

**ROANOKE AREA YOUTH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION  
LOCAL RULES FOR 12U-A, 14U-A, & 18U-A LEAGUE SOFTBALL**

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**THESE RULES ARE SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE OFFICIAL NSA SOFTBALL RULE BOOK AND SHALL APPLY FOR THE 2011 REGULAR SEASON.**

**TIME**

1. Games will start promptly at the scheduled time. Each team may take infield practice for 10 minutes before game time, if the field is available (visiting team first). Managers are to show the umpire a line-up of starting players and then give a copy to the opposing team manager. Substitutes should also appear on the line-up. Home team will be the official scorekeeper, will occupy third base bench, and will supply game balls (one new and one near new).

2. All time limits shall apply from the scheduled starting time of the game, not the actual starting time. 12U-A teams shall play up to six innings prior to 1 hour and 30 minutes for single games or up to four innings prior to 1 hour and 15 minutes for each game of a doubleheader. 14U-A and 18U-A teams shall play up to seven innings prior to 1 hour and 30 minutes for single games or up to five innings prior to 1 hour and 15 minutes for each game of a doubleheader. No inning shall start after this time limit. Games that have a tie score when the time limit expires will be allowed to play one additional inning and the tiebreaker rules will be in effect (see the NSA rule book). If after the additional inning a winner has not been determined, the game will be called. A new inning begins immediately after the final out of the previous inning (NSA rules allow for one minute for warm-up between each half inning).

The curfew for 12-U-A league shall be 9:00 p.m. on school nights and 10:00 p.m. on other nights. The curfew for 14-U-A & 18U-A league shall be 10:00 p.m. on school nights and 10:30 on other nights.

3. A team's turn at bat shall end after three outs or five runs have been scored. This rule applies to all innings. A team **may** concede at any time.

**PITCHING**

4. No pitcher shall pitch **in** more than two consecutive innings in a game. Pitchers who do not pitch **in** the previous inning may re-enter the pitching position. The pitcher's plate shall be forty-three feet from home plate.

5. If batters are hit with a pitched ball three times in the same game by the same pitcher, that pitcher must be removed from the pitching position for the game. It is considered a hit by pitch even if the pitch bounces prior to hitting the batter. No base award will be made unless the batter attempts to avoid being hit.

**SUBSTITUTIONS**

6. Teams may play with a minimum of eight (8) players (an out will be assessed for the unoccupied ninth batting position according to the NSA rulebook). Teams may borrow players from another RAYSA team within the same age group to prevent a possible forfeit due to lack of players. These borrowed players may play only two games for each "A" level team. Borrowed players must play in the outfield on defense and bat first on offense. Once a player plays in an older age group, that player may not return to the younger age group (i.e., a 10 year old may not play for a 10U team after playing for a 12U team).

7. All players must play twelve (12) consecutive outs or two consecutive innings (offense and defense) during the game. Players may re-enter any position in the line-up provided the substitute has not played the previous twelve (12) outs (two innings) and the player being substituted for has played the previous twelve (12) outs (two innings).

8. The team at bat may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or catcher anytime after they reach base. The courtesy runner shall be the last offensive player to make an out (see the NSA rule book).

### **EQUIPMENT**

9. A 12" RIF-10 softball shall be used for games. Face guards and chinstraps are required on batters helmets. Any one-piece "OFFICIAL SOFTBALL" bat (not more than 34" in length) may be used for league play. Shoes with metal cleats are not allowed.

### **GENERAL**

10. Games will not be played during a thunderstorm or a downpour of rain. If a downpour comes in the middle of a game, it will or will not continue at the umpire's discretion, however, safety should always be the primary consideration. Rained out or cancelled inter-league games will not be rescheduled.

11. A batter who releases a bat with such force, that in the opinion of the umpire, could cause injury or impair the defensive player from making a play, shall be called out for interference.

12. Headfirst sliding is not permitted. Runners who slide headfirst shall be called out. Diving back to the base without a running start should not be considered sliding.

13. No protests, including umpire judgments or decisions, will be accepted. If the rules are not being properly interpreted, contact your RAYSA representative. Head coaches will be held accountable for the sportsmanship and conduct of their players, fans, and coaching staff. Incident Reports filed with RAYSA representatives will be reviewed and, if applicable, appropriate sanctions implemented.

14. Coaches should notify the opposing team's coach at least a day in advance if a game is to be cancelled. The host team's coach is responsible for notifying the umpire assigner and field scheduler of the cancellation.