

PYAA Softball Rules - Quick Reference

	Copper (1 st /2 nd Grades)	Bronze (3 rd /4 th /5 th Grades)	Silver (6 th /7 th /8 th Grades)	Gold (9 th – 12 th Grades)
Game Length (Regular Season)	60 Minutes	60 Minutes or 4 innings No new inning after 70 Minutes	90 Minutes or 5 innings No New after Minute 75 Subject to Run Rules	
Ball Size	11in	11in	11in	12in
Pitching Distance	35 Feet	35 Feet	35 Feet	43 Feet
Base Path Distance	60 Feet	60 Feet	60 Feet	60 Feet
End of Inning	3 outs or 4 runs scored. Minimum 5 batters per inning.	3 outs or 5 runs. Additional runs can be scored on the last play.	3 outs or 5 runs. Additional runs can be scored on the last play. 6th run cannot be a walk.	3 Outs
Run Rules	N/A	N/A	11 runs after 4 innings	11 runs after 4 innings
Forfeit	N/A	N/A	Minimum 7 Players to start*	Minimum 8 players to start
Pre-game Warm-up	15 Minutes	15 Minutes	Only if both teams get equal time and game starts promptly	
Score Keeping	Yes - Only to change innings. No Official Score.	Yes - Only to change innings. No Official Score. Unofficial score should be kept for developmental awareness.	Yes-Coaches should verify score with each other after each inning to ensure no disagreement. Both coaches must e-mail final score to League Director within 24 hours of game end.	Yes - Scores need reported for standings
Base limits on a hit	1 infield – 2 if ball is hit to the grass. Players can be thrown out if attempting multiple bases	1 infield – Unlimited if a ball is hit to the grass. Batters may continue running until the ball is returned to the infield dirt.	Unlimited until a play is dead. (Overthrow rules apply)	Unlimited
Base Staking	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
Batting	Every player present must be in the batting order. Late players are added to the bottom of the order. Batting out of order is an automatic out (Copper is the only exception, no automatic out).			
Hit By Pitch	No base given	No base given	Takes 1st base	Takes 1st base
Lead off	No, may leave the base when the ball is hit.	No, may leave the base when ball is hit.	No, may leave the base when the ball reaches the plate or is hit.	No, may leave the base when the ball leaves the pitchers hand.
Bunting	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
Fake bunting	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
First base sliding	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
Sliding (2nd, 3rd and Home)	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
Stealing	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Yes, all bases
Overthrows	Runners may not advance a base on an overthrow, wild pitch or passed balls.			No restrictions
Infield Fly Rule	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes
Dropped 3rd Strike Rule	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes
Short fielder	N/A	N/A	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
Defensive Players	Traditional positions must be played, excluding catcher. Outfielders must start each play in the grass.	Traditional positions must be played. Less than 9 players, catcher position is at coaches' discretion. Outfielders must start each play in the grass.	No more than 10 on the field (6 infield, 4 outfield)*	

Defensive Rotation	Required - No players can play the same position in a game	Required - Each player must play the outfield and infield at least once per game	Not Required.	Not Required
Pitching	Coach Pitch Only. Player must field the position and wear face covering. Ball buckets are not to be on field of play. A ball hit off a coach pitcher is considered live.	Coach Pitch Only. Player must field the position and wear face covering. Ball buckets are not to be on field of play. A ball hit off a coach pitcher is considered live.	Kid-Pitch Only. Some variation of a 'windmill' style pitch must be thrown. All players are encouraged to pitch if they choose to.	See Rules
Pitches Thrown	Coach Pitch Max 6 Pitches, unless the 6 th pitch is fouled. If no live play after 6 th pitch, batter walks.	Coach Pitch Max 6 Pitches unless the 6 th pitch is fouled. Continue until the last pitch is in play or struck out.	Kid Pitch; Some variation of a 'windmill' style must be thrown. Emphasis on working toward Fastpitch.	Kid Pitch
Pitched Innings Limits	N/A	N/A	3 innings per game. One pitch thrown constitutes an inning	None
Pitcher Re-entry	N/A	N/A	Twice a game	Unlimited
Bench Sitting	No player shall sit the bench twice until all players on the same team have sat the bench once.			
Unscheduled Practices	Whether at PYAA facilities or offsite, are NOT allowed. A violation of this rule will hinder your future PYAA coaching opportunities.			
Scrimmages	Scrimmages are allowed but must be cleared through the PYAA Softball board. Practices and game times may not be changed without permission of the PYAA Softball board and PYAA scheduler.			
Cancellation, Stoppage, Suspension of Play	Field management/Diamond League President will cancel games. The decision will be placed on the Pickerington PYAA Softball Facebook Page and an email or text will be sent to all League Directors. League Directors will then email or text the coaches of their respective leagues. Please do not assume a game is called because it is raining. Coaches are expected to notify the parents and players. As much notice as possible will be given to allow Coaches adequate time to notify parents. Two make-up games are built into the schedule. Needs for additional make-ups will be coordinated with the PYAA scheduler. Under no circumstances are coaches permitted to 'walk the fields' prior to games to assess field conditions. Field management/PYAA Diamond Board members will assess and make field playable decisions.			
Lightning Rule	ONCE THUNDER IS HEARD, PLAY WILL IMMEDIATELY CEASE AND CANNOT RESUME FOR 30 MINUTES. RAIN DELAYS WILL BE ALLOWED BUT WILL BE BASED ON ASSESSMENT OF ONSITE SUPERVISOR. THUNDER IS THE RESULT OF LIGHTNING ALREADY OCCURRING, SO PLAY WILL BE SUSPENDED IF LIGHTNING IS SEEN OR THUNDER HEARD. If the delay lasts longer than 30minutes, and the game HAS NOT HAD AT LEAST 2 FULL INNINGS the game can be rescheduled.			
Weather/Field Conditions	The Umpire or any on-site PYAA Diamond Board member can delay or suspend a game at his/her discretion due to weather or unsafe field conditions. If the game is delayed by rain/unplayable field conditions, and cannot be resumed within a reasonable time, the game will be suspended and rescheduled. If the stoppage occurs in the bottom half of the inning and the score is a tie, the game will conclude with a tie score and not be rescheduled. Everyone must go to their vehicles until it is deemed safe to resume games. If the fields are closed and deemed unplayable by PYAA NO ONE IS TO PRACTICE OR PLAY on the fields FOR ANY REASON.			