

VIRGINIA STATE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT RULES SUMMARY

[**NOTE:** The Virginia 8U (machine-pitch) Softball State tournament is played under the "Babe Ruth 8U Softball Playing Rules for the Southeast Regional Tournament," which are not covered in this rules summary. However, the procedures outlined in this document that are not specific to playing rules apply to all State softball tournaments including the 8U (machine-pitch) Softball State tournament.]

CREDENTIAL BOOKS: After being checked and approved by the Tournament Director, are to be returned to each team's manager.

PROTEST COMMITTEE: Each tournament game must be played in the presence of the Tournament Director and Protest Committee (composed of at least three members, of which none are umpires at that tournament). No tournament game shall start play in the absence of said director and committee.

PROTESTS: A manager must immediately claim a violation of a rule, at which time play will be suspended until the Protest Committee has made its decision based upon information received from the managers and umpires and the Committee's observations. The Protest Committee's decision will be final. No protest, except on player eligibility, will be honored after a game has been completed.

PLAYERS: 9 players in the batting order [10 if the Extra Player (EP) option is used].

An **EXTRA PLAYER (EP)** can be used to increase the batting order to 10 batters. If a team elects this option, it must start with the EP and end with the EP or forfeit the game. (Both teams in a game are not required to use this option.)

RE-ENTRY RULE: Babe Ruth Softball will allow re-entry of already-used players if all substitutes have been used and an injury occurs or a player is ejected. Selection of this substitute must be made by the opposing manager. The injured or ejected player, once removed from the game, cannot re-enter.

SOFTBALL (10U Division): A Rawlings or Worth 11" official Babe Ruth softball properly stamped "Official Babe Ruth Softball" shall be used for all postseason tournament competitions.

SOFTBALL (12U, 14U, and 16U Divisions): A Rawlings or Worth 12" official Babe Ruth softball properly stamped "Official Babe Ruth Softball" shall be used for all postseason tournament competitions.

GAME LENGTH (10U and 12U Divisions): 6 complete innings unless the home team leads after 5 ½ innings of play. No new inning may start after 1 hour and 30 minutes of play. **EXCEPTION:** Championship games.

GAME LENGTH (14U and 16U Divisions): 7 complete innings unless the home team leads after 6 ½ innings of play. No new inning may start after 1 hour and 30 minutes of play. **EXCEPTION:** Championship games.

15-RUN RULE: Any Babe Ruth Softball 12U and younger Division tournament game must be terminated immediately if one team is ahead by fifteen (15) or more runs after two and one half (2 ½) or three (3) innings and has had equal times at bat.

Any Babe Ruth Softball 14U and older Division tournament game must be terminated immediately if one team is ahead by fifteen (15) or more runs after three and one half (3 ½) or four (4) innings and has had equal times at bat.

10-RUN RULE: Any Babe Ruth Softball 12U and younger Division tournament game must be terminated immediately once becoming regulation (3 ½ or 4 innings) if one team is ahead by 10 or more runs and the teams have had equal times at bat or the home team is leading by 10 or more runs.

Any Babe Ruth Softball 14U and older Division tournament game must be terminated immediately once becoming regulation (4 ½ or 5 innings) if one team is ahead by 10 or more runs and the teams have had equal times at bat or the home team is leading by 10 or more runs.

FIELD DIMENSIONS: Standard Babe Ruth Softball Divisions base length of 60 feet.

UMPIRES: Two umpires will be on the field at all times (one on the field and one at home plate behind the batter).

COURTESY RUNNER: The pitcher and (or) catcher may have a courtesy runner for them every time that they are up to bat. Each courtesy runner used must be a player who is not in the game at the time. Each courtesy runner may be a courtesy runner only once per inning. After a team has used its eligible players for this rule, the team shall be allowed to use its player with the last completed plate appearance to run for the pitcher or catcher.

BASE STEALING: Base stealing is permitted in tournament play. Runners may not leave their bases(s) until the ball is released by the pitcher.

BABE RUTH SOFTBALL PATCHES: Babe Ruth Softball shoulder emblems must be displayed as specified in the current rule book.

BABE RUTH SOFTBALL RULE CHANGE – FACE MASKS: Face masks are required for the infield positions – first base, third base, and pitcher.

JEWELRY: Jewelry is permitted in all Divisions of Babe Ruth League, Inc. Umpires have the authority to remove anything believed to distract or increase risk to player safety. (Medical alert or religious bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry and continue to be permitted.)

BABE RUTH SOFTBALL BATS (CLARIFICATION): Softball bats with an adjustable knob are allowed, provided the knob is permanently fastened by the manufacturer. Any devices, attachments, or wrappings that cause the knob to become flush with the handle are also permitted.

DIAMOND KINETICS: The Diamond Kinetics “Swing Tracker” sensor that is attached to the bottom of a softball bat can be used during live, in-game at bats.

PITCHING RULES (10U and 12U DIVISIONS): No pitcher shall be allowed to pitch in more than nine (9) innings in any two (2) successive tournament games within the same tournament level. All players have full pitching eligibility beginning at each level of tournament competition.

PITCHING RULES (14U and 16U DIVISIONS): There are no pitching limitations for these age groups.

PITCHER’S FOOT PLACEMENT: The new addition will eliminate the requirement that a pitcher must have part of her pivot foot on top of the pitcher’s plate. Now, the pivot foot must only start in contact with the plate. This addition will also allow the pitcher to start with the non-pivot “stride” foot in contact with or behind the plate, and allows the pitcher to step back with the stride foot off of the plate; provided the step-back begins prior to the official start of the pitch, the separating of the hands.

With the new rule addition, pitchers will have the choice to either continue with the current rule or to comply with the new addition. Both will be accepted as legal play and will not result in an illegal pitch scenario.

PITCHER’S GLOVE: No pitcher shall attach to her glove any foreign material of a color different from the glove. The pitcher may wear her batting glove on her non-pitching hand under her pitcher’s glove, provided the batting glove is not optic yellow.

GAMES PLAYED PER DAY: No tournament team may play in more than three games in a day. If a team plays in three games in 1 day, there shall be a 30-minute rest period between each game.