

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA GIRL'S SOFTBALL



Wythe County
City of Galax
Pulaski County



Grayson County
Town of Wytheville
Carroll County



SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA GIRLS SOFTBALL RULES 2015

All N.F.H.S. Association rules will apply except for the local league rules as listed below.

The primary objective of the **Southwest Virginia Softball league** is for all player's to have the opportunity to participate in practice, games, and have the experience of getting to play in the season ending tournaments. All player's will have fun, play their required time in all games, and be taught the sport of softball.

Coaches are reminded they are expected to represent themselves in a professional manner toward the youth at all times. Abusive behavior towards umpires, staff, coaches, parents or kids will not be tolerated during games or practices.

Playing Field and Equipment

1. Batting helmets must have a face guard and chin-strap and be worn at all times when batting or running the bases in age groups 8-13. No metal spikes are allowed to be worn. All bats will be legal as long as they have "Official Softball" stamped on them. Bases will be 60 feet for all age groups.

PLAYING RULES:

1. All players must play a minimum of 3 outs in the field and have at least one time at bat in each game.
2. All starters, including the pitcher, may re-enter the game one time. Only the starting pitcher may re-enter as a pitcher.
3. **Age Group (8-13)** – During the regular season, all players will be in the batting rotation for each team, no matter how many players each team has. There will be no change in the batting order when players are substituted into the game in a defensive position.
4. **Age Group (8-13)** – Pitchers may pitch a total of 12 innings a week (Mon-Sun.) They may start both games of a doubleheader as long as they don't exceed 12 innings for that week. One pitch constitutes an inning pitched. Two extra innings per pitcher will be allowed when more than 3 games are played in one week.
5. A 15-run rule is in effect after 3,4,5, innings of a 5,6,7 inning game respectively. The game is over if leading by 15 after each situation listed above.
6. **Age Group (8-10)** A 5-run limit is in effect each inning. If a team is leading by more than 5 runs going into the last inning the game is over and the inning will not be played. Also, Ex. If a team is leading by more than 10 runs with 2 innings to play the game is over.
Age Group (11-13) A 7-run limit is in effect each inning. After a team has reached their seventh run during an inning, all plays are dead and the inning is ended. If a team is leading by more than 7 runs going into the last inning the game is over and the inning will not be played. Ex. If a team is leading by more than 14 runs with 2 innings to play the game is also over.
7. **Age Group (8-10)** No headfirst sliding will be allowed. Penalty will be an automatic out. Players may dive back into an occupied base.
8. If a fielder is making a play on the ball or a runner, the runner must slide or attempt to avoid contact with the fielder. No aggressive contact will be allowed. If a runner does not attempt to slide or avoid contact the runner shall be declared out. Aggressive contact can result in an ejection from the game.
9. Teams must have 8 players to start a game. If a team starts with 8 players the 8 players will bat with no outs will be given to the 9th spot during the game or until a 9th player arrives.
10. No extra inning games will be played during the regular season regardless of the time limit. The home plate umpire is the official time keeper during the game.
11. A coin flip will be used at the start of games to determine the home team during the weekend round robin games only.
12. If a player shows bunt or fake bunt they must attempt bunt if player swings this will result in player being called out.
13. Noise makers are not allowed in team's dugouts or on the field. Any object that is used by players in the dugout as an intentional distraction to the opposing team will not be allowed. If the umpire deems a noise as distracting to the batters and game the umpire will ask the coach to remove the noisemakers before the game will continue.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA GIRLS SOFTBALL RULES

2015

The following rules apply to the designated age groups.

8 – 9 – 10 Years old Division (League age determined as of June 1)

1. 11” Reduced Injury Factor (R.I.F. Level 10) softball will be used during games
2. Pitching rubber will be 33 feet from home plate.
3. All illegal pitches will be dead. No balks allowed.
4. Pitchers must be in contact with the pitching plate until the release of the ball.
5. Bunting is allowed. Stealing is allowed after the ball has crossed home plate. Only 1 stolen base may be taken at a time during a live play which includes a stealing play or catcher to pitcher exchange **only** from each base occupied after that the ball becomes dead and must return to the pitching circle before the next live play. If the ball is misplayed by the fielder on the play the runner will stay at the base that was stolen. Examples: Runner stealing 2nd base throw goes into the outfield the runner must stay at 2nd base until the next live play. Same also applies to runner stealing 3rd base if the catcher throws the ball into left field or mishandles the ball the runner must stay at 3rd until the next live play. Misplayed balls that occur during a hit by the batter doesn’t apply. Rule is only for steal attempts.
6. Teams will play with four outfielders. All outfielders must be positioned at a minimum of 10 yards behind the baselines and may not move beyond this line toward the infield until the ball is hit.
7. Batters cannot advance on a third strike call. Base runners may advance after a third strike and the ball has crossed home plate.
8. All games will be 6 innings with a 1 hour and 45 minute time limit. No new inning may begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the start of the game.
9. Intentional walks can be declared by a coach or player.
10. There is no infield fly rule in this division.
11. Any pitched ball that hits the playing field prior to reaching home plate and then hits the batter shall be declared a dead ball and the batter does not get first base and runners don’t advance.

11 – 12 – 13 Years old Division (League age determined as of June 1)

1. 12” Official .47 core girl’s high school softball will be used in all games.
2. The front edge of the pitching rubber will be 43 feet from the rear of home plate.
3. All illegal pitches will be dead ball plays. No balks.
4. Pitchers must be in contact with the pitching plated until the release of the ball.
5. Stealing is allowed after the ball has left the pitchers hand. Penalty for leaving early is No pitch and runner is out..
6. Bunting is allowed.
7. Teams will play with 4 outfielders. All outfielders must be positioned at a minimum of 10 yards behind the baselines and may not move beyond this line toward the infield until the ball is hit or a pick-off attempt has been initiated.
8. Base runners may advance after a third strike after the ball has left the pitchers hand.
9. Batters may not advance after a third strike.
10. All games will be 6 innings with a 1 hour and 45 minute time limit. No new inning may begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the start of the game.
11. The infield fly rule will be in effect in this division.

14 – 17 Years old Division (League age determined as of June 1)

1. 12” Official .47 core girl’s high school softball will be used in all games.
2. The front edge of the pitching rubber will be 43 feet from the rear of home plate.
3. Stealing is permitted after the ball has left the pitchers hand.
4. Bunting is allowed.
5. All games will be 7 innings with a 2 hour time limit. No new inning may begin after 2 hours from the start of the game.
6. All other rules are in accordance with the National Federation of High School Associations.

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2015

TOURNAMENT RULES

8-13 AGE DIVISIONS

All Regular Season Rules Apply Unless listed Below

1. Tournament players must be on regular season rosters approved by local league director before season begins and play 2 games during the regular season to be eligible for tournament play. Any kids added off of waiting lists must be approved by league directors. Players with injuries limiting regular season play must be approved by their local league director. Only players who played during regular season on their team may compete on that team during the tournament. If a team discontinues or cannot play during the tournament those players on that team are not allowed to play in the tournament on any other team.
2. All 8-10 games are 6 innings and 11-13 games are 6 innings.
3. (Ages 8-10) 5 runs per inning may be scored. If a team is behind by 6 runs or more with only one time remaining to bat, the game is over or 11 runs with 2 innings to play.
4. (Ages 11-13) A fifteen run rule is in effect after 3½ innings if home team is ahead and after four innings if visiting team is ahead.
5. (Ages 11-13) 7 runs per inning may be scored. If a team is behind by 7 runs or more with only one time remaining to bat, the game is over or 15 runs with 2 innings to play.
6. A pitcher may pitch AN UNLIMITED number of innings in tournament.
7. **All players**, including the pitcher, may re-enter the game one time. The starting pitcher may reenter the game one time as a pitcher. **All players must remain in their same spot in the batting order.**
8. No infield fly rule for 8-10 division.
9. All players present at the start of the game must bat once and play three outs in the field. Any violation of this rule will result in forfeiture of the game. A violation must be discovered by opposing team and brought to the attention of the umpire or game site manager no later than 10 minutes following the conclusion of the game in which the violation occurred. **The player participation rule is waived for games shortened due to the 15 run rule or due to weather.**
10. The coach must inform the umpire of any player who arrives late or for disciplinary or illness reasons will not play as required above.
11. A team must field no less than 8 players to start a game. The batting 9th batting position in the line-up will be an out when only 8 players or less are in the game. Players may enter game anytime as soon as they arrive.
12. A team may have up to 10 players on the field and in the line-up in the 8-10 and 11-13 leagues. If 10 players are in the field, four of them must be in the outfield. The outfield begins ten yards behind the base path.
13. If a game is called because of weather, darkness or any reason other than rules 3 & 4 (above), the game will be continued from the point of interruption at a make date/time.
14. (Ages 8-10) No head first slides allowed. Penalty will be an automatic out. A player may dive back to a base.
15. No team will be compelled to play more than two games in any one day.
16. Any player, coach or spectator ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct will be out for the remainder of that day and the next day that the team plays. A second ejection will be cause for dismissal from the rest of the tournament games.
17. Batters may not advance on a dropped third strike in the 8-10 and 11-13 leagues.
18. Coaches have the option to put all players at the game in the batting line-up or may place only the 9 or 10 starters in the batting line-up. If the coach chooses to put all players in the batting line-up, then anytime one of them can no longer continue to play, that player will be declared an out each time they would have come to bat.
19. Free substitution on defense will be allowed.
20. Games will have a 2 hour time limit. No new innings after 2 hours from the start of the game except for the championship game.