

Southwest Suburban Girls Fastpitch Softball League
2021 Rules for All Age Levels
Travel Division
March 2021

Official USA Softball Rules will govern play with the exception of the following rules:

1. An Official game will consist of playing at least 5 complete innings (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ if the home team is leading). Once a game has reached official status, no new inning may begin after one hour and forty minutes from the start of the game, with the exception of a tie game, which will be played to its conclusion using the USA Softball tie-breaker rule (see below for information on tie-breaker rule).
 - USA Softball Tie-Breaker states that starting with the top of the eighth inning, and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base (e.g., if the number five batter is the lead off batter, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base. A substitute may be inserted for the runner).
 - If a team is in the tie-breaker and the Short Handed Rule is in effect, do not declare an out if the absent player is the one who should begin the half inning at second base. Instead, place on second base the player whose name precedes the absent player's name in the line-up.
2. If an organization has limited access to playing fields, and these fields do not have lights, firm time limits will be in use for back-

to-back games, **no exceptions**. Games will have no new inning started after 1 hour.

3. A fifteen (15) minute grace period will be in effect for each team to field the required number of players before a forfeit is called.
4. Home team is official scorebook.
5. Only players on a team's official roster may participate. If a team is caught using players not on their official team roster that team will forfeit the game. In addition, Manager will be suspended for one game. A second infraction will result in the team being excluded from tournament play and manager will be banned from SWS league play for one year, subject to appeal to the SWS Board of Directors.
6. The maximum number of runs a team may score in an inning is five (5). The only exception is during the tournament, when there will be no scoring limit per inning.
7. Continuous batting order is encouraged but it is up to the individual managers. One team could play USA Softball rules while the other team chooses to play continuous batting in the same game. Free defensive substitutions are mandatory.
8. When exchanging line-ups prior to a game, coaches must submit a complete line-up (number, last name, first initial) of all players expected to play in that game, including any players that are expected to arrive late.
9. If a player's turn at bat is reached and that player is not available, the coach has the option of taking an out to keep that spot open, or scratching that player with no penalty, as long as

there are still at least eight (8) remaining players in the batting order.

10. If a player is injured during her at-bat and must leave the game, the player who made the last out will assume her count and finish the at-bat.
11. If a player has one turn at bat and then leaves the game, there will be no penalty when her turn to bat comes again as long as there is a minimum of eight (8) players in the batting order. Said player may not return to the game.
12. Both the pitcher and catcher of record may receive a courtesy runner at any time. Last batted out is courtesy runner.
13. Teams are permitted to roster up to three (3) players that are also rostered on another team (SWS or non-SWS). Such players will be identified on a team's official roster, and will be restricted to the same or lower age classification.
 - Double rostering players from another SWS travel team is permitted provided it is from a same or lower age (and classification) Travel Division team, or In-House Division team.
 - Double rostering from a non-SWS team is permitted provided it is from the same or lower age classification.
 - An SWS In-house player is limited to a maximum of five (5) games played in the Travel Division. Upon playing a sixth game, such player is no longer eligible to participate in the In-house Division.
14. In order to participate in the tournament, a player must have played in more than 50% of a team's regular season games (listed

in line-up and on the playing field for at least one pitched ball). Lone exception is a documented injury (physician's note required). Use of an ineligible player in the tournament may result in suspension or expulsion from the league going forward.

15. Artificial noisemakers are not permitted at any games. Coaches, players, and parents are required to use appropriate language in appropriate tones at all times. At the umpire's discretion, continued violations will result in a warning followed by an ejection (violator has 5-minutes to leave the facility subject to team forfeit).
16. A player may not be a regular rostered player on a second team (SWS or non-SWS). Players may "fill-in" on a limited basis for a non-SWS travel A division team up to a maximum of 5 games or 1 tournament. Upon playing a sixth game (either after playing in 5 games or in 1 tournament), such player is no longer eligible to participate in the SWS travel B division.
17. Any manager or coach ejected from a game will be subject to an automatic one game suspension for their next scheduled game.
18. If excessive or extreme heat warnings are issued by any local weather service, games will be suspended until such a time when this warning has been removed. Coaches should exercise the same judgment for excessive heat as they would for other extreme weather conditions when determining whether it is safe to play. Final decision on "playability" due to excessive heat shall rest with the home team (or tournament host if during SWS Tournament).
19. Mercy rule. If a team is up by 11 runs after the losing team has batted in the 5th inning or 6 runs after the 6th inning, the game will be declared over.

20. The use of metal cleats is only allowed at age 16U and above.
- A player(s) caught on the field with metal cleats after a pitched ball will be ejected with no warning.