



***Alpharetta Youth Softball
Association (AYSA)***

***Recreational Softball
LOCAL RULES AND REGULATIONS***

12U Age Division



**Alpharetta North Park
13450 Cogburn Road
Alpharetta, GA 30004**

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ALPHARETTA YOUTH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION LOCAL RULES: 12U

1. Introduction

The purpose of the Recreational League is to provide quality instruction, develop strong character, and establish good sportsmanship. Every attempt should be made to enhance the experience for the players in everything that is done, be it by Board members, coaches, parents, or fans.

2. Team Organization

The AYSA Recreational League is made up of five Age Divisions: 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U and 13+. The Age Divisions are defined by the age of the player as of January 1 of the year being played. For example: Players that are under 6 but at least 4 as of January 1 will be placed in 6U. Players that are at least 6 but under 8 as of January 1 will be placed in 8U. Players that are at least 8 but under 10 as of January 1 will be placed in 10U. Players at least 10 but under 12 will be placed in 12U. Players that are 13 up to 18 as of January 1 will play in the 13+ Age Division.

2.1 Coach Objective and Selection Process

No more than two coaches per team will be selected. Anyone with an interest in working with kids and in the game of softball is encouraged to coach. Prior coaching experience, particularly at the younger age levels, is not a requirement. Coaches without experience are welcome to apply. Previous year's coaches are not guaranteed a spot to coach and it is not necessary to have a child in the program to be a coach. Head coaches may align themselves with no more than one assistant coach prior to teams being selected. "Coach-with" requests cannot be guaranteed. To the extent possible, coaches will be distributed equally.

Interested coaches must be at least 21 years of age for Head Coach and 18 years of age for Assistant Coach, complete a background check form, and/or indicate their interest in coaching at the time of registration. More information, coaching resources, and the AYSA background check form can be found at www.aysasoftball.com. All coaches must complete Concussion Awareness Training and Child Abuse and Neglect Training.

The AYSA Board of Directors is responsible for selecting coaches, forming teams, and being a resource for coaches throughout the season. The criteria for selecting coaches may include specifically, but not exclusively:

- Experience coaching youth sports, including softball



- Youth Sports Coaches Training
- Feedback and comments from coaches and league evaluations
- Demonstrated value system consistent with the values and mission of AYSA
- Strong communication and organizational skills
- Knowledge of softball
- A brief interview, if applicable

2.2 Rosters

- A. Rosters: The Board's main objective is to establish teams with as even of strength as possible using established formation procedures (with the available information from the evaluations). Rosters will be posted in TeamSnap after the team formation.
- B. Coaching Staff: Coaches can request up to one assistant coach. If pairing can be made, the daughters of the coach and assistant coach will be frozen to the respective team. Should an assistant coach's daughter/player result in an imbalance among teams, the request for the specific assistant may be denied by the AYSA Board.
- C. Team Size: Teams will be formed with no less than 9 players and no more than 13 players, if possible. Teams in the 6U age groups may have as few as 5 players. Teams will be as equal in size as registration will allow. At the Board's discretion, a team's size may be increased or decreased in accordance with registration numbers. The Board will attempt to accept all players who register before the season starts, but may limit the number of players, if necessary, to control the number of teams and the number of players per team.
- D. Out of Age Placement (play-up or play-down): The intent of an out-of-age placement is to provide an appropriate skills opportunity for every player. At the request of a player's parent, a player may be considered to play in a younger or older age group. The player **MUST** evaluate in **BOTH** the appropriate age group **AND** the request age group. Failure to participate in both evaluations may result in the request being denied. After evaluations, the Board will assess the player's skills in both age groups.
- E. The Board maintains discretion when determining a player's ability to play outside of their age appropriate division. Factors the Board will consider include:



- Play-up consideration: The player must be in the top 10% of the age appropriate group and cannot be in the lower 30% of the older age group
- Play-down consideration: The player must be in the lower 20% of the age appropriate group and cannot be in the top 30% of the lower age group
- No player will be moved if it will result in a player not being able to participate in an age appropriate group
- No player will be moved if it will create an imbalance in roster size between the teams in either age group

2.3 Player Eligibility

- A. Any player found not in good standing with AYSA will be suspended and ineligible to participate. Examples include inappropriate behavior, financial standing, attendance/participation, etc. Any ineligible player that participates in a game will result in the team's forfeiture of all games in which the ineligible player(s) appeared in the lineup. If a coach knowingly utilizes an ineligible player, the coach will be suspended.
- B. A recreational player may be temporarily added to a 'same age' or 'older' Travel team provided that:
 - Player is on an AYSA affiliated team,
 - It does not interfere with the player's recreational team schedule and,
 - The Recreational coach has been notified
- C. Players in the recreational league may not be a regularly rostered player on a travel softball team. A recreational player may be temporarily added to a "same age" or "older" Travel team provided it does not interfere with the player's recreational team schedule and all recreational league activities must take precedent. ***If any of these criteria are not followed, the player and/or coach will be disciplined at the Board's discretion.***

3. Equipment

3.1 AYSA Supplied Equipment

- A. Each player will be supplied a jersey. Teams may elect to add a player's 'nickname' to the back of the jersey directly above the number at their own expense. Nicknames must



be non-commercial, non-political and non-suggestive. With the exception of the ‘nickname’ no other alteration to the jersey is allowed. Players with jerseys which do not conform to this rule may be suspended from play.

- B. Each team will be supplied a set of catcher’s gear, practice balls, and a selection of bats and batting helmets to share as a team. The batting helmets will have attached masks.
- C. Softball (Optical Yellow having a COR of 0.47 & compression of 375) size:
 - 12 inch ball will be used by 12U and 13+ teams
- C. The head coach of each team is accountable for returning all AYSA equipment to the League at the completion of the end of season tournament.

3.2 Player Supplied Equipment

- A. Players must wear cleats (**NO** metal cleats are allowed by players or coaches) and have a softball glove
- B. Players may use their own equipment, such as bats and helmets, if they are ASA approved. Batting helmets **must** have attached masks and chin straps.
- C. Required equipment by age group:

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Batting Helmet with Mask</i>	<i>Facemask</i>	<i>Heart Guard Shirt</i>	<i>Pants</i>	<i>Glove</i>	<i>Non-Metal Cleats</i>
12U	<i>Required</i>	<i>Highly Recommended</i>	<i>Recommended (Highly Recommended for Pitchers and Infielders)</i>	<i>Recommended</i>	<i>Required</i>	<i>Required</i>

- D. Players are encouraged to wear softball pants. If players will be sliding, pants are recommended.
- E. AYSA recommends that all parents also consider heart guard shirts, especially for pitchers

4. General Rules

4.1 A.S.A. Rules

These Rules and Regulations serve as a supplement to the ASA Girls Softball Rule Book and will override any ASA Rule if there is a difference between the two.



4.2 Field Dimensions

Age Group	Pitching Distance	Base Distance
12U	40 feet	60 feet

4.3 Regulation Games

A. Game Duration

Age Group	Maximum Inning	Open Inning (Whichever Comes First)	Game Time Limit (No New Inning Can Start After)
12U	6 innings	55 min. OR 5 th inning	70 minutes

- In age groups 8U – 13+, no new regulation inning may begin after the game time limit is reached.
- Any inning that starts prior to the game time limit, must be played to completion. If the game time limit is reached during the regular season and the inning ends in a tie, no tiebreakers will be played during the regular season.
- Open inning will be called at the **designated time or inning**, whichever comes first. If the game time limit has not been reached at the conclusion of the open inning, additional inning(s) will be played (regular inning run limits will apply, i.e., **games will not have multiple open innings**).

Age Group	Regular Inning Run Limits	“Open” Inning Run Limits
12U	3	8

B. Mercy Rule

- A game will be called if the following run leads occur, however, the home team will always get their last at bat, if needed.

Age Group	# Runs After Inning			
	3	4	5	6
8U and above		12	9	9



C. *Weather / Field-Related Cancellations*

- There are NO suspended games
- 8U and above Age Groups: If a game is cancelled prior to the completion of 4 innings (3-1/2 innings if the home team is leading), due to the weather/field issues, the game will be rescheduled/replayed, if field space is available.

4.4 Playing Strength

- A. AYSA strives to not have forfeits. Coaches are expected to strive to field a team for no less than five players
- B. If a team does not show up, they will forfeit the game
- C. Player Call Up: To assist coaches in the ability to field teams in case of player absence, AYSA has implemented a Call Up Process:
- A team may borrow (call up) a maximum of 2 registered recreational players from the next lower age group in order to bring team strength up to a maximum of 10 players.
 - If a regular team member arrives once the game begins, the regular team member must replace a borrowed player unless strength remains at or below 10 players
 - No borrowed player may skip the game of their regular team
 - Players are permitted to “play across” meaning, **during the regular season only**, a girl may play for a different team within her own age group, provided she is not allowed to skip her own team’s game to play for a different team in her age group
 - All “borrowed” players must bat last
 - When ‘borrowed’ players are used an effort must be made to balance the teams.

<i>If your team strength is...</i>	<i>You...</i>	<i>For a total team strength of...</i>
<i>5 players</i>	<i>Can call up 5 players</i>	<i>10 players</i>
<i>6 players</i>	<i>Can call up 4 players</i>	<i>10 players</i>
<i>7 players</i>	<i>Can call up 3 players</i>	<i>10 players</i>
<i>8 players</i>	<i>Can call up 2 players</i>	<i>10 players</i>
<i>9 players</i>	<i>Can call up 1 player</i>	<i>10 players</i>



10+ players	<u>Cannot</u> call up any players	10+ players
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4.5 Game Rules

- Prior to each game, a pre-game conference must be held at home plate. This conference shall include: Coach/Umpire introductions, any rule questions, exchange of batting order with other team, and player positions line-up must be provided to the umpire.
- Coaches are **NOT** allowed to make “Coach Agreements” at the plate which override the rules. The umpires will follow the rules as laid out by ASA and AYSA.
- Each coach is **REQUIRED** to complete the standardized AYSA “*Game Line-Up Worksheet*” located on www.aysasoftball.com for the number of innings to be played in their age group demonstrating their compliance with the rotational rules (see Rules 4.5.B (regular season) and 9.1.E (tournament)below). A copy of this line-up (with player name and number) **MUST** be placed in the fence behind home plate or handed to the BMOD prior to the pregame meeting. Non-submission of the lineup is considered non-compliance. If any of these criteria are not followed the coach will be disciplined at the Board’s discretion including but not limited to forfeiture of the game in which the event occurred.

NOTE: *Coaches, do not focus your efforts, another coach’s efforts, or one of your parents’ efforts on the other team’s compliance, as this will only heighten tensions on the field. The Board Member on Duty will be collecting rosters and watching for non-compliance.*

A. Offensive Play

- All teams will bat a continuous batting order with all players batting for the entire game.
- If a player gets hurt/sick and cannot bat, that batter will be skipped over in the lineup and an out will NOT be charged. If the player can continue the game, the player will be re-inserted in the previous batting order.
- Any team that has a player leave must notify the umpire and the other coach.
- If a player arrives late, the player will be placed in the last batting position
- At the first incidence of a thrown bat (as determined by the umpire), the umpire shall warn that team. Any additional occurrences of a thrown bat, the batter shall be called out and any runners returned to their original bases (see special rules for 6U and 8U age groups). Each team will receive one warning.



- Look back rule – Special enforcement – An out will not be called except when a player is clearly violating the intent of the rule by playing chicken or attempting to draw a throw. All other violations will be called a dead ball situation, with the runner returning to the last base occupied. The umpires will call the violation and instruct the player and coach as to the infraction and use it as a teaching moment.

B. Defensive Play

- Sitting the Bench: No player may sit a second inning in a game until all players have sat one inning on defense.
- Playing in the Field: Rotation Rules
 - In all age groups, all players must play at least **2** innings per game in the field on defense
 - In all age groups, all players must play **1** complete inning in outfield and **1** complete inning in infield by completion of the **3rd** inning. Infield positions include: Pitcher, 1B, 2B, Shortstop, 3B, and Catcher.
 - **10U, 12U, 13+** – For the first **5** innings, a player may not play the same position for more than **3** innings (except 10U pitchers who are limited to **2** innings). As a developmental recreational league, we strive to ensure that players have the opportunity to play and learn many different positions.

NOTE: *The above rotation rules apply regardless of whether a player attends practices during the week or misses games during the season.*

- Should a coach have a concern about the safety of a player, prior to breaking the rotation rules, the coach **must notify** the Age Group Coordinator (AGC) / Recreation Vice Commissioner (RVC) **or** the Board Member on Duty (BMOD), have a discussion with the parents, and email the AGC and RVC of the request to receive an exception to the rule.
- Intentional rolling of a ball to get a runner out is **NOT** allowed. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the ball is rolled intentionally, then all forced runners shall be safe.

4.6 Protests

Games cannot be protested. If there is a question about a ruling on the field, provide the written rule in question not the home plate umpire. At which time, the umpire will explain the interpretation of the rule and determine if a call should be overruled. Concerned about a ruling should be made to the BMOD – **AFTER** the game and **AWAY** from players **AND** parents. The appropriate AYSA Board Members will review the question(s) and provide clarifications.



4.7 Practice Limitations

- A. League Week is defined as Sunday through Saturday
- B. AYSA encourages participation in all team events. Each team will be scheduled for one practice per week during regular season. However, with the approval of the AGC and League scheduler, each team may schedule an additional practice.
- C. All-Star/Select Coaches may schedule on **OPTIONAL** practice each week while recreational games are still taking place. Players must attend scheduled recreational practices over optional All-Star/Select practices. During the regular recreational season, All-Star/Select Coaches may not factor attendance at optional practices during the regular recreational season in a negative way against any player.

4.8 Rules of Conduct

- A. The purpose of the AYSA Recreational League is to provide quality instruction, develop strong character, and establish good sportsmanship. The outcome of any contest is secondary to the development of quality character in our youth.
- B. AYSA Board will exercise its authority to assure proper discipline is maintained.
- C. No player, coach, parent, or fan will threaten physical harm to, touch in violent manner, accost, curse, or ridicule through use of profanity, any other player, coach, umpire, Board member, or fan. Any violation of this rule will result in disciplinary action of at least an automatic two-game suspension.
- D. Any player, coach, parent, or fan removed from a game by an umpire will be suspended for the next game. On a second offense, this person is suspended indefinitely.
- E. Each coach is required to fairly rotate players to ensure appropriate growth opportunities for all players (Section 4.5.B)
 - In the event of violations to these rules, the AYSA Board will exercise its authority for discipline, including, but not limited to suspension of the coach.
- F. Positive cheering is encouraged; however, **NO negative cheering** will be tolerated from players, coaches, or fans. No chattering at the batter or distracting cheers/noises made to the pitcher or other defensive players. Use of artificial noise makers is strictly prohibited. If the Board determines these have occurred the player, coach or fan may be asked to leave park immediately.
- G. AGCs must be notified by coaches if additional coaches are added to the team.



4.9 Special Safety Rules for Players

- A. No players may participate with jewelry. This includes earrings, bracelets, necklaces, watches/fitness trackers, etc.; coaches should include a pre-game check to ensure compliance. Newly pierced earrings should be covered with tape or Band-Aids. Jackets may be worn, however, jackets with zippers must be zipped up.
- B. Unless the defensive player is in possession of the ball, the fielder cannot block the pathway of the runner as she is attempting to advance. If, in the judgement of the umpire, the fielder, without possession of the ball, blocks the pathway of the runner, the umpire shall call or signal the runner safe.

4.10 Dugouts and Team Responsibilities

- A. Dugouts
 - Assignments – Dugouts are assigned on a first come, first serve basis
 - Clean-up – Teams must remove all equipment and trash from dugouts immediately at the completion of the game
 - Vacate Immediately – Dugouts are to be vacated immediately upon the completion of the game when another game is scheduled on the same field. Post-game team meetings must be held outside and away from the dugout to allow the following teams to prepare for their game.
- B. Team Duties
 - Electronic Scoreboard – For all age groups, the **visiting team** is responsible for keeping score on the electronic scoreboard
 - Official Scorebook – The home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook.

5. 12U Special Rules

All other General Rules with the following exceptions apply for this age group.

5.1 Defensive Play

- A. Maximum of **10** players will play in the field for defensive play.
- B. Infield fly rule is in effect



5.2 Offensive Play

- A. Continuous batting order with all players batting is in effect for the entire game.
- B. Bunting is allowed.
- C. If a player has two strikes and attempts to bunt, if the ball is bunted foul the player will be out.

5.3 Base Running Rules

- A. Stealing 2nd on a walk is allowed.
- B. Stealing of multiple bases is allowed.
- C. Stealing home **IS** allowed.
- D. Leadoffs. The runner may not leave the base until the pitched ball has left the pitcher's hand. In the regular season the League is focused on developing all players, therefore, runners who leave early will be sent back.
- E. If the catcher drops the third strike, the batter can attempt to advance to first if the base is unoccupied or there are two outs. IF the ball reaches first base before the batter, the batter is out. (If the batter does not immediately begin to move to first base and instead makes any move toward the dugout, the batter will be called out).
- F. A courtesy runner (the last batted out) will be allowed for the incoming pitcher and catcher of the next defensive rotation in order to speed up play. It is mandatory with two outs or two runs in a close inning.

6. Tournament Rules

1. End of Season Tournament Games

- A. Unless communicated in writing otherwise, Tournament Rules are as follows:
 - Home team will be determined by a coin toss.
 - Rotation Rules remain in effect – see 4.5.B **Game Rules**
 - No game time limit for any play-off game. Number of innings played, run limits, and open inning rules:



Team / Age Group	# Innings	Regular Innings	Open Innings
12U	5	1 st – 4 th (3 run limit)	5 th (8 run limit)

B. Tournament Games must be played until a winner is determined. More than one tiebreaker inning will be played, if needed.

- Run limits for Open Innings (8 runs) will apply. If game remains tied after one inning of play, additional inning will be played until a winner is determined.
- International Tie Breaker (ITB) will be in effect. To begin each inning, each team, when on offense, will place the last batted out (the last batter charged with an out at bat) from the previous inning, on 2nd base.

C. Weather/Field Related Cancellation Rules

- There are NO suspended games
- 8U and above Age Groups: IF a game is cancelled prior to the completion of 4 innings (3 ½ innings if the home team is leading), due to weather/field issues, the game will be rescheduled/replayed, if field space is available.

D. Offensive Play

- All teams will bat a continuous batting order with all players batting for the entire game.
- If a player gets hurt/sick and cannot bat, that batter will be skipped over in the lineup and an out will NOT be charged. If the player can continue the game, the player will be re-inserted in the previous batting order.
- If a player leaves the game early, for reasons other than injury/sickness, an automatic out will be charged every time that player is to bat for the remainder of the game. If the player returns, they must be re-inserted in their previous batting order
- Any team that has a player leave must notify the umpire and the other coach.
- If a player arrives late, the player will be placed in the last batting position.
- At the first incidence of a thrown bat (as determined by the umpire), the umpire shall warn that team. Any additional occurrences of a thrown bat, **the batter will be called out** and any runners returned to their original bases.



- Leadoffs: For 12U, the runner may not leave the base until the pitched ball has left the pitcher's hand. In the end of season tournament, players will get one warning before being subject to being called out for leaving early.

E. Defensive Play

- Sitting the Bench: No player may sit a second inning in a game until all players have sat one inning on defense.
- Playing the in the Field: Rotation Rules
 - ✓ All players must play at least 2 innings per game in the field on defense
 - ✓ All players must play 1 complete inning in outfield and 1 complete inning in infield by completion of the 3rd inning. For purposes of this rule, infield positions include: pitcher, 1B, 2B, shortstop, 3B, and catcher.
 - ✓ 12U
 - For the first 5 innings, a player may not play the same position for more than 3 innings. During the 6th inning or ITB innings, players may be played in **any** position.

NOTE: The above rotation rules apply regardless of whether a player attends practices during the week or misses games during the season.

F. Player Call Up / Playing Across

- During the tournament, only players who have been eliminated are eligible to play up.
- "Playing across" is **not permitted** during the Tournament