

Rules for All Age Groups

Rules specified in this document apply to games within our Recreational Softball leagues only. Rules for our Select Softball teams and leagues are specified elsewhere.

General

AYSA rules are in addition to current ASA rules. AYSA rules always take precedence over ASA rules.

If you need league assistance with a matter, please contact your coach first. If they cannot resolve the matter or if the concern involves the coach, contact the Softball Commissioner.

Conduct & Behavior

Each AYSA coach should remember that we are here for the enjoyment of the children. This is a developmental / recreational league, not a competitive league. Please communicate with the players in a positive, supportive manner.

Judgment calls by the umpires may appear unsatisfactory. Please do not argue with the umpires.

Coaches are responsible for the behavior of the players and parents on their team. Umpires may remove a coach if that coach can't control the behavior of their players and parents.

Equipment

Only metal, graphite, ceramic, or composite bats, manufactured specifically for softball play, will be allowed for recreational league.

All batters and base runners must wear a batting helmet with a face-mask and chin-strap.

Fielding face-masks are mandatory for all pitchers. They are highly encouraged for all other fielders but will ultimately be at the discretion of the parents.

Catchers are required to wear full protective headgear, mask, chest protector, and leg guards.

Game ball will have a yellow optic cover; size determined by age division

Guest Player Rules

AYSA allows the use of guest players, under the guidelines described below, in order to avoid forfeits and allow kids to play ball. The spirit of the Guest Player

rule is to allow short-handed teams the temporary use of other league players rather than forfeit the game. This rule is not intended to be used as a tool to exclude regular team members in favor of more highly skilled players. Guest players may only be used to help a team reach the number of players that are allowed in the field when playing defense.

Guidelines

- A coach is authorized to add up to two guest players per game, provided that all of the following criteria are met:
- The guest players are currently registered in the same or younger AYSA age group (no select players are permitted to guest play in rec)
- The guest players play with the permission of their parents and regular coach
- The coach must announce and identify the guest players to the umpires and opposing coach prior to the start of each game
- The guest players wear their regular uniforms
- The guest players must bat last in the batting order
- The guest players play outfield positions only
- The guest players may not play if any regular roster player is present and available to play

Game Play

All teams will bat the entire roster in league play.

Coaches are entitled to free defensive substitution; the players' spots in the batting order do not change.

For ages 8U and above, no player shall remain on the bench for more than two consecutive defensive innings.

All other gameplay rules will be established by the Interlock League in which AYSA softball teams participate in.