

CAPO Girls Softball – Spring 2023 Rec Season

12U Division Rules

GAME DURATION: A regulation game in the 12u division will be seven (7) complete innings, or as ended by time limit (below). If the game is tied at the end of seven innings, or when the time limit has been reached, the game will end in a tie.

TIME LIMIT: Official time will be kept by the home plate umpire, or his designee. He /she will start the clock after the plate meeting. No new inning shall be started after 1 hour and 20 minutes (1 hour and 30 minutes is Drop Dead).

UMPIRES: All games will be played under the direction of the CAPO appointed umpire.

DUGOUTS: Only coaches/managers/team moms and team members are allowed in the dugouts during regulation play. All players **must** remain in the dugout unless on the field, and **must** refrain from sitting in the stands during the game. Only water may be provided to girls once a game begins, food should be held to after the game.

COACHING: Coaches are only allowed to coach from the dugout or designated coach's box on the field during the game. Coaches are prohibited from coaching from the stands or behind the backstop.

UNIFORMS: All players are expected to present a neat appearance in uniform during the game. This includes, but is not limited to shirts being tucked in. Coaches should wear closed toed shoes for safety while on the field. All players in the 12u division are required to wear sliding shorts underneath softball pants.

JEWELRY: Players are prohibited from wearing jewelry during games.

MINIMUM PLAYERS: No minimum player rules are in effect. If a team has less than 9 available players, that team has the option to request defensive players from the other team. The other team shall provide up to 3 defensive players to play outfield positions. These defensive substitutions shall be the last 3 batters from the prior inning (i.e., furthest away from hitting again).

Nine (9) defensive players will be allowed to take the field with six (6) standard infield positions, including catcher, and three (3) outfield positions. The outfielders must be positioned at least 10' beyond the base path until the ball is hit.

LATE ARRIVALS: Team members arriving after a game has begun shall be placed at the end of the batting order.

EARLY DEPARTURES: The opposing coach shall be notified if it is necessary for a team member to leave the game before it is completed. Said player's spot in the batting order will be skipped from that point on, with no penalty or "out" being assessed.

BATTING ORDER: All team members will be placed in the batting order. The batting order need not be arranged in conjunction with who starts the game defensively.

PLAYING TIME: No girl will sit out for a second inning until all other girls have been substituted for an entire defensive half. This applies per game only.

MERCY RULE: The mercy rule will be enforced when the opposing team is ahead by 15 after 3 innings, 12 after 4 innings or 8 after 5 innings.

PITCHING LIMITS: A pitcher in the 12u division will be allowed to pitch a maximum of 8 innings per day.

INFIELD FLY RULE: The infield fly rule shall be enforced in all games.

BASE RUNNING: In accordance with USA Softball rules, an OFFENSIVE player has the duty to avoid a collision with a defensive player attempting to field a ball or make a play on the runner. If a collision occurs, the offensive player shall be automatically ruled out.

In order to avoid any collision with a defensive player, runners may slow down, slide, change directions, and stop entirely or even run around a defensive player within 3 feet of the base path

STEALING BASES: All bases including home plate may be stolen in the 12U division.

DROPPED 3RD STRIKE: The dropped third strike rule will be in effect.

COURTESY RUNNERS: "Courtesy runners" will be allowed for the pitcher/catcher. In the event that a batter reaches bases, and cannot run due to injury, a substitute runner may be used. The courtesy/substitute runner must be the person who was the last recorded "out" for the team. If the player is removed from the game, the same rule shall apply to determine the substitute runner. Players removed from the game due to injury will have their spot in the batting order skipped, without penalty or an out being recorded.

SCORING LIMITS: There will be a maximum of 4 runs per team, per inning through the first 3 innings. Unlimited runs will be allowed in innings 4 through 7.

SCOREKEEPER: Each team must supply an official scorekeeper to record the game in the team scorebook. Gamechanger may be used. Score by inning and pitching records will be kept.

FIELD PREP: CAPO is attempting to secure volunteer field prep crew but, if unavailable, the home team is responsible for field prep. Home team occupies 3rd base dugout.

EQUIPMENT:

1. All equipment used shall be USA Softball approved.
2. USA Softball approved regulation 12" Dream Seam softballs will be the official game ball.
3. All players must have the proper equipment to take the field including cleats and glove.
4. Catchers must wear protective equipment including helmet, mask, chest protector and shin guards.
5. All batters, on-deck batters and runners will wear a batting helmet with a protective faceguard.
6. All bats used must be USA Softball approved bats.

BASEPATH AND PITCHING DISTANCE: The base path distance will be 60 feet. The pitching distance will be 40 feet.

