



Franklin Girls Softball Association (FGSA) Playing Rules Juniors Division

All play is governed by USA Rules except as noted below. In addition, certain USA Rules are noted for emphasis.

Goal

The primary objective of the Juniors Division is to continue increasing the level of competition to keep pace with the players abilities while still stressing fun and good sportsmanship.

· Overview

The Junior division will increase the competition level from the Minors Division to keep pace with the players abilities. Fundamentals will still be stressed, but situational play will be introduced in practices as well. Standings are kept and the end of the season will feature a double elimination tournament at its conclusion.

Players will pitch from 40 feet with a 12-inch ball. Games will be 6 innings and will often finish in under two hours. Runners can steal 2nd and 3rd, but there is no stealing of home. Teams will play games twice a week, once on a weeknight and once on Saturday. They will also have an additional practice during the week at the coach's discretion and pending field availability.

Teams will be divided up based on skill level to make sure teams are as even as possible. There may be a mandatory skills session that everyone in Juniors would be required to attend in the March timeframe.

· Days and Times

Weekday practice on Tuesdays

Weekend games (Saturdays) at 9:00 AM EST

· Dimensions

12-inch hard softball

40-foot pitching distance

· Structure

Season consists of a minimum of 10 games (5 weekday/5 Saturdays)

Double elimination playoffs (if time allows)

Sanctioned umpires and 1 game ball provided by each team.

· Practice

Individual team practices by coach, 1x per week

Division Director will work with coaches to develop a cohesive practice plan with emphasis on development of pitchers and catchers.

· Game Play

USA Softball Rules and Regulations followed. Specific league rules are as follows.

6 inning games. No new inning to start 1 hour 40 minutes after start time.

All playoff games will be played with no time limit. International Tie Breaker will be used to decide the winner if the game is tied after 6 complete innings.

4 run limit per inning, excluding 6th or last declared inning.

Game is considered complete after 3.5 innings if home team is ahead or 4 innings if visitor is ahead.

8 players to start and end a game. A 10th player may be used in the Outfield.

12-inch Stamped ASA ball and 40 feet pitching distance.

Free substitution of players in the field

Mercy Rule: 12 runs after 5 innings

Maximum of 3 innings per pitcher. Pitchers may re-enter.

Pitchers shall be removed from pitching after directly hitting 3 batters in an inning or 5 during the game (bounced pitches will not count).

Continuous batting order. All non-injured players present will bat.

If a player becomes injured, they will skip their next at bat. Not an "out."

If a player is ejected, then subsequent at bats for the player ejected will be an "Out."

Players who arrive after the start of the game will be added to the end of the order.

Courtesy runner can be used for catcher or pitcher on record who is returning to that position the following inning. Courtesy runner is the player who was the last batter in the previous inning. and second to last batter of the previous inning if both pitcher and catcher are on base at the same time).

Runners may leave the base on release from the pitcher's hand.

Team is limited to two successful steals in an inning to home from a pitched ball.

No stealing if the team at bat is up by 10 or more runs.

No Infield fly rule in effect

Drop third strike will be in effect halfway through the season.

No Slashing.

No Slap hitting and drag bunting are allowed.

Facemasks are required for all fielders.

Base runners may advance one base on an overthrow.

No Continuation on a walk

· Special Playing Rules (all divisions)

Minimum of eight players required to start the game.

Games must start once the scheduled start time is reached and both teams have the minimum number of players.

All players bat - a continuous batting order will be used. Players who arrive after the start of the game will be added to the end of the order.

Free substitution of players in the field

All players must play an equal amount of time in the field each game. No player will be on the bench for 2 consecutive innings and all players must play a minimum of 2 innings in the infield.

Players must slide or avoid contact. All sliding rule decisions are at the discretion of the umpire.

A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher – runner shall be the last batter making an out.