

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL



STANDARD LEAGUE RULES

Unless specifically addressed below, Ohio High School rules apply.

Age	14-18 years old
Gender	Girls
Innings	7, 4 for official game (3½ if home team is winning)
Time Limit	No new inning after 2 hours. Time is measured when the last out/run was made.
Base Distance	60 feet
Pitch Distance	43 feet, 16-ft diameter circle
Pitcher Limits	None
Players	9 in field, 7 minimum to start and no minimum to finish, see #4 below for details
Playing Time	Must play 2 of first 4 innings in the field
Roster Batting	YES, unlimited defensive substitutions
Runs per Inning	Limit of 5 runs per inning, no limit in the last. Last inning must be announced and must start prior to the 2-hour time limit
Run Rule	NO, but if visiting team is 10 or more runs ahead going into the announced last inning, home team bats first
Walk/Hit by Pitch	YES
Bunting	YES
Stealing	YES
Lead Offs	YES, runners may leave when ball leaves pitcher's hand
Illegal Pitch	YES, result is a ball and runners advance
Overthrow Rule	Ground rule dead balls only
Metal Spikes	YES
Legal Bat Size	Official softball bat
Infield Fly	YES
Dropped 3rd Strike	YES

LEAGUE SPECIFIC RULES

1	Pitchers are allowed to "step back" or "start back," where the stride foot can start off the rubber. However, it's not required to step or start back; pitchers can still have both feet on the rubber at the start of the pitch.
2	Facemasks are optional for all positions.
3	A team may only pick up a player who is currently registered in a lower division.
4	Once batting order has been established, an automatic out is given to any player unable to bat for the first occurrence only. After that, the player is skipped without penalty. If only 7 or 8 players start, the unoccupied batter spots will be automatic outs for the first occurrence only.
5	Late players are added to the bottom of the lineup.
6	Both coaches and the umpire(s) need to agree and announce that the upcoming inning will be the last inning and it will be unlimited. In the event an inning that was not announced as the last inning goes past the 2 hour mark, the game will end without the unlimited inning.