

## **2019 Junior Softball Rules Revised (5-16-2013) (2-17-2017) (2-23-1018)**

**High school Rules apply unless league specific**

|                                     | Participants                                 | Ball Size                       | Bat Size | Field Size                     |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Junior Softball<br/>B League</b> | <b>5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade</b> | <b>12" yellow<br/>(.47 COR)</b> |          | <b>60' Bases<br/>40' mound</b> |
|                                     |                                              |                                 |          |                                |
|                                     |                                              |                                 |          |                                |

### **Bat Requirements (revised 5-16-2013)**

It is the player's option to use the bats provided by their recreation department or they can use their own bat. **A Softball player's personal bat must meet the following requirements** -all bats must bear one of the following approved certification marks; ASA 2000, ASA 2004, USSSA, ISF, or NSA.

### **Playing time requirement:**

Each team will use a continuous batting order utilizing all players who are available to play in that game. For the first five innings of the game, the maximum amount of runs that each team can score per inning is 5 runs. Once a team scores 5 runs in any of the first five innings, the inning is over. There is no limit of runs in the sixth inning. Each player must play at least two innings on defense.

**Number of Innings:** six (6) - No new inning may start after **1 hour and 45 minutes** have expired from the actual start of the game. You may complete the inning that you are currently playing.

**Official Game:** 3½ innings if the home team is ahead and 4 innings if the visiting team is winning. A game may be called because of darkness, inclement weather, or at the umpire's discretion. A 12-Run Rule is in effect - 3½ innings if the home team is ahead and 4 innings if the visiting team is ahead. A tie may exist during the regular season. Extra innings will be played to break a tie during playoffs. The Championship game must be played in its entirety (six (6) full innings) and continued on another day if necessary.

**Number of Fielders:** A maximum of ten (10) and a minimum of **seven (7)** – **MUST HAVE A CATCHER!** **Of the four (4) outfielders, you may use a short fielder, however, all outfielders including the short fielder must be positioned a minimum of 6' behind where the infield ends. (This means that all outfield must be playing in the outfield) 2-23-2018**

**Substitutes:** Reentry is unlimited on defense, except for the pitching position.

**Pitching Rule:** The pitcher may pitch no more than four innings per game. One pitch constitutes an inning. Once a player is removed from pitching, she/he may return as a pitcher one more time. When pitcher is relieved, she/he may substitute at any other position.

**Batting Helmet:** A helmet with a face mask is mandatory. If the batter/runner or the base runner should at any time, intentionally throw a helmet off of her/his head, while the ball is in play, an out will be called!

**Batting Practice:** Home team: 30 minutes before game time. Visiting team: 15 minutes before game time.

**Bunting:** Is allowed.

**Catcher's Equipment:** Catcher must wear all protective gear, i.e. mask with helmet, chest protector, shin guards and throat guard. At no time should any player warm up the pitcher without wearing a mask. Never use the batting helmet with the cage as a catcher's mask substitute.

**Cleats:** No Metal spikes allowed.

**Coaches:** A coach in the Outfield is not permitted.  
The manager and coaches are allowed to coach bases. No verbal distraction will be permitted - from the time the pitcher is set until the umpire makes the call.

**Dropped Third Strike by the Catcher:** Batter is out.

**Ejections:** If a coach or a player is asked to leave the game due to poor sportsmanship, he or she will receive a one-Game Suspension (this does not include the game being played).

**Hit by pitch:** If a pitcher should hit three (3) players in one inning, he/she must come out of the game and cannot return as a pitcher.

**Infield Fly Rule:** Yes.

**Injured Player:** May be replaced by another player. This includes a base runner, which can only be replaced by the batter who made the last out.

**Leading and Stealing:** Not permitted. Leading illegally - the player will receive a warning from the umpire. One warning every time on base (per player, per game).

**Sliding:** A player must slide/avoid when a play is being made on him/her at any base. Willful disregard of this rule may result in an out, depending on the umpire's judgment call. This rule is for the protection of the defensive player.

**Throwing the Bat:** Is not permitted! Each player will receive one (1) warning from the umpire. A second offense will result in a dead ball and the batter is out.

**Walks:**

Bases Loaded Walk: Batter can be walked with the bases loaded.

Intentional Walk: **Permitted.** The player goes to first base as soon as the head coach informs the umpire. The pitcher does not pitch the ball.