



12U and 16U Girls Softball

Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, Foley and Elberta

2017 Local Rules



All rules are determined by the USSSA rule book unless specified otherwise hereafter:

1. The game shall be one hour and 15 minutes or 6 innings. No new inning will start after one hour and 15 minutes.
2. If a team cannot field 9 players to start the game, a team may begin the game with 8 players. They cannot add a player once they have batted the roster.
3. Each team will bat the entire roster. Free substitution throughout entire game including pitchers. If an injury occurs during a game, the team is NOT subjected to an automatic out. The player is just skipped in the batting lineup.
4. All players must play at least 3 consecutive outs in the field.
5. The game ball will be an approved 12" softball.
6. The home team will have the official scorebook.
7. All defensive players who are pitching or playing 3rd base MUST wear a face mask.
8. The catcher must wear proper catcher's equipment. They cannot remove their helmet until the ball has been hit.
9. Players are allowed to bunt at both the 12U and 16U level however a batter is **not** allowed to "flash" a bunt then slap (slash) hit due to safety concerns.
10. Players will receive one warning for throwing/slinging the bat.
11. We are playing the third strike (if swinging) passed ball rule. First base MUST be vacant with less than 2 outs. If the catcher attempts to throw out the runner, the ball is "in play".
12. Players are allowed to steal once the pitcher releases the ball from her hand. Players are also allowed to steal home.
13. The runner must slide if the play at home plate has the potential of runner/catcher/pitcher contact in the event of a stolen base or a batted ball. This is an umpire's judgement and cannot be protested. If a player chooses to slide absolutely no sliding head first into a bag unless they are returning to the bag i.e. due to a caught fly ball, etc.
14. Once the pitcher releases the ball, the base coaches may not instruct a batter to swing or not to swing. All communication must take place prior to or after the pitch.
15. The penalty for walking the 6th run in is two (2) advanced bases for each runner on base.
16. **NO PLAYERS ON DEFENSE ARE ALLOWED TO CHANT TO OPPOSING TEAM WHILE BATTING.** In addition, no players on offense are allowed to chant to opposing team while they are pitching. Only positive cheers are allowed from the dugout. No noisemakers allowed.
17. Ejection of a coach/player will result in a minimum of a 1 game suspension subject to the discretion of the coordinator.
18. No protests allowed.
 1. Run rule: The 6/9 run rule will be in effect (9 runs max per inning) throughout entire game.
 2. International tiebreaker is in effect. The base runner shall be the last recorded out to start the new inning on 2nd base.
 3. Mercy Rule: 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 after 4 innings, 8 after 5 innings.