

## **ColSak 2024 Game Rules 12U/14U**

The ColSak Girls Softball League provides play for teams in support of improving area high school programs.

We have crafted rules making it easier for our coaches to play as many girls each game as possible. While not perfectly following WIAA rules, we intend to maintain all WIAA rules except those changes approved by the Board of Directors.

Minimizing rules deviations maintains consistency for the players, coaches and umpires. U12/U14 will follow WIAA (NHFS) rules unless noted below.

1. Each team must consist of players attending a geographic school community or a private school. Players not in attendance at that school district are not eligible for that team. Tournament type teams are not allowed.
2. Each team will need a minimum of 7 age-eligible players to start a game. After the game has started, a newly arrived player will be added to the end of the batting order as last batter. If a team has six or less players, they forfeit, but it is suggested that one team donate players to allow the game to be played. Since players, coaches, umpires & fans are in attendance, playing the game benefits those in attendance. A forfeit does not provide playing time for anyone.
3. Any team may provide a batting order up to their full roster of players. However once the order is decided at the pre-game meeting with the umpires, changes are not permitted except as specified in Rule 2. Abuses of this rule for the purpose of a competitive edge will not be tolerated and may result in forfeiture.
  - a. If a team chooses to bat more the entire roster of players, free substitution can be used. Which means defensively, any player may enter the game at any time for any number of times and at any number of positions. The defensive alignment has nothing to do with the batting order. No DP/Flex will be allowed.
  - b. Pitchers and catchers are permitted to have courtesy runners. The last out prior to batter will be the runner. If that runner cannot perform then the next previous batting out will be the courtesy runner.
  - c. Any player not able to perform, will be dropped from the batting order (not an out) and cannot bat the remainder of the game.
  - d. All levels will use 9 defensive players.

4. Calling the game off because of a rainout before the game has started is the Home Team responsibility. Once the game has started it is up to the umpires. Rescheduling the game in either case is the home team's responsibility and must be mutually agreed upon by BOTH Coaches.
5. Tie games at the end of the time limit OR after 7 innings will commence with the last previous out at second base to start each extra inning (International Tie-breaker rule).
6. No inning may start after 90 minutes after the game start time.
  - a. Home teams are responsible for finding and paying the Umpires for regular season games.
  - b. Games require at least one WIAA or ASA registered umpires.
7. Run ahead rule – WIAA rule of 10 runs after 5 innings. The WIAA rule of 15 after 3 will not be used unless agreed upon by both coaches. Note – this is not an umpire decision to enforce other run ahead rules.
  - a. Each inning is over after 3 outs or 8 runs are scored, whichever comes first.
  - b. No advancing on past balls or wild pitches if a team is up by 8 runs or more.
8. WIAA/ASA pitching distances will be used: U12 is 40' and U14 is 43'. We will be using WIAA (NFHS) mechanics. The difference being the pitcher does not need to start with both feet on the pitching rubber and can take a step back with the non-pivot foot. 12" ball will be used for U12.
9. Helmet Chin straps are not required (WIAA & ASA) but if on the helmet should be used.

Please continue to encourage good sportsmanship from your players, coaches and fans.