

**East Wright County Fastpitch League  
10U Girls Softball Rules**

**1. Game Time & Length:**

- a. Games will be on either Monday or Wednesday evening
- b. Game time is 6:15 pm
- c. There will be (2) 65-minute games with a 5-10 minute break between games
  - i. No new inning after 65 minutes of play
  - ii. No inning can start after 8:30 pm while school is still in session
- d. A five (5) run limit per inning will be in effect for all innings

**2. Rain Delays and Rainouts:**

It is the responsibility of the home field coach to contact the visiting coach by 4:30 pm and discuss approaching inclement weather or inform of field conditions and/or current status of games due to rain, lightning or storms which could cancel the games. Both coaches will determine whether or not to makeup any cancelled games.

**3. Umpires:**

The home team is responsible for providing an umpire for the game; it does not have to be a certified umpire.

**4. Playing Field:**

It is the responsibility of the home team to provide a playable field with bases including an orange safety base at first base, a home plate, a pitching rubber, chalked foul lines, and a pitching circle.

- a. Distance between bases is 60 feet
- b. Pitching distance is 35 feet (measured from the front of the rubber to the back tip of home plate)
- c. Pitching circle should be 16' in diameter

**5. Equipment:**

- a. Balls: The home team is responsible for supplying (1) new and (1) good used regulation 11-inch softball (optic yellow with red stitching) per night
- b. Protective Gear:
  - i. All players must wear NOCSAE approved batting helmets with NOCSAE approved facemasks; chin straps are optional, but if worn should be tight fitting
  - ii. Catchers must wear a catcher's helmet/mask, chest protector and shin guards during games
  - iii. Any player warming up a pitcher must wear a catcher's helmet/mask – batting helmets are not allowed
  - iv. Pitchers are encouraged to wear a protective face mask.

**6. Pitching:**

Pitching shall be done by a defensive player. A pitcher will pitch a maximum of four pitches ruled balls to the batter. After ball four the batting team's coach will step in to pitch the remaining of the strikes. **All pitches by the coach are counted as strikes, with the exception of (d) below;** coach pitches must be underhand and have no arc. Strike count will continue as was left off with the pitcher. The pitcher must remain within the pitching circle while a coach is pitching. The pitcher will then resume with the next batter.

- a. 3 strikes is an out, a foul balls are permitted and players cannot strike out on a foul ball. (Standard fastpitch rules.)
- b. There will be no walks; this rule is to encourage the girls to hit the ball during their at bat
- c. Hit by pitch – if the batter is hit by a pitched ball that is in the air at the time of contact (does not hit the ground first), the batter may take 1<sup>st</sup> base or has the option to continue her at bat. The batter should make an attempt to get out of the way of the pitch.
- d. **If 2 strikes, 4 balls on the batter**, coaches will be allowed an extra pitch if the first pitch by the coach is an obvious ball. The umpire will stay within the box to make the call. The intent is so the coach does not have to throw a perfect pitch off of the bench. If the batter swings, then it's a strikeout. Coaches should remind the batter that they are allowed 2 pitches, "swing at the good one". Rule does not apply if less than 2 strikes.
- e. If a batted ball hits the pitching coach, the ball remains in play, and no interference should be called.
- f. Girls pitching are encouraged to start pitching with both feet touching the rubber. Developing pitchers are allowed to start 1-2 feet off the rubber (so to focus on and allow getting the ball over home plate).

**7. Base Running:**

- a. On a batted ball, base runners may continue to run until they are tagged or forced out or the ball is in the possession of the pitcher. Base runners in between bases when the ball is secured by the pitcher shall return to the base they last touched.
- b. Base runners may advance one base on an overthrow when the ball has been a batted ball (not stolen base). Once the runners have advanced one base on an overthrow the play is dead and they cannot advance even if additional misplays occur.
- c. Runner may only score on a batted ball (ball hit into play).

**8. Stealing Bases:**

- a. Batter will not be allowed to take first base on a dropped third strike
- b. Batter may not attempt to take second base on a walk
- c. Base runners may lead off and steal once the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- d. Base runners may only steal one base per pitch
- e. Base runners may not steal home
- f. Base runners may not steal on a coach-pitched ball.

**9. Miscellaneous Rules:**

- a. The infield fly rule will not be enforced on any play
- b. The on-deck batter should stand behind the player at bat
- c. Bunting is allowed.
- d. Any batted ball which first comes in contact with a base runner shall result in the base runner being called out
- e. Teams are allowed to have a maximum of 9 defensive players on the field – outfielders must play at least 10' beyond the baseline
- f. Outfielders should play outfield only and not cover bases
- g. Each team will bat the entire roster. **There should be one batting lineup for the night which means that the 2<sup>nd</sup> game should start with the next person that was due up to bat at the end of the first game**
- h. The score for each game will be kept by both teams; home team book is the official book
- i. No player shall sit out of a game for more than two consecutive innings
- j. Up to (2) coaches are allowed to be in the outfield for instructional purposes only and should use their best judgment to not disrupt the flow of the game.

**10. Sportsmanship:**

This is a *fun, recreational league* intended to encourage and teach the development of softball skills to the girls. It is an expectation to encourage good sportsmanship and show respect for all players, coaches, parents and officials at every game. Those that can not conduct their behavior in a respectful manner shall be subject to suspension or expulsion from the league upon the majority vote of the 10U coordinators from each of the communities. It is recommended you review these rules with your players as well as parents.