

Greater Champaign County Girls Softball League
Rules and Guidelines
10U Softball

Last Updated: February 2025

Information for the 2025 Season

- ❑ A player's age on August 31, 2024 determines what age group they can play. A player can play up a level, but not down a level.
- ❑ The 10U League will have __ teams:
- ❑ Teams in the 10U League will be required to play a minimum of __ games. Must play each team in the league once.
- ❑ The 10U League Tournament will be played on **June 23 - June 26 with a rain date of June 27 at Community Park in St. Joseph, IL.** (There is a possibility there may be a "play in" game on June 23).
- ❑ League Tournament fee of **\$175** is due at the scheduling meeting, to be held on **March 5 at 6:45 pm at the Martens Center, Champaign..** Checks should be made payable to **Greater Champaign County Girls Softball League (GCCGSL).**
- ❑ **Team Rosters** must be turned in to the **League Commissioner** by **May 15.** Team rosters should include each player's full name, address, and date of birth.
- ❑ **Tournament Rosters** must be turned in to the **League Commissioner** by **June 15.** Tournament rosters should include each player's full name, address, and date of birth.

The Greater Champaign County Girls Softball League will use NSA Softball Rules. The NSA rule book is available online at <https://www.playnsa.com/>.

The following procedures and points are emphasized:

- The GCCGSL is a C-level instructional league with an emphasis on softball fundamentals designed to help develop players for our local school districts. Coaches should promote teamwork and sportsmanship.

- Cheers and chants are encouraged, and should be used to positively motivate and celebrate teammates. Negative cheering directed at opponents will not be tolerated. Coaches should model and monitor appropriate behavior.
- Each team should play every other team in the league a minimum of one time during the regular season. Additional games are at the discretion of the team coaches, but only the results of the first game will be used for tournament seeding.
- Players should compete for the town of their school district unless there is no team or an exception is approved by the Commissioner. A player must be listed on the Team Roster turned in to the league to play in a game before league play begins.
- 8U players from each town may be included on the Team and Tournament Roster. However, the 8U girls are not allowed to play ahead of the rostered 10U players and can only be on one 10U roster.

There will be additional adaptations, exceptions, and clarifications including:

The Playing Field

- The pitching plate for the 10U league will be set at 35 feet.
- Hash marks will mark the half-way point between bases.

Equipment

- The official softball shall be a 11-inch hard, raised-seam, optic yellow softball. All balls should be approved for USA/ASA, NFHS, or NSA play.
- The official bat shall bear the NSA 2012 logo or USA/ASA certification and be manufactured by a bat company that is listed on the Approved Bat Company list found at <https://www.playnsa.com>.
- A batting helmet bearing the NOCSAE stamp is mandatory for each batter, on-deck batter, runner, and youth coach in the coach's box. **The helmet must have a properly attached face guard.** Players will NOT be required to have chin straps on their helmets.
- **Pitchers must wear a face mask while pitching**, and are encouraged to wear a heart shield. It is required that all players wear a face mask during live ball

play. Each league team's organizing body will make the final ruling on this for their players.

- Catchers must wear a NOCSAE approved head protector/protective mask, a chest protector, and leg guards.
- Metal cleats are NOT allowed.

Players & Substitution

- Teams must have a minimum of eight (8) players to start a game. If a team does not meet this minimum at the agreed upon game time, it shall be considered a forfeit. Teams will be allowed to start with eight (8) players without any out penalties.
- Teams will be required to use a continuous batting order that includes each player on its roster. No substitute batters! If a player is removed or is injured, the vacated spot in the batting order will be skipped and will not be considered an out. If a player is ejected, the vacated spot automatically becomes an out each time the vacant spot comes to bat. Late arriving players are placed at the end of the batting order.
 - Teams may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher currently in the game. The courtesy runner shall be the player who made the most recent out who isn't also the pitcher or catcher. Courtesy runners are NOT required.
- Teams can play a maximum of ten (10) players on defense. The additional defender will be considered an additional outfield position and must start play behind the baseline.
- Teams will be allowed to make free defensive substitutions. All players must play at least two (2) innings in the field.
- Any player or coach who is bleeding or has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered and clothing with blood has been removed.

The Game

- A regulation game shall consist of six (6) innings or one hour and forty-five minutes (1:45) of play.
- In cases of inclement weather, a game will be considered official after four (4) complete innings.
- No new inning will start after the time limit has expired.

We will continue where we are in the batting order with 1 out on the scoreboard and every batter still gets up to 5 pitches. There are unlimited runs during the tie breaker.

- **Tournament Seeding** will be based on the results of the first completed game between required opponents. A win will earn 2 points, and a tie will earn 1 point. The total number of points will be divided by the total number of first games played against required opponents. Each first game that a team fails to play against an opponent will count as a loss (earning 0 points and counting as a played game). Seeding will then proceed from the highest seeding score to the lowest seeding score.
- The **higher seeded team** will be the **home team** and will occupy the third base dugout.
- **Play-in games** will be played at the **higher seeded team's home field**. The host team will be responsible for paying for the umpires and will receive the concession stand proceeds if a concession stand is offered by the home team. The umpire fees will be reimbursed by the league at the conclusion of the tournament.
- **Game play** for tournament games will follow **all established rules** with one exception: **games cannot end in a tie**. The **tie-breaker procedure** will begin after completion of 6 innings or when the time limit has expired and the score is still tied.
- For all 10U League tournament games, including play-in games, an **adult USA/ASA, IHSA, or NSA umpire** must be the plate umpire. A patched umpire of at least 16 years old must be the base umpire.
- The GCCGSL is responsible for providing individual league championship **medals and team trophies** for 1st-4th place in the League Tournament.