

SOFTBALL WITH FAST PITCH RULES

If schools are closed due to inclement weather, all extracurricular activities are cancelled including tournaments.

The current Official High School Fast Pitch Softball Rules are used and followed except as modified below:

- **No negative chanting.**
- Pitching distance will be forty (40) feet and bases sixty (60) feet.
- Once a player has been removed from the pitching position, she may return to any position including pitcher.
- Pitchers may pitch the entire game in softball. If they are subbed from pitching, they may return to the position of pitcher later in the game.
- A team may not score more than five (5) runs in any one inning. This applies even if a home run might result in nine (9) runs; only five (5) runs will count.
- A regulation game will consist of seven (7) innings. If it is impossible for a team to win because of the five (5) run rule, the losing coach will decide to stop or continue playing that inning.
- A team must have at least eight (8) players to start the game. The team will not be assessed an out for the 9th batter. If a player must leave the game, the team will not be assessed an out for her place in the batting order.
- A minimum of ten (10) players is needed to make a team, however no more than nine (9) may be on the field at one time.

Player Equipment

- No metal cleats will be worn. **Player will not be allowed to play if wearing metal cleats.**

No athlete may play or practice while wearing any type of cast.

No fifth (5th) graders are allowed to play softball.

Time and Rescheduling

- First game is scheduled to start at 4:30 PM. Forfeit time is 4:45 PM Second game is scheduled to start at 6:00 PM. Forfeit time is game time.
- A new inning may not start 1 hour and 15 minutes after the official starting time.
- Rescheduled games are the full responsibility of the Diocesan Athletic Director.
- The Hosting School is responsible for notifying the Diocesan Athletic Director when the field is unplayable. Failure to notify by 12:00 PM results in the hosting school paying the official's fee. After notification it is the responsibility of the Diocesan Athletic Director to cancel the officials.
- If a team must forfeit a game, the local Sports Coordinator will notify the Diocesan Athletic Director. If notification occurs less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled game, the school canceling the game will pay for the officials.
- When lightning is detected within a distance less than or equal to 8 miles, all students are moved indoors. A 30-minute wait period following the last lightning strike recorded is

- required before students may return to outdoor activities.
- In good weather, all games are official once a full inning has completed and the time limit has expired.
 - If the time limit has expired, the inning in progress will be announced as the last unless the game ends in a tie.
 - In case of a bad weather cancelation, the game will be ruled official after the bottom half of the 4th inning or after 3 ½ innings if the home team is winning.

In the event that the official umpire does not arrive in time to start the game, the two coaches will sign the Coach's Agreement.

The Home team must provide an adult scorekeeper and two 12-inch softballs. The Visiting team will provide one softball or best ball.

General Rules -- Team Eligibility Requirements

- Coaches, or their representatives, are required to attend the coaches' meeting and clinics.
- Players may be added during the season by submitting the player's name, birth date, and uniform number to the local Diocesan Athletic Director.
- The official team rosters are due before the first game.
- The Home team is responsible for leading the prayer before the game.
- **The official has total control of the game and spectators.**

Player Personnel:

- If a school has more than one team, each team must be an equal mix of grades 6th, 7th, and 8th graders and must be divided as equally as possible by skill ability (no "A" and "B" teams).
- A school that has more than one team may not substitute a player to either team.
- The game can start with eight players and finish with no less than eight players.

Both coaches must call the results of the game to their local School Sports Coordinator.

Baseball for Boys

If schools are closed due to inclement weather, all extracurricular activities are cancelled, including tournaments.

The current **Official High School Baseball Rules** are used and followed except as modified below:

- Pitching distance will be fifty-four (54) feet with an eight (8) inch mound and bases eighty (80) feet. Portable mounds may be used.
- Once a player has been removed from the pitching position, he may only return to any position, excluding pitcher.
- Pitchers are limited to three (3) innings per game.
- A team may not score more than five (5) runs in any one inning. This applies even if a home run might result in nine (9) runs, only five (5) runs will count.
- A regulation game will consist of seven (7) innings. If it is impossible for a team to win because of the five (5) run rule, the losing coach will decide to stop or continue playing that inning.
- A team must have at least eight (8) players to start the game. The team will not be assessed an out for the 9th batter. If a player must leave the game, the team will not be assessed an out for his place in the batting order.
- A minimum of ten (10) players is needed to make a team.

Playing Equipment

- No metal cleats will be worn. **A Player will not be allowed to play if wearing metal cleats.**
- A protective cup must be worn at games and practice.

No athlete may play or practice while wearing any type of cast.

No fifth (5th) graders are allowed to play baseball.

Time and Rescheduling

- First game will start at 4:30 PM. Forfeit time is 4:45 PM. Second game is scheduled to start at 6:00 PM. Forfeit time is game time.
- A new inning may not start 1 hour and 15 minutes after the official starting time.
- Rescheduled games are the full responsibility of the Diocesan Athletic Director.
- The Hosting School is responsible for notifying the Diocesan Athletic Director when the field is unplayable. Failure to notify by 12:00 PM results in the hosting school paying the official's fee. After notification it is the responsibility of the Diocesan Athletic Director to cancel the officials.
- If a team must forfeit a game, the local Sports Coordinator will notify the Diocesan Athletic Director. If notification occurs less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled game, the school canceling the game will pay for the officials.

- When lightning is detected within a distance less than or equal to eight (8) miles, all students are moved indoors. A 30-minute wait period following the last lightning strike recorded is required before students may return to outdoor activities.

In good weather, all games are official once a full inning has completed and the time limit has expired. If the time limit has expired, the inning in progress will be announced as the last unless the game ends in a tie. In case of a bad weather cancelation, the game will be ruled official after the bottom half of the 4th inning or after 3 ½ innings if the home team is winning.

In the event that the official umpire does not arrive in time to start the game, the two coaches will sign the Coach's Agreement.

The Home team must provide an adult scorekeeper and two new baseballs. The Visiting team will provide two balls.

General Rules – Team Eligibility Requirements:

- Coaches, or their representatives, are required to attend the coaches' meeting and clinics.
- Players may be added during the season by submitting the player's name, birth date, and uniform number to the local Sport Coordinator and Diocesan Athletic Director.
- The official team rosters are due before the first game.
- The Home team is responsible for leading the prayer before the game.
- **The official has total control of the game and spectators.**

Player Personnel:

- If a school has more than one team, each team must be an equal mix of grades 6th, 7th, and 8th and must be divided as equally as possible by skill ability (no "A" and "B" teams).
- A school that has more than one team may not substitute a player to either team.
- The game can start with eight players and finish with no less than eight players.

Both coaches must call the results of the game to their local School Sports Coordinator.

Baseball and Softball Addition to Special Rules

Free Substitutions

Players may be substituted freely throughout the game as long as the batting order is maintained. Free substitutions will allow the coach more flexibility to ensure players are able to receive equal playing time whenever warranted.

An exception to this rule is once a player has been removed from the pitching position, he/she may only return to a non-pitching position.

This is an **optional** rule. Alternating players every inning is **not** a requirement of the league.

Example: The starter would play the 1st inning at a defensive position. The sub would play the 2nd inning. The starter would return for the 3rd inning. The sub would play the 4th and so on.

Everybody Bats

The team batting order, established at the beginning of the game, **must** include all players on the roster who are present. This is a **mandatory** rule of the league. The coach does not have an option.

Example: If there are 14 players on the team roster, the batting order will progress from 1 to 14. Players will bat every time their name comes up, even if they are not playing a defensive position.

Summary

The above rules are designed to help players at the junior high level receive equal playing time, develop their skills and have fun by being involved in the game on a regular basis.

Mercy Rule

- If a team is ahead by 14 runs at the end of three (3) innings, the game is officially over.
- If a team is ahead by 10 runs at the end of five (5) innings, the game is officially over.
- Once the run limit has been reached, and both coaches have agreed to keep playing, the game becomes a scrimmage.

Time Keeping Rules:

- **The Home Plate Umpire keeps the Official Clock**

New Rules for 2021:

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, procedures and protocols are put in place to help protect from the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Each location has turned in its procedures and protocols that has been approved by the Diocese. The gym director oversees each location and has the ability to remove any fans or parents who are not following protocols in place.

1. Admission – 2 spectators per participant rule. All rosters will be shared with each gym and should be used for check-in with a maximum of spectators per participant.
2. Do not allow players and parents from any other games into the field unless they are part of the 2 spectators per participant.
3. Remove all fans from the field for sanitation.
4. Masks must be worn, over the nose and mouth, **at all times** by everyone at the field, including players, coaches, refs, and volunteers. The players must wear masks during play and on the bench. Players who “forget” their mask, will not be allowed to participate. Spectators who do not have a mask will not be allowed in the facility.
5. Everyone at the facility must follow the procedures and protocols put in place by that school.