



Rookie Division Rules

1. Players

- Ten (10) players are to be fielded
- Game may be played with a minimum of seven (7) players.
- No player on the regular roster may sit for more than one (1) inning in a row – unless due to injury.

2. Equipment

- Face masks are suggested to be worn by all infielders, including pitcher.
- No metal cleats
- Helmets must be worn by batter and base runners during games and practices
- ONLY ASA/USA Softball APPROVED NON-COMPOSITE BATS ARE ALLOWED AT ANYTIME
 - This includes games or practice.
 - Only single walled, one-piece construction bats are allowed to be used.
 - No composite bat of any type, no hybrid or half and half technology bat and no bat with fiber/composite reinforced core or handle is to be used.
 - If a batter enters the batter's box with a composite/illegal bat, the batter will be out.
 - If a batter makes contact with a pitched ball using a composite/illegal bat, the batter is immediately called out and the runners are returned to their bases.

3. Field dimensions

- Base distance to be forty (40) feet.
- Pitching distance to be thirty (30) feet (measured from the back point of the plate to the front of the pitching rubber)
- Ball is to be an 11" Incrediball supplied by the League.

4. Game Length

- Starting time is 6:00pm (weeknights)
- Four (4) innings or one hour 15 minutes, whichever comes first
- Games can end in a tie.

5. Ending an inning

- Inning ends once a team has scored five (5) runs or there are three (3) outs, whichever comes first

6. Defense

- Players may play the same defensive position for no more than one (1) inning per game.
- Positions – no more than 9 defensive players on the field during play
 - 1 playing pitcher
 - 4 infielders (first, second, third base, short stop)
 - 3 outfielders plus short fielder
 - outfielders and short fielders must play on the grass not in the infield
 - Catcher will be a coach from the defensive team
- Pitching
 - Coach Pitching
 - Coaches will pitch to their own batter
 - Coaches must pitch from the rubber
 - Players at the pitcher position must remain even with the pitching rubber for safety and defensive reasons.

7. Base Running

- Leads are permitted after the pitcher releases the ball.

Rookie Division Rules

- The lead should only be a few steps and cannot exceed the ½ way point to the next base.
- Coaches will add a hash mark between the bases as part of the pre-game field lining
- Stealing is NOT permitted.
- Dropped 3rd strike is NOT in effect.
- Infield fly rule is NOT in effect.
- Sliding is NOT permitted
- Hit to the Outfield
 - If a hit ball reaches the grass, runners may advance as many bases as possible until the ball is returned to infield.
 - The play is dead as soon as the ball reaches the dirt infield. It does not have to be under the control of a player
 - A runner that is more that is not ½ to the next base must return to the prior base
- Runners can be out by force/tag, at any base or within any base path in accordance with USA Softball Rules

8. Batting

- Each team member will bat in order, using all team members in the lineup.
- There will be no strikeouts
- After seven (7) pitches, a batting tee should be used
- Bunting is NOT allowed
- Each team member will bat in order, using all team members in the lineup
- Helmets must be worn by batter and base runners during games and practices.

9. Double Base

- Double base is not used

10. Player arriving late/leaving early

- No penalty for players arriving late or leaving early

11. Cancellations

- Assume game is “on” unless cancelled by the League on the League website.
- Games will be made-up as soon as possible

12. Incomplete Games

- Official game is 3 innings, 2 1/2 if home team is ahead – games are complete after 1 hour regardless of innings
- If less than 1 COMPLETE inning is played, a full makeup game will be played.
- All other games that exceed 1 inning, but are not official, will be picked up where they left off.
 - Play picks up where it left off with same outs, players on base, and pitch count.
 - If a player cannot make the rescheduled game, there place in the batting order is skipped during the continuation game
 - A player who is added to the make-up game is just added to the bottom of the batting order.

13. Standings

- Standings are based on winning percentage
- When a tie exists in the standings, the following will be used to decide standings
 - First, head-to-head records of tied teams.
 - Second, lowest runs against (average per game if # of games uneven)
 - Third, coin flip

14. Miscellaneous



Rookie Division Rules

- Free substitution is permitted throughout the game.
- Only those coaches/ volunteers who have submitted the required background checks and ACE certification and have been NSPL approved coaches/ are allowed on the field, in the batting cages, or in the dugout – this includes any games or practices.
- Only registered players of NSPL are allowed to participate in the game, pre-game warm-ups or practices.
- No smoking or other use of tobacco is permitted on the playing field side of the paved driveway that provides access to Troop Field.
- No dog or pets of any kind are allowed on the field or in the areas surrounding the field – this includes any games or practices.
- No alcohol allowed at in any area or Troop Field – this includes the parking lot.
- Official USA SOFTBALL rules, adjusted herein, will apply.