



SOFTBALL SPRING TRAINING RULES

OFFICIAL GAMES

- There is No Time Limit on Official Games.
- Home and Visitor designation is decided by coin flip at pre-game meeting.
- Everyone must wear a helmet in batting cages.

COLLEGE

- NCAA rules will be used for all games.
- Run rule: eight (8) runs after 4½ or 5 innings
- The International Tiebreaker will be used starting in the 8th inning.
- Line-ups can be straight nine or DP/FLEX.
- No courtesy runners are allowed.
- Defensive Conference Rule: one (1) visit per inning
- Re-Entry Rule: Only starters have re-entry privileges
- Orange safety base will NOT be used.

HIGH SCHOOL

- Florida HS Athletic Association (FHSAA) by way of National Federation Rules (NFHS) will apply for games.
- **New for 2019-** An illegal pitch is considered a ball on the batter if not put in play, and all base runners advance 1 base. If no base runners are on, it is simply called a ball to the batter.
- ASA rules can be accommodated as long as both teams are in agreement at the pre-game home plate meeting.
- The International Tiebreaker will be used starting in the 8th inning.
- All games will be played with the 43 ft. pitching distance.
- **FHSAA Pitching Rule Modifications.**
6-1-1 Prior to starting the delivery (pitch), the pitcher shall take a position with the pivot foot on or partially on the top surface of the pitcher’s plate and the non-pivot foot in contact with the pitcher’s plate. Both feet must be on the ground within or partially within the 24-inch length of the pitcher’s plate.
6-1-2b Once the hands are brought together and are in motion, the pitcher shall not take more than one step which must be forward, toward the batter and simultaneous with the delivery.

	<u>NFHS Rules</u>	<u>ASA Rules</u>
Run Rule	10 runs after 4½ or 5 innings 15 runs after 2½ or 3 innings	15 after 2½ or 3 innings 8 runs after 4½ or 5 innings
DP/FLEX	Can be used	Can be used
Courtesy Runners	Used for pitcher and catcher	Used for pitcher and catcher
Defensive Conference Rule	3 visits per seven innings	3 visits per seven innings
Re-Entry Rule	Allow for starters and substitutes	Allow for starters and substitutes
Cleats	Metal cleats ARE allowed	Metal cleats ARE allowed

NON-OFFICIAL GAMES (*informal games*)

- No new inning after **1-hour 45-minutes**. The umpires will keep the time on the field. Games can only be called after a COMPLETED inning.
- If both teams wish to play an “informal game” (i.e. unlimited substitutions, batting everyone in the line-up, or other agreed upon rule changes) this can be allowed. Please note, in such circumstances, both coaches must agree at the pre-game home-plate umpire meeting on the specific rule changes. If both coaches cannot agree, then a regulation game using standard NFHS rules will apply.
- Everyone must wear a helmet in batting cages.

SCRIMMAGES

- Scrimmage games do not have umpires, scorekeepers, scoreboards, or announcers
- Two hour drop dead time limits are enforced
- Everyone must wear a helmet in batting cages.