



Hendricks County Girls Softball League

Division Rules - 10U (Fall 2023)

(rev. 8-15-23)

The following rules have been approved by all participating league directors.
All Rules NOT LISTED will be governed by ASA/USA Rules and Regulations.

ROSTERS: Team rosters shall have no more than 13 players per roster, unless agreed upon by directors.

League determination is based off player's age as of 1/1/2023 for SPRING

League determination is based off player's age as of 1/1/2024 for FALL

If a player is found to be playing in an ineligible age division during the regular season, that player shall be removed from the team. If a player is found to be playing in an ineligible age division during a tournament, that team will be disqualified from the rest of the tournament.

No more than four all-star, alliance, and/or travel players should be placed on a single team. These players should be evenly distributed among all teams when possible to help create fair and equitable teams.

GAME SCHEDULE: Teams will generally play two games each Saturday with rotating hosting locations each week. If the league has an odd number of teams, it may be necessary for one team to play three games in a week (or play only one) to ensure every team has an opponent.

You will be notified by your coach if a game has been cancelled due to inclement weather or some other unforeseen event. Park rules will be used to determine if a game needs to be interrupted mid-game due to inclement weather (including lightning). If a scheduled game cannot be played, the director will try to reschedule the game. However, there is no guarantee that all cancelled games will be rescheduled.

EQUIPMENT:

- 11-inch optic yellow ball
- ASA/USA approved bat
- Batting helmet with protective face mask - *Players will not be allowed to bat without a helmet WITH a face mask. All batters and base runners must wear their helmets until they leave the field.*
- Fielder's Masks (mandatory for ALL positions)
- Heart Guard is MANDATORY for the Pitcher's Helper position. The organization will provide one heart guard for each team.
- Softball Cleats with plastic spikes (metal cleats are not allowed)
- All catchers must wear the required catchers gear per ASA rules. The organization provides a set of catchers gear for each team.

REGULATION GAME OVERVIEW: A regulation game consists of:

- Six innings or 75 minutes (whichever occurs first) constitutes a game. No new inning should start after 70 minutes and the current inning should be completed when possible.
- An inning consists of three outs
- Batters may bunt and runners may steal
- Batters and runners are only allowed to steal one base per pitch.
- Runners may leave the base as soon as the ball is released from the pitcher's hand.
- No overthrow rule in effect for any base.
- A game should be started with at least eight players unless agreed upon otherwise by both coaches. Late players may be inserted at the bottom of the batting order. If only eight players (or less), the ninth (or preceding) positions in the batting order will NOT be considered an automatic out.
- A game is considered complete if it cannot be continued due to darkness or inclement weather.
- If a regular season game ends with a tie score, it will be recorded as a tie game. If a championship game ends with a tie score, the international tie breaker rule will apply and the new extra inning will start with no outs.

GAME TIME LIMITS: All games shall be 75 minutes and finish the current inning. No new inning should start after 70 minutes. The last inning should be finished even if the time limit expires. The game clock will begin as designated by the umpire. If a game starts late due to delays by one or both teams, an umpire or director may shorten the game's time limit to preserve the start time of the following game on that field. If a team is more than 15 minutes late, the opposing team may choose to subtract the time from the game's time limit or forfeit the game completely.

Tournament championship games will not have a time limit. Six complete innings will be played to complete a championship game unless BOTH teams agree to play with a time limit. The mercy rule is still in effect for championship games.

RUN LIMITS:

- 6 run limit per inning/per team for the first three innings
- 10 run limit per inning/per team for innings four and five
- Unlimited runs during inning six

RUN RULE / MERCY RULE: A game is considered complete once one team has:

- 15 run lead after three innings (2 ½ if home team is ahead after top of the 3rd)
- 12 run lead after four innings (3 ½ if home team is ahead after top of the 4th)
- 8 run lead after five innings (4 ½ if home team is ahead after the top of the 5th)

Note: It is up to the coaches or scorekeepers to monitor for the run rule. If you believe your team has reached the run rule: call time, confirm with the other team's coach or scorekeeper, and then inform the umpire.

BATTING/BASE RUNNING: All players must remain in the same batting order for the entire game (*). Coaches shall exchange batting lineups prior to each game. Any player arriving late to a game may be added to the bottom of the lineup. Players may steal after the pitcher releases the ball. No throwing of bats (**).

Base runners can only steal one base per pitch. An overthrow by a defensive player does not allow the runner to steal an additional base. The intent is to encourage defensive players to make plays versus "holding the ball". If a runner attempts to steal more than one base per pitch, the umpire will call time and instruct the runner to return to the previous base.

* If a player bats out of order, the following rules apply:

- If the error is discovered while the incorrect batter is at bat, the correct batter shall take her place and assume the count of the incorrect batter.
- If the error is discovered after the incorrect batter has completed their turn and before the first pitch to the next batter, the batter who should have batted is out - all runs scored are cancelled and base runners shall return to their original base.
- If the error is discovered after the first pitch to the next batter, all runs scored and all bases ran shall be declared legal. No one is called out, however those that missed their turn at bat will not bat until the next time their name appears in the line-up.

** If a player throws a bat, their team will receive a warning after which any subsequent violation will be cause for the offending player to be called out (umpire's discretion). If the bat hits any person, the batter is automatically out.

FIELDING: 10U shall field ten players – 6 in the infield and 4 in the outfield

PITCHING: Pitching distance is 35 feet. A pitcher can pitch a maximum of four innings per game. The same pitcher can only pitch two of the first three innings.

Note: One pitch in an inning is considered an inning pitched. Only the starting pitcher is allowed to return to the game after being switched out mid inning. All other pitchers that are removed mid inning are not allowed to return as pitcher for the rest of the game (with the exception of a player that is removed due to injury). The starting pitcher is allowed to return or a new pitcher that has not yet pitched in the game can be utilized.

OVERTHROW RULE: There is no overthrow rule for any base in 10U

INFIELD FLY: No

DROP THIRD STRIKE: No

INTERFERENCE: If a play is being made at a base or in the baseline, the base runner should avoid unnecessary contact with the defensive player or the base runner may be called out for interference (subject to umpire discretion). Interference does not require direct contact between players.

OBSTRUCTION: Defensive players, who are not in possession of the ball or not in the process of fielding a hit ball, cannot obstruct the runner's ability to reach the next base. This includes catchers blocking home plate without the ball. If obstruction is called, the umpire will assess (post-play) whether the obstruction influenced the outcome of the play and make appropriate corrective calls if deemed necessary.

LOOK BACK RULE: When a runner is off the base while the pitcher has control of the ball inside the pitcher's circle, the runner must immediately advance to the next base or return to their original base. The runner cannot stand between bases and continue to go back and forth. The runner will be declared out if they do not immediately return to their original base or proceed to the next base (steal). The runner will NOT be out if a play is made by the pitcher, including a fake throw or feint/flinch directed towards the runner.

INJURED PLAYER: In case of injury or illness, a team can continue to finish a game with as little as eight players. If injuries result in seven players or less, game may continue if agreed upon by both coaches. The injured or ill player should be scratched from the batting lineup and will not be considered an automatic out.

COURTESY RUNNERS: A courtesy runner will be allowed for a batter who has been injured. A courtesy runner may also be used for the catcher or pitcher (no injury required) after there are two outs. This allows the catcher time to "gear up" and the pitcher time to warm up before the next inning (helps speed up game). If the catcher or pitcher is already on base and the second out occurs, no courtesy runner is allowed. The courtesy runner will be the player who recorded the last out.

EMERGENCY PLAYER: Emergency players may only be utilized when nine or fewer players are available. A maximum of two emergency players may be used in any one game to field a total of no more than 10 players. Emergency players must bat last and play in the outfield only. (***)

*** Emergency players during the regular season may be from the same age group or younger. Emergency players for tournament games must be from a lower age group. Emergency players must have participated in the community's current season. Emergency players must be identified at the start of the game to the umpire and opposing coach. Emergency players for regular season and tournament games must bat last and play outfield positions only.

UMPIRES: All regular season games will have one umpire in all age divisions except for 6U. Championship games will have two umpires.

10U Transitional Rules (applicable to the first four games of the season only):

- A player pitcher will pitch until the umpire calls four balls
- After four balls, a coach will enter and pitch the remainder of the strike count. For instance, if the player pitched one strike and four balls, the coach will get two pitches. If the player pitched two strikes and four balls, the coach will only get one pitch. If the player did not deliver any strikes, the coach will get three pitches.
- Every coach pitch that is not hit will be considered a strike. There are no balls during coach pitch - only strikes.
- Once the coach pitcher enters, the player pitcher will remain on the field as the "pitcher's helper" with at least one foot inside the pitching circle. The player can be positioned either to the right or left side of the coach pitcher, but no closer to the batter than the pitching rubber (similar to the "pitchers helper" position in 8U).
- A coach should attempt to deliver the ball (to the best of their ability) with an arc and speed consistent with a fast pitch. The coach must have at least one foot inside the pitching circle. No windup is required.
- If the batter is struck by a ball delivered by the coach pitcher, the batter does not walk and the pitch will not count against the total.
- If a coach is struck by a batted ball, it is a dead ball and the pitch will not count against the total.
- The coach may not instruct a player after the pitch has been released
- The coach must vacate the field once the ball is put in play.
- No stealing during coach pitch.

10U transitional rules apply to the first four games completed by a team (not the first four games scheduled). This means if one or more of a team's first four scheduled games are cancelled, they will continue to play by the transitional rules until they have completed four games (even if their opponent has already completed their four transitional games). Additional transitional games may be played after the fourth game as long as both teams agree to play by the transitional rules.

"WALK UP" MUSIC: Walk up music or sound effects may only be played as the batter is walking up to the plate or after a play is over. Music should be stopped or "faded out" as the batter enters the batter's box. Violations will result in a warning from the umpire. Any proceeding violations after the umpire warning will result in no walk up music or sound effects allowed for the rest of the game.

*Some communities may not allow walkup music

SPORTSMANSHIP: Players and coaches will always conduct themselves with good sportsmanship. If a player is ejected for any reason, the team with this player will not forfeit the game; however, the team will record an out in that lineup position going forward. Any player or coach ejected may not participate in the next game. Parent protests are not allowed. Disputes should be settled by the umpires and the coaches at the time of the call and should be handled in a sportsmanlike manner. If a spectator is ejected, the spectator must leave the playing area immediately.