

# RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING GIRLS FALL BALL FAST PITCH

The 2022 USA Softball official rules of play shall be followed except where amended by the following rules.

## **General Information**

1. This program is conducted by the Parks and Recreation Department Sports Section.
2. The Burbank Athletic Federation (BAF) Board of Directors shall act as an advisory board and act on all disciplinary cases and eligibility cases.
3. When more than one league within a given group, classification shall be determined by team's ability, with better teams placed in a higher league.
4. League is open to youth in 10u, 12u, 14u, and High School divisions. See back page for age chart.
5. Team residency rules do not apply to this league.

## **Manager's and Coach's Responsibilities**

1. All managers and coaches must be in good standing with the Burbank Athletic Federation.
2. Managers and coaches must appear on the official Team Roster or they will not be allowed to be in the dugout.
3. Managers are directly responsible to the Burbank Athletic Federation and the Parks and Recreation Department for league fees, rosters, team business and conduct of players, coaches, parents, and spectators.
4. Managers are responsible for Players' Medical Consent Forms and injury/accident forms being filled out and returned to the Sports Office in a timely manner.
5. Managers are responsible for keeping unauthorized persons off the team bench and controlling the conduct of their team at all times.
6. It is the manager's responsibility to prevent players from leaving the field and mingling with the spectators during the game.
7. Team managers will be responsible for keeping their teams off the general playing area until the conclusion of the preceding game.
8. Managers are responsible for the proper care and immediate return of all Parks and Recreation Department equipment and all sponsor's uniforms and equipment.
9. Managers are responsible for the conduct of their team's spectators and will take all necessary steps to inform them of the rules, purposes and philosophy of the Girls Fall Ball Fast Pitch Program.
10. Managers, coaches and players may not smoke in any facility furnished by the Burbank Parks and Recreation Department for practices or games.
11. Coaches will refrain from verbally coaching their players in a negative manner while they are on the field. Discretion of the umpire or the Sports Office Staff will be used to handle the situation.
12. All coaches shall be required to comply with the requirements established by the Parks and Recreation Department for background checks for volunteers.
13. Managers must keep track of players' substitution and that all players are receiving adequate playing time.
14. All teams must have a responsible adult at all games and practices.
15. No team shall bear the name of, or any trade name of, any alcoholic beverage. All team names are subject to Sports Office approval. If no team name is turned in prior to the printing of the league schedule, the last name of the manager will appear on the schedule.

## Rosters

1. A roster must be managed online using the Coach's Portal on CivicRec. All players and coaches must register and be listed on the team's online roster to be eligible for play.
2. A pitcher may only pitch for one team. Pitchers must pitch in at least 4 games during the regular season to be eligible to pitch in play-off games and/or end of the season tournament games. To add a pitcher to the roster once the season has begun, the manager must have a waiver signed by every team in their division and turned in to the Sports Staff to be eligible. Waivers are available at the Sports Office.
3. Open roster applies during the regular season only.
4. **You must use your own rostered players before borrowing players.** Borrowed players are only eligible to play on teams that play in the same age division in which their regular team plays. A team may borrow only enough players to give them nine players for the game, and once a rostered player arrives, the late arriving player must be substituted for the borrowed player.
5. A borrowed player is not eligible to pitch. Borrowed players can only play catcher or in the outfield.
6. Cannot borrow more than 4 players from any team. Borrowed players must be placed at the end of the batting lineup.
7. **\*Open roster does not apply for the season ending tournament.**
8. In any case where participant has deliberately falsified their record, those games in which she participated will be forfeited and the player suspended.
9. Any player who puts her signature on two different rosters shall be automatically suspended until their case is brought before the Burbank Athletic Federation Board.
10. All rosters are subject to approval by the Sports Office with the intention of maintaining the league on an even and competitive scale.
11. Managers are responsible for eligibility of all names on their roster.

## Players

1. Players may only play for one team in the City of Burbank Parks and Recreation Department League regardless of age division. (Example: You cannot play on a 10U and also on a 12U team.)
2. To play in the High School Division, a player must be **18 years or younger** and **currently enrolled** in high school or middle school.
3. All players must be in good standing with the Burbank Athletic Federation.
4. After league play starts, no player may be added except by waiver.
5. Copies of birth certificates must be on hand at all times with the team manager.

## Waivers

1. After the roster deadline, a player may be added only through use of the waiver system.
2. Waiver forms are issued by the Sports Office only at the specific request of a manager, never in advance. Each waiver form must have the signature of the supervisor before circulation for manager's signature.
3. Waivers must be signed by managers in the same classification as the team picking up the new player.
4. If a player wishes to transfer from one Burbank team to another, the player must secure a written release by his/her original team manager. Manager must sign before release can be signed by other team managers.
5. A waived player may begin to play as soon as Sports Office staff member accepts the completed waiver form prior to next league game starting time. **No** waivers will be accepted after the third week of league play.
6. **WARNING:** Any manager who is asked by another manager to sign a waiver is free to sign or not sign. The signature of a Sports Office staff member on the form does not constitute approval of waiver request.

## Team Classification

1. Teams will be classified according to age.
2. Divisions are as follows: 10u, 12u, 14u, and High School.

## **Protests**

1. All protests will be settled immediately at the game site. Play will be stopped, and the two umpires and the sports staff will rule on the protest. Their decision is final. The manager must protest the game prior to the next pitch.

## **Forfeited Games**

1. Teams may play with as few as 7 players. No outs will be assessed for playing short. (Ex. if you have 8 players you will not need to take the out for the 9th position).
2. A 10-minute grace period shall be in effect to enable a team to field enough players to play the game.
3. Forfeited games will count as a loss to a team. A team refusing to play after having received instructions from the umpire to do so, shall be declared to have forfeited the game (score 7-0).
4. The 10-minute grace period is considered part of the game time.

## **Pre-Game Plate Meeting**

1. At the start of the game, each team shall designate their Head Coach.
2. The Head Coach shall meet with the umpires prior to the start of the game to discuss ground rules, official start time, any special rules that are pertinent to the game.
3. Plate Umpire shall announce game time after the pre-game meeting.
4. Home team will be determined by league schedule.
5. Teams may occupy the dugouts on a first come first serve basis for each game.
6. If a team is playing a doubleheader, they will not be required to change dugouts.
7. The umpires will review all ground rules before game time. These will become the official ground rules for the game. Any situations not covered are left to the discretion of the plate umpire. It would be in the manager's best interest to ask pertinent questions at the plate meeting.

## **Regulation Game**

1. All league games will have a time limit of 1 hour and 20 minutes (must complete the inning) or 7 innings, whichever comes first.
2. All tournament games will have a time limit of 1 hour 20 minutes (must complete the inning) or 7 innings, whichever comes first.
3. During league play, if after 7 innings or the completion of an inning after the time limit and the game score is tied, the game will remain a tie.
4. During tournament play, if after 7 innings or the completion of an inning after the time limit and the game score is tied, the game will continue using the international tiebreaker.
  - a. The last complete batter of the previous inning will be placed on second base and the new inning will begin.
  - b. This procedure will be followed for each inning until a winner is determined after the completion of a complete inning.
5. Mercy rules shall apply if a team is ahead by 15 runs or more after 3 innings (2½ if the home team is ahead) or by 10 runs or more after 4 innings (3½ if the home team is ahead) or by 8 runs or more after 5 innings (4½ if the home team is ahead).
6. No changes will be made the schedule.

## **Conferences**

1. Defensive- There shall be only 3 charged defensive conferences between the manager and any of the defensive players in a 7-inning game. The 4th Defensive Conference will result in the removal of the pitcher for the remainder of the game. The pitcher may play any defensive position but cannot pitch again. Coming out for an injured player will not be considered a charged conference.
2. Offensive- Only 1 offensive conference per ½ inning while the team is at bat. Coach may call time and talk to the batter and/or runners.

### **Batting Order**

1. During League Play, teams may bat all players and have unlimited substitution or may bat using the DP/Flex rule or bat a straight nine with substitutions.
2. Exception: If using free substitution, a courtesy runner can only be used for an injured player and must be the last out.
3. Managers may choose to bat through the line-up and have free substitution in the field as an option to a standard line-up.
4. Managers must specify to the umpire prior to the game which option they have chosen. Team must stay with the option they have chosen for the entire game.
5. If a player leaves the game, even if by injury, they must take an out when that player's turn at bat comes up and the player is not available to bat.
6. Late arriving players must be added to the bottom of the line-up regardless of what inning it is or what batter is due up next. A courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher and catcher, even when batting through the line-up, or if another player is injured during, the game and both managers agree on using a courtesy runner for that player. Courtesy runner must be the last out.

### **Pitching**

1. Managers are responsible for reporting all pitching changes to the plate umpire.
2. Courtesy runner may be used for the last pitcher of record during the game.

### **Equipment**

1. The following game balls will be used for each age group:
  - a. 10U- 11inch Optic Yellow RIF10, .47 COR
  - b. 12 U and High School- 12inch Optic Yellow Softball.47 COR
2. Both teams will furnish one new ball for the game.
3. If both balls are lost during the course of the game, the home team shall furnish the third suitable ball and the visiting team the fourth, etc.

### **Bat Requirements**

1. Bats must be in conformance with Official USA Softball standards.
2. For list of legal bats visit: <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball>
3. Altered Bats will not be allowed at any time.
4. Bats shall be free of burs, dents, cracks, sharp edges and rattles.
5. Bats manufactured prior to 2000 are at the sole discretion of the umpire.

### **Helmets- Shoes-Protective Gear**

1. All players must wear a batting helmet that is NOSCE approved and be free from cracks and the face guard must be tightly secured to the helmet.
2. Catchers must wear a helmet that is approved for catching.
3. 10U and 12U must wear soft or hard rubber cleats.
4. 14U and High School may wear metal cleats.

## Distances and Softballs



1. The umpire and/or Sports Staff will have authority to determine legality of balls and equipment.

Age Division	Pitching Distance	Base Distance	Softball
10 & Under	35'	60'	11" Rawlings, Worth, Diamond RIF 10 Yellow optic
12 & Under	40'	60'	12" Yellow optic .47 core
14 & HS Divisions	43'	60'	12" Yellow optic .47 core

## Special Rules – All Divisions

1. You must use your own rostered players before borrowing players.
2. The maximum number of players a team can borrow is 4 players from any team.
3. Players can only be registered and play for 1 team.
4. Home Team will be the official scorer of the game.
5. Protest- Will be settled immediately by the umpires/UIC and sports staff if needed. Protest for judgment calls will not be allowed.
6. Coaches must have copies of birth certificates on hand at all times.
7. Forfeiting teams should contact the Sports Office before game time as a courtesy to the other teams and staff, if possible.
8. The forfeiting team is responsible for paying an administrative fee of \$10 for each forfeit. The fees must be paid prior to the next team's next scheduled game.
9. Eligible courtesy runners may be used for the catcher and pitcher.

## Softball Age Determination Chart

 <b>Softball Age Determination Chart</b> 		Season: January 1-December 31							
Season	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
<b>Birth Year</b>									
2020									
2019									
2018									
2017									
2016									
2015									
2014								10U	
2013							10U	10U	
2012						10U	10U	12U	
2011					10U	10U	12U	12U	
2010				10U	10U	12U	12U	14U	
2009			10U	10U	12U	12U	14U	14U	
2008		10U	10U	12U	12U	14U	14U	16U	
2007	10U	10U	12U	12U	14U	14U	16U	16U	
2006	10U	12U	12U	14U	14U	16U	16U	18U	
2005	12U	12U	14U	14U	16U	16U	18U	18U	
2004	12U	14U	14U	16U	16U	18U	18U		
2003	14U	14U	16U	16U	18U	18U			
2002	14U	16U	16U	18U	18U				
2001	16U	16U	18U	18U					
2000	16U	18U	18U						
1999	18U	18U							
1998	18U								