

TRI – COUNTY SOFTBALL RULES FINAL 2011

ALL AGES UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE

**THE OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES WITH THE EXCEPTIONS AND VARIATION
CONTAINED HEREIN SHALL BE THE “2011 NSA” RULE BOOK**

PLAYERS

1. LEGAL PLAYER: All players must meet age requirements by January 1, 2011, and have a signed contract in this age group unless otherwise authorized.
2. INELIGIBLE PLAYER: One who is a legal member of the league, but is ineligible to play because of rules or disciplinary action.
 - a. When an illegal or ineligible player is discovered playing in a game, it should be brought to the attention of the Home Plate Umpire immediately. PENALTY: EJECTION OF COACH and PLAYER, with COACH BEING SUSPENDED 2 GAMES.
3. If a child with a disability wishes to play, reasonable accommodations should be made and honored by each community. Safety must be considered at all times.

LENGTH of GAMES

1. All games are 1 hour and 30 minutes or 6 innings
 - a. No inning will start 1 hour and 30 minutes after actual start time
2. NO EXTRA INNINGS unless time is not out, games can end in a tie
3. If time has expired and the Home team is unable to win or tie the game due to the 6 run rule, the game is over. (10 and under or 12 and under only)
4. Maximum number of runs a 10 and under or 12 and under team can score in an inning is 6. The inning is over regardless of the number of outs.
5. If a game is called for any reason, it shall be a complete game if: 4 or more innings have been completed or the Home team is batting & ahead in the home half of the 4th inning the game can be called.
6. RUN SPREADS – Unless home team is ahead in the bottom half of the inning noted.
 - 15 runs after 3 completed innings
 - 10 runs after 4 completed innings
 - 8 runs after 5 completed innings
7. No game shall start after 9:00pm

PLAYING RULES 10 & Under Only- ENTIRE PAGE

Players participating in the Tri-County 10 and Under League are not permitted to play in any other league team or tournament team while league and/or tournament play is going on in Tri-County. Unless the player is willing to move up 1 age group above the age group they are playing in for tri-county. If there is no team in that player's town, they will be allowed to play on a team in which the town is closest to. Or the player's entire team will be allowed to move up. If a player is found to have played in with another league team or tournament team while playing in Tri-County and they did not use the "move up" option that player shall be suspended for the remainder of the season. If the coach is found to have known about the player playing they shall be suspended for the remainder of the season and put on 1 yr probation. If more than one player is in violation of this rule the team shall forfeit all games and be put on probation for 1 yr. Infraction of any of the eligibility rules can and will result in forfeiture of games, and/or expulsion of managers, coaches or players, and any other action deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to review any special situation and, if in the best interest of the program and/or player, may declare a player eligible or ineligible

A. NO STEALING IS ALLOWED

1. Once a batter reaches base and the play is over, runners must not leave the base until the pitcher delivers the pitch (when the ball leaves the pitchers hand). If she does so she will be called out. And the play will be dead. If while off the base, the runner is played upon and the ball is missed or overthrown, the runner must return to the base to tag up before advancing to the next base, the runner can only advance one base per pitch when moving up on a passed ball or being played on. They must remain on the base until the pitcher releases the next pitch.

2. A batter upon drawing a base on balls may not round 1st base and attempt to advance to 2nd base. She must stay on the base until the pitcher delivers the next pitch,(that is, until the pitch leaves the pitcher's hand), or be called out.

A runner on 3rd can score ONLY under the following conditions

1. Batted Ball
2. Base on Balls or hit batter with bases loaded
3. If a thrown ball leaves field of play
4. If a play is made on a runner, that had been on 3rd at least 1 pitch, the runner may advance at the players risk of being tagged out.

PITCHING RULES

In this age group only, when a pitcher pitches an illegal pitch, the Umpire shall call "Illegal Pitch" and then show and tell the pitcher and Coach why the pitch was illegal. There will be no penalty for these pitches. And after 6 illegal pitches in a game, the pitcher will be replaced.

D. Pitching distance is 32ft

E. Use 11" softballs PROVIDED BY TRI COUNTY

PLAYING RULES ALL AGES

- A. ALL HELMETS MUST HAVE FACEMASK (Properly installed (this means all screws attached in the proper manner)) Batters, on deck hitters, base runners and players coaching bases must wear batting helmets. Helmets must not be intentionally removed by players until they have reached the dugout. After 1st warning, an out will be called. Any player warming up pitcher must wear a mask, even in the bullpen.
- B. A team may use 4 outfielders behind the bases
- C. No jewelry: except for medical alert items
- D. Each team must have 7 players to play a game. Teams can play with 10 players on defense. There will be NO out for lack of a full roster. Failure to field a team within 10 minutes of scheduled time will be a forfeit.
- E. All players present at game, must be in a designated position in batting order and by the end of the 3rd inning must have played at least 1 inning on defense, and if 4 or more innings are played, must have played at least 2 innings on defense. If a team fails to do so: a forfeit will be called.
Players arriving late are to be added to the end of the batting order and must play on defense. SUBSTITUTIONS must be reported to scorekeepers, by coaches.
- F. After 1st warning for thrown bats, an out will be declared and the play will be dead.
- G. A courtesy runner (Player that made the last out) may only be used once per game for a player and only for an injury. If the injured player returns to play, he/she must re-enter in their original batting order, if they are unable to continue NO OUT will be recorded.
- H. THERE IS NO MUST SLIDE RULE!!
- I. Time outs can only last 3 minutes and each coach is allowed 2 per game, to discuss a written rule with the umpire. (THE COACH MUST HAVE A COPY OF THE RULES IN HAND).NOT A JUDGEMENT CALL. No time will be added to actual game time.
- J. Any person at a Tri-County Event that uses obscene or profane language or aggressive tempers toward anyone is subject to ejection from that game and future games as to be determined by the Tri-County Board. This includes but is not limited to, arguing, showing signs of temper, criticizing in a negative manner or fighting with players, coaches, umpires, league officials, or other spectators. .
- K. Jeering, chanting, or noise making in a negative manner by anyone with the intent to distract players of any team shall not be permitted. At the umpires' discretion, the person and/or persons will be warned for the first offense and will be subject to ejection for repeated offenses.
- L. Distance between bases is 60ft
- M. Home plate umpire has final say on all disputes, NO PROTESTS.
- N. Use 12" softballs PROVIDED BY TRI-COUNTY 12U & 16U ONLY

Pitching distance is 43 feet for 16 and Under

Pitching distance is 40 feet for 12 and Under

Pitching distance is 32 feet for 10 and Under