



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

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

6U Age Division



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

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ALPHARETTA YOUTH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION LOCAL RULES: 6U

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 on the www.aysasoftball.com website as well as 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, Tees and a selection of bats.
- C. Softball (Optical Yellow having a COR of 0.47 & compression of 375) size:
 - 11 inch ‘soft’ softball will be used by 6U teams
- D. 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 (or regular season games for 6U).

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:

<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>
<i>6U</i>	<i>Required</i>	<i>Required</i>	<i>Optional</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

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Pitching Distance</i>	<i>Base Distance</i>
6U	25 feet / T-ball	50 feet

4.3 Regulation Games

A. Game Duration

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Maximum Inning</i>	<i>Open Inning (Whichever Comes First)</i>	<i>Game Time Limit (No New Inning Can Start After)</i>
6U	4 innings	N/A	65 minutes

- At 6U, the full side will bat and there will be no run limits.
- In 6U, no new inning will begin if there are five minutes or less remaining on the umpire’s official game clock.
- 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**).

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Regular Inning Run Limits</i>	<i>“Open” Inning Run Limits</i>
6U	Each side bats	N/A
8U	3	8

C. Weather / Field-Related Cancellations

- There are NO suspended games



- 6U Age Group: If a game is cancelled prior to the completion of 3 innings (2-1/2 innings if the home team is leading), due to 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:
 - 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.

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.

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.
 - **6U Age Group:** A player may not play in the same position for more than **2** innings.

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. 6U Special Rules (Ages 4 – 6)

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

5.1 Defensive Play

- All members of the team will play in the field for defensive play.
- As many as **6** players may be in the infield before a batter hits. Four (**4**) players must be at least 40 feet from home plate prior to the ball being hit in the traditional 1B, 2B, SS, 3B positions. The 5th infield player will be the player/pitcher. The player/pitcher must have ***both*** feet inside the 8-foot pitcher circle when the ball is hit. Any additional players should be placed behind the 2B and SS players, and behind the second base bag or in outfield positions where there are enough players.
- Player catchers are ***NOT*** allowed. A helper from the offensive team will be used to return the ball to the tee or pitcher.
- Infield fly rule is ***NOT*** in effect.
- Two coaches will be allowed on the field to instruct the defense. Both coaches ***must stand behind*** the deepest defensive player and of players during the live ball.

5.2 Offensive Play

- The team with the fewer number of players will bat extra batters up to the number of players on the larger team. Coaches must rotate, in different games, not within the same game, the batters who get the extra at bats.
- The continuous batting order, with all players batting ***once each half inning***, is in effect for the entire game
- At 6U, the full side will bat and there will be no run limits.
- Batting: Players will receive **4** coach pitches. If the ball is not put in play, the player will receive **two** opportunities off the tee. If the batter fouls off the 4th coach pitch, the coach will pitch another ball. This will continue until the batter lets a ball go past or swings and doesn't make contact. At that point, the batter will move to hitting off the tee. (As described in Section E below).



- The adult pitcher must pitch from the 25-foot mark. There are no arc requirements
- Adult pitcher must exit the field in the opposite direction of the defensive play or an out may be called
- If a batted ball hits the adult pitcher, the ball is dead and the player must hit again as if nothing happened
- In the event of a thrown bat, the player will be warned, however, no outs will be called.
- Batters will receive **2** swings off the tee. On the second attempt, if contact is not made with the ball, the player will be called out. If the ball is fouled, the player will continue until the ball is either put in play or missed for an out. Contact must be made with the ball to be called foul. Moving the ball by hitting the tee only is considered a swing and miss.

E. A hit ball not leaving the 10-foot semi-circle fair line is foul. A hit ball lying on or touching the circle is fair.

F. Bunting is NOT allowed

5.3 Base Runnings Rules

- A. During the entire season, **one** base can be taken on a ball overthrown to **any** base, but the runner must make the base safely *and is subject to being thrown out by the defensive team*. Only one overthrow is permitted per batter. *An overthrow to the pitcher's circle is not an overthrow to a base and therefore, runners cannot advance on this throw.*
- B. If a batted ball does not leave the infield area and is returned to the pitcher/circle area, time will be called. A runner must be at or beyond the chalk line between the bases to receive the base when time is called. If a player runs through the circle with the ball to get a player out, time will not be called.
- C. If a ball is returned directly to a base, and in the umpire's judgment there is a play to be made at this base, then calling time shall be suspended until after the attempt. However, runners on other bases should stop on their current base.
- D. On a ball hit to the outfield (where the grass begins), a runner may continue to advance at their own peril until the ball has been **returned to the infield and is in control by a defensive fielder inside the base paths**. The defensive player does **not** need to be inside the pitcher's circle for time to be called.