

2026 6th – 8th Grade Summer Softball League Rules

Rules for play are the same OHSAA rules *except*:

❖ Teams:

- If a community has multiple teams, the community is encouraged to make the teams as even as possible
- Parents, players, and coaches are expected to treat the umpires with respect and not scream at, ridicule, or argue with the umpire. If the head coach disagrees with a call, they may discuss it with the umpire, but the umpire will have the final say.
 - Coaches are in charge of maintaining the respect for their team and crowds.
 - If a fan is being disrespectful,
 - ◆ the first offense is to be a warning from the coach
 - ◆ The second offense the fan should be asked to leave the premises.
 - ◆ An umpire or coach reserve the right to request a fan leave without a warning if the fan is causing enough of an issue

❖ Equipment

- Players are required to wear the following:
 - Numbered uniform shirts/jerseys
 - Helmets with facemasks when batting
 - Rubber cleats may be worn, but metal spikes are prohibited
 - **Fielders' masks will be required for the pitcher, 1st baseman, and 3rd baseman.**
 - **Masks are encouraged for all positions within the infield**
- Home teams are responsible for providing umpires to stand behind the plate
 - Umpires are to be of high school age at least
 - Base umpires are not required

❖ Field Set up

- **Pitching distance will be 43'**
- Bases are to be 60' apart
- 8' pitching circle is required on the field

❖ Scheduling

- All games are to be played as scheduled by the league unless a team is unable to field 7 players
- Scheduled games will be a doubleheader with the first game starting at 5:30 PM and the second game around 7 PM
- If the team can't play on a scheduled night for any reason, it will be up to the coaching staff to contact one another to reschedule the game
 - All schedule changes must be relayed to the league director
- Games are to be 7 innings or a time limit of 1 Hour and 15 Minutes, whichever comes first. This is not a drop-dead time limit. The current inning is to be finished even if the time limit is up.
 - A new inning may be started up until the time limit has been reached.

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- If a game is started then shortened due to weather, the game will need to be rescheduled and resumed from the point at which it was stopped.
 - If there have been 4 completed innings, the game will be considered complete
- If there is thunder or lightening present, the game is to be suspended at that point. The game may resume 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder or flash of lightening.
- ❖ Line-ups
 - Coaches are encouraged to utilize all players in the batting order
 - Any players in the batting lineup should play at least 2 innings in the field unless the game is shortened due to weather, time limit or lack of daylight
 - Teams are not required to submit a roster prior to the season, but a roster will be required prior to the tournament start.
- ❖ Gameplay
 - A maximum of 7 runs may be scored in an inning for the first 5 innings
 - No run limit exists in the 7th inning
 - There is a run rule of 10 runs after 5 innings
 - Batters will start with a 1 and 1 count
- ❖ Standings
 - For standings and tournament seeding, the following tie breakers will be used:
 - Overall record
 - Head-to-Head record
 - Record vs. the highest seed outside of the tie
 - If it's the same, continue to the next highest seed
 - Coin toss/ Random Draw
- ❖ Tournament
 - The end of season tournament will be held at Houston High School Ball Fields June 26th and 27th.
 - Rain date will be provided closer to the actual tournament
 - Additional details about the tournament are to come closer to the tournament date