

**Franklin Girls Softball Association 2023**  
**Juniors Division Rules**

<b>Rule(s) Description</b>	<b>Junior Division</b>
USA Softball Rules and Regulations followed. Specific league rules are as follows.	X
<b>Game rules:</b>	
6 inning games. No new inning to start 1 hour 45 minutes after start time, or if less than 20 minutes until next scheduled game on that field	X
4 run limit per inning, excluding 6 <sup>th</sup> or last declared inning.	X
Game is considered complete after 3.5 innings if home team is ahead or 4 innings if visitor is ahead.	X
8 players to start a game. Less than 8 players results in a forfeit.	X
Free substitution of players in the field	X
Mercy Rule: 12 runs (home team has last at bat if behind)	X
<b>Base Running:</b>	
Courtesy runner can be used for catcher or pitcher on record who is returning to that position the following inning. Courtesy runner is the player who was the last batter in the previous inning. and second to last batter of the previous inning if both pitcher and catcher are on base at the same time).	X
Players must slide or avoid contact. All sliding rule decisions are at the discretion of the umpire.	X
Stealing home is allowed	X
<b>Batting:</b>	
Continuous batting order. All non-injured players present will bat.	X
If a player becomes injured, they will skip their next at bat. Not an "out."	X
Players who arrive after the start of the game will be added to the end of the order.	X
Infield fly rule in effect	X
Dropped third strike in effect	X
No Slashing (faking bunt, then hitting away)	X
Slap hitting and drag bunting are allowed	X
Facemasks are required for all fielders	X
<b>Pitching:</b>	
Pitcher shall be removed from pitching after directly hitting 3 batters in an inning or 5 in the course of the game (bounced pitches will not count).	X
Pitchers shall not pitch more than 4 innings per game during the regular season. Exceptions are at the discretion of home and visiting head coach.	X
Pitching mound is 40 feet, bases are 60 feet distance	X

**Special Playing Rules (All upper divisions)**

- Minimum of eight players required to start the game.
- Games must start once the scheduled start time is reached and both teams have the minimum number of players.
- Home team provides umpires and balls and is responsible for canceling ump due to rainouts (at least 2 hours in advance)
- Scorebook is kept by both teams
- All players bat - a continuous batting order will be used. Players who arrive after the start of the game will be added to the end of the order.
- Free substitution of players in the field