

# 2025 Girls Fastpitch Rules

Home team shall provide two (2) game balls. The umpire shall be judge of the fitness of all balls in play.

The umpire shall not allow teams to stall awaiting the return of a foul ball. The pitcher shall be instructed to pitch at least once, the ball that was given to her by the umpire when the other has left the field.

The player who is next at bat shall always occupy the on deck circle.

There shall be certain standards of conduct expected of every member. No player, manager, coach, parent, or any other person connected with a team shall commit any of the following violations:

- Lay hands on the umpire or insult, degrade or verbally abuse him or her.
- Delay the game with stalling tactics.
- Use profane or abusive language.
- Engage in a fight or argument with a player, coach, spectator or official.
- Smoke anywhere within the softball complex.
- Be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs during a practice or game.
- Violate any of the Chehalis Sports Complex rules.
  - Rules are posted throughout the sports complex.

Each runner must touch the bases in order when advancing through the bases. The batter is allowed to run past first only after tagging the base, provided they are not showing intention to continue running to second base.

All batters including ones in batting circle will wear an appropriate helmet with a face covering on it.

Field masks are optional.

Registered select players are allowed to pitch approximately half of each game. The other half of the game must be pitched by a player who is not a registered select player.

No pick-up players\*

\*If two teams are playing each other, and one team is short a player(s) before the game has started, the other team can loan a player(s) or reschedule the game, as agreed upon between coaches. If the game has already started, the other team can loan a player(s), or the game can be canceled, as agreed upon between coaches. Any loaned player must be from one of the two teams who are scheduled to play one another.

## **2025 Rules:**

### **T-ball Division**

The official ball shall be eleven (11) inches in diameter.

The distance between bases shall be sixty (60) feet.

Each team must field a properly equipped catcher.

A minimum of three (3) innings will be played. No new inning shall start after sixty (60) minutes from the start of any game.

The batting order shall consist of all team members present.

Teams will field all members of the team that are present unless teams agree otherwise (i.e. injury).

No bunting is allowed.

Each player will get a maximum of 5 attempts to hit the ball off a tee into the field of play or she is out.

Runners may not leave the base until the ball has been hit.

When a player is put out on the bases or put out from a fly ball or a tag, the player must return to the dugout and be out. Though outs don't count because the whole line-up bats, players need to learn what outs are.

A player can run a maximum of one base while the ball is still in play.

### **8 & Under Division**

The official ball shall be eleven (11) inches in diameter.

The home team shall supply the umpire.

The distance from the pitching rubber to home plate shall be thirty-five (35) feet.

The distance between bases shall be sixty (60) feet.

The batting order will consist of all team members present. If a player is injured, she can be removed from the batting line-up and will not be counted as an out.

Coach shall pitch to his or her own players while at bat. Coach will pitch a maximum of 5 pitches to each player. The batter must hit the ball into play, or she is out. If a batted ball hits the coach, it is a fair ball.

Any runner can be called out due to force or tag and will be expected to leave the bases. However, outs per inning are not tallied and each team will bat through their entire roster each inning.

Teams will field a maximum of ten (10) players and must field a minimum of eight (8) players in order to play. Less than eight (8) players will constitute rescheduling of the game.

No bunting allowed.

Games shall be no more than five (5) innings. No new inning shall start after seventy (70) minutes from the start of any game. Games may end in a tie.

Every attempt will be made to play each team member an equal amount of time, although an exception may be made for health or disciplinary reasons. The opposing coach is to be notified as to a reason for non-playing of the player, prior to the start of the game or as the situation arises.

No stealing allowed.

The dropped third strike rule shall not be in play.

All other USA rules shall apply.

## **10 & Under Division**

The official ball shall be eleven (11) inches in diameter.

The home team shall supply the umpire.

The umpire is required to wear a mask.

The distance from the pitching rubber to home plate shall be thirty-five (35) feet. Pitchers are encouraged to begin play with both feet on the rubber, as USA rules state. However, realizing that many players are inexperienced, this rule will not be enforced. The pitcher must remain in the pitching circle when pitching the ball.

The distance between bases shall be sixty (60) feet.

The batting order will consist of all team members present. If a player is injured, she can be removed from the batting line-up and will not be counted as an out.

After ball four (4) on a batter, the player's coach shall pitch to her (she does not walk on four balls). The coach is to pitch from inside the pitching circle & must remain within the circle. The strike count will remain the same and the coach shall pitch only the remaining number of pitches in the strike count to the batter. All pitches thrown by the coach will be considered strikes, regardless of the location of the pitch. The batter is out if she has not hit the ball into play or fouled off the pitch. She shall remain at bat as long as she continues to foul off pitches. Opposing team's pitcher shall line up defensively in the pitchers circle. The coach, while pitching, becomes part of the playing field.

Teams will field a maximum of ten (10) players and must field a minimum of eight (8) players in order to play. Less than eight (8) players will constitute rescheduling of the game.

A maximum number of six (6) runs can be scored per inning.

A batter may bunt off a player pitcher only. No bunting off a coach's pitch.

Games shall be no more than five (5) innings. No new inning shall start after ninety (90) minutes from the start of any game. Games may end in a tie.

Every attempt will be made to play each team member an equal amount of time, although an exception may be made for health or disciplinary reasons. The opposing coach is to be notified as to a reason for non-playing of the player, prior to the start of the game or as the situation arises.

Stealing bases is allowed off a player pitcher only. No stealing off a coach's pitch. Stealing shall be governed by USA rules EXCEPT that a team may not steal home. The runner may not leave any base until the ball has left the pitcher's hand. If she leaves early (before the ball has left the pitcher's hand) she will be called out. This will be determined by the umpire.

The dropped third strike rule shall not be in play.

If a team is at bat and the inning ends with that team being down by 15 or more runs, the mercy rule will be put into effect, and the game will be called.

All other USA rules apply.

## **12 & Under Division**

The official ball shall be twelve (12) inches in diameter.

The distance from the pitching rubber to home plate shall be forty (40) feet.

The distance between bases shall be sixty (60) feet.

Games will be a maximum of seven (7) innings. No new inning will be started after 90 minutes from the start of any game. Games may end in a tie.

The batting order will consist of all team members present. If a player is injured, she can be removed from the batting line-up and will not be counted as an out.

A maximum number of six (6) runs can be scored per inning.

Every attempt will be made to play each team member an equal amount of time, although an exception may be made for health or disciplinary reasons. The opposing coach is to be notified as to a reason for non-playing of the player, prior to the start of the game or as the situation arises.

Teams will field a maximum of ten (10) players and must field a minimum of eight (8) players in order to play. Less than eight (8) players will constitute rescheduling of the game.

Stealing of any base, including home, is allowed.

A batter may advance on a dropped third strike with the chance of being thrown out.

If a team is at bat and the inning ends with that team being down by 15 or more runs, the mercy rule will be put into effect, and the game will be called.

All other USA rules shall apply.

## **14 - 18 Division**

The official ball shall be twelve (12) inches in diameter.

The distance from the pitching rubber to home plate shall be forty-three (43) feet.

The distance between bases shall be sixty (60) feet.

The batting order shall consist of all team members present.

Games will be no more than seven (7) innings. No new inning will be started after ninety (90) minutes from the start of any game. Games may end in a tie.

Early games are to start promptly at 5:30 pm; late games promptly at 7:15 pm. The starting and ending times of the late game may be dependent upon the length of the early game. These variations in time must be discussed with the umpire, by the managers involved, prior to starting the game.

Each team member must play a minimum of two (2) innings per game. An exception may be made for health or disciplinary reasons. The opposing coach is to be notified as to a reason for non-playing of the player, prior to the start of the game or as the situation arises.

A maximum number of six (6) runs can be scored per inning.

Teams will field a maximum of nine (9) players and must field a minimum of eight (8) players in order to play. Less than eight (8) players will constitute rescheduling of the game.

Player vacancies in the line-up will be counted as "outs" when it should be their turn at bat. If a player is injured, she can be removed from the batting line-up and shall not be counted as an out.

A batter may advance on a dropped third strike with the chance of being thrown out.

Runners can steal ANY base.

If a team is at bat and the inning ends with that team being down by 15 or more runs, the mercy rule will be put into effect, and the game will be called.

All other USA rules shall apply.