

OKAW League
2024 SOFTBALL
Rules 4TH-5TH GRADE GIRLS

Listed below are the exceptions and variations to the Rules of Softball

LEGAL PLAYERS INCOMING 4TH-5TH GRADE GIRLS

Players of proper age whose residence, as determined by the residence of their parents or legal guardians, is within the approved league boundaries shall be considered "legal" players for League competition.

LEAGUE BOUNDARIES

The Approved League Boundaries for each town in the "Okaw League" coincides with the town's School District boundaries. It is not where you go to school it is where you live. Exceptions must be brought before the "Okaw League" Board.

PLAYING FIELDS

Distance between bases:	Pitching Distances:	Recommended Minimum	Fence Maximum	Distances (if applicable)
60 feet	35 feet with 8 ft circle	150 feet	175 feet	

GENERAL PLAYING RULES

1. Each Player in attendance **MUST** play at least two (2) innings.
 - A) 2 innings comprises of 4, ½ innings – (Twice "in the field" and Twice "in the batting order").
 - I) For Non-starters, this is continuous.
 - II) Starters can re-enter, and must play 2 innings, non-continuous. See General Playing Rule 5.
 - B) To insure compliance, All ELIGIBLE substitutes in attendance **MUST** enter the game in the Top of the 3rd inning or sooner, and play 2 continuous innings. **Penalty:** Failure to comply with Rules 1, 1A, 1AI, 1AII or 1B, will result in a forfeiture of the game at a score of 1-0.

Exception to Penalty is for Mustang and Girls 9-10 **ONLY** and **ONLY** for the following reason; "If called for any reason, it is complete after four (4), Or if the home team leads, 3 ½". It will be assumed that if the game ends after 3 ½ innings, the substitute would have been in the batting order for the bottom of the 4th.

2. Before the Game, coaches and umpires will have a meeting to discuss the rules, the opportunity of a team batting line-up, and exceptions to the time limit.
3. Time Limit: No inning shall start after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the START of the game.
4. Catchers will **NOT** be allowed to block home plate, even during a play at home plate.
5. Any player in the starting lineup who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game one time. (NOTE: This rule applies to STARTERS ONLY)
 - A) Players shall return to the line-up in their ORIGINAL place in the batting order. While more than one substitute may be used in that position before the starting player is returned, no substitution shall be made that shall alter the original batting rotation of any of the starting or substitute players.
6. In any instance in which a team does not have an eligible substitute for a player who becomes ill, is injured, or ejected from the game by the umpire, the player last removed from the lineup by the manager or coach, who is otherwise eligible to play, shall be used as a substitute.
 - A) When a team's last available substitute enters the game as part of a multiple substitution, the manager or coach shall advise the umpire and official scorekeeper which player is to be considered "the last player removed from the line-up."
 - B) In this instance only, the substitute player shall take the batting position of the player they replace, even though it may be a different batting position than the one he or she previously occupied. This rule applies to all players, including starters.

7. Courtesy runners may be used for the catcher and/or pitcher after one out. The runner must be an ELIGIBLE player as described in rules (5) and (6) above. Courtesy running DOES NOT COUNT AS AN INNING PLAYED. This is NOT a substitution, but a courtesy to get the catchers and pitchers ready for the next inning.
8. No steel spikes allowed.
9. Coaches and umpires are required to carry these rules with them to all games.
10. Pitcher must start with one foot on the pitching rubber.
11. Runners must slide if being played on at any base with the exception of first. If a runner does not slide, the umpire could call the runner out.

Specific PLAYING RULES

- (a) A team may consist of 10 players on the field. (4 PLAYERS IN THE OUTFIELD)
- (b) Must have at least seven (7) players to start the game. There will not be any automatic outs for having less than ten (10) players.
- (c) Maximum of ten (10) batters or three (3) outs per inning.
- (c-1) *YOU MUST BAT YOUR ENTIRE LINEUP, NOT JUST THE KIDS PLAYING THE FIELD (EXAMPLE BATTER #11 BATS BEFORE BATTER #1 AND SO ON) IF YOU HAVE 15 PLAYERS ALL 15 BAT IN THE ORDER THEY ARE IN THE BOOK WITH A MAXIMUM OF 10 PER INNING. (Exception in Rule (e) below).*
- (d) If not three (3) outs, the inning is over when the tenth batter:
 - 1) hits and makes the third out.
 - 2) AN OUT IS MADE OR WHEN THE CATCHER STEPS ON HOME PLATE WITH THE BALL
 - 3) the tenth batter strikes out.

If the tenth batter walks or is hit by a pitch, the batter will be awarded two (2) bases. All other base runners will be advanced AS FORCED,

- (e) Batter is out on a dropped third strike.
- (f) No "Infield Fly" rule.
- (g) Runners must slide if being played on at any base with the exception of first. If a runner does not slide, the umpire could call the runner out.
- (h) No lead offs
- (i) May steal after ball crosses home plate.
- (j) No Stealing home.
- (k) Runner is allowed to advance one base from the base they occupied when stealing. Additional bases will NOT be awarded on overthrows or misplays. This rule applies ONLY WHEN STEALING.

PITCHING RULES

Any team member may pitch, subject to the restrictions of the pitching rules.

Maximum of four (4) innings per Game

- A. As soon as a pitcher delivers one (1) pitch to a batter, the pitcher shall be considered as having pitched one (1) inning.
- B. Starting and relief pitchers can reenter the game as many times as possible as long as they do not exceed the 4 inning maximum.
- C. The pitcher named in the batting order turned in prior to the start of the game, shall pitch to the first batter or any substitute batter until such is put out or reaches first base, unless the pitcher sustains injury or illness which, in the judgement of the umpire, incapacitates her from pitching.
- D. 10 pitches for warm up before the game; 5 pitches between innings. (Moved from General Playing Rules)
- E. If a relief pitcher comes in "cold", the umpire shall allow the pitcher to warm up properly with at least ten warm-up pitches.

LENGTH OF GAME: (1 HR AND 45 MINS)

Five (5) innings If called for any reason, it is complete after three (3), or if the home team leads, 3 ½

10 Run Rule Game is called after three (3), or if the home team leads, 3 ½, if one team leads by 10 or more runs
If the game is tied after five innings, extra innings are played, maximum of nine innings, if time permits. See General Playing Rules, Rule 3.

If a game is called for any reason before it is a complete game, as described above, or when the game is tied, it shall be considered a suspended game and shall be resumed from the point of curtailment at a time scheduled by the teams involved.

In the event of a tie game, the game will not be reported for team rankings for seeding for end of year tournament seeding by either team, and "runs against" will not be reported or used in the determination of end of year tournament seeding.

BALL SIZE

11" Softball

Tournament

All Regular Season Rules apply with the following Exception:

Pitching: Maximum 4 innings per game. No weekly Maximum.

Time Limit: Semi-finals, 3rd / 4th, and Championship games have NO time limit.

Umpires: Semi-finals, 3rd/4th, and Championship games require a patched umpire behind the plate. Base umpire must be at least two years older than players in the tournament.

Home Team: Higher seed is Home team for all games. HOME TEAM IS ALWAYS OFFICIAL SCORE BOOK.

Game Balls: Before every tournament game played, both the home and away teams are to provide one game ball.

2024 New Rules

- **5 run rule for each inning except for the last inning. For the last inning, the inning will end either when 3 outs are recorded or the 10th batter has batted and the defense has recorded an out or stepped on home plate. The last inning has to be established by both coaches in the top of that inning.**
- **For the end of the year tournament seeding will be based on records first then runs allowed. If two teams have identical records, seeding will be based on head to head first then runs allowed.**
- **Starting and relief pitchers can reenter the game as many times as possible as long as they do not exceed the 4 inning maximum.
(Example: Pitcher A, Pitcher B, Pitcher A, Pitcher B, Pitcher A or Pitcher A, Pitcher B, Pitcher C, Pitcher B, Pitcher A)**
- **When pitching, the pitcher's back foot does not have to stay in contact with ground. "Crow Hopping" is allowed, but pitchers are not allowed to reestablish themselves (plant twice).**