

Sanger Softball Association

GIRLS SOFTBALL RULES

agreed upon June 2017

These rules govern Girls Softball leagues held in Sanger, Denton, Valley View, Argyle, Pilot Point, Justin, and Ponder.
In addition to the current year USSSA Girls Fast Pitch Softball Rules and Regulations, teams will abide by the following:

Fast Pitch - 12U and 14U

Playing Field:

- Bases will be 60' apart and the official pitching rubber will be 40' from home plate for 12u and 43' for 14u.

Equipment:

- The official ball shall be a 12" fast pitch softball with a .47 core.
- Catchers are required to wear full protective headgear, mask, chest protector and shin guards.
- **No jewelry**

Game Play:

- Games shall be limited to 75 minutes. No new inning shall start after time has expired. The home team will be allowed to bat and finish the inning, if they are tied with or losing within 6 runs of the visitor. Games that end in a tie will not go into extra innings.
- An offensive team will be allowed to score a maximum of (6) six runs per inning.
- Nine (9) defensive players are allowed on the field at one time. Each team is allowed (1) one pitcher, (1) one catcher and (4) four infielders.
- Teams playing with only (8) eight players will not incur an automatic out when the 9th batting position arises. A team must have at least (8) eight players to start a game.
- Overthrows, whether in foul or fair territory, will be considered live, unless the ball enters the dugout or any other area deemed out of play, in which case, each runner will automatically receive (2) two bases from the time of the throw (the base you are going to, plus 1 more). Overthrows remaining in play will be considered live, and runners may advance at their own risk of being put out.
- Once a ball is returned to the pitcher in the pitcher's circle, all base runners must either advance to the next base or return to the base they just came from immediately. Any hesitation or fake moves by the runner and they will be called out by the umpire.
- Base runners are allowed to leave the base only after the pitcher has released the ball. Base runners are allowed to steal any base and may steal home on a wild pitch or passed ball.
- Bunting is allowed.
- There is a dropped third strike provision. The batter may advance to first base upon a dropped third strike, provided that either:
 - 1st base is unoccupied and less than 2 outs exist, or
 - Whenever 2 outs exist, whether first base is occupied or not.
- A player's intentional contact with an opposing player will result in the immediate ejection of the offending player. Serious infractions may result in suspension from the league. Umpires will notify a board member of the hosting city in the event of any ejection.

Coaching Etiquette:

- Judgment calls made by the umpire are not up for appeal. Please do not argue with the umpires. This only delays the game and presents a bad image to the players and parents. The umpires have been instructed to warn any argumentative coach, player or parent (1) one time. After that the umpire has the authority to remove said person(s) from the park. Umpires will notify the hosting city of the ejection.
- Coaches cannot touch a base runner during a live ball. Penalty; 1 is a warning, 2nd time is an out.
- Coaches and players must pick up and properly dispose of paper and trash after each game.

Participation:

- **All coaches must abide by the player participation rule:** Every girl plays a minimum of 2 innings or 35 minutes of each game..
- **Teams will bat their entire roster and be allowed free defensive substitutions.**

Guest Players:

- Guest players are allowed, under the guidelines below, for purposes of avoiding forfeits and allowing kids to play ball.
- The spirit of the guest player rule is intended to allow shorthanded teams the temporary use of other league players rather than forfeit the game. This rule is not, intended to be used as a tool to exclude regular members in favor of a more highly skilled player.
- Guidelines: A coach is authorized to add up to two guest players per game, provided that:
 1. The guest players are currently registered in your own association or associations that are partnering for the season. If they are from other associations they must have individual insurance vs. team insurance
 2. The guest player has the permission of her parent(s)
 3. The guest player must wear her own team's uniform
 4. The coach must announce and identify the guest player(s) to the umpires and opposing coach prior to the start of the game
 5. Guest players can play up one age division
 6. Guest players must play outfield positions only
 7. Guest players must bat last in the batting order