

The Southeast Nebraska Softball League will play softball according to the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) rules & regulations except as noted below:

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

	8 & Under	9 & Under	10 & Under	12 & Under	14 & Under	18 & Under
Eligibility	Cannot turn 9 before September 1 of previous year	Cannot turn 10 before September 1 of previous year	Cannot turn 11 before September 1 of previous year	Cannot turn 13 before September 1 of previous year	Cannot turn 15 before September 1 of previous year	Cannot turn 19 before September 1 of previous year
Pitching Rubber	35 ft, 8 ft. radius circle	35 ft, 8 ft. radius circle	35 ft, 8 ft. radius circle	40 ft, 8 ft. radius circle	43 ft, 8 ft. radius circle	43 ft, 8 ft. radius circle
Bases	60' with ½ way lines	60' with ½ way lines	60'	60'	60'	60'
Game Time	1 hour, 5 innings	1 hour 15 minutes, 5 innings, complete game at end of 3 innings	1 hour 15 minutes, 5 innings, complete game at end of 3 innings	1 hour 15 minutes, 5 innings, complete game at end of 3 innings	1 hour 15 minutes, 7 innings, complete game at end of 4 innings	1 hour 15 minutes, 7 innings, complete game at end of 4 innings
Game Ball	11" ANY yellow, leather only; w/correct COR	11" ANY yellow, leather only; w/correct COR	11" ANY yellow, leather only; w/correct COR	12" ANY yellow, leather only; w/correct COR	12" ANY yellow, leather only; w/correct COR	12" ANY yellow, leather only; w/correct COR
Players on Field	10 or equal number as opposing team	10 with 4 outfielders	9	9	9	9
Run Rule	5 runs/inning	5 runs/inning	5 runs/inning	5 runs/inning	8 runs/inning	8 runs/inning
Day	Saturday morning	Friday evening	Friday evening	Wednesday evening	Tuesday evening	Monday evening

1. **New for 2024 Season!!** 10u Softball will be broken down into a 9u division and a 10u division, getting rid of the 10u Rec and 10u Comp divisions. The 9u division will follow the modified rules as stated below and 10u will follow regular USA Softball rules. All towns that have more than 1 team within the 9u and 10u age division must play in the age division of the oldest player on that team. For those towns only have one team within 9u and 10u age division they will follow a 50% rule, whichever age division 50% or more of their players are in is their age division of play. Teams can opt up to 10u, but cannot opt down to 9u and there will be no waivers going down from 10u to 9u.

2. Regular season games will be above mentioned times and innings, finishing the inning. **Games will follow the above stated time and innings, finish the inning, unless considering our runs per inning rule one team is unable to be caught, in that case the game is over.** In case of a tie, all age groups will use the **USA Softball tiebreaker rule for one inning, this is the last available batter in that inning.** If still tied, each team counts how many defensive outs (this includes strike outs) they have accumulated in all the previous innings and the team with the most outs is declared the winner. If still tied, continue with USA Softball tiebreaker rule.

3. Ages 10U, 12U, 14U, and 18U Only - A continuous batting order can be used during both regular season and tournament play or the team may elect to bat nine or ten players with substitutions. This must be determined prior to the start of play when exchanging line ups. No outs will be taken for players leaving the batting order for illness or injury, simply skip that batter and continue the lineup. Players leaving the batting order for injury or illness may not re-enter, and this only applies to players leaving the batting order. A player may leave the field, bat in their order, and re-enter the field later, or a coach may take the out for an injured or sick player leaving the batting order and then that player is still considered in the batting order and may bat the next time around. Players arriving late shall be entered as substitutes.

4. Free substitution is allowed when batting full roster. Players must re-enter in the same batting order. When Continuous batting and utilizing the free substitution rule, a courtesy runner is only allowed for the pitcher and/or catcher. It can only be utilized after they have played pitcher or catcher in a defensive inning and must be reported to the umpire. The courtesy runner is the last available batter that inning in their lineup no matter that player's skill/speed.

5. Teams are allowed to start with 7 players. **In 8u only you may play the game with a minimum of 7 players and NOT take an out for missing batters. For 9u and up if you start with seven or eight players, the batting slots that are not filled with players will become automatic outs.** If you must, for some reason, finish the game with only seven or eight players, the automatic out(s) will be in the batting position of the player who has to leave the game. If a player shows up after the game is being played, she may be inserted into the automatic out position in the batting order. Under no circumstances can you start or finish a game with less than seven players.

6. No infield practice inside the baselines can occur prior to the start of the game.
7. 15 individual medals will be awarded to the top three teams in each age division.
8. **A player can only play on one team in an age division.**
9. **Per USA Softball rules; an outfielder is allowed to make a play on a base runner or a base. But all outfielders must start behind the baselines prior to the pitch of a ball.**

SCHEDULING

Scheduling will continue to be in a triangular or double header format for all age groups. Times for triangulars will be **6:00, 7:30, & 9:00**. Double headers are 6:00 & 7:30. Home teams will play the 1st & 3rd games. 8's times will be noted on the schedule. **There will no longer be 10 minutes between games, games will start immediately following the game before please be warmed up and prepared prior to the game preceding being completed.** If a previous game gets completed early due to runs the next game will start 10 minutes after completion, whether or not it is at the "scheduled" time of the game.

Home team must notify the opposing team 2 hours prior to game time in the event of a cancellation. Notification includes receiving an acknowledgement from the opposing coach that they received the message. If you don't get an immediate response from an e-mail, you must call the coach. We highly recommend using texting over email. Home team must make 2 attempts to reschedule the game. If 2 attempts are not made, the home team will forfeit. If the visiting team cannot reschedule and does not offer at least one date to play, perhaps at their field, they will forfeit. Coaches of teams involved will decide which team forfeits and report it to the president.

A forfeit is recorded 7-0. Team representatives must input scores online into results throughout (preferred) the season or immediately after the last regular season game.

UMPIRES

The host team shall provide, for 9u/10u only, a minimum of one registered and experienced umpire for those games. All other age divisions 12's-18's will require two umpires for each game with at least one being registered and payment of umpires for each game. **MAKE CERTAIN UMPIRES ARE FURNISHED, HAVE READ A COPY OF THE LEAGUE RULES, AND ARE READY TO GO PRIOR TO GAME START TIMES!** 8 and under does not need registered umpires.

LEAGUE DUES

8 & Under - \$150	12 & Under - \$225.00
9 & Under - \$225.00	14 & Under - \$225.00
10 & Under - \$225.00	18 & Under - \$225.00

All monies are due with league registration to the league president by **March 15th**.

Rosters, which include name, DOB, and jersey number if possible, are due to the league president by **April 15th**. All coaches must have birth certificates for all roster players available at all games if there is a protest. If one is not available upon protest that player is ineligible to participate.

LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS

8 & Under - June 21-23 in Louisville

9 & Under - June 14-16th in Falls City

10 & Under - June 14-16th in Falls City

12 & Under - June 21-23 in Pawnee City

14 & Under - June 17-20 in Syracuse (evening games)

18 & Under - June 24-27 in Syracuse (evening games)

Rain dates for tournaments will be on the dates immediately after the rain delays and when the fields are playable. Fields in other towns may be used to complete the tournament.

8 & UNDER - ADDITIONAL RULES USED BY SE NE GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE AS FOLLOWS:

1. *New in 2021; This division uses coach-pitch only.* Pitch maximum - Batter out occur after 5 pitches; with a max 8 pitches to account for foul balls. If 5th or last pitch is a foul ball, another pitch can be delivered until a maximum of 8 pitches. After the 8th pitch, the batter is out if the ball is not put into play. Pitcher (coach) may pitch from any place between home and the pitching rubber. *This also eliminates the 10' arc in front of home plate.*
2. Pitcher (player) must stay within the 16 ft diameter pitching circle until the ball is hit, and behind or to the side of the pitcher (coach), in which case Pitcher (coach) takes a position behind the player-pitcher or in foul territory.
3. Outfielders must play behind the baseline until the ball is hit. Effect - runners and batters are entitled to one base without liability to be put out.

4. One base on an overthrow. **EXCEPT a runner CANNOT score on any overthrow.** Batter/Runner and all other runners can advance one base and no further (at their own risk) after an overthrow at any base. A second attempt to put out at another base does not constitute another 1 base on an overthrow. Runners cannot advance on an overthrow to the pitcher who is near the circle. (umpires discretion) If a runner advancing between bases has not advanced more than half way when the pitcher obtains possession and control of the ball in the 16' pitcher's circle, the runner will be returned to the last base touched prior to the pitcher gaining control of the ball in the pitcher's circle. This is solely the judgment by the umpire. A halfway chalk mark between bases should be in place.
5. No bunting. Effect - treated as a foul ball.
6. No stealing
7. Players can lead off after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. If the runner is played on by the catcher, the runner can advance to the next base.
8. No infield fly rule.
9. Umpires do not need to be certified for this age group.
10. Each game day each player must play at least two innings in one game and a max three innings in the second game. A player can only play an infield position for more than two innings and then must rotate to an outfield position. Catcher is considered an outfield position. If time becomes a factor, coaches must try to abide by rule as closely as possible. So in a day each player plays a maximum of 5 innings in the infield position.
11. All teams must roster bat. All players listed on their roster that plan to play in the field, must bat.

9 & UNDER ONLY - ADDITIONAL RULES USED BY SE NE GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Outfielders must play behind the baseline until the ball is hit. Effect - runners and batters are entitled to one base without liability to be put out.
2. One base on an overthrow. Batter/Runner and all other runners can advance one base and no further (**at their own risk**) after an overthrow at any base. A second attempt at put out at another base does not constitute another 1 base on an overthrow. Runner cannot advance on overthrow to the pitcher who is near the circle. (umpire discretion) If a runner advancing between bases has not advanced more than half way when the pitcher obtains possession and control of the ball in the 16' pitcher's circle, the runner will be returned to the last base touched prior to the pitcher gaining control of the ball in the pitcher's circle. This is solely the judgment by the umpire. A halfway chalk mark must be placed between bases.
3. **PLAYER/COACH PITCH - ALL SEASON** - Combination of player/coach pitching system with NO WALKS. If the batter reaches ball four, then the batters coach will pitch until the batter either hits or strikes out. A player cannot strike out on a foul ball. Maximum of 3 pitches from the coach unless the last hit is a foul ball. Balls and strikes from player and coach pitchers will be called by an umpire meaning the batter can strike out looking. Batters hit by a pitch that is pitched by the opposing team will take first base. Being hit by a coach's pitch does not allow first base. Pitchers will pitch from a 35 ft pitching rubber. If a batted ball hits the pitching coach, the ball is replayed. Pitcher (player) must start behind, or behind and to the side of the 35 ft. pitching rubber when coach is pitching. Coach pitcher must pitch from the 35' pitching rubber.
4. Ball 4 is not a dead ball until the umpire signals. Coach must remain off field till dead ball is called by umpire.
5. Leading off is allowed. Stealing is permitted while the "player" pitcher is pitching.
6. **Home plate is only open on a ball hit in fair play and the continuation of a fair hit ball. (Reminder of above overthrow rule)** One base on an overthrow. Batter/Runner and all other runners can advance one base and no further (at their own risk) after an overthrow at any base. A second attempt to put out at another base does not constitute another 1 base on an overthrow. Runner cannot advance on an overthrow to the pitcher who is near the circle. (umpire discretion) If a runner advancing between bases has not advanced more than half way when the pitcher obtains possession and control of the ball in the 16' pitcher's circle, the runner will be returned to the last base touched prior to the pitcher gaining control of the ball in the pitcher's circle. This is solely the judgment by the umpire. A halfway chalk mark must be placed between bases.
7. Batters may **NOT** advance on dropped 3rd strike when player pitcher is pitching per Nebraska Softball Association rules.
8. No infield fly rule.
9. All teams must roster bat. All players that are available to play during the game must be listed in the batting line up and must bat continuous.
10. All batters must make a full and completed swing at any ball. There is no bunting or slap bunting in 9U.

10 & UNDER - ADDITIONAL RULES USED BY SE NE GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Batter may **NOT** advance on dropped 3rd strike when player pitcher is pitching per Nebraska Softball Association rules.

JESSIE STEINKUHLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - A scholarship of \$200 will be given to an 18 & under player during the league tournament. Scholarship committee members are all of the 18's coaches. Tracy Ottens can be contacted for a scholarship form and more information at tyson72@hotmail.com or 402-209-0419.

UMPIRE REGISTRATION REFUND PROGRAM - Umpires working at least ten league games can apply to have their NSA registration refunded. For more information, go to the league website.

LEAGUE PRESIDENT - Sheryl Gaston, E-mail sheryl.gaston@gmail.com, 806 2nd Ave Circle, Louisville, NE 68037

LEAGUE WEBSITE - <https://sites.google.com/site/senegirlssoftball/> All forms, schedules, rules, results, and contact information can be found on this site.