



Jr. High Softball Rules

Syracuse City

1- Game Format:

- A. All Playing Rules will be those under the current National Federation of State High School (NFHS) rules. This applies to gameplay only and does not include administrative procedures or actions. Amended Syracuse Parks & Recreation Youth Baseball & Softball playing rules are as follows:
- B. Games will consist of 6 innings or time. No new inning can begin after 75 minutes; teams will finish the inning. The drop-dead time will be 90 minutes. Once 90 minutes have been reached the game will end. If the home team is ahead, they WIN, if the visitor is ahead at that time, reverse back to the previous inning. If the game was a tie at the point, then the game would end in a tie.
- C. Tournament Play Only: Games that are tied at the end of regulation will be resolved with a tiebreaker. The tiebreaker will start with one out and a runner on first and second base (the last two outs).
- D. Tournament seeding will be based on more than just win/loss record, if teams have the same record the tiebreaker will be head-to-head.
- E. An inning or half-inning ends when a team gets three outs or reaches 7 runs. This is a “hard” seven runs meaning only 7 runs will count that inning.
- F. The first team listed on the schedule is the home team and is always on the third base side.

2- Equipment -

- A. Equipment such as balls, batting helmets, and bats will be provided by the Syracuse Parks and Recreation Department.
- B. Catchers MUST wear a NOCSAE-approved face mask with a helmet, chest protector, and shin guards. Batters, on-deck hitters, and base runners must wear batting helmets.
- C. **Metal cleats are allowed**, but once an athlete abuses this privilege by injuring another player, or themselves, metal cleats will not be allowed. This will be at the discretion of the coaches, officials, and/or field supervisor.
- D. Players are allowed to use their own equipment.
 - a) Players are permitted to use bats that are certified by the Bat Performance Factor(BPF) of 1.20 or certified by USA Softball. Each bat used must have one of the above-mentioned certifications printed on the bat for it to be a legal bat.
 - b) A 12-inch ball will be used in this league.

3- Players:

- A. A minimum of eight players constitutes a team. If a team cannot field a minimum of eight players by 10 minutes after the scheduled game time, the team will forfeit the game. The 10-minute grace period will be taken from the game time.
- B. Free substitutions are permitted. Exception: Players must play the entire inning defensively, unless injured. No player will sit out 2 consecutive innings, defensively, unless injured.
- C. Batting order consists of all team players present, each batting in the same rotation throughout the game.
- D. All players must remain in the dugout, which includes not playing defense, batting, on deck, or base running.
- E. After starting the game teams can drop down to a minimum of 7 players due to injury. It will be considered an out once those players come up to bat and can end the inning if it is the third out.
- F. If a team drops to 6 players, the game will be considered a forfeit.
- G. Teams will play with 9 players defensively.

4- Pitching:

- A. High School Fastpitch rules will apply.
- B. There will be no pitch count in this league.



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5- Batters & Base Runners:

- A. All players present will bat. Any kids who are late will be added to the end of the line-up, regardless of where the team is at in their line-up.
- B. Base runners cannot leave the base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
 - a) Penalty: Dead Ball, base runner may be declared out.
- C. Base runner must attempt to avoid contact with the catcher whenever there is a close play at home. Penalty: base runner may be declared out and may be ejected if the contact is deemed intentional by the umpire.
- D. A base runner can steal home on a passed ball or wild pitch.
- E. Dropped 3rd strike rule will be called in this league.
- F. If there could be intentional or malicious contact at any base, the runner must slide or avoid the fielder.
- G. If the runner does not slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag or if he maliciously runs into the fielder, then that runner is automatically out.
- H. Speed up Rule – with two outs, running for the catcher is allowed but must be for the catcher from the previous inning. It is recommended, but not required. The substituted runner shall be the last player on the team to make a batted out. The intent is to reduce the delay between innings when the catcher needs to put on their equipment after being on the bases.

Note: If the team decides not to use the speed-up rule, it is suggested that they have either a coach or substitute from the bench (the substitute must wear a catcher's mask) warm the pitcher while the catcher is putting on their equipment.

6- Coaches:

- A. One coach is permitted in each coach's box. All other coaches must remain in the dugout.
- B. Any violation, or misinterpretation, of a rule (not a judgment call) must be brought to the attention of the umpire **BEFORE THE NEXT PITCH**. If the umpire cannot solve the problem the Field Supervisor will make the final ruling on the play/rule in question.

7- Playing Field:

- A. Bases will be set at 60'.
- B. Pitching distance will be at 40'
- C. Pitcher's Circle will be 16ft (8ft. radius)