) defensive conferences allowed per game – Penalty on the 4th will be automatic removal of the pitcher, the pitcher can play another position on defense but cannot pitch again
6. Pitching Distance: 40 feet with circle of 8' radius

16U

1. One (1) hour & twenty (20) minute time limit – No new inning after (1) hour (20) minute
2. 6 innings and 5 runs per inning.
3. Maximum of nine (9) defensive players on the field. (See Playing Rules III 4.)
4. Twelve inch (12") Optic yellow official USSSA Stamped .47 cor. 375 comp. fast pitch softball will be used.
5. Three (3) defensive conferences are allowed per game – Penalty on the 4th will be automatic removal of the pitcher, the pitcher can play another position on defense but cannot pitch again
6. Metal cleats are allowed in this age division
7. Pitching distance: 43 feet with circle of 8' radius