

Tar River Youth Softball League 12U League Rules

Play governed by Babe Ruth Softball rules with the following exceptions:

- Face masks are required on all batting helmets. This is a Babe Ruth rule.
- 12U are required to wear fielder's masks when playing any position in the infield.
- The home team is required to provide 2 new balls for the game.
- Game length: 6 innings or 1 hour and 30 minutes time limit; no new inning after 1 hour and 25 minutes. There will be no time limit in the championship
- Courtesy runner: mandatory for catcher with 2 outs.
- 10 run mercy rule in effect. The game will be called if at the completion of 4 innings the visiting team is ahead by 10 runs or 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead by 10.
- Tar River Softball League teams will always use a continuous batting order. Free substitution is in place with a continuous batting order. No player can sit 2 consecutive innings.
- 12U Softball will only play 9 defensive players.
- Innings will consist of 3 outs or a maximum of 5 runs per inning in the first 3 innings. During the 4th, 5th and 6th innings runs will be unlimited through ten batters.
- Time will be called only by the umpire when the lead runner is stopped or abandons their effort to advance. Bringing the ball to pitcher's mound, home plate, or a player calling time does not constitute time. If the defense makes a play on any other runner, then the lead runner is free to run. This will be up to the judgment of the umpire.
- Per league schedule, home team is listed last and shall occupy the 3rd base dugout.
- Two umpires must be used for all regular season and tournament games.
- You may play with as few as 7 players with no penalty.
- Pitching rubber will be set at 40ft, ball size is 12 in.
- A pitcher may only pitch 3 innings per game. (1 pitch constitutes as an inning). Managers are strongly encouraged to focus on pitcher development and to take every opportunity to allow maximum participation in pitching
- Stealing is allowed when the pitcher releases the ball. Players are allowed to advance on a dropped third strike.
- Coaches are allowed two mound visits during an inning. On the second mound visit a pitching change must be made.
- Tie Breaker Rules: (Tournament Games Only)
At the conclusion of 6 innings of play or the 1 1/2-hour time-limit if there is a tie, the following tie breaker will be in effect.

Tie Breaker Rule: At the start of each half inning until a winner is determined, the offensive team will start with a runner on second base who will be the last recorded out from the previous inning. The game will then continue to be played as a regular baseball/softball game.

- The game clock will start at the conclusion of the coaches meeting.