

# Southeast Fastpitch Conference (SFC) – 2020

Sunday, April 26 is the deadline for all league registration & fee submission. No exceptions!

\*\*RYFSA has the right to refuse any registrations following this date

## Age Divisions Offered (USA Softball Age Eligibility Rules)

8U (T/TH)	10U (M/W)	12U (T/TH)	14U (M/W)	16U (M/W)	18U (Th)
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\*\* Except where modified by these rules, all play shall be governed by the USA Softball rules of play

### **Important Dates/Deadlines:**

- February 9 (All League Meeting)
- April 26 (All league registrations & fees due)
- May 16 (Final Schedules posted online)
- League play starts week of June 1
- June 12 (USA Softball rosters to be completed online) <https://fastpitch.mnsoftball.com/rosterhelp>
- June 22 (State entry fee for USA Softball submitted to RYFSA)

**Inclement Weather/No-shows:** In the case of bad weather, home team coaches will be responsible for making a decision on postponement and contacting the opposing coach no later than 4pm on the day of the game. Teams will have a 15 minute grace period to arrive at the playing field. Teams who do not arrive within this grace period will forfeit the game.

**Rescheduled Games:** All make-up game dates and locations are to be agreed upon by the two head coaches. No games that are forfeited due to lack of players are eligible to be rescheduled. The week between the end of the regular season and the year-end tournament can be used for any make-up games.

**League Tournament:** All participating teams in all age divisions will qualify for a season-ending tournament. The tournament format & date is TBD and will be discussed at League Meeting. Location will be in Rochester.

**State Tournament:** If your team wishes to play in the state tournament, pay attention to entry fee deadlines. Please visit <http://fastpitch.mnsoftball.com/> for tournament dates.

### **8U Details:**

**League Dates:** 6 weeks beginning June 2 and concluding July 16 with Tuesdays utilized as a practice night and games played on Thursdays (no games the week of June 29).

**Rules:** Both practice and game nights will start at 6:00. On game nights, the first half should be played for 30 minutes, then a 10 minute break, then begin the final 30 minutes. The team listed last on the schedule will be the home team. After you bat your lineup in an inning, switch sides no matter how many outs there are. One base will be allowed on an overthrow no matter where the ball goes. No stealing will be allowed. Players are encouraged to bring their own helmets. \*Please keep in mind that this is an instructional league with an emphasis on introducing girls to the sport of softball and having fun!

**10U Details:** There will be 2 divisions offered. Gold (more advanced) & Silver.

**League Dates:** 6 weeks beginning June 1 and concluding on July 15 with Mondays utilized as a practice night and games played on Wednesdays (no games the week of June 29).

**Rules:** Games will start at 6:00 pm with a second game to begin after a 10 min break. Time limit is no new inning after 60 minutes. Both levels of play will require that both games have umpires, however the use of uncertified umpires (such as current high school players or other trusted individuals) will be allowed at this age

level. The team listed as the home team will be the home team for the first game, and then visitor for the second game. Games may end in a tie. Teams may play with a minimum of 8 players on defense and maximum of 10 players (4 outfield). Game ball size is 11 inches and the pitching rubber will be 35' from home plate. The home team is responsible for supplying game balls. \*\* For additional 10U rules, please see the full rules listing at the conclusion of this document.

**12U Details:** There will be 2 Divisions offered. Gold (more advanced) & Silver)

**League Dates:** 6 weeks beginning June 2 and concluding July 16 with games on Tuesdays and Thursdays (no games the week of June 29).

**Rules:** Two, 5-inning games will be played (time permitting), with a 5-minute break in between games. One point will be awarded to the winner of the first game of the doubleheader only. In case of weather, 2 ½ or 3 innings will be considered a complete game. Host team is home for the first game, visitor the second game. Games will have a 6-run limit per inning for all innings played. Silver is limited to 3 runs per inning from passed balls. The other 3 runs must be earned from walks or hits. There will be a minimum of 5 innings played regardless of the score, so long as time allows. If the trailing team is unable to catch up after 5 innings, the game is over. USA Softball run rules are not in effect. Games will begin at 6 pm and no inning shall begin after 1 hour from the first pitch. U12 utilizes a 40 ft. pitching rubber.

**14U Details:** There will be 2 divisions offered. Gold (more advanced) & Silver.

**League Dates:** 6 weeks beginning June 1 and concluding on July 15 with games played on Mondays and Wednesdays (no games the week of June 29).

**Rules:** Games shall begin at 6 pm and no inning shall begin after 1hr 15min from the first pitch. Two 7-inning games will be played (time permitting) with a 5-minute break between games. One point will be awarded to the winner of the first game of the doubleheader only. In case of weather, 4 ½ or 5 innings is considered complete. Host team is home for the first game, visitor the second game. There is a limit of 6 passed balls. U14 utilizes a 43 ft. pitching rubber.

**16U Details:**

**League Dates:** 6 weeks beginning June 1 and concluding on July 15 with games played on Mondays and Wednesdays (no games the week of June 29)

**Rules:** Games shall begin at 6 pm and no inning shall begin after 1hr 15min from the first pitch. Two 7-inning games will be played (time permitting), with a 5-minute break between games. One point will be awarded to the winner of the first game of the doubleheader only. In case of weather, 4 ½ or 5 innings is considered complete. Host team is home the first game, visitor the second game. U16 utilizes a 43 ft. pitching rubber.

**18U Details:**

**League Dates:** 6 weeks beginning June 4 and concluding on July 16 with games played on Thursdays (no games the week of June 29)

**Rules:** Games shall begin at 6 pm and no inning shall begin after 1hr 15min from the first pitch. Two 7-inning games will be played (time permitting), with a 5-minute break between games. One point will be awarded to the winner of the first game of the doubleheader only. In case of weather, 4 ½ or 5 innings is considered complete. Host team will be home the first game, visitor the second game. Home team will provide two new balls at the beginning of each game. Teams may use graduated seniors as long as they meet age requirements. U18 utilizes a 43 ft. pitching rubber.

**Hoffman Rule:** For ages 8U, 10U, and 12U, the Hoffman Rule will be mandatory for both games of the doubleheader. For ages 14U, 16U, and 18U, the Hoffman Rule will be optional for the first game of the doubleheader and mandatory for the second game. Decision on lineup is to be communicated with both the opposing coach and home plate umpire during the pregame meeting.

**DP Flex Rule:** Optional for 14U-18U (for more DP Flex details, click [here](#))

**Team Rosters:**

USA Softball rosters will need to be submitted online by June 12 at <http://fastpitch.mnsoftball.com/rosterhelp>  
Please email a copy of your registration to the league contact.

**Fields:** Home teams are responsible for reserving usable playing fields for competition. Please send all field information to the league contact so that locations and directions can be posted on the website.

**Concussion Training:** All coaches will be required to go through concussion protocol training prior to the start of the season. Please visit <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61129/concussion-in-sports> for more details.

**Umpires:** Home teams are responsible for supplying registered USA Softball umpires. 18U age division games must have 2 umpires per game. 10U-16U will have 1 USA Softball sanctioned umpire per game. In the event that umpires are not provided, the home team will forfeit the game and be marked with a loss. If you need assistance with umpire assigning, please contact RYFSA at [RYFSA01@gmail.com](mailto:RYFSA01@gmail.com)

**Reporting Results:** Coaches will report the scores of their own games on their team website. Instructions on how to do this can be found at <https://help.sportsengine.com/customer/portal/articles/1630286>

**Fall League:** All participating teams will be eligible to register for Fall League at a discounted price. This league will be a six week format beginning August 23 and concluding October 4. All age divisions will be available and will feature both competitive and participation leagues.

**Equipment:** USA Softball certified Equipment required

**Entry Fee:** Entry fee will be \$150 per team. Fee includes USA Softball registration, league administration, and end of season awards. Participating teams will also be eligible to register for the 2019 May Daze tournament at a reduced fee (\$300 → \$225). \$50 will be refunded if you play in the league tournament.

- Teams can register online at [www.ryfsa.com/sfc](http://www.ryfsa.com/sfc)

**Schedules & Coaches Information:** Coaches packets will contain rule books and scorebooks for use throughout the season. These are provided by USA Softball as part of the team sanctioning process. Schedules will not be included, but will be posted online at [www.ryfsa.com/sfc](http://www.ryfsa.com/sfc)

**League Contact:**

Kayleigh Curran

Rochester Sports

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SOUTHEAST FASTPITCH CONFERENCE

**Full 10U Rules:**

- **Gold Division Rules (B-C level)**
  - Teams should have intermediate level pitching to play at this level.

- Maximum of 5 runs per inning will be scored per team. Only 3 runs in that inning may be on passed balls (5 runs or 3 outs ends the inning)
- On a 3<sup>rd</sup> strike call the batter is out and may not run to 1<sup>st</sup>. Runners on the bases may advance at their own risk.
- Infield fly rule will not be applied.
- Stealing is allowed. No stealing more than 2 bases in one instance (can't steal from 1st and make it all the way to home due to fielding/throwing errors)
- Baserunners are not limited to the number of bases they can take on overthrows or fielding errors after a hit ball except when the ball is thrown out of play (USA rules: 2 bases from the position of the runner at the time of the throw)
- One game will be an official gold division level game utilizing all gold level rules stated above. The 2<sup>nd</sup> game is played using Silver Division Rules below.

- **Silver Division Rules (C-D level)**

- Teams should have beginning level pitching experience to play at this level.
- Both games each night will be played following these rules and with the coach-pitch rule in effect.
- Maximum of 5 runs per inning will be scored per team.
- Stealing is allowed, but runners may steal only one base at a time. No stealing when a coach is pitching the ball. No stealing home and no runs may score on passed balls.
- On a 3<sup>rd</sup> strike call, there will be no dropped ball ruling and no runners may advance.
- Infield fly rule will not be applied.
- Coach-Pitch Rule:
  - All batters start with a 1-1 count
  - There will be NO walks. If the pitcher pitches to 4 balls, a coach/volunteer from the offensive team will pitch to the batter. The coach-pitcher may pitch from the edge of the pitching circle.
  - The coach will pitch no more than 3 hittable pitches to the batter (as determined by the umpire). If the batter fails to put the ball in fair play, she will be called out \*\* this rule is in place to keep the game moving at a decent pace.

- **Reminders:**

- All teams are responsible for having a designated “coach pitcher” for when the coach pitch rule is applied. This person may be on the field near their dugout to assure a quick transition to pitch when needed, but must stay out of the way during any live-action play.
- ONLY report scores for the 1<sup>st</sup> game of each night.