

VAIL FAST PITCH / BAJA 2018 OFFICIAL LEAGUE PLAY RULES

Vail Fast Pitch follows the Baja Arizona Softball Association Official Rules.
The following rules have been copied from Baja Arizona Softball Association:

8 & Under Division

The USA Softball Official Rules of Softball of 2018 does not have an 8-Under division.
The BAJA league rules will be used for the 8-Under division.

1. PLAYERS -

- a) An 8U team may have a minimum of 8 players per team to play.
- b) May have 8-10 defensive players in the field.

2. SAFETY -

- a) No jewelry may be worn during any practice or game. This includes, but is not limited to, earrings, bracelets, necklaces, or rings. Exception: Medical alert bracelets, medical alert necklaces, and non-removable silver baby bracelets are allowed to be worn, if covered. If a player is found wearing jewelry, the umpire will instruct her to remove it.
- b) Chin straps are mandatory on all helmets in addition to required face masks.
- c) Fielder's face masks are mandatory for all 8U players while playing infield positions.

3. FIELD AND EQUIPMENT -

- a) The game ball will be an optic yellow 11" .47 COR reduced impact ball (examples: Worth RIF Level 1, Pro-Nine Level 1 RIF).
- b) Pitching Distance will be 32 feet.
- c) Bases will be at 55 feet if the field has acceptable anchors, otherwise, 60 feet.

4. REGULATION GAME -

- a) No new inning may begin after 1hr, 20min. Time begins at the conclusion of the home plate pre-game meeting and both teams should be ready to play. The game will be stopped at 1 hour, 40 minutes after start and score reverts to the last complete inning, unless the home team is at bat in the bottom of the inning and is ahead. The third inning must be completed if unfinished.
- b) No game may last longer than four (4) innings or less than three (3) innings.
- c) Games may end in a tie.
- d) One umpire will be scheduled to officiate each game.

5. OFFENSE -

- a) All players in attendance are listed on the batting order and it will remain the same through the game.
- b) The batter must have one foot in and one foot out of the batter's box when receiving signals from the coach's box.
- c) The batter is out on the third strike, even if the catcher drops it.
- d) If a team begins a game with only eight or nine players, no outs will be assessed for playing short on offense.
- e) Bunting is allowed off of the player pitcher only.

6. RUN LIMIT

- a) Each team shall be limited to scoring three (3) runs in their half inning during the first three innings of play. Under this rule each half inning is over when the defense makes the third out or the offense scores their third run.
- b) No "continuation runs" shall count. A play in progress is allowed to be completed after the third run has scored; however, no runs in excess of three (in the first three innings) shall count in the game score.

7. DEFENSE -

- a) There will be eight to ten (8-10) defensive players in the field, and four of those players will be positioned behind the base line.
- b) A team must field a minimum of eight players. Fewer than eight players constitute a forfeit. [This rule does not prohibit both managers from loaning or borrowing players to complete/start the game if mutually acceptable.]
- c) If a team is short players, the opposing team is not obligated to play short-handed.
- d) An adult from the defensive team may be positioned behind the catcher to assist in returning the ball to the pitcher and speeding up the game. This adult is not allowed to give any direction or assistance.
- e) There is no infield fly rule.
- f) There will be only one defensive time out allowed per inning and a total of three per game.
- g) Unlimited defensive substitutions are allowed (subject to the rules on minimum playing time).

Each team is required to submit their substitution plan to the opposing manager and home plate umpire prior to the start of the game. Adjustments are allowed during game play provided the opposing team and umpire are notified and that minimum play rules are not violated.

7. DEFENSE (continued) -

- h) No player may play two defensive innings in a row in the outfield. An infield to outfield to bench or reverse rotation will meet this requirement. An outfield to bench to outfield rotation does not meet this rule.
- i) Once the pitcher has completed her innings pitched, she will either be placed in the outfield or sit the bench the next defensive inning. Example: Player pitches one inning, she plays outfield or sits the bench the next inning. Player pitches first two innings, she plays outfield or sits the bench the third inning. Player pitches first and third inning, she plays outfield or sits the bench the second and fourth inning and must meet the requirements of the participation rule.

8. WALKS -

- a) There will be no walks. In the event the player-pitcher pitches four balls, the designated adult coach/manager of the batting team will enter the game. At this time the strike count will remain the same and the coach will continue to pitch until the batter either hits the ball in fair territory, or strikes out, or the batter receives four called balls from the adult pitcher.
- b) If the adult pitcher pitches four (4) called balls, the batter is out. If the batter fouls off a pitch, her at-bat continues. A batter cannot strike out on a foul ball, regardless of the number of pitches she receives.

9. ADULT PITCHERS -

- a) The adult pitcher must pitch from the pitcher's plate. The player-pitcher stays in the circle while the adult is pitching, and must pitch no closer to the batter until the pitch is released.
- b) The adult pitcher must make every reasonable effort to get out of the way of a batted ball and/or defensive players. If the adult pitcher is hit by a batted ball, the ball is dead, the batter is awarded first base, and all other runners advance if forced.
- c) The adult pitcher may not actively coach the batter or runners while on the field.

10. HIT BY PITCH -

- a) Any batter hit by a pitch not hitting the ground first thrown by a player-pitcher (as opposed to an adult) will be awarded first base as long as the batter makes an effort to get out of the way. If the ball bounces off the ground before hitting the batter, a ball is called and the batter is not awarded first base. If the adult-pitcher hits a batter with a pitched ball, and the batter swings at the ball, the batter will be charged a "strike." If the batter does not swing, but is hit by the adult-pitcher, it is a "ball."

11. BASE RUNNER / OVER THROW -

- a) There will be no stealing of bases or home plate.
- b) There will be no sliding.
- c) A base runner may leave the base after the ball is hit.

11. BASE RUNNER / OVER THROW (continued) -

- d) If the ball is hit inside the base line, runners may advance with liability of being put out to the next base until the ball is returned to the control of the pitcher standing in the pitching circle. If the ball is hit beyond the base line, runners may advance to the next base with liability of being put out until the ball is in control of an infield player (including the pitcher or catcher) standing inside the base line. If the runner goes past the “next base” and arrives safely at one beyond the one she should have stopped at, she may be returned by the umpire to the one she should have stopped at without liability of being put out. If the runner goes past the “next base,” she may be put out while between bases.
- e) Tagging up on a hit ball that is caught in the air is not allowed.
- f) When a fielder makes a throw towards a base, the batter and all other runners must stop at the base they are approaching when the ball is released, if the ball ends up in foul territory. This includes an overthrow to the catcher. The purpose of this rule is to teach the fundamentals of the game by encouraging fielders to go after lead runners, when appropriate, while minimizing the risk of poor throws made by developing players. The reason that it is on release of the ball, rather than when the ball crosses into foul territory, is to ensure that base coaches are teaching the fundamentals of base running. This means running all the way through first base and stopping on the other bases when, if playing at a more experienced level, risk of being put out would be very high.

12. PITCHING -

- a) No pitcher may pitch more than 2 innings per game. One pitch in an inning constitutes an inning pitched.
- b) Any pitcher who hits two batters in the same inning must be removed from pitching and may not return to pitch in the same inning or the next inning. A ball bouncing off the ground does not affect this count.
- c) The strike zone is the space over home plate, plus any part of the ball that is between the top of the batter’s shoulders and the bottom of the knees as the batter assumes their natural batting stance.
- d) If the ball slips from the pitcher’s hand during her delivery, a ball is declared on the batter and the ball is dead.
- e) The umpire may warn the pitcher and advise the coach to correct any illegal pitching style on the first occurrence. After that, an illegal pitch will be called.

2017 BAJA GIRLS SOFTBALL RULES MATRIX

	6U	8U	10U	12U	14U, 16U, 18U
FIELD & EQUIPMENT					
Ball Size	10" RIF	11" RIF	11"	12"	12"
Field Dimensions	45'	55' (60')	60'	60'	60'
Pitching Distance	28' MAX	32'	35'	40'	40'
GAME MANAGEMENT					
Coach pitch after 4 called balls		X			
Infield/Outfield	NA	1in/1out	NA	NA	NA
Max innings pitched per game	NA	2	2 of 4	3 of 5	4 of 5
# players batting	entire roster	entire roster	entire roster	entire roster	entire roster
Min # players to play	5	8	8	8	8
Max# players on defense		10	9	9	9
GAME PLAY					
Strike zone-top	NA	top of shoulder	arm pits	arm pits	arm pits
Strike zone-bottom	NA	bottom of knees	top of knees	top of knees	top of knees
Stealing	NO	NO	1 base/pitch	YES	YES
Stealing Home	NO	NO	YES ¹	YES	YES
Run on dropped 3rd strike	NA	NO	NO	YES	YES
Run limit/inning	NA	3 for 3	4 for 3	4 for 3	4 for 3
Runner leaving base	after hit	after hit	after release	after release	after release
Pitcher hit batters (limit)	na	2/inning	2/inning	2/inning	2/inning
Ball slips from pitcher's hand	na	ball/dead	ball/dead	ball/live	ball/live
Batter hit by coach		ball			
Infield Fly Rule	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
Running on overthrow @1st	NO	See Text ²	YES	YES	YES
Play Stops	See Text	See Text ³	8' circle	8'circle	8'circle
Illegal Pitch	NA	Correct 1st	Call it	Call it	Call it
Sliding	NO	NO	feet first only	feet first only	feet first only
Tagging up after caught fly	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
REGULATION GAME					
Time Limit (no new inning)	1 hour	1 hour, 20 min	1 hour, 30 min	1 hour, 30 min	1 hour, 30 min
Time Limit (drop dead)	NA	1 hour, 40 min	1 hour, 50 min	1 hour, 50 min	1 hour, 50 min
Mercy Rule	NA	NA	8 after 4	10 after 4	10 after 4
# innings for regulation game	4	4	5	6	7
min # innings for complete game	NA	3	3	4	4
# umpires per scheduled game	NA	1	1	2	2

¹(10U Division) A runner on 3rd may not steal home on a passed ball or a wild pitch. See 10U rules for detailed explanation

²(8U Division) An overthrow into either foul territory stop the play. See paragraph 10f in the 8U section.

³(8U Division) there are two cases for ending play whether the ball is hit to the infield or outfield. See paragraph 10d in the 8U section.