

Sanford Youth League
Sanford, Coleman, Westown
JUNIOR GIRLS SOFTBALL RULES
13-14 Years
Revised 2/2014

Official High School Softball Rules will apply with the following exceptions:

1. Players should have attained the age thirteen (13) years but not more than (14) years by January 1st of the current year. Local groups handle placement of younger players.
2. Roster must be in to League Director prior to the first official game. Rosters are final at time of first official game. Any changes in roster must have board approval. There will be no roster changes after third game. Coaches must provide a copy of roster to opposing coach at game time.
3. Games shall be seven (7) innings in length. Tie games shall go into extra innings.
4. Five (5) innings constitute a complete game if called due to weather or darkness, or 4 ½ innings with the home team ahead.
5. An umpire must call the infield fly rule for it to be in effect.
6. If a batter hits an illegal pitch and reaches first base safely and all other runners advance at least one base, the illegal pitch is nullified.
7. If the ball slips from the pitcher's hand during the windup or during the back swing, a ball is declared on the batter, the ball will remain in play and the runners may advance at their own risk.
8. ASA softball bats will be used.
9. Any protest on rules or interpretation must be made immediately when time is out and before the next pitch is thrown. A written protest must be turned in to the league director within 24 hours.
10. A game may be played with eight (8) players without forfeit.
11. Game time is 6:30PM. Game time is forfeit time. No inning shall begin after two (2) hours from the beginning of the game.
12. Dropped third strike is in effect. When a catcher fails to catch the third strike before the ball hits the ground when there are fewer than two (2) outs and first base is unoccupied, or anytime there are two outs, this is called "the third strike rule". The batter becomes a batter/runner with liability to be put out.
13. A ten (10) run mercy rule is in effect after five (5) innings or 4 ½ innings with home team ahead.
14. All players must play two (2) defensive innings and bat once (1) unless game is shortened.
15. Pitching distance is forty (40) feet.

16. Girls will be encouraged to slide during a close play at any base or home plate. However, if a deliberate attempt is made to crash into a player fielding the ball, whether or not the fielder actually has the ball, the base runner will be called out.
17. Home team is responsible for supplying the home plate umpire. Visiting team is responsible for supplying the field umpire.
18. Home team shall supply one new game ball while the visiting team shall supply a good used ball. Balls will be 12" yellow ASA non-restricted flight balls.
19. There will be no designated runner (DR) or designated hitter (DH) allowed.
20. Pitchers must start with both feet in contact with the rubber and is not allowed to step back during windup.
21. Once a pitcher has been removed from a game, they cannot be re-inserted as a pitcher.
22. Coaches shall attempt to play games missed due to weather. If games cannot be made up, it will result in a tie. All make up games must be played no later than one (1) week after the last scheduled game in that league. If a coach refuses to reschedule a game, it will result in a forfeit for that team.
23. Home team gets field ready and supplies home plate umpire & field umpire, and supplies a new ball. (rule changed 2012)
24. Please see By Laws for All Star rules - updated 2.12.13
25. Pitching rules will follow NFHS Pitching guidelines outlined in Rule 6 of the NFHS rule book:

ART. 1 . . .

Prior to starting the delivery (pitch), the pitcher shall take a position with the pivot foot on or partially on the top surface of the pitcher's plate and the non-pivot foot in contact with or behind the pitcher's plate. Both feet must be on the ground within or partially within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate.

- a. Prior to pitching, the pitcher must take a position with shoulders in line with first and third base with the ball in the glove or pitching hand, and with the hands separated.
- b. While in this position, the pitcher shall take (or simulate taking) a signal from the catcher.
- c. After completing "b" above, the pitcher shall bring the hands together in front of the body for not less than one second and not more than 10 seconds before releasing the ball. The hands may be motionless or moving.
- d. The pitcher shall not be considered to be in pitching position unless the catcher is within the lines of the catcher's box and in position to receive the pitch.
- e. The pitcher may not take the pitching position on or near the pitcher's plate

without having possession of the ball.

f. The pitcher may remove herself from the pitching position as follows:

1. before the hands come together, the pitcher may legally step back from the pitcher's plate with both feet;
2. when the hands are together and no part of the windup motion has been made, the pitcher may legally step back from the pitcher's plate with both feet;
3. either foot may be removed first.

PENALTY: (Art. 1) An illegal pitch is called.

ART. 2 . . . About the Pitch:

- a. The pitch starts when one hand is taken off the ball or the pitcher makes any motion that is part of the windup after the hands have been brought together.
- b. Once the hands are brought together and are in motion, the pitcher shall not take more than one step which must be forward, toward the batter and simultaneous with the delivery. Any step backward shall begin before the hands come together. The step backward may end before or after the hands come together.

EXCEPTION: See Rule 6-1-1f2 - When removing self from the pitcher's position.

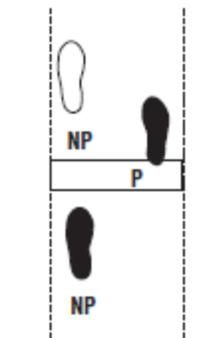
NOTE: Towards is interpreted as within or partially within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate. (See Figure 6-1)

- c. the pivot foot may remain in contact with or may push off and drag away from the pitching plate prior to the front foot touching the ground, as long as the pivot foot remains in contact with the ground and within the 24-inch length. Pushing off with the pivot foot from a place other than the pitcher's plate is illegal.

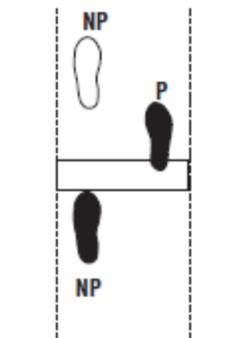
Figure 6-1

REFERENCE CHART
FOR (F.P.) 6-1-1 AND 6-1-2

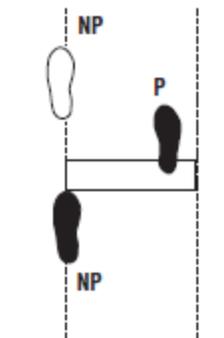
P = PIVOT
NP = NON-PIVOT
STARTING POSITION = BLACK
FINISHING POSITION = WHITE



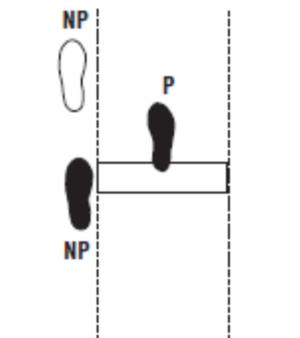
NO. 1 LEGAL
P — ON TOP
NP — BEHIND/WITHIN



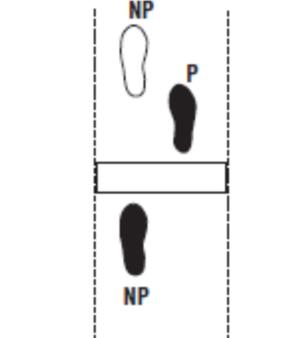
NO. 2 LEGAL
P — ON TOP
NP — CONTACT/WITHIN



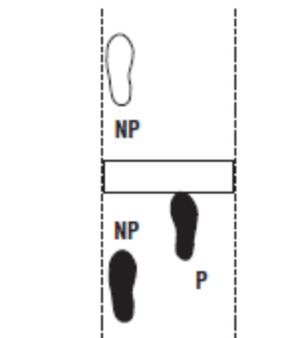
NO. 3 LEGAL
P — ON TOP
NP — CONTACT/WITHIN



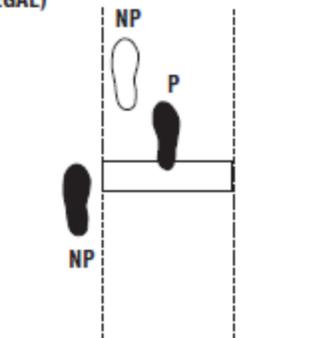
NO. 4 ILLEGAL
P — ON TOP (LEGAL)
NP — FORWARD STEP TOTALLY
OUTSIDE (ILLEGAL)



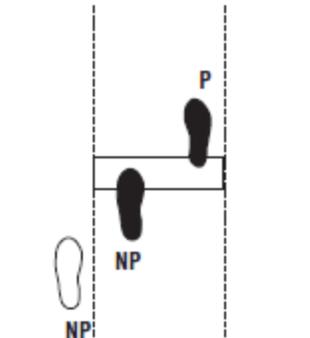
NO. 5 ILLEGAL
P — NOT ON TOP (ILLEGAL)
NP — BEHIND/WITHIN (LEGAL)



NO. 6 ILLEGAL
P — NOT ON TOP (ILLEGAL)
NP — BEHIND/WITHIN (LEGAL)



NO. 7 ILLEGAL
P — ON TOP (LEGAL)
NP — BEGINS TOTALLY OUTSIDE
(ILLEGAL)



NO. 8 ILLEGAL
P — ON TOP (LEGAL)
NP — BACKWARD STEP TOTALLY
OUTSIDE (ILLEGAL)