

Softball Rules 2017

U-12 Softball

U-12 – GAME

- 1) **GAME:** The Game shall consist of 6 innings. No new innings shall start after 2 hours. The game will not be permitted to go beyond the 2 hours 30 minute mark.
- 2) **GAME:** There is a 2 minute time limit between half innings and full innings – have pitchers and catchers ready for play, use of a courtesy runner for catcher is permitted.
- 3) **GAME:** If a team has 8 or more players they must field a team. Which position a team goes without is at their discretion. In the event that 8 registered players are not present see lower level participation. In the event a team cannot field 8 players the game will be considered a forfeit.
- 4) **GAME:** If a team only has 8 players the 9th batting position will be taken as an out.
- 5) **GAME:** Each player must play at least one (1) inning on the bench, or one (1) inning in the outfield by the fourth inning. .
- 6) **GAME:** No player should sit out for a 2nd inning until all players have sat out for 1 inning. No player to sit out for two (2) consecutive innings.
- 7) **GAME:** If a team is unable to make a scheduled game that will result in a forfeit unless otherwise agreed upon by both coaches in advance. Commissioners should be contacted for rescheduling purposes.
- 8) **GAME:** Run Rule: A game shall end at the end of 5 innings (at the discretion of the losing coach) when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat. A game shall end at the end of 4 (at the discretion of the losing coach) when a team is 15 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat

U-12 – COACHING

- 1) **COACHING:** Offensive coaching shall consist of a first base coach and a third base coach.

U-12 – Batting

- 1) **BATTING:** Bunting is permitted.
- 2) **LAST BATTER:**
 - a) Each half inning ends when 3 outs are recorded, or
 - b) All the batters on the line up card have batted once in that half inning

For (b) – “All Batter on the line up card” If team A has 12 players and Team B has 10 players playing in the game – Team B will be permitted to bat up to and including 12 batters in the given inning. (EQUAL NUMBER OF AT BATS). Team B must start the following inning where they left off in their batting order.

Dropped Third Strike – a batter becomes a base runner when the catcher fails to catch the third strike before the ball touches the ground when there are fewer than two(2) outs and first base is unoccupied. With two(2) outs, even with a runner on first, the batter may try to advance to first base on a dropped third strike.

Dropped Third Strike Cont'd

Further explanation on the Dropped Third Strike –

The batter will be called out if tagged by the catcher with the ball or if the batter “checks” herself out by walking to the dug out(or out of the baseline). The catcher may pick up the dropped ball and attempt to throw the batter/baserunner out at first.

U-12 - BASE RUNNING

- 1) Base stealing is permitted.
- 2) The ball must leave the pitcher’s hand before the runner can attempt the steal or leave the base.
- 3) Stealing of home plate is permitted.
- 4) A base runner may attempt to advance additional bases on overthrows in the field of play at their own risk.
- 5) If the runner leaves the base early (before it leaves the pitchers hand), in the judgment of the umpire, the runner can be called out.
- 6) Once the pitcher has the ball and is in the circle time is called. Base runner has 1 second to decide to return to base or attempt to advance, any hesitation can result in umpire calling base runner out. The attempt to advance may be challenged by the defense by attempting to tag out the runner.

U-12– DEFENSE

- 1) **DEFENSE:** 9 players shall begin play, Pitcher, Catcher, 1st, 2nd, 3rd basemen, SS, Left, Center, and Right fielders.
- 2) **CATCHERS:** A Catcher is permitted a maximum of four (4) innings per game.
- 3) Infield Fly rule is in effect.

U-12 – PITCHING

- 1) **PITCHING:** The pitching rubber is 40’ away from the plate. Front Edge to apex of home plate.
- 2) **PITCHING:** The pitch should have minimal arc. The ball should be no more than 6 feet above the ground. Any pitch above 6 foot is called a ball. The pitch is to simulate a fast-pitch softball pitch. Any portion of the “Windmill” is acceptable. High school and ASA rules are acceptable.
- 3) **PITCHING:** A pitcher is permitted a maximum of five (5) innings per game. No more than three (3) of those can be consecutive. One pitch thrown in an inning constitutes an inning pitched.
- 4) **PITCHING:** The pitcher’s glove shall be of one solid color other than white, gray, or optic yellow, or if multi-colored, white, gray or optic yellow is not permitted.

U-12 – MISCELLANEOUS

- 1) Exceptions: End of Season Tournaments Pitchers are permitted to pitch the entire game.
- 2) Exceptions: End of Season Tournaments Catchers are permitted to catch the entire game.
- 3) Any rules not mentioned here within should follow OHSAA guidelines.

U-12 – SUBBING PLAYERS

Additional players may be played from the U10 division. The player/players are not permitted to pitch and must be put at the end of the batting order.

