

Champaign County League **13U Softball** Rules 2024

Age Qualifications: 13U Softball ages are 11, 12 and 13 year olds. A player can't be 14 years old before January 1st. All 14 year olds must move up to the 18U Softball League (No Exceptions).

A. UMPIRES:

1. 13u and Under umpires are not required to be sanctioned. Games may be called from behind the plate or at the pitcher's mound at the umpire's discretion. This could include coaches, parents or students. If the coach is to umpire as a last resort it should be the FIELDING team coach calling the game.
2. Home teams are responsible for making sure umpires are aware of county league rules.
3. All protests are to refer to OHSAA and Champaign County League rules and are to be resolved immediately. **Umpire's decision is final.**

B. EQUIPMENT

1. Home team will provide (1) new and (1) good used ball for each home game.
2. Shoes are required equipment. Shoe sole or heel projection other than the standard shoe plate are prohibited. Metal cleats are prohibited with the exception of 15U baseball, 16U softball AND if allowed by the hosting ballpark.
3. Only official bats in good, playable condition shall be allowed. Fastpitch softball bat with nothing less than -5. A team found using an illegal bat will be given 1 warning and told to change bats. On a second attempt to use an illegal bat, the team will be charged with an out, on a third attempt to use an illegal bat, the batter and coach will be removed from the game.
4. Batting helmets must be worn at all times by a batter and runners until they return to the dugout.
5. *Batting helmets with face guards are mandatory.
6. Will use a 12" softball. (Yellow in color).
7. Defensive players in all infield positions must wear a face guard.
8. Non reflective visors are allowed in all age groups for pitchers only.

C. GAME PLAY

1. Player Substitutions: Teams may borrow up to (3) players from a lower division. Teams need to have 6 original members to count as a game. If an area does not have a lower division, they may borrow from another Champaign County League lower division team. No borrowed player will be permitted to play if a full line up of roster players is present and able to play. Sub players will not play before an original player on the roster. Subs may play any position on the field.
2. **Must bat all available players** (roster bat/pegged batting order). Open substitutions will apply on defense. If a player gets injured or has to leave the game for any reason while using continuous batting order, that player is then skipped in the batting order with no out taken. This player may also reenter in a later inning. Anyone arriving late will be inserted at the bottom of the batting order. No penalty. This applies to all age groups.
3. 8U, 10U, and 12U/13U players cannot play more than 3 innings in any one position. The exception is extra-inning games whereas coaches are allowed to field players as they see fit.
4. All present players must play at least 3 innings of defense in a full six (6) inning game. (Coaches have the right to reduce playing time for failure to attend practices.)
5. Games may be played with 8 players, without penalty. Games can be played with 7 players with a 1 out penalty for the 8th batter position. (Unless agreed to by both coaches prior to the start of the game)
6. A fifteen (15) minute grace period, after the scheduled starting time, will be granted prior to a forfeit being declared.
7. Games will consist of six innings. A complete game can be called after four innings. Only exception after 3 1/2 innings and the home team is ahead.
8. **Time Limit:** A new inning can't be started after one hour and forty-five minutes (1:45)

9. **Regular season games can end in a tie. Both coaches can agree to play one extra inning if time permits.**
10. Tournament Only: If the score is tied at the end of the 6th inning, extra inning will be played, and the international tiebreaker rule will be used. (The last batter from the previous inning will start the new inning on second base.)
11. **Official rosters** must contain: team name, age division, coaches name, phone number, players name, and player DOB. Rosters can be challenged and players may only be on (1) Champaign County League Roster. Players may be added to a roster up to the 3rd game of the season by contacting the league president
12. Final rosters must contain a minimum of (8) players and a maximum of (15).
13. Play with 9 defensive players (3 outfielders).
14. No infield warm-up is permitted after the first inning by coaches.
15. A team will be given one (1) warning for a player throwing a helmet or bat; every additional incidence will result in an out, regardless of which player is guilty.
16. An umpire can eject a player if he feels they intentionally tried to injure another player.
17. An umpire may call a player out for throwing the bat after one team warning.
18. Play will be stopped if a player is obviously injured and the umpire will place the runners to their respective bases. (Safety of the child comes first!)
19. Playing Field: Pitching: 40ft. from the back corner of home plate to front edge of the pitching rubber. Base Path: 60ft. Eight (8) foot radius pitching circle rule WILL apply.
20. A pitcher entering the inning for the first time will be allowed 5 warm up pitches. A pitcher re-entering will be allowed 3 warm up pitches. A pitcher will be allowed one extra inning in the event of extra innings. The maximum number of innings a player may pitch is 4 per game. Any delivery of a pitch will constitute an inning pitch. **Pitchers may re-enter as a pitcher.
21. If a pitcher hits 3 batters in an inning or 4 in a game he will be removed and not allowed to re-enter the game as a pitcher.
22. A coach may make two mound visits. On the third trip, the pitcher must be removed.
23. No intentional walks will be allowed. All batters must be pitched to. The intent of this rule is to prevent automatic placement of batter on first base.
24. The batter can run on a dropped 3rd strike according to softball rules.
25. Bunting/Slap Bunting is permitted.
26. All runners must slide if a play is being made on them at a base. Sliding head first is strictly prohibited and constitutes an automatic out. When there is no play (at any base) the catcher or fielder shall leave the base path open. The slide rule is not in effect in this instance.
27. 7 runs per inning limit. This includes the last inning. In the event that the final inning cannot result in a lead change, the winning team must complete the final defensive inning.
28. Run Rule: 15 run after 4 innings and 12 runs after 5 innings. A game will be called and considered official if a team is ahead by fifteen(15) or more runs after three (3) complete innings (2 ½ innings with the home team leading) etc.
29. Chanting and singing will be permitted on the field and in the dugout. Team cannot direct singing or chanting towards the opposing team. Stomping on benches or banging on fences will not be permitted. Hanging onto or climbing the backstops or fences is strictly prohibited.

D. COACHES

1. Coaches must stay inside dugout, unless you are coaching a base or time is called (per OHSAA rule)
2. No manager or coach shall direct any remark to or call any opposing player by name for the purpose of distracting that player while the game is in progress.
3. Any manager, coach, umpire or team member creating a disturbance, using profane or insulting language, or displaying any other form of unsportsmanlike conduct during the warm-up, game, or immediately following a game, may be suspended from any further

participation, in any capacity, for the year involved. This includes parents. Any suspension is subject to review by respective associations' boards.

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E. DELAYS/POSTPONEMENT

1. When games are postponed for any reason, attempts are typically made, but we may or may not finish or reschedule the game.
2. Games once started but suspended because of darkness or rain, prior to being an official game may be completed at a later date. Play will resume from the same point that play was suspended. The same line-ups will take the field as were in use at the time of suspension. The home team scorebook will be official in case of disputes.
3. An on duty board member of the host association will be the sole judge of whether a game will be postponed