

**ROANOKE AREA YOUTH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
LOCAL RULES FOR 13U & 17U LEAGUE SOFTBALL

THESE RULES ARE SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE OFFICIAL 2023 NFHS SOFTBALL RULE BOOK AND SHALL APPLY FOR THE 2024 REGULAR SEASON.

TIME

1. *Home teams shall occupy third base dugout and visitors shall occupy first base dugout. Only players and coaches listed on the team’s roster may occupy their team’s dugout. No infield or sideline warm-up is allowed. All warm-up shall be beyond the base lines on the half of the field of the team’s dugout.* Managers are to show the umpire a line-up of players, including substitutes, and then give a copy to the opposing team manager. Home team will be the official scorekeeper. Each team will supply at least two game balls (new or near new). Games will start promptly at the scheduled time.

2. 13U teams shall play up to six innings prior to 1 hour and 30 minutes for all games. 17U teams shall play up to seven innings prior to 1 hour and 30 minutes for all games. Time limits shall apply from the scheduled starting time of the game, not the actual starting time (except the second game of a doubleheaders, the time limit shall apply from the actual start time of the game with a suggested rest period of 15 minutes between games). No inning shall start after this time limit (even if tied). A new inning begins immediately after the final out of the previous inning (NFHS rules allow for one minute for warm-up between each half inning).

The curfew for 13-U league shall be 9:00 p.m. on school nights and 10:00 p.m. on other nights. The curfew for 17-U league shall be 10:00 p.m. on school nights and 10:30 on other nights.

3. A team's turn at bat shall end after three outs or five runs have been scored. This rule applies to all innings. A team **may** concede at any time.

PITCHING

4. No pitcher shall pitch **in** more than two consecutive innings in a game. Pitchers who do not pitch **in** the previous inning may re-enter the pitching position. The pitcher's plate shall be forty-three feet from home plate. NFHS rule 2.65.2 (intentional walk) does not apply for RAYSA.

5. If batters are hit with a pitched ball three times in the same game by the same pitcher, that pitcher must be removed from the pitching position for the game. It shall be considered a hit by pitch only if the batter does not initiate being hit and even if the pitch bounces prior to hitting the batter (umpire judgment).

SUBSTITUTIONS

6. Offensive lineup may consist of the nine defensive players or up to all players in attendance (DP/Flex option does not apply). Once the number of players in the offensive lineup is established, the number of batters must not be reduced during the game barring sickness or injury. Teams may play with eight (8) players (an out will be assessed for the unoccupied ninth batting position). Teams may borrow players from another RAYSA team within the same age group to prevent a possible forfeit due to lack of players. Borrowed players may play only two games for each team and must play in the outfield on defense and bat first on offense. Once a player plays in an older age group, that player may not return to the younger age group (i.e., a 13 year old may not play for a 13U team after playing for a 17U team).

7. All players must play twelve (12) consecutive outs or two consecutive innings (offense and defense) during the game (DP/Flex option does not apply). At the start of the third inning, all players who have not played in the game shall be entered in the line-up and play two consecutive innings. Players may re-enter any position in the line-up provided the substitute has not played the previous twelve (12) outs (two innings) and the player being substituted for has played the previous twelve (12) outs (two innings).

8. The team at bat may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or catcher of record anytime after they reach base. The courtesy runner shall be the last offensive player to make an out.

EQUIPMENT

9. A 12" RIF-10 softball shall be used for games. Any bat marked "OFFICIAL SOFTBALL", not more than 34" in length, may be used for league play. Face guards are required on batters helmets (jaw protectors do not satisfy this requirement). Infielders, including pitchers, must wear face guards or helmets with face guards. Chin straps on batter's helmets are suggested, but not required. Jewelry deemed unsafe by the umpire and shoes with metal cleats are not allowed.

GENERAL

10. Games will or will not continue at the umpire's discretion if lightning or thunder is in the area, however, safety should always be the primary consideration. **The use of tobacco products, including vaping, is prohibited in the field area.**

11. On deck batters should be positioned in foul territory no closer than thirty feet from home plate on the offensive team's side of the field. A batter who releases a bat with such force, that in the opinion of the umpire, could cause injury or impair the defensive player from making a play, shall be called out for interference.

12. Headfirst sliding is not permitted. Runners who slide headfirst shall be called out. Diving back to the base without a running start should not be considered sliding.

13. No protests, including umpire judgments or decisions, will be accepted. If the rules are not being properly interpreted, contact your RAYSA representative. Head coaches will be held accountable for the sportsmanship and conduct of their players, fans, and coaching staff. Incident Reports filed with RAYSA representatives will be reviewed and, if applicable, appropriate sanctions implemented.

14. Coaches should notify the opposing team's coach at least a day in advance if a game is to be cancelled. The host team's coach is responsible for notifying the umpire assigner and field scheduler of the cancellation.

John Cummings
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