

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING GIRLS FALL BALL FAST PITCH

The Official 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 age eligibility section on page 5.
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 maintaining each player's Medical Consent Form throughout the season. Medical Consent Forms are to remain in the manager's possession at all practices and games.
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
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. Pitchers must appear as a pitcher in at least four regular season games to be eligible to pitch in postseason tournament play. To add a pitcher to a team's roster after the regular season has begun, the manager must obtain an approved pitcher waiver. The waiver must be signed by the manager of every team within the division and submitted to the Sports Office for approval before the player is eligible to pitch. Pitcher waiver request forms are available electronically through 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. Copies of birth certificates must be on hand at all times with the team manager.

Waivers

1. After the roster deadline, players may only be added to a team through the waiver process.
2. The manager requesting to add a player must complete the Waiver Request Form and submit it to the Sports Office via email.
3. Upon receipt, the Sports Office will review the request and distribute the waiver electronically to the managers within the same division for their consideration. Managers may choose to approve or deny the request. Approval of a waiver is voluntary and is not required.
4. If a player wishes to transfer from one team to another, the player's current manager must provide written confirmation to the Sports Office via email releasing the player before the waiver process can begin.
5. Once all required manager responses have been received and the waiver is approved by the Sports Office, the player may be added to the new team's roster.
6. After approval, the player must complete registration through CivicRec, including all required forms and applicable fees, before being added to the official roster.
7. Once the waiver has been approved by the Sports Office and the player has completed the CivicRec registration process, the player is eligible to participate in the team's next scheduled league game.
8. All waiver requests must be submitted to the Sports Office prior to the start of Week 5 of the regular

season. No waiver requests will be accepted after that time.

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 will begin at the scheduled game time to allow a team to field enough players.
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.
5. If a team records more than Four (4) forfeits during the season, that team will forfeit their eligibility to participate in any playoff or tournament format games at the end of the season.

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. All league schedules are considered final once they have been published. No schedule changes, including game dates, times, or locations, will be made after the official schedule has been released, except under extraordinary circumstances as determined by the Sports Office.

Conferences

1. Defensive Conferences- 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 Conferences- 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 or catcher, including when teams are batting through the lineup. A courtesy runner may also be used for an injured player during the game, provided both managers agree. The courtesy runner shall be the most recent batter who is not currently occupying a base

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. 12U 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 NOSACE (National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment) 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. Players can only be registered and play for 1 team.
3. Home Team will be the official scorer of the game.
4. Protest- Will be settled immediately by the umpires/UIC and sports staff if needed. Protest for judgment calls will not be allowed.
5. Coaches must have copies of birth certificates on hand at all times.
6. Forfeiting teams should contact the Sports Office before game time as a courtesy to the other teams and staff, if possible.
7. 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.

Age Eligibility

1. Player eligibility for Fall Ball shall be determined using the **USA Softball age determination date of August 31 of the year preceding the current season.**
2. A player's age on that date determines the division in which they are eligible to participate.
3. Coaches are responsible for ensuring all players meet the age eligibility requirements for their respective division.
4. The Burbank Parks & Recreation Sports Office reserves the right to verify a player's age and eligibility at any time during the season.
5. Coaches and families are encouraged to use the USA Softball Age Calculator for additional clarification regarding age eligibility. The calculator is available on the USA Softball Memberships page:
<https://www.usasoftball.com/play-usa-softball/memberships/>