

NorCal Rules Summary for Spring Season - Updated & Released 2024

	8-Under	10-Under	12-Under	14-under/16-under
Baseline Distance	60 feet	60 feet	60 feet	60 feet
Pitching Distance	30 feet	35 feet	40 feet	43 feet
Softball Size	10" RIF 1 USA SOFTBALL approved	11" RIF 10 or 11" USA SOFTBALL approved	12" USA SOFTBALL approved	12" USA SOFTBALL approved
Players to Start Game	8 players / Less than 8, forfeit after 10 min	8 players / Less than 8, forfeit after 10 min	8 players / Less than 8, forfeit after 10 min	8 players / Less than 8, forfeit after 10 min
Spring Season & Fall Ball Game Time	No new inning after 1:30 Fall Ball-No new 1 hr 20mins	No new inning after 1:30 Fall Ball-No new 1 hr 20mins	No new inning after 1:30 Fall Ball-No new 1 hr 20mins	No new inning after 1:30 Fall Ball - No new 1 hr 20mins
Innings per Game	6 inning game.	7 innings per game.	7 inning per game.	7 inning per game.
Season Play Tie-breaker (None)	Game ends in a tie.	Game ends in a tie.	Game ends in a tie.	Game ends in a tie.
Tournament Tie-breaker	After time has expired & inning is completed, Last batter scheduled to bat that half inning will be placed on 2 nd base. If after inning is completed and game still tied, last batters scheduled to bat that half inning will be placed on 3 rd & 2 nd base for all remaining innings until there is a winner.	After time has expired & inning is completed, Last batter scheduled to bat that half inning will be placed on 2 nd base. If after inning is completed and game still tied, last batters scheduled to bat that half inning will be placed on 3 rd & 2 nd base for all remaining innings until there is a winner.	After time has expired & inning is completed, Last batter scheduled to bat that half inning will be placed on 2 nd base. If after inning is completed and game still tied, last batters scheduled to bat that half inning will be placed on 3 rd & 2 nd base for all remaining innings until there is a winner.	After time has expired & inning is completed, Last batter scheduled to bat that half inning will be placed on 2 nd base. If after inning is completed and game still tied, last batters scheduled to bat that half inning will be placed on 3 rd & 2 nd base for all remaining innings until there is a winner.
Batting Requirements	Bat the roster up to 15 players.	May Bat the Line-up or only Defensive 9.	May Bat the Line-up or only Defensive 9.	May Bat the Line-up or only Defensive 9.
Defensive Players on Field of Play	10 (must have 4 outfielders)	(9) When batting the line-up, free substitution on defense with players in batting lineup	(9) When batting the line-up, free substitution on defense with players in batting lineup	(9) When batting the line-up, free substitution on defense with players in batting lineup
Pitcher	Player - Coach after 4 balls, remaining strikes. (No walks)	Player	Player	Player
Pitching Limitation	2 innings first 4 innings/ 3 innings max. per game	4 innings maximum per game	4 innings maximum per game	4 innings maximum per game
Stealing	No Lead off when ball leaves pitcher's hand.	Yes Lead off when ball leaves pitcher's hand.	Yes Lead off when ball leaves pitcher's hand.	Yes Lead off when ball leaves pitcher's hand.
Stealing Home	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mercy Rule	12 runs after 4 innings 8 runs after 5 innings	15 runs after 3 innings 12 runs after 4 innings 8 runs after 5 innings	15 runs after 3 innings 12 runs after 4 innings 8 runs after 5 innings	15 runs after 3 innings 12 runs after 4 innings 8 runs after 5 innings
Runs per inning	4 runs max per half inning	5 runs max per half inning	5 runs max per half inning	5 runs max per half inning
Dropped 3 rd strike	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Infield Fly Rule	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Courtesy Runners	For injury or Catcher. Must be last out.	Pitcher & Catcher only. anyone in lineup or sub off the bench. Cannot run for pitch & catcher in same game. If CR needs to bat, player she ran for will be out, If 3 rd out, CR will lead off next inning.	Pitcher & Catcher only. anyone in lineup or sub off the bench. Cannot run for pitch & catcher in same game. If CR needs to bat, player she ran for will be out, If 3 rd out, CR will lead off next inning.	Pitcher & Catcher only. anyone in lineup or sub off the bench. Cannot run for pitch & catcher in same game. If CR needs to bat, player she ran for will be out, If 3 rd out, CR will lead off next inning.
Max Approved Adults in Dugout	5	5	5	5
Coaches on Field	Yes, Coach pitching. If batted ball hits Coach-Pitcher, Play is Dead, Batter get 1 st Base, & all other runners advance a base only if forced to next base by the batter.	No	No	No
Bunting	Yes, Only off player-pitcher.	Yes	Yes	Yes

USA SOFTBALL rules govern all rules not covered in NorCal rules

Northern California Girls Softball Association Fall Ball Playing Options

10-UNDER / 12-UNDER / 14-UNDER / 16-UNDER

A team may play one of the following options for any Fall Ball Tournament and Fall Ball Season play game(s).
Each team must declare an option before the start of each game.

NorCal Option #1 - Bat Nine (9)/Play Nine (9) *with or without DP/FLEX

- The coach/manager may submit a batting line-up with nine players batting.
- Each additional player will be listed as a substitute below the batting lineup.
- Each player in the batting lineup will play a defensive position.
- Player reporting to the game late may be added as a substitute.
- If a batting line up drops below 8 players, a team will forfeit.
- Player reporting to the game late may be added to the batting lineup or a substitute.
- Players **NOT** in the batting lineup may **NOT** freely exchange defensive positions on the field.
- Batting order never changes.
- Substitutions coming off the bench must be reported to the umpire and placed in the lineup.
- USA Softball re-entry rule applicable for all substitutes.
- The DP/Flex option is also available.
 - * When using the DP/Flex, the DP will be listed in one of the first Nine (9) spots in the batting order.
 - *The Flex will always be listed in the Tenth (10) position.

NorCal Option #2 - Bat the Lineup Option

- The coach/manager may submit a batting lineup with up to 15 players.
- Each additional player will be listed as a substitute below the batting lineup.
- Each player in the batting lineup that does not have a defensive position will be listed as an EP (extra player).
- When batting more than nine players with no available substitutes, if an injured player is not available to bat in their place in the batting lineup, the batting order will be compressed to the number of batters in the batting order with no out recorded for the injured player unable to bat.
- Max compression to nine (9) players: If a batting lineup drops below 8 players, a team will forfeit.
- Player reporting to the game late may be added to the batting lineup or a substitute.
- Players in the batting lineup may freely exchange defensive positions on the field.
- Batting order never changes.
- Substitutions coming off the bench must be reported to the umpire and placed in the lineup.
- USA Softball reentry rule applicable for all substitutes.
- DP/Flex option is available.
 - *When using the DP/Flex in the bat the lineup option, the DP will be listed in one of the first Nine (9) spots in the batting order.
 - *The Flex will always be listed last on the lineup card after all EP's.

NorCal Courtesy Runner

- Available for pitcher and catcher only.
- CR can be any player on the lineup card, in or out of the game. The same player cannot run for both. **The CR rules will be in place for both Saturday & Sunday.**
- A Player cannot be CR for pitcher & catcher in same game.
- In the top of the first inning only, the pitcher and catcher, are identified as those players listed on the lineup sheet as pitcher and catcher. Thereafter, the pitcher and catcher are identified as the last player to have played the position on defense.
- If CR comes to bat while on base, the player she CR for would be out and player come off base to bat.
 - **Exception: If 3rd out, the CR will lead off next inning.

NorCal Season Play - Time Limits (not Fall Ball)

- No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 30 minutes from the start of the game. Any new inning started shall be finished unless another rule applies. There will be a minimum 30 minute break between games.
- **All Fall Ball Season Play games will be 1 hour 20 minutes finish the inning.**
- When time expires, if trailing team can't tie or take the lead due to maximum runs, game will end. **Finish the batter.**
- **If game is tied, game will end in a tie.**

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