



Franklin Girls Softball Association (FGSA) Playing Rules Seniors Division

All play is governed by USA Rules except as noted below. In addition, certain USA Rules are noted for emphasis.

Goal

As the highest level of play in our recreation program, the goal of the Senior Division is to offer players the maximum level of competition combined with the principles of fun and positivity that are the foundation of all FGSA programs.

· Overview

The Senior division is our highest level of play in the spring season. Games will be 7 innings in length with more advanced rules such as the Dropped Third Strike and Infield Fly rules. Players will also be allowed to steal home plate, but there will be a limit of 2 attempts per inning.

Standings are kept and the season will feature a double elimination tournament at its conclusion. Teams will play games twice a week, once on a weeknight and once on Saturday. They will also have an additional practice during the week at the coach's discretion and pending field availability.

Teams will be divided up based on skill level to make sure teams are as even as possible. There may be a mandatory skills session that everyone in Juniors would be required to attend in the March timeframe.

· Days and Times

Weekday practice on Thursdays

Weekend games (Saturdays) at 11:00 AM EST

· Dimensions

12-inch hard softball

43-foot pitching distance

- Structure

Season consists of a minimum of 10 games (5 weekday/5 Saturdays)

Double elimination playoffs (if time allows)

Sanctioned umpires and 1 game ball provided by each team.

- Practice

Individual team practices by coach, 1x per week

Division Director will work with coaches to develop a cohesive practice plan with emphasis on development of pitchers and catchers.

- Game Play

USA Softball

7 inning games. No new inning to start 1 hour 40 minutes after start time. Games can end in tie. All playoff games will be played with no time limit. International Tie Breaker will be used to decide winner if game is tied after 7 complete innings.

5 run limit per inning, excluding 7th or last declared inning.

Game is considered complete after 3.5 innings if home team is ahead or 4 innings if visitor is ahead.

8 players needed to start and end game. A 10th player may be used in the Outfield.

12-inch Stamped ASA ball and 43 feet pitching distance.

Free substitution of players in the field

Infield fly rule in effect

Mercy Rule: 12 runs after 5 innings, 10 runs after 6 innings

Maximum of 4 innings per pitcher. Pitchers may re-enter.

Pitchers shall be removed from pitching after directly hitting 3 batters in an inning or 5 during the game (bounced pitches will not count).

Continuous batting order. All non-injured players present will bat.

Runners may leave the base on release from the pitcher's hand.

If a player becomes injured, they will skip their next at bat. Not an "Out."

If a player is ejected, then subsequent at bats for the player ejected will be an "Out."

Players who arrive after the start of the game will be added to the end of the order.

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).

No stealing if the team at bat is up by 10 or more runs.

No Slashing.

Slap hitting and drag bunting are allowed.

Facemasks are required for all infielders.

· Special Playing Rules (all 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.

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

All players must play an equal amount of time in the field each game. No player will be on the bench for 2 consecutive innings and all players must play a minimum of 2 innings in the infield.

Players must slide or avoid contact. All sliding rule decisions are at the discretion of the umpire.

A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher – runner shall be the last batter making an out.