

12 AND UNDER (12U) DIVISION

This division attempts to balance recreation and competition with the emphasis on providing an enjoyable recreational experience for all participants. By the time players reach this age group, they usually have acquired the skills necessary for an intermediate level of play. Prior experience is not, however, a requirement of this division. Like all BNGSA In-Town age groups, it will offer both instruction and fun.

JUST THE NUMBERS

- Pitching distance: 40'
- Base distance: 60'
- Ball: 12 inch softball
- Time Limit: 1 hour 30 minutes

BNGSA 12U PLAYING RULES

Game Begins:

- The umpire keeps the official time.
- All games must begin within 5 minutes of scheduled start time (5:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.). A team must have 7 players to begin the game or the team must officially forfeit. Teams will still play. There are no automatic outs because of lack of players.

Game Ends:

- A complete game is any game which has gone 3 innings (2 ½ if the home team is leading). The inning in progress can be completed, however no new inning may start once time has expired. Tie games after 7 innings continue until time expires or the tie is resolved, whichever occurs first. Games ending in a tie are officially recorded as a tie.
- If for any reason a game must be canceled by the umpire and the visiting team is still batting in the top of the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd innings and are losing the game, the game is not complete and will need to be replayed from the beginning, if a date can be set.
- If for any reason a game must be canceled by the umpire and the home team is still batting in the bottom of the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd innings and are losing the game, the game is not complete and will need to be replayed from the beginning, if a date can be set.
- If for any reason a game must be canceled by the umpire and the visiting team is still batting in the top of the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, or extra innings and are losing, the game reverts back to the previous completed inning and that is your final score.
- If for any reason a game must be canceled by the umpire and the home team is still batting in the bottom of the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, or extra innings with the lead, the game is over and the home team is the winner. If the home team is still batting in the bottom of the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, or extra innings and are losing, the game reverts back to the previous completed inning and that is your final score.
- No new inning may begin after 7:00 p.m. for 5:30 p.m. games, or 9:00 p.m. for 7:30 p.m. games. You finish any inning that was started before expiration of time unless for any reason the umpire calls the game. If the game doesn't start at the exact scheduled time, no new inning can be started after 1 hour 30 minutes of play. The Umpire is the official timekeeper and will make the decision on when time has expired.

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USA Softball Blood Rule: a player, coach, or umpire who is bleeding or has blood on their clothing shall not continue to participate until treatment is administered or until their clothing is covered or replaced.

Batters/Defense: All players remain in the batting order, but only 9 at a time play defense. Defense: Each player must play defense 2 of the first 4 innings and 1 of every 2 after the 4th inning.

Pitching: No pitcher may pitch more than 2 of the first 4 innings of a game. One (1) pitched ball in an inning is counted as 1 inning pitched. After the 4th inning, there is no pitching restriction on the number of innings for any player.

Player Substitution: There is free player substitution.

Half-Inning: A half-inning is completed when there are 3 outs or 4 runs have been scored.

Slide Rule: USA Softball rules do not require that a runner slide; however, malicious contact must be avoided, or the umpire can call a runner out.

Obstruction: Except in extreme circumstances, obstruction is not called in 12U, so base runners and defensive players need to share the basepaths as much as possible. Again, malicious contact should be avoided by everyone.

Dropped Third Strike: A batter may attempt to reach first base on a dropped third strike when there are fewer than 2 outs and first base is unoccupied. *Anytime there are 2 outs and first base is occupied, a strikeout means the inning is over.*

Base Stealing: Base stealing is permitted. Base runners may not leave the base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.

Walks: *Players are awarded one base on a walk. They may not immediately steal 2nd base.*

Courtesy Runner: USA Softball rules apply with the following exception: In order to speed up the pace of play and reduce time delays between innings, a courtesy runner may be inserted for the player who will play the catcher position the following half-inning to allow her time to put on equipment. The courtesy runner must be the player who made the *last batted out*, and the player who receives the courtesy runner must then be inserted into the catcher position the following half-inning. It is not required that a courtesy runner be used. *If the courtesy runner does not play catcher in the following half-inning, any run they scored the previous inning as a courtesy runner will be forfeit. Furthermore, if a courtesy runner is found not to be catching in the next half-inning, they must suit up and catch that half-inning.*

Inclement Weather: In the event of a heat advisory the league may implement adjustments such as reducing game time limits, delaying start times in evenings, allowing extended player water breaks, etc., up to and including canceling games in extreme conditions.

Air Quality: Safety in air quality will be determined using the AQI Basics website (<https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/>). When the air quality at the ballpark's location is 101-150, the duration of the game will be reduced, however, coaches will be allowed to cancel the game at their discretion. Once air quality reaches 151 or higher, the league will cancel games and reschedule them, if possible.

Recommended Equipment:

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- Glove
- Rubber cleats recommended but not required (metal cleats are not allowed)
- Players in this age group typically wear long softball pants
- Teams often decide on matching socks
- Batting helmets will be provided to players who do not have their own (Return to BNGSA after season)
- Fielder's face mask is recommended if playing on the infield – 1 is provided for each team for use by pitcher if they don't own one (Return to BNGSA after season)
- One set of catcher's gear will be provided to each team (Return to BNGSA after season)