

Colorado River Valley Girls Softball

League Rules

Revised 4/23/14

Age groups are based on 8/1/16

Any rules not covered by league rules will be governed by the National Federation Girls Fastpitch Softball Rulebook.

Players participating in additional softball leagues on recreational teams: Players will be evenly distributed on teams from each town (6 players sign up, town has three teams, teams get two players each).

8-12 year old players can play for another softball league during the Valley Youth League season. All-Star Little League Players, Traveling Team Players, and Tournament Team Players cannot pitch in Valley Youth League games.

13-15 year old softball player can play for another softball league, as long as they get three regular season games to be eligible for tournament.

Six things not to argue with umpires: fair and foul, balls and strikes, safe and out.
No tying in Girls Softball.

Rule 1 - Definitions:

Appeal Play - An appeal play is a play on which an umpire may not make a decision until requested by a manager, coach, or player. The appeal must be made before the next legal or illegal pitch or before the pitcher and all infielders have clearly vacated their normal fielding positions and have left fair territory on their way to the bench or dugout area. At the conclusion of the game, an appeal can be made until the umpires leave the field of play.

Batter-Runner - A batter-runner is a player who has finished her turn at bat but has not yet been put out or touched first base.

Infield Fly - An infield fly is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive or an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort and provided the hit is made before two outs and at a time when first and second bases or all bases are occupied. When it seems apparent that a batted ball will be an infield fly, the umpire shall declare, "Infield Fly. The batter is out if fair."

Interference - Interference is the act of an offensive player or team member which impedes or confuses a defensive player attempting to execute a play.

Obstruction - Obstruction is the act of:

- 1) A defensive player or team member which hinders or prevents a batter from striking at or hitting a pitched ball.
- 2) A fielder, who is not in the possession of the ball, in the act of fielding a batted ball, nor about to receive a thrown ball, which impedes the progress of a runner or batter-runner who is legally running bases.

Protests - There are three types of protests:

- 1) Misinterpretation of a playing rule (protest must be made before the next pitch or, if on the last play of the game, before the umpires leave the playing field)
- 2) Illegal substitute or re-entry (protest must be made while they are in the game and before the umpires leave the playing field)
- 3) Ineligible player (protest can be made any time during the game or before the offending team's next game). Eligibility is the decision of the league commissioner.

Rule 2 - The Playing Field

League games will be played with the following field dimensions:

Pitcher's Distances	Mound Distances	Base
8-10 -	30 feet	50 feet
11-12 -	37 feet	50 feet
13-15 -	43 feet	60 feet *(65 feet)

* If there are no base standards at 60 feet at your facility, use the 65 foot standards and please inform the visiting team of this slight difference.

Rule 3 - Equipment

Softball	8-12 yrs.: The ball is an optic full flight 11-inch ball with a core of .5 or under. 13-18 yrs.: will use a 12 inch optic ball (full flight).
Helmets	All batters must wear batting helmet and facemask for batting and running the bases. Catchers must wear a catching helmet with face mask, shin guards, and a body protector.

Catcher's helmet must have a throat protector.

Cleats **Steel cleats are not allowed for 12 and under.**

Rule 4 - Players and Substitutes

Special Rules for 8 – 10 yr. old league:
Bat entire line up with unlimited re-entry rule (put everyone in by the 3rd inning); all players should be involved in 3 outs and up to bat once during game.

A team consists of nine players (minimum) or ten players with a designated hitter (maximum).

1) Teams can play a game with 8 players from the season's original roster.

2) The only time a player can play on two teams is if a team only has 7 original roster players, then the team can pick up another player to make 8 players. Teams can pick up only one player to make 8 and not 2 players to make 9. A replacement player cannot play in the pitcher position on the team she is substituting for. The replacement player must be of the same or

lower age group. The replacement player must be from the same town's girl's softball program. If a player from the original roster team shows up to play, the replacement player leaves the game and the original roster player enters as a legal substitute and the team continues to take the out for the 9th player. If 2 or more original roster players show up the team can go to their original 9 players. Coaches must inform the opposing team and the umpires prior to the game that a replacement player is playing on their team. This rule applies only for regular season games. Please see rule #3 for tournament games.

3) During tournament play, teams can play with 8 original roster players, the 9th player is an out. There will not be replacement players allowed during tournaments. Players must play in three regular season league games to be able to play in final tournament games.

Re-Entry Any of the starting players (including a designated player) may be substituted and re-entered once, provided players occupy the same batting positions whenever in the lineup. The starting players and the substitute(s) may not be in the lineup at the same time. If a manager

removes a substitute from the game and re-enters the same substitute later in the game, this is considered an illegal re-entry. * 8-10 & 11-12: Unlimited substitution will be used for this age group only. Teams may choose to bat their entire roster (i.e. all twenty players can bat but that batting order must remain the same throughout the game).

Illegal Substitute

The use of an illegal substitute is handled as a protest by the offended team. If the team manager or player in violation informs the umpire prior to the offended team's protest, there is no violation regardless of how long the player or players were illegally in the game. If the offended team protests, the illegal substitute is ejected from the game.

Ejected Coach, Player, Fan

Teams' coaches are responsible for themselves and the behavior of their assistantcoaches, players and fans.
Player/Coach Ejection-Leave facility, sit out a played game, away from team.*

Fan/Parent Ejection- Leave facility, miss next playable game, away from team.*
***minimum punishment, VYL and towns may require further disciplinary action.**

Blood Rule

A player, coach, or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on her uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If medical care or treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is left to the umpire's judgment.

Rule 5 - The Game

Regulation Game

The length of a regular season game is as follows:

8-10 -	5 innings	or 1 hour	30 minutes
11&12-	5 innings	or 1 hour	45 minutes
13-15 -	6 innings	or 2 hour	00 minutes

Incomplete or rain games are called as follows:
Ages 8 - 12: 3 1/2 innings or one full hour
Ages 13 - 15: 4 1/2 innings

caught. The batter is entitled to try to reach 1st base before being tagged out or thrown out.

Rule 8 - Batter-Runner and Runner

Infield Fly rule (11-12, 13-15) - The infield fly rule will be ineffect for these divisions.

Live Ball Overthrow Runners may advance (on their own risk) when an overthrown ball remains in the field of play.

Dead Ball Overthrow When the ball is overthrown beyond the boundary lines or is blocked, all runners will be awarded two bases. The award will be governed by the positions of the runners when the ball left the fielder's hand.

Stealing (8-10) - Stealing and taking leads are not permitted. **Rock leading is permitted**

(11-15) - Stealing is permitted but no leads may be taken. The base runner may leave their base after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. **Rock leading is permitted.**

Sliding

Sliding is not mandatory but is suggested to avoid collisions. When a defensive player has the ball and the runner remains on her feet and deliberately, with great force, crashes into the defensive player, the runner is out, the ball is dead, and the other runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference. If the act is determined flagrant, the offender shall be ejected.

Umpires

(8-10, 11-12) - Umpires must be at least 14 years old.
(13-15) - Umpires must be at least 16 years old.

Points of Emphasis

Umpires (8-10) - Umpires should be instructed to call for "time" whenever the ball is in possession of an infielder and no action is occurring (even if "time" is not requested). This really helps to keep younger players from continually throwing the ball around (chaos).
Coaches and as assistant coaches should remain in the field of play, and are not allowed outside fence and behind home plate area. Maximum number of coaches in dugout area per game is 3 coaches.

Coaches