

# PLANO SPORTS AUTHORITY GIRLS' FAST PITCH SOFTBALL

## 2009 LEAGUE RULES - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade League

The PSA Softball Board shall govern playing rules

1. **AGES:** Rules govern players on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teams.
2. **TEAM SIZE:** Thirteen (13) optimum, fifteen (15) maximum.
3. **DIMENSIONS:** Bases - 45 feet, Pitcher's Plate – 30 feet.
4. **GAME:** 6 Innings
5. **TIME LIMIT:** 70 Minutes
6. **PSA FIVE (5) RUN RULE:** In effect. (Inning ending)
7. **OFFENSIVELY:**
  - A. Continuous batting order of all players.
  - B. Players arriving after the umpire has started game will be entered at the end of the batting order.
  - C. A substitute or "pinch" runner for an injured player will be the batter who made the last out.
8. **DEFENSIVELY:**
  - A. Ten (10) players in the field (4 outfielders).
  - B. 8 players minimum to field a team.  
NOTE: The missing 9th and 10th batters will not be scored as an out.
  - C. Infielders will be no closer than five (5) feet in front of the base lines until the ball crosses the plate.
  - D. Outfielders will be positioned no closer than twenty (20) feet behind the baselines until the ball is pitched.
  - E. The defensive team will have the pitcher positioned three (3) feet to the right or left of the pitcher's plate. The defensive pitcher will not be in front of the pitcher's plate. Interference committed by the adult representative, such as touching the batted ball or failure to position herself/himself so that the pitcher can play to ball, will result in the batted ball being declared a "NO PITCH". The batter will then resume the batter's role with the same count as before the original pitch.
  - F. The pitcher will not be permitted to tag first base or the batter/runner on a hit ball that she has fielded. Only a throw from the pitcher to the person at first base is acceptable.
  - G. Players must not "ROLL" or "BOWL" the ball in an effort to put out a runner. Players must throw the ball in an "OVERHAND" manner, unless an underhand throw would be a safer option. Failure to conform to this rule will result in the batter-runner/base runner being declared safe (all bases, including home.)
9. **FREE SUBSTITUTION:** Yes, including pitchers.
10. **MANDATORY PLAYING TIME.** See General Rules, Paragraph C.
11. **PSA BAT THROWING RULE:** In effect.
12. **PSA MALICIOUS CONTACT RULE:** In effect.
13. **PSA RUN RULE:** Not in effect.
14. **STRIKE ZONE:** Armpits to the top of the knees.
15. **BUNTING:** Not allowed.
16. **INFIELD FLY RULE:** Not applicable.
17. **STOPPING OF PLAY:**
  - A. Play is stopped when the pitcher has control of the ball with both feet inside the 4 foot radius circle around the pitching plate. Play will also stop if the pitcher drops the ball or there is an overthrow of the pitcher **ONLY** if the pitcher is inside the pitching circle.
  - B. Play is stopped at the point the ball reaches or passes the pitcher.
  - C. If a runner is more than half way to the next base when the ball reaches the pitcher, the runner is awarded the base. If a runner is not more than half way to the next base when the ball reaches the pitcher, the runner must return to the previous base.
18. **DROPPED THIRD STRIKE:** Batter is out.
19. **PITCHING:** The batting team's adult representative will do the pitching. When the adult representative pitches, there are no walks. If at the umpire's discretion, the adult designated pitcher is actively coaching on the field, then the batter will be declared out and all advancing runners will be returned to their point of origin. Balls and strikes will be called but only strikes will be recorded. A strike will not be called unless the batter swings. A maximum of eight (8) pitches will be allowed for each batter. The batter will be called out after the 8th pitch if the ball is not batted into play.

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- The adult pitcher needs to move off the field of play once the ball is hit until the play is stopped.
20. **BASE STEALING:** Not allowed.
  21. There will be no advance on a passed ball or if an overthrow occurs when the catcher is returning the ball to the pitcher after a pitch. This is a dead ball situation. NOTE: The adult pitcher is to help field the returned pitch.
  22. The BASERUNNER must remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit. Any violation will result in the base runner being declared out.
  23. **ADVANCE ON AN OVERTHROW:** On an overthrow to a base, a runner may advance to the next base at her own risk. If the defensive team attempts to throw out the runner advancing to the next base after an overthrow occurs and another overthrow occurs, the runner may advance to the subsequent base at her own risk. Under no circumstances can a runner advance more than one base on one overthrow. If the defense does not attempt to throw out the runner advancing on an overthrow, the play is stopped.
  24. **LEAGUE/DIVISION STANDINGS:** To be determined by the League Coordinator in the following manner:
    - A. League. Best overall league record.
    - B. Division. Best division record.
    - C. All Tiebreakers.
      1. Record in head-to-head competition.
      2. Coin flip by League Coordinator

NOTE: There will be a Single Elimination post-season tournament to determine the league champion. All Players will receive a participation trophy.
  25. **BALL SIZE:** An eleven (11) inch soft-safety softball will be used in all games.
  26. **ABBREVIATED GAMES:** In event of inclement weather or darkness, a game will be ruled official if the losing team has batted at least three (3) complete innings. The score will revert to the last complete inning to determine the winner. If three (3) full innings have not been completed the game will be declared a suspended game.
  27. **SUSPENDED GAME:** A suspended game will be rescheduled using the following criteria:
    - A. The game will resume at the point of interruption, with the same game situation and remaining time.
    - B. The umpire will inform both coaches of the remaining time and note the time in the home team's scorebook. The umpire also will sign the scorebook.
    - C. The home team coach will inform the League Coordinator that a suspended game has occurred and supply the League Coordinator with a copy of the scorebook pages.
    - D. The League Coordinator will re-schedule the suspended game within the same week.
  28. **COACHES ON THE FIELD**

No coaches are allowed on the field at anytime except when the coach is pitching to the team. The Pitching Coach may not overtly coach or encourage the batter to swing at a specific pitch. The adult pitcher needs to move off the playing field once a ball is hit and in play.