

**SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA GIRLS SOFTBALL RULES
2007**

THESE RULES APPLY TO ALL AGE GROUPS

All National Federation of State High School Associations Rules will apply except for local league rules as outlined below.

Playing Equipment and Field

1. Batting helmets must have a face guard and chin-strap and be worn at all times when batting or running the bases in ages 8-13.
2. No metal spikes are allowed to be worn.
3. All bats will be legal as long as they have "Official Softball" stamped on them.
4. Bases will be 60 feet for all age groups.

Game Rules

1. All players must play a minimum of 3 outs in the field and have at least one time at bat in each game.
2. All starters, including the pitcher, may re-enter the game one time. Only the starting pitcher may re-enter as a pitcher during the game.
3. During the regular season, all players will be in the batting rotation for each team, no matter how many players each team has. There will be no change in the batting order when players are substituted into the game in a defensive position. During the tournament, teams will bat only 10 players in the 8-13 age groups and 9 players in the 14-17 age group.
4. Pitchers may pitch a total of 12 innings a week (Monday-Sunday). They may start both games of a doubleheader as long as they don't exceed 12 innings for that week. One pitch constitutes an inning pitched. Two extra innings per pitcher will be allowed when more than 3 games are played in one week.
5. A 15-run rule is in effect after 3, 4 or 5 innings of a 5, 6 or 7 inning game respectively.
6. A 7-run limit is in effect each inning. After a team has reached their seventh run during an inning, all plays are dead and the inning is ended.
7. No headfirst sliding will be allowed. Penalty will be an automatic out. Players may dive back into an occupied base.
8. If a fielder is making a play on the ball or a runner, the runner must slide or attempt to avoid contact with the fielder. No aggressive contact will be allowed. If a runner does not attempt to slide or avoid contact the runner shall be declared out. Aggressive contact can result in ejection from the game.
9. Teams must have 8 players to start a game. If a team starts with 8 players, the 9th position in the batting order will be an out until the 9th player arrives.
10. No extra inning games will be played during the regular season regardless of time limit.

**THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY TO
DESIGNATED AGE GROUPS**

8-9-10 Years Old Division (Age as of June 1)

1. 11" Reduced Injury Factor (R.I.F.) softball will be used in all games.
2. Pitching rubber will be 35 feet from home plate.
3. All illegal pitches will be dead. No balks.
4. Pitchers must be in contact with the pitching plate until the release of the ball.
5. No stealing or bunting allowed. All passed balls are dead.
6. Teams will play with four outfielders. All outfielders must be positioned at a minimum of 10 yards behind the baselines and may not move beyond this line toward the infield until the ball is hit or a pick-off attempt has been initiated.
7. Batters and base runners cannot advance on a third strike call.
8. All games will be 6 innings with a 1 hour and 45 minute time limit. No new inning may begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the start of the game.
9. Intentional walks can be declared by a coach or player.
10. There is no infield fly rule in this division.

11-12-13 Years Old Division (Age as of June 1)

1. 11" Reduced Injury Factor (R.I.F.) softball will be used in all games.
2. Pitching rubber will be 40' from home plate.
3. All illegal pitches will be dead ball plays. No balks. Pitchers must be in contact with the pitching plate until the release of the ball.
4. Pitchers must be in contact with the pitching plate until the release of the ball.
5. Stealing is allowed after the ball has crossed home plate.
6. Bunting is allowed.
7. Teams will play with 4 outfielders. All outfielders must be positioned at a minimum of 10 yards behind the baselines and may not move beyond this line toward the infield until the ball is hit or a pick-off attempt has been initiated.
8. Base runners may advance after a third called strike and the ball has crossed home plate.
9. Batters may not advance after a third strike.
All games will be 6 innings with a 1 hour and 45 minute time limit. No new inning may begin after 1 hour and 45 minute from the start of the game.
10. There is no infield fly rule in this division.

14-17 Years Old Division (Age as of June 1)

1. 12" softball will be used in all games.
2. Pitching rubber will be 40 feet from home plate.
3. Pitchers must be in contact with the pitching plate until the release of the ball.
4. Stealing is permitted after the ball has left the pitchers hand.
5. Bunting is allowed.
6. All games will be 7 innings with a 2 hour time limit. No new inning may begin after 2 hours from the start of the game.