



Seasonal Rules



**Seasonal Rules**

Rev. 2/11/2023



## **Section 1 – General**

The playing rules for intramural games shall be of the OFFICIAL RULES OF SOFTBALL (Fast Pitch) as published by USA Softball (USAS), except as specifically modified by the rules as stated herein. Supplemental age division rule will be provided each season.

- A. The Executive Board has the responsibility for the enforcement of league rules. They shall implement and enforce these rules, the leagues By-Laws and all other such directions given by the Board. Any questions, comments, complaints, or other correspondence regarding rules, regulation, and policies should first be directed to the Executive Board. In making any discretionary decisions, the Executive's Board primary duty shall be to act in the best interest of sportsmanship and fair play.
- B. The requirements of the East County Softball Playing Rules shall not be suspended or modified by agreement between Managers, Coaches, Umpires or any other person
- C. The official diamond for each division shall have the distances as follows:
  - Division Pitching Baseline**
  - 6-U 20 feet 45 feet
  - 8-U 30 feet 60 feet
  - 10-U 35 feet 60 feet
  - 12-U 40 feet 60 feet
  - 14/16-U 43 feet 60 feet
- D. If illegal pitching distances or baseline distances are discovered during the game, the umpire shall allow the illegal distance to be corrected upon discovery. They must then be corrected to the legal distance(s), if possible.
- E. The home team shall be responsible for providing the official scorekeeper.
- F. Each team is required to report the final score and recorded pitcher's innings to the League Head Scorekeeper or designated league agent within twenty-four (24) hours of the official end time for each game. The first four (4) games will be a grace period for each team to report scores in a timely manner, but a written warning will be given within this four (4) game grace period if scores are not reported, and a Letter of Suspension will be issued within this four (4) game grace period following a written warning. After the grace period has ended, failure to comply shall result in a one (1) game suspension for the coach to be served during the next regularly scheduled, played game for that team. Repeated offenses shall be dealt with in accordance with the EC Softball Disciplinary Policy.

### **Postponement or Cancellation of Games**

- A. Games may be postponed or canceled by the Board member on duty due to inclement weather, heat, field conditions, or emergency situations only
- B. Games may be canceled or postponed by the Executive Board with 24 hours' notice, for any reason.



### **Team Names**

- A. Team names must be approved by the Board and determined to NOT be derogatory or offensive in nature.

### **Personnel on Field and in Dugout**

- A. Only Board approved personnel shall be allowed on the playing field.
- B. Managers and Coaches shall remain within the confines of the dugout area during the game with the exception of base coaching and to call pitches.
- C. Only the Manager or Coach shall be out of the dugout for the purpose of calling pitches. He/She shall remain adjacent to the dugout and shall be seated at all times. He/She and bucket/seat shall be in play.
- D. Only the Manager, two (2) coaches and one (1) dugout parent shall be allowed in the dugout during games. All other assistant helpers must be outside the playing field fence.

### **Field Prep**

- A. Home team shall be responsible for pre-game field preparation (marking baseline, placing bases etc.)
- B. Visiting team is responsible for putting away bases, brooming the field, locking up.
- C. Following every game, each team shall clean their side of the FIELD and BLEACHER area, making sure all trash is in trash cans, and taken to dumpster

**Failure to clean your area in its entirety will result in forfeiture of your game! NO EXCEPTIONS!**

### **Section 2 – Equipment**

- A. Equipment shall be provided to the team or player as needed and available. A deposit shall be required for each set of equipment. The deposit shall be returned at the end of the season when the equipment is returned to the league in good working order. All equipment remains the property of ECASA and is to be returned to the League Equipment Manager at the close of the season. Equipment shall vary per division.
- B. Full coverage batting/running helmets and face mask must be worn by the batter, base runner(s) and on-deck batter, including catchers warming up pitchers.
- C. Metal Cleats are permitted only in the 14 & 16u divisions.
- D. ALL pitchers 6u-14u must wear a face mask while on the mound.



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- E. Face masks shall be worn by all defensive players 6U-10U.
  
- F. All bats shall meet USA Softball rules and guidelines and have the USA approval stamp; altered bats shall not be permitted.
  
- G. Game balls provided by the league shall comply with current USA certification requirements. Game balls will be the following but may change due to availability/stock:
  - 6u – 10” Rawlings SR10RYSA RIF-1, Champro, or comparable
  - 8u – 10” Rawlings SR10RYSA RIF-1 or comparable
  - 10u – 11” Rawlings R11RYSA RIF-10 or comparable
  - 12u – 12” Rawlings C12RYSA (Dream Seam), CFP’s, or comparable
  - 14u/16u – 12” Rawlings C12RYSA (Dream Seam), CFP’s, or comparable

**Section 3 – Uniforms**

- A. The uniforms provided for each player shall be similar in color, style and trim. Each player must wear identification numbers.
  
- B. The league shall furnish a basic uniform. (Jersey only)
  
- C. Each team may elect to play in softball/baseball pants or shorts and sliding pants. This is optional with each team. The teams shall be responsible for optional clothing. No financial burden shall ever be imposed on any player or their family.
  
- D. Any other modifications and/or additions to league-furnished uniforms must be approved by the Executive Board prior to modification and/or addition(s).
  - E. A player must have their designated/issued uniform shirt on or available at all games. If not, it is to be recorded by the official scorekeeper and reported to the Administrative Vice-President.

**Section 4 – Players and Substitutes**

- A. Players shall be on the playing field no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to game time to enable the coach to conduct pre-game warm-ups and line-up card preparation.
  
- B. Line-up cards must be submitted to the umpire at the pre-game meeting. Line-up cards shall include only players present at game time (including First and last names and player numbers) and the designated starting pitcher.
  - a. Copies must be given to the opposing coach, official scorekeeper and umpire. This shall be the official batting order for the game. The lineup may include the current week's pitched innings.
  - b. Every player must be listed in the scorebook and shall become a batter in the order in which their name appears in the scorebook. Once the batting order is established, it shall remain the same for the duration of the game.
  - c. Any player NOT present at the playing field at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to game time may be ruled absent at the team coach's discretion.
  - d. Any player who is not present at the official start time may be placed at the end of the batting order.



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C. If the order has batted through completely and the first batter has hit twice, the player arriving late shall not be eligible to play in that game, unless it brings the line-up to nine (9) players. If the batting order has completed, discretion between both managers and umpire to add the new arriving player- keeping in the spirit of sportsmanship.

D. In all divisions, a courtesy runner shall be allowed for the pitcher and/or catcher only. The courtesy runner is designated as the last recorded out.

E. Should a player be removed from the game, an out shall be recorded each time the removed player's turn comes up in the batting order.

**Exception:** If the player is removed due to an injury, illness or emergency, an out shall be recorded for that batter for only the first time that batter's name is reached in the order; unless it causes the line-up to drop below nine (9) players (Shorthand Rule shall then apply).

F. If a player is injured during the game, but reaches a base safely, the last recorded out shall be allowed to pinch run for the injured player and an out shall be recorded for the injured player's next at-bat. The injured player may not return to the game. The coach has the option of taking a one-time time-out at the time of the injury.

G. Coaches shall report all pitching changes to the umpire.

a. If not reported, this shall be considered an illegal substitution. Should the opposing coach protest the illegal substitution, the pitcher in question may no longer play in the pitching position for the duration of the game.

b. The coach may bench a player for a game for reasons of their attitude, manner of dress, tardiness and/or any other unsportsmanlike conduct during practices and/or games. This must be reported to the League Player Agent.

H. Free defensive substitutions shall be permitted for all defensive players, including pitchers, provided that the minimum playing and pitching limitations are followed.

I. Batting line-up shall consist of all players present

J. A standard nine (9) player defense shall be used. (Exception: 8u – 10 defensive players shall be used with four (4) players a minimum of 10 feet behind the baseline.)



- K. If a team has less than nine (9) players to start or continue a game and Pool Players are unavailable, the other Team shall provide a shared player in order to prevent a forfeit. (Exception: A shared player shall not substitute for an ejected player).
- L. A fifteen (15) minute grace period from scheduled game time shall be permitted to allow a team to field nine (9) players. The grace period shall be included in the game time limit.
- M. The game may be started on time by using up to three (3) shared and/or pool players. A team may start with eight (8) players and finish with eight (8), except as a result of a player being ejected from the game by the umpire. In the event of an injury during the game, a team may finish the game with seven (7) players. If a team falls below the required number of players, the game shall be declared a forfeit.
- N. 6u – A team may start and finish a game with any number of players. Scheduled teams shall use shared players, if a team is short players.
- O. Players shall not be allowed to base coach.

### **Section 5 – Pool Players**

- A. The purpose of pool players is to fill a roster when a known shortage of players will drop the team roster below 9 players for a game.
- B. A list will be established by the player agent.
  - The list shall used and available to all managers
- C. Teams needing a player will contact the Player Agent for players as soon as possible.
- D. Pool players must bat last in the line-up.
- E. Pool players must play the outfield as follows; 1-Centerfield, 2-Left Field, 3-Right Field
- F. Once the pool player has been assigned, she must bat and play at least two defensive innings.
- G. There are no “walk on” pool players or recruiting players. (Exception: Teams may use a “walk on” pool player, but it must be approved by the Board Member on duty).
- H. Pool players may be taken from:

- 1) the same age division for the current season
- 2) from the lower division.

I. Pool players must have parent permission



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### **Section 6 – The Game**

A. Tourney Machine, or similar program, will be used to share the seasonal schedule.

HOME TEAM IS THE TEAM 2ND ON TOURNEY MACHINE SCHEDULE

TEAM LISTED FIRST- 1ST BASE DUGOUT TEAM LISTED SECOND- 3RD BASE DUGOUT

EX. TOURNEY MACHINE TOP (1<sup>st</sup> Base) VS BOTTOM (3<sup>rd</sup> base)

B. The game shall consist of:

- 6u – three (3) innings
- 8u – six (6) innings
- 10u – seven (7) innings
- 12u – seven (7) innings
- 14u/16u – seven (7) innings

C. There shall be a time limit on all games that will be established by the current UIC and/or board. The season's time limit will be set for the current season and conveyed to all teams prior to the start of the season by the current UIC and/or board. Time set each season may be adjusted, season to season, as needed and established before the first game or opening day of the season. Once the season game time has been set it will remain during the duration of the regular season play. Separate time limits may be established for TOC, tournaments, and Championship games.

1. At minimum the game shall be: One (1) hour and twenty (20) minutes, where after no new inning shall commence. Time may be adjusted per season by board/UIC but at minimum 1:20.
2. The umpire will keep the official start of the game.
2. All started innings shall be completed unless stopped by darkness, weather conditions, or Run Mercy Rule
3. A new inning shall start with the last OUT made in the previous inning
4. Use/implement of a drop dead time may be used and established by the current UIC and/or board on a season to season basis.

D. At the umpire's discretion, an official game may be delayed, called or canceled due to inclement weather, darkness and/or unsafe conditions.

1. If such a game has completed at least one (1) hour of playing time and the home team is behind and has NOT completed their at-bat, the game shall revert to the prior inning and be considered the official score.
2. If such a game has NOT completed one (1) hour of play, the game shall be rescheduled and replayed or continued subject to field availability.
  - i. Replayed if less than one (1) inning played;
  - ii. Continued if one (1) inning or more was completed

E. Infield practice between innings shall be limited to five (5) warm-up pitches, or one (1) minute.

F. The home team shall furnish a scorekeeper who shall secure the signatures of the umpire and both managers at the end of the game.



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G. Scheduled game time is forfeit time.

H. At the umpire's discretion, an official may extend a game due to excessive stalling, or unforeseen circumstances. Due to the limited season length and shortage of fields, make-up games may be scheduled at the last minute, on Sundays, holiday weekends, early afternoon, late evenings or on practice fields. Games that are in need of being made up are NOT guaranteed to be rescheduled if the league has non-availability for fields or due to season length. Should games be canceled due to inclement weather, the Administrative Vice President and League Operational Vice President shall attempt to contact all coaches. Teams that are not contacted MUST show for their scheduled game or risk forfeit. The League Board of Directors shall not take responsibility for teams that are not informed of cancellations.

**Section 7 – Protests**

A. Intent to protest must be declared to the plate umpire in accordance with USA Softball rules. 1. Once

a protest has been declared to the plate umpire, it may not be rescinded for any reason.

2. All protests must be noted by both of the teams' score keepers and recorded in the score books and signed by the umpire.

B. A written protest must be submitted to the League Umpire-In-Chief within forty-eight (48) hours after the scheduled start time of the game being protested.

1. Should the League Umpire-In-Chief not be available; the written protest may be given to the League President within the same forty-eight (48) hour time frame.
2. If neither is available, the protest may be given to the League Administrative Vice President within the same forty-eight (48) hour time frame.
3. If all of the above are not available – contact the Operational VP within the same forty eight (48) hour time frame.
4. No other board members may accept a written protest.

C. All protests shall be recorded on a league protest form and contain all pertinent information surrounding

or relating to the protest situation.

- D. Protests shall be accompanied by a fifty-dollar cash (\$50.00) protest fee, which is refundable if the protest is upheld.
- E. The League Umpire-In-Chief shall convene a Protest Committee consisting of the Administrative VP and 1 other Board Member to handle all protests. All Protest Committee decisions are final.



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**Section 8 – Tie-Breakers**

- A. Divisional standings are calculated based on winning percentage. "Winning percentage" = points/total possible points. (Wins= 2 points, Ties = 1, losses = 0 points)
- B. Divisional tie-breakers shall be determined by the following in the order that they appear:
  - 1. Head to Head
  - 2. Number of wins
  - 3. Runs Allowed
  - 4. Runs Scored
  - 5. Coin Toss
- C. Divisional standings will be used as seeding for the end of the season tournament.

