

Northland Sports Alliance Recreational Softball Rules

Divisions	Infield Area	Home to Second	Pitching Distance
Machine Pitch	60' Square	84'10"	35'0"
10 & Under	60' Square	84'10"	35'0"
12 & Under	60' Square	84'10"	40'0"
14 & Under	60' Square	84'10"	40'0"
Time Limits	# Of Innings	Time Limits	Official Game After
Softball - All Divisions	6	One hour & 15 Minutes	50 Minutes

I. Game Start Up

- A. A minimum of 8 players is required to avoid **Forfeit** for all divisions. A team must field 8 players by 5 minutes after the official starting time or the game will be considered a forfeit.
- B. Each team should provide a scorekeeper. Home team will be the official scorekeeper. Home team is determined by the schedule. First team listed on the schedule is home team.

II. Games Rules and Guidelines

- A. Batting Order: Should consist of all available players in all divisions. If a player shows up late they will be placed at the bottom of the lineup.
- B. If a team only has 8 players present the 9th spot will be considered an out. The same rule applies if a player is injured they must take an out each time the 9th spot in the order comes around.
- C. Extra innings will be played until a game is decided
- D. Please note, there is a \$100 protest fee and protest must be filed correctly. Please review USSSA rules for proper protest procedure. You need to notify the office within 24hrs. If protest is upheld, then \$100 fee will be returned.
- E. Spread Rule 15 after 3 innings 10 after 4 innings 8 after 5 innings
- F. All Divisions will have a 6 run rule. In order to keep games on time, if a team is behind by more than 6 runs and cannot come back when the time limit has expired the game is over.
- G. Teams have 60 seconds between ½ innings to take the field and be ready to bat, this will be enforced.

III. Division Specific Rules

A. 8 & Under Machine Pitch

- There shall be 10 defensive positions, 4 outfielders and 6 infielders
- The Pitcher will take position within the Pitching circle on either side of the machine.
- Coaches will feed the ball into the machine.
- Batters will be allowed 7 pitches per at bat. Balls will not be counted nor will bases be awarded on balls. If the batter receives 7 pitches and does not get on base via a hit ball, the batter is called out.
- Strikes and fouls will be called strikes. Three strikes will result in an out. If a batter fouls off the 7th pitch they will be given another pitch. The at bat cannot end on a foul ball.
- A maximum of six (6) runs will be allowed in any inning. The inning is considered over when the sixth run crosses the plate. There will be ties.
- There will be no stealing in this division. The base runner cannot leave the base until the ball is hit. If the ball is not hit, the runner must return to their base. (Penalty: base runner is out based on the judgment of the umpire).

- Batters and base runners may advance as many bases as possible per hit UNTIL THE BALL HAS BEEN SECURED AND A PLAY OR THROW ATTEMPT IS MADE. From the point of the throw or attempted play is made either from the infield or outfield, runners may advance no further than the base they are running toward.
- Bunting is not allowed
- Two defensive coaches will be allowed on the field behind the base path to instruct the players. 1 defensive coach will be allowed if needed to help out the catcher. At no time can defensive coaches interfere with the play of the game.
- When a batted ball hits the pitching machine the ball is dead, the batter is awarded first base and all runners advance one base.
- Pitching Machine will be placed 35 feet from home plate. Balls will be pitched at 37 mph.
- We will use an 11" USSSA Softball.

B. Girls 10 & UNDER Special Rules

- A dropped third strike is an out
- No lead offs until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. Violations of this rule will be called out, based on a judgment by the umpire.
- There shall be 10 defensive positions; a maximum of 6 infielders and 4 outfielders. All outfielders must play at least 15ft behind the base path when the ball is pitched.
- Stealing is allowed. One base per pitch. No stealing of home.
- **No** infield fly rule does apply in this division.
- Bunting is allowed when the player is pitching.
- Bunting is **NOT** allowed when the coach is pitching.
- There are no walks after the fourth ball; the offensive coach will take the pitcher's position on the rubber and no closer. **From the rubber** he will take up where the pitcher left off in the count. Each pitch will count as a strike whether or not the batter swings. The batter either strikes out or puts the ball into play.
- Runners may advance as many bases until the ball is secured by the pitcher in the Pitcher's Circle.
- A batter hit by a pitch must make an attempt to get out of the way of the ball in order to advance to first. (This is a judgment call by the umpire, but simply being hit by the pitch does not guarantee the batter is awarded first base.)
- An automatic out will occur for the offensive team at the 9th position if they have less than 9 players.
- Prior to the pitch, the pitcher shall take a position with: (1) the pivot foot on or partially on the surface of the rubber, (2) the non pivot foot in contact with or behind the rubber. An illegal pitch will called based on the Umpire's judgment. A ball will be rewarded, runners do not advance.

C. Girls 12 & UNDER AND 14 & UNDER

- The six run rules will apply throughout the game.
- There will be 9 players on the field in these divisions.
- Infield fly rule does apply in these divisions
- Bunting is allowed.
- No lead offs until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand
- A batter hit by a pitch must make an attempt to get out of the way of the ball in order to advance first. (This is a judgment call by the umpire, but simply being hit by the pitch does not guarantee the batter is awarded first base.)
- Runners may advance as many bases until the ball is secured by the Pitcher in the Pitchers Circle.

