



Central District Spring Interleague Rules – 10U Division

Conduct

Umpires will have zero tolerance towards abusive language, gestures, or actions of unsportsmanlike conduct by managers, coaches, players, relatives, or other spectators. It is the manager's responsibility to correct these actions immediately. Any person or persons ejected from the game will not be permitted to return for the remainder of the game AND the following scheduled game regardless of field location.

Umpire Fees and Softballs

- 1) The home leagues are responsible for scheduling umpires at their facilities.
- 2) Each team is responsible for paying one-half (1/2) of the umpire fees. One Umpire per game, please refer to umpire fee form for current umpire fees per league.
- 3) Teams who do not show up for a scheduled game, or who do not give 24 notice prior to scheduled game(s), so umpires can be cancelled, will be responsible for all umpire fees.
- 4) Teams will pay umpires in full before the start of the game at the plate.
- 5) Teams who play double-headers will each be the designated home team once during the double-header.
- 6) Ball used shall be the USA approved 11-inch RIF-1 or equivalent

Equipment

- 1) Players must wear their league-approved uniform by the second week of games.
- 2) Batters must wear a batting helmet with a permanently mounted face guard.
- 3) For their safety, players with long hair must keep it pulled back in a ponytail or braids.
- 4) Bats must not be on the current USA Softball banned bat list. The current approved and non-approved list can be found at <https://www.usasoftball.com/certified-equipment/>

Field Preparation/Coaches & Managers

- 1) There shall be no more than four (4) adults in the dugout at any one time, including coaches. All must be able to provide proof of cleared background check and SafeSport compliance.
- 2) Every league is responsible for their own field preparation and tear down at their site. Visiting leagues are encouraged to help when needed.
- 3) Base distance shall be 60 feet.
- 4) Pitching distance shall be 35 feet.

Music

- 1) The playing of music is at the discretion of each league's location and the umpire. An umpire or league official can stop music at any time. Teams that disregard music rules will forfeit their game.
- 2) All music must be clean and free of profanity and sexual innuendo. Music must NOT be bleeped out, but free of anything inappropriate. **Penalty for inappropriate music is suspension from playing music for the remainder of the fall season.**
- 3) Music may be played between innings by the team on **DEFENSE**. Between inning music must end when the catcher takes her practice throw down to second base or the umpire calls for balls in, whichever comes first.
- 4) Walk up music is permitted while on **OFFENSE**. Walk up music must end when batter enters the batter box.

Game Rules

USA rules for J.O. Softball with some modifications listed below:

Game Length

- 1) Game length is 1 hour and 20 minutes no new inning or 1 hour 30 minutes drop dead. A new inning starts when the last out is recorded from the previous inning.
- 2) Games can end in a tie.

Run Limit

- 1) Either team may score up to four (4) runs per inning

Pitching rules

- 1) A pitcher may pitch no more than six (6) outs per game in the first 3 innings. A pitcher may pitch no more than nine (9) outs per game total, but may not record her 7th, 8th or 9th out until the fifth inning. No action will be taken if two (2) or more outs occur on any one (1) continuous play and the pitcher is charged with more than the maximum outs. The extra out(s) will not be credited to any pitcher.
- 2) Any pitcher removed may not return to pitch in the same inning.
- 3) Each pitcher may assume the mound three (3) times per game (the start of a new inning does not constitute a new assumption). The assumption is started when the pitcher delivers the first pitch to a batter after entering the game. The starting pitcher will receive their first assumption at the start of the game a new assumption will be started when they reenter the game as the pitcher.

Batting

- 1) All girls present shall be listed on the official line-up and shall bat in that order the entire game.
- 2) Courtesy runners allowed for both pitcher and catcher. Runner would be last **out**. Not the last person to score. Courtesy runners for injured or ill players at discretion of umpire.

Stealing

- 1) Runner may steal a base after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. Home plate is OPEN. PENALTY - If runner leaves early, runner will be called out.
- 2) Batter may run on a dropped 3rd Strike.

Defensive Players

- 1) The defensive team may play with ten (10) players. Coaches will advise at the plate meeting if their team will play with nine (9) or ten (10) on defense. **Both teams do not have to agree.** The ability to use 9 or 10 on defense is at the discretion of each league's rules. Location where game is being played has no bearing on coaches decision of how many players to have defense
- 2) All outfielders must position themselves behind the grass line and must remain there until the pitch crosses the plate. PENALTY – Pitch will be declared a ball and all base runners will advance one base except the runner on third.
- 3) Infield fly rule in effect.
- 4) All players must play in their league issued uniform
- 5) Players who arrive late to the game may be added to the bottom of the batting order.
- 6) A team must field a minimum of eight (8) players. Less than eight (8) players constitute a forfeit.

Mercy Rule

- 1) USA softball run ahead rule applies. Games will end when a team is ahead 15 runs after three innings, 12 runs after four innings, or 10 runs after five innings.

Required Playing Time

- 1) No player shall sit out more than two (2) consecutive defensive innings and shall not sit out more than three (3) defensive innings total, until every player has sat out once. **Every player must play at least one inning of infield defense per game.** If the requirement is not met, due to mercy game or called game the player must start the next game. Innings do not need to be played consecutively.

Participants who Need to Leave Early

- 1) If the manager advises the scorekeeper and umpire prior to the game that a player needs to leave early, no penalty will be charged. If notice is not given, an out is recorded only the first time player comes to bat (opposing manager may choose to waive the out). In case of injury preventing player from continuing. No penalty. No out is recorded in that spot.

Protests

- 1) There will be no protests – the rulings of the umpire are final.