

JOHNSTON WOMEN'S SOFTBALL - 2026 LEAGUE RULES

ANY RULES NOT SPECIFIED IN THIS DOCUMENT DEFER TO THE 2019 USSSA RULE BOOK -
https://usssa.com/docs/2026/SP_RuleBook_21.pdf

RULE 1 – EQUIPMENT

- A. All USSSA certified bats will be allowed. Please see the current USSSA mark on page 10 of the 2021 USSSA Slow Pitch Rule Book - https://usssa.com/docs/2026/SP_RuleBook_26.pdf
- B. Metal spikes are not allowed
- C. Teams must have matching uniforms. At a minimum, that consists of the same shirt with a unique number for each player. Uniform rules go into effect on June 1, 2026.
- D. Game Balls – Only USSSA 11” Classic W balls may be used. Home team shall supply one new ball per each game. The visiting team shall supply a new ball or a good condition used ball. Each team is responsible for supply additional balls good condition balls as necessary.

RULE 2 – THE GAME

- A. A 10 minute grace period will be allowed for first game only. If grace period is used, that game will played with a 65 minute time limit from time the game was intended to begin. Games after the first game of the night will start immediately after the end of the preceding game. All games will have a 65-minute time limit (finish the inning).
- B. Game forfeits
 - 1. The forfeiting team will be responsible to pay for both umpires fees (see below) and the scorers fee (\$20.00).
 - 2. Multiple forfeits by the same team may result in being prohibited from the league playoffs or removal from the league at the commissioner’s discretion
 - 3. If you cannot play a scheduled game, please notify the league commissioner at least 24 hours in advance. If notice is given less than 24 hours in advance, you may still be responsible for umpire and scorer fees.
- C. Legal pitch height will be at least 6 feet, with a maximum of 10 feet, measured from the ground.
- D. A 3-2 count will be used. A batter walks on the 3rd ball and is out on the 2nd strike.
- E. Batter will be declared out on the 2nd foul ball after the first strike. (“One to waste”)
- F. Courtesy runners will be allowed, once per inning. The courtesy runner will be the player who was the last recorded out.
- G. No infield warm-up balls will be allowed after the second inning.
- H. Home run rule - 3 home runs per game per team (progressive up to 5 maximum). An out-of-the park home run after the maximum number allowed will be an out.
- I. Run Rules - 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings, 12 runs after 5 innings.
 - 1. In the event that the visitor team scores to go ahead by the previous innings run rule (e.g. visitors go ahead by 15 runs in the top of the 5th inning), the game will end without the home team batting.
- J. A game called by the umpire, during regular season play, which cannot be resumed within 30 minutes, may be regulation if four or more innings have been played or if the team second at bat has scored as many or more runs during the un- completed fourth inning.
- K. The winning team must contact the league commissioner with the score of their game.

RULE 3 – PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTES

- A. Rosters
 - 1. Players must be 18 years of age or older.
 - 2. Preliminary roster must be submitted to commissioner prior to first game.
 - 3. Final roster is due to league commissioner on June 1, 2026, after which no other roster changes may be made.
- B. If a team has 9 players at starting time, the game must start. A team cannot play with less than 9 players
 - 1. A team may play or continue a game with 9 players. However, the league also allows for any late arriving players to be added to the game last in the batting order and immediately into the field without penalty.
- C. Teams will play a continuous batting order of all legal players on the roster in attendance.
 - 1. If a player leaves the game due to injury or ejection, their spot in the batting order will not be an out.

RULE 4 – UMPIRES

- A. Umpires will be paid \$32 per umpire for two umpires, or \$48 per umpire for one umpire.
- B. Texas Swear Rule. Any player who used inappropriate language, regardless of the intent, is subject to his team being assessed one out when on offense.
 - 1. If a team is on offense when the infraction occurs, an out will be immediately called. If the infraction occurs on the 3rd out, then the team will come to bat the next inning with one out already declared. The person scheduled to bat will be out.
 - 2. If the team is on defense when the infraction occurs, an out will be called when the offending teams comes to bat the next inning. The person scheduled to bat will be the out.
- C. Protests are based on misapplication of USSSA or league rules only
 - 1. The protesting team must notify the umpire, scorer, and opposing coach of the protest before the next pitch.
 - 2. Protests must be submitted in writing within 48 hours of game in which protest is lodged.
 - 3. Protests will be heard and acted upon by the league commissioner and the state and local Umpires in Chief.
 - 4. Each protest must be accompanied with a \$30.00 fee and will be returned if protest is upheld.

RULE 5 - MISCELLANEOUS

- A. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on any town property before, during, or after games.
- B. Batting practice is not allowed on the field before games.
- C. No children under the age of 18 are allowed in dugouts or on playing field — no bat boys or bat girls allowed.
- D. Teams can and will be held responsible for the actions of their fans.
- E. Player conduct - Managers and coaches are responsible for players' conduct & behavior. It is expected that every coach and player conduct himself in a responsible manner. Any action by a coach, player or spectator which falls in the following categories will result in ejection and 3-game suspension:
 - 1. Making a mockery of the game
 - 2. Fighting
 - 3. Arguing with official, opposing players, coaches, or fans,
 - 4. Unsportsmanlike conduct or creating an unsafe playing conditionAny player, manager or coach ejected from a game will not be allowed to participate in the next 3 games. A second ejection shall result in a league suspension for 1 year from date. If the action of a player or manager warrants greater penalty such penalty will be applied at the discretion of the league commissioner. Umpires have the authority to eject a team or player before, during, and after a game.
- F. In the event of a tie for first place, the following tie breaker will apply.
 - 1. If between 2 teams, how they fared against one another.
 - 2. If more than two teams – a coin flip will break the tie. All teams will be declared co-champions

*Only 2 non players will be allowed in the dugout and/or on the field to coach bases. This includes non players who act as a coach or scorekeeper. All other adults should be outside the fence.