

Tri-Village Softball By-Laws

10U League

Playing Rules follow USA Girls Softball Rulebook with the following exceptions/explanations:

1. All present players will be listed in the batting order (whether in the field or not); Teams will bat through the order continuously throughout the game.
2. Runners on first and second may steal after the ball is released by the pitcher. Runners at third may not steal home but may leave third base once the ball crosses home plate.
3. Runner may not continue advancing once the ball is in the pitcher's circle (may only progress to the base immediately in front of them if in motion).
4. A walk = 1 base. No continuous advancement to 2nd.
5. On the third strike (called or swung at) if the catcher drops the ball the batter is out.
6. Games are 5 innings or 90 minutes. In the case of a tie (at the end of 5 innings or 90 minutes), a single inning will be played in attempts to break the tie. A game is considered complete after 3 innings. Rain delays or rain cancellations will begin a new game if less than a complete game.
7. Unlimited Substitutions.
8. Playing field shall consist of 10 players with the 10th player as a rover in the outfield.
9. Team must have 8 players to start the game. An out will be taken in the batting lineup for the missing 9th player. Newly arriving players will be added to the end of the batting line up and have the opportunity to hit as their turn arrives (they will not be placed mid-lineup).
10. No batting/lineup penalty (out) for a player being removed from the game for medical reasons or injury. The batting order will skip the missing or injured player.
11. Outfielders must start each pitch at least on the edge of the outfield grass. (Judgment based on depth of field/grass)
12. 3 inning limit per pitcher per game. The pitcher may move to the mound at any time during the game, however, one pitch thrown to a batter in an inning is considered as a full inning pitched.
13. Bases are set at 60 feet; the pitcher's mound set at 35 feet. A 16 foot (diameter) circle will be placed around the pitching mound.
14. Maximum of 5 runs per inning except for 5th inning in which runs should be unlimited.

Bylaws approved by two-thirds motion on 3/19/25.

15. Mercy Rule: A 15 run advantage after 3 complete innings; a 10 run advantage after 4 complete innings.
16. Bunting is allowed.
17. Official 11" yellow softball with raised red stitching will be used.
18. Facemasks and chinstraps on batting helmets are mandatory. Facemasks are mandatory for infielders and advised for outfielders.
19. Coaches will instruct players not to throw the bat. After an Umpire's warning has been issued to a player (only one warning each team), the next offense will be an out.
20. Windmill pitching technique must be used.
21. A pitcher will be pulled from the position if she hits 3 batters in a single inning. Pitcher may return to game if less than 3 innings pitched. (Umpire discretion to remove pitcher for additional hit players)
22. No illegal pitches will be called for pitch presentation or lack of forward motion. In between batters the umpire will inform the coach of illegal pitch, and coach will instruct player to pitch correctly. It is the COACH's responsibility to teach player correct pitching form. (If there are continual issues, a complaint will be brought to the board)
23. When a pitched ball hits the ground then bounces up and hits the batter, this is a dead ball and the batter is entitled to her base. The batter must make an attempt to move away from the pitched ball, Umpire discretion.
24. Encourage batters not to step completely out of the batter's box between pitches to "practice swing"
25. No Umpire = No Game, It was amended that IF no sanctioned umpire was available or at the game location at game time, it was recommended to find a suitable volunteer to officiate the game and complete the scheduled game.

Coach's expectations:

1. Umpires will be PONY/USA Official Umpires assigned by the League
2. Umpires should be aware of by-laws; home team coach is responsible for reviewing.
3. Batting practice on the field must be completed 15 minutes prior to game time.
4. Time between innings should be approximately 90 seconds. Coach must have player positions organized prior to the upcoming inning.
5. Coach will remind players of good sportsmanship and use of proper cheers.

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