SOONER STATE SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

2022 RULES ADDENDUM

USA NEW PITCHING RULE FOR 2022: Rule 6C 3j

The pitcher has 5 seconds to release the next pitch after receiving the ball or after the umpire indicates “play ball”.

1. Flip for home team.
2. TIME LIMIT**: 55** minutes from the first warm-up pitch
3. RUN RULES**: 20** after 3 innings, **15** after 4 innings, **10** after 5 innings
4. **NO** run per inning limit or handicapping
5. TIE BREAKER: begins in **top of 8th** inning or at the **expiration of time**.

Pitch count will be 3 balls and 2 strikes. (Progressive tie breaker).

1. HOME RUN LIMIT: “C” division games – Allowed **1 over-the-fence home run per game**; subsequent are outs (not inning ender).. “D” division **NO** over the fence home runs allowed. “E” division **NO** over the fence home runs allowed. Any over the fence runs shall be an out (not inning ender). In a “C” vs “D” or “D” vs “E” game **NO** over the fence home runs are allowed; they will count as outs.
2. STARTING COUNT: Start with **1-1 count**. Courtesy foul will be utilized.
3. PITCH: 6 foot minimum. 12 foot maximum. Pitcher is required to wear a metal framed protective face mask. **See Below for dead ball pitch\***
4. EXTRA PLAYER: All divisions may field 10 players defensively and bat 12 players offensively. Coaches are suggested to use the EP designation to allow any 10 to play defensively.
5. LINE-UPS: Full line-ups must be given to the plate umpire at the pre-game conference beginning each game. Include: **first name, last name, uniform number, position name or** **number**, all substitutes including injured players present but unable to play. All substitutions must go to the plate umpire.
6. TEAM/PLAYERS: Each team shall consist of 10 players (or 12 with the EPs). Each team must have 7 of their own legally rostered players to start or continue each game. An **automatic out** will be placed in the number 8, 9 and/or 10 spots in the line-up if no pick-up players are added. “D” teams are allowed to pick up two “D” rated players. If a “D” team picks up any “C” players they may play but the game is an automatic loss. If an “E” team picks up a “D” player they may play but the game is an automatic loss. “C” teams have the same number restrictions but they may pick up “D” or “E” players as well as “C” players with no game loss. Teams may not use pickup players to fill EP positions, only to get to 10 players.
7. Home plate umpire shall be the official scorekeeper. Home book shall be the official book if available. Visitor’s book will be used if home book is not available.
8. COURTESY RUNNER: Any eligible player on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may be used **once per inning.**
9. GAME BALLS: Provided by the league. Return to the umpires at the end of each game.
10. FORFEIT TIME: **First game only** 10 minutes. Those 10 minutes are considered playing time.
11. UNIFORMS: Shirts must have numbers on front, back, or sleeve. Teams with two teams in the same division must have different shirts. Blood rule applies (a non-matching shirt will be allowed). Pickup players can have different shirts.
12. No stealing. Players cannot lead off until the pitched ball reaches home plate, crosses home plate, is hit, or touches the ground.  **See below\***
13. No profanity, obscene gestures, or inappropriate behavior will be allowed.
14. Players/coaches must wear athletic **shoes**. No flip-flops, sandals, high heels or open foot shoes etc.
15. No excessive, large or dangerous jewelry/adornments may be worn. This includes facial piercings. Check with the U-I-C if in doubt.
16. If you have head or facial piercings, an acceptable face mask must be worn.

Rules Awareness:

1. **\*DEAD BALL ON PITCH:** Rule 7 sec 5 B. A ball is called on the batter for each legally pitched ball that does not enter the strike zone, touches the ground before reaching home plate, or touches home plate and the batter does not swing. Any pitched ball that hits the ground or plate cannot be legally swung at by the batter. If the batter swings at a pitch after the ball hits the ground or plate: 1) the ball is dead; 2) a ball on the batter; 3) players may not advance.
2. **NO LEADOFF FOR RUNNERS:** Rule 8 Sec 7 R. The runner is out…when a runner fails to keep contact with the base to which they are entitled until a pitched ball is batted, touches the ground, or reaches home plate.