

DAVIESS COUNTY FASTPITCH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION GOVERNING RULES

(Updated 4/22/2022)

Article 1: Purpose-

To encourage girls with fundamentals of fastpitch softball as fielding, batting and throwing and staying in shape physically

Article 2: Eligibility-

A player's age is dictated by their age on January 1st of the year in which she is registering (no exceptions can be made for over-aged girls).

Article 3: Team Rosters-

The roster and fees of all girls must be turned in prior to the first game. Any roster changes after the first game is ok but must be turned into league president. All players must play in 30% of played games to be eligible for the tournament.

Article 4: Equipment-

Mandatory equipment is catcher's helmet, shin guards and chest protector in all age groups. All batting helmets must be equipped with a facemask for all age groups. No metal cleats allowed for all age groups. ASA bat list will apply to all age groups. A defensive facemask is required for all infielders at all times for all age groups.

Article 5: General Playing Rules for All Divisions-

- ASA rules will apply to all four divisions (exception for rules listed in these bylaws)
- Each game will have 1 hour 15 minute time limit or 6 innings.
- 10 run mercy rule after 4 innings is the only mercy rule besides can't catch up.
- A team may play with 8 players without penalty.
- Each team may play up to 10 players on defense – 4 in the outfield.
- Rough play or unsportsmanlike conduct will result in immediate ejection if deemed necessary.
- Every player present for a game should be included in batting order – if player is late add to the bottom when they arrive.
- An inning will consist of 5 runs or 3 outs.
- Any players not able to bat when it is their turn is to be ruled out, shorthanded rule can end an inning or game.
- 12 inch ASA ball will be used in 13U and above age groups. 11 inch ASA ball will be used for 10U and 8U.
- Infield fly rule is in effect for 13U and above age groups.
- Unlimited base stealing will be allowed for 13U and above age groups, One base per pitch for 10U. Runner may leave when ball leaves pitchers hand. Exception – 8U cannot leave the base until ball is hit.
- 3rd strike drop by catcher is in effect for 13U and above.
- 43 ft pitching distance for 14U and above, 40 ft for 12U and 35 ft for 10U.
- Game can end in a tie.
- Tournament – single elimination seeded tournament.

Article 6: Special 8U Coach-Pitch-

Each batter will receive up to six pitches. A missed third swing will result in an out. If a fouled 6th pitch, the batter will continue until a missed swing or a ball in play. No walks nor bunting allowed.

A coach will pitch to his own team from a distance of 20-30 feet. If a batted ball hits the pitching coach, the ball is dead and pitch is replayed. If the umpire rules the pitching coach interfered with the batted ball intentionally, the batter is out and no runners can advance. If the pitch coach interferes on a defensive play, the ball is dead and the runner being played on will be declared out and all runners must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch unless forced.

The pitch can be any speed – slow or fast.

The pitching coach must attempt to leave the field and try to pick up the bat once the batter hits the ball.

On defense, a team may place two coaches in foul territory in the outfield for the purpose of coaching the defensive players only. The defensive coach may coach any of his/her players in the same manner as he would coach from the dugout.

The umpire will call time once the defensive time or the offensive coach has stopped the progress of the lead runner. Runners will not be allowed to "jockey" between bases; they may continue to the next base or return to the last base touched. Umpire judgement is final and will not be questioned.

There will be NO infield fly rule. Runner can only advance after a hit ball.

ASA/USA approved softball bats must be used.

Infielder must play no closer to the batter than 35 feet with one player in the pitcher's position.

All outfield must be behind the base paths when the pitch is released.

Pitching coach may instruct the batters and base runners.

A 6ft radius circle starting from 35 feet from home plate will be made with chalk. Pitcher position must have one foot in the circle until the bas has been hit.

A caught fouled tip by catcher is an out on the third strike.

Article 7: Modified Bat Rule-

All bats must be ASA/USA approved with a legible ASA/USA stamp on the bat. (If you can't read it, then you can't use it) Any Bat showing up on the non-approved ASA/USA bat list will be declared illegal.

A copy of the current ASA/USA non-approved bat list is available online. Also, please reference the following ASA/USA official rules which cover non-approved or illegal bat use:

Rule 7, Section 6, Article B: A batter who enters the batter's box with or is discovered using an altered, doctored, loaded, or non-approved bat shall be declared out and the coach will be disqualified from the game and the next game.

The second time a player from that team is called out for using an illegal bat, that coach is suspended for the remainder of the calendar year.