

2025 D2 Parkway Rules Modifications (Last modified June 4, 2025)

Rostering, Call-Ups - Rosters are final as of June 9. Players listed as "extra" or "emergency" may play in regular season games, but will not be available for the playoffs. In addition, teams that are understaffed during the regular season may borrow from younger or lower division teams. For example, a 12U/A team may get players from that town's 12U/B team or 10U teams. **In no case may a player from an A team play on a B team of her same age group, UNLESS SUCH USE HAS BEEN CLEARED BEFOREHAND WITH the commissioner. If that happens, those players must play outfield and bat at the end of the order.** In towns that have two teams at the same age in the same division, they may borrow from each other during the regular season, if needed.

Playoff Qualification - No player who has played fewer than five regular season games for a team will be allowed to play for that team in the playoffs, except in the case of a documented injury. All teams are required to keep electronic documentation in GameChanger of their line-ups for every game, should a player be challenged under this rule. Please note that the full game must be scored in GameChanger, not merely a game with a final score entered in GameChanger.

Reporting of Scores – The coach of the winning team must submit the final score using the form at the link below, no later than 9:00am of the day after the game:

<https://www.usasoftballnjdistrict2.com/scores>

Ties should be reported by putting the same score in both teams' score field on the form. No need to send us emails!

Time Limits - There are no time limits in the D2 Parkway League. However, if a field curfew or back-to-back games on a field exist, the opposing coach must be notified prior to game time to discuss these particular situations in which a time limit may have to be imposed.

Ties – If the game is tied at the end of 6 innings (8U/10U) or 7 innings (12U/14U/HS), teams will play 2 additional innings using the International Tie Breaker. If after 2 additional innings the game is still tied, the result will be recorded as a tie.

Rule Modifications Specific To Each Age Group

High School - Play governed by 2025 Softball Rule Book, National Federation of State High School Associations ("Federation"), with the following modifications:

1. Roster batting is permitted.
2. Courtesy runners may be used for the pitcher and/or catcher scheduled to play that position in the subsequent inning. If a team chooses to roster bat, the player who made the last batted out must be the courtesy runner.
3. If a team roster bats with 9 or more players - and so no substitute is available - when a girl leaves the lineup for any reason, the batting order is compressed without penalty.
4. The minimum number of players to begin the game is 7, if an 8th player's arrival is expected. If a team has 8 players, when a girl leaves that lineup for any reason, NO out will be recorded in her spot. Teams who are short-handed may **not** borrow fielders from the opposing team.

14U - Play governed by 2025 USA Softball Rules, with the following modifications:

1. Roster batting is permitted.
2. Run Ahead Rule - Ten runs after the losing team has batted at least five times.
3. Courtesy runners may be used for the pitcher and/or catcher scheduled to play that position in the subsequent inning. If a team chooses to roster bat, the player who made the last batted out must be the courtesy runner.
4. If a team roster bats with 9 or more players - and so no substitute is available - when a girl leaves the lineup for any reason, the batting order is compressed without penalty.
5. The minimum number of players to begin the game is 7, if an 8th player's arrival is expected. If a team has 8 players, when a girl leaves that lineup for any reason, NO out will be recorded in her spot. If the 8th girl's spot in the order comes up before she arrives, NO out will be recorded. Teams who are short-handed may **not** borrow fielders from the other team.

12U - Play governed by 2025 USA Softball rules, with the following modifications:

1. Roster batting is permitted.
2. Run Ahead Rule - Ten runs after the losing team has batted at least five times.
3. Teams may use 10 fielders. If ten fielders are used, there must be four outfielders and they must be on the grass when the ball is pitched.
4. Courtesy runners may be used for the pitcher and/or catcher scheduled to play that position in the subsequent inning. If a team chooses to roster bat, the player who made the last batted out must be the courtesy runner.
5. If a team roster bats with 10 or more players - and so no substitute is available - when a girl leaves the lineup for any reason, the batting order is compressed without penalty.
6. The minimum number of players to begin the game is 7, if an 8th player's arrival is expected. If a team has 8 players, when a girl leaves that lineup for any reason, NO out will be recorded in her spot. If the 8th girl's spot in the order comes up before she arrives, NO out will be recorded. Teams who are short-handed may **not** borrow fielders from the opposing team.

10U - Play governed by 2025 USA Softball rules, with the following modifications:

- 1) Roster batting is permitted.
- 2) Regulation game is 6 innings. Game may be called, and is official, after four innings, or if the home team is winning after 3 1/2 innings.
- 3) Run Ahead Rule - 15 runs after the losing team has batted at least four times
- 4) Teams may use 10 fielders. If ten players are used, there must be four outfielders and they must be on the grass when the ball is pitched.
- 5) Five run maximum per inning. There will be no runs limit for the last inning of the game.
- 6) There is no infield fly or dropped 3rd strike rule.
- 7) Stealing 3rd base is allowed on release of the ball by the pitcher. The runner may not advance home on a defensive misplay on the steal. Overthrows on pick off attempts to all bases are dead balls (i.e., the baserunner may not advance). Stealing of 2nd base is allowed if both coaches agree to this before the game, with the umpire. Teams playing in 10U/A are highly encouraged to allow stealing of 2nd base.

The runner need not leave 2nd base to steal immediately as the ball is released by the pitcher. As long as she leaves the base before the ball is again controlled by the pitcher in the circle, that is a legal steal.
- 8) Courtesy runners may be used for the pitcher and/or catcher scheduled to play that position in the subsequent inning. If a team chooses to roster bat, the player who made the last batted out must be the courtesy runner.
- 9) Baserunners may leave the base as the ball is released by the pitcher.
- 10) The USA Softball "Look Back" rule will not be strictly enforced. However, coaches and umpires should instruct players appropriately as a development point to inform them that they must immediately return, or advance, to a base once a pitcher has the ball in the circle after a pitched ball.
- 11) USA rules will apply to advance or return to a base on live balls (i.e., umpires do NOT need to determine if a runner is at least half way to the next base on a live play to determine which base to award). The ball is not "dead" when held in the circle. Play continues, and runners who are between bases when the ball is returned to the circle are in jeopardy of being put out, and must choose whether to advance or retreat.
- 12) There is no fake bunting/swinging away. A fake bunt means that a player may not position herself for a bunt then take a full swing at the pitch. If she positions herself for a bunt she must either attempt to bunt the ball or pull back the bat. The penalty for a fake bunt/swing is dead ball-batter out.
- 13) If a team roster bats with 9 or more players - and so no substitute is available - when a girl leaves the lineup for any reason, the batting order is compressed without penalty.
- 14) The minimum number of players to begin the game is 7, if an 8th player's arrival is expected. If a

team has 8 players, when a girl leaves that lineup for any reason, NO out will be recorded in her spot. If the 8th girl's spot in the order comes up before she arrives, NO out will be recorded. Teams who are short-handed may not borrow fielders from the opposing team.

8U - Play governed by 2024 USA Softball rules, with the following modifications:

1. Five runs maximum per inning. There will be no run limit for the last inning of the game.
2. Regulation game is 6 innings. Game may be called, and is official, after four innings, or if the home team is winning after 3 1/2 innings.
3. Run Ahead Rule - 15 runs after the losing team has batted at least four times
4. Roster batting is mandatory
5. The minimum number of players to begin the game is 6. If a team has 6 players, when a girl leaves that lineup for any reason, NO out will be recorded in her spot. Teams who are short-handed may **not** borrow fielders from the opposing team.
6. There is no infield fly rule or dropped 3rd strike rule.
7. Bunting, and stealing are not allowed. The runner may come off the bag with contact, or as the ball crosses the plate. She may not advance if the ball is not put into play, but she is in jeopardy of being put out.
8. Coaches will pitch to their own players from 35 feet. Walks are not allowed. The batter shall be called out after three swinging strikes or after she receives six pitches and does not put the ball into play. The umpire will call only the sixth pitch. If the sixth pitch is not swung at and is called a strike, then the batter is out. If the sixth pitch fouled off or called a ball, the batter gets another pitch, which will also be called by the umpire.
9. The coach who is pitching must make every effort to avoid interfering with the defensive play on a batted ball. If, in the umpire's judgment, the coach intentionally interferes with a defensive play or if the coach fails to make a good faith effort to avoid the interference, the play should be called dead, the batter shall be called out, and the runners shall return to the bases they occupied prior to the play. The coach who is pitching must remain silent from the start of the pitch until the end of the play.
10. Infield Hit - Base runners are limited to one base on all batted balls hit in the infield. No advances are allowed for overthrows to any base.
11. Outfield Hit - Base runners may take additional bases on all batted balls hit into the outfield, defined as any ground or fly ball that goes 10 feet beyond the base path or any ball that is fielded by an outfielder. The umpire must carefully note where the runners are at the moment the ball has been returned to the infield and is controlled by an infielder. Runners remain in jeopardy of being put out. At the end of the play, the umpire will decide the proper position for the runners. Those who had not attained the halfway point between bases at the moment the ball was controlled on the infield, will be returned to previous base attained at the moment the ball was controlled. For runners who had attained at least the halfway point between the bases, the result of the play will stand.

Again, the ball is not "dead" when controlled by the infielder on the infield. The umpire should allow play to continue, and then take appropriate action at the end of the play, based on her judgment.