

# Softball League Local Rules

(PSA will follow the Diamond Youth Softball Rule book along with the additions below)

1. Game start time will be announced by the umpire. Game will be played until time has expired (if 1 minute is left and the bottom of an inning has ended, a new inning will start). If game time expires when the home team is batting, and the home team is winning, the game is over. Start time will be the 1<sup>st</sup> warm-up pitch or the scheduled game time if a team is not ready.
2. If the game is tied after time has expired in the Spring, **we will play 1 more inning using the International Rule, 1 out and last batted out on 2<sup>nd</sup> base if still tied after this, game is over. It will be 3-run max for the one extra inning in regular season. Fall Season can end in a tied game. No extra inning**
3. Game times are age specific: See Below for umpires used and max runs per inning (**Once a team scores the max runs per inning, the team will switch out to defense no matter how many outs that team has.**)

**6U – 1 hour – 5 innings -1 umpire – 6 max runs**

**8U – 1 hour 10 minutes – 5 innings – 1 umpire – 6 max runs**

**10 – 1 hour 15 minutes – 5 innings – 2 umpires – 7 max runs**

**12U – 1 hour 20 minutes – 6 innings – 2 umpires – 7 max runs**

4. Run Rule: if a team is leading by 12 runs or more after 3 complete innings and 10 runs after 4 complete the game is over.
5. Teams will forfeit if they do not have enough players during Spring and Fall regular season, but the game will be played. Teams will not take an out if they do not have enough players while at bat. You must at least have 7 players to start the game and 6 to finish.
6. Everyone will bat in a continuous order. If a player is hurt or sick and does not bat, that player will be removed from the game. The team will not take an out when that player should have come to bat. If a player is ejected from the game, the team will take an out every time that player comes to bat.
7. **If a batter slings the bat while batting, the umpire will give that team a warning. If another player from that team slings a bat during the same game, that player will be called out and no runners may advance.**
8. If a runner is wearing a facemask, (helmet with facemask is required for softball) she will not be allowed to slide headfirst unless she is sliding back into the bag due to a pickoff from the pitcher or catcher. If she does, then she will be called out.
9. Courtesy runner will be allowed for your current catcher with two outs. Courtesy runner must be your last batted out.

10. Stealing is only allowed in 10U & 12U.
11. Age Specific Rules
12. Helmets with facemask will be worn for all batting practices and L-Screen must be used when pitching in cage.
13. Teams will not be able to take the infield before their game.
14. You have a rule book, read it, and ask questions, make sure you understand them as well as any other PSA local league rule.
15. Practices before the season starts will be scheduled. We will try and schedule you two practices per week, which you are allowed to swap with other coaches in your age group. After the games have begun you must schedule some practices through PSA.
16. The whole season will count for seeding for the Bracket Play tournament which will be a single elimination tournament.
17. PSA highly recommends that you rotate your players to different positions and rearrange your batting order, so each player gets a fair amount of plate appearances. Develop the pitchers, it will help you when you get to the end of season tournament and helps the program grow.
18. Bat Rules: Softball is sanctioned by **Diamond Youth Softball**. For softball, bats must be approved for play by ASA or USSSA.
19. **8U - 12U Note:** If over the fence home run is hit, then all runs will count even if it is over the max runs per inning

#### A.) 6U softball-Coach

- 1.) Each player will have 5 pitches or 3 strikes from the Coach. If there is no hit, the player will have 2 attempt from the tee. All runners and batter can only advance two bases if hit off a Tee
- 2.) **No Bunting.** If the umpire declares it is a bunt, it will be ruled as a "Dead Ball". No Pitch, and no runners will advance.
- 3.) If a batted ball hits the coach pitcher, the ball is ruled "Dead", the batter will bat again, and no pitch counted.
- 4.) Time will be called when the ball is controlled by a defensive player inside the pitching circle or Time will be called by the UMPIRE when no runner is advancing. Definition of advancing is the runner continues forward progress.
- 5.) Pitcher player will wear a facemask. The pitcher player shall not leave the pitching circle (the pitcher's mound) until the ball is hit. Penalty: The play continues. After the play has ended, the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or no-pitch.
- 6.) All defensive players must stay behind the 35ft until the ball reaches home plate
- 7.) Players must play in correct positions.

- 8.) Coach Pitcher will squat or move to get out of the way of the play. The team on defense will provide a Coach behind home plate to help with passed balls and move the bat after the hit.
- 9.) The Coach behind the plate must stay quiet, there is no coaching allowed from this position.
- 10.) When the ball is thrown to first base for a force out and thrown away. The batter and runners can only advance one base.

B.) 8U Softball-Coach.

1. Coach must stand behind and is allowed one step passed the 35ft when pitching.
2. Coach Pitch - 5 Pitches Or 3 Strikes. If the player fouls the last pitch, then she will continue to bat.
3. All players in batter line up.
4. No Walks, No Stealing, No Bunting
5. Pitcher player must wear a facemask and stay behind pitching rubber in pitching circle.
6. Time will only be called when the pitcher player gets the ball in the pitching circle or in front of the lead runner and all runners have stopped advancing at the umpire's discretion.
7. Coach Pitcher will squat or move to get out of the way of the play. The team on defense will provide a Coach behind home plate to help with passed balls and move the bat after the hit. The coach behind the plate must stay quiet.
8. If a batted ball hits the coach pitcher, the ball is ruled "Dead", the batter will bat again, and no pitch counted. If a thrown ball hits the coach pitcher and the umpire determines that it was intentional, then the ball is "Dead", the batter is out, and no runners may advance.

C.) 10U Softball-Player Pitch distance 35ft

1. All players will be in the lineup.
2. Stealing allowed when pitch is release from the hand.
3. Infield Fly Rule Applied
4. No Drop Strike 3 rule in effect

D.) 12U Softball-Player Pitch distance 40ft

1. All players will be in the lineup.
2. Stealing allowed on release of pitch
3. Infield Fly Rule Applied
4. Drop Strike 3 rule in effect

1. Home Team Will

- a. Occupy the 1<sup>st</sup> base dugout
- b. Provide game balls

- c. Will have batting cages 30 minutes before game time
  - d. Provide a bookkeeper for the official books
2. Visiting Team Will
- a. Occupy the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout
  - b. Set up Tee if needed (will also lock these items up after last game)
  - c. Will have batting cages 1 hour before game time
  - d. Provide a score keeper to run the scoreboard.

**Rules: Diamond Youth Softball Rulebook and PSA local league rules apply (Except for changes below.)**

1. Pool Play: Games will be timed (12 games Spring and 10 games in Fall). In the Spring games can end in a Tie (only 1 extra inning international rule) Run Rule: 12 after 3 or 10 after 4. Home team is noted on your schedule (Seeding: W/L, Head-to-Head, Runs allowed then Runs Scored). If we have bad weather, we will decide by winning percentages. Fall Ball games no extra innings and games can end in a tied game with no drop-dead time
2. Bracket Play: Will be timed to include championship game. (No Ties) Once time has expired and game is tied, we will go to an international rule, which is, Runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> (last batted out) with 1 out. Regular season max run per inning rules applies here (6,7,7). This will continue until there is a winner. (No sudden death) Run Rule: 12 after 3 or 10 after 4. The home team will always be the higher seed. Brackets are posted online under documents and will be updated with teams once pool play is complete.
3. Softballs: Pool Play and Bracket Play home team will provide softballs.
4. Players needed to play: You must at least have 7 players to start the game and 6 to finish. Player ejection: If a player is ejected, you will take an out every time that player comes to bat for that game. (This is the only time you will ever take an out.) It is important to let us know if you have lost players so we can remove them from your online roster.

**Notes:**

Bracket play for 8u-12U. Games will be at the Optimist Softball Field (2 gates will be open.) These will be the only days there will be a \$5 gate fee (5 yr. olds and below are free.) Any PSA Spring Baseball or Softball player is free, even if they are not playing that day. Coaches 6-8 Yr. olds are allowed 4 coaches free and 9-12 yr. olds are allowed 3 coaches free. Each team will be allowed to sign in 1 scorekeeper/bookkeeper for free (these people MUST perform scorekeeping /bookkeeping jobs in the press box/score table). Coaches and Scorekeepers must sign in at the Main Gate!!!  
(Main Gate is gate between Petro and Play It Again Fields) Wristbands must be worn. No outside coolers or food. (1 team cooler is allowed but must be brought in by the Head Coach.)

We will be giving you awards (participation medals for 8U and 1 Sportsmanship award per team for all age groups) to give out (please return any extras.) PSA rings will be given out for each age group's champion and runner up from bracket play.

**Equipment Turn In: (Please clean it up) Before the first of July in Spring and first of December in Fall.**