



**12/14 & Under**  
**Modification of ASA General Rules**  
**Up-dated 4/2025**

New items for this season will be indicated by BOLD print.

All rules contained in the current USA Official Rules of Softball relative to the administrative rules and playing rules, which apply to the 12U and/or 14U divisions, except modified herein, shall apply. This addendum is to be used in conjunction with the most current USA Official Rules of Softball.

In the Lewis County League, we allow girls to play for town teams either in the School District they live in, or the School District they attend school in. If there is no team available for their age division in either of those locations, the player will be placed on a team with review and approval from the League Organization President.

**PENALTY:** It is up to the president of the town league association to enforce these penalties.

- 1st Offense - Warning
- 2nd Offense - Ejection
- 3rd Offense - Minimum two-game suspension with league hearing
- 4th Offense - Automatic league suspension

1. No alcohol or tobacco allowed on playing fields or dugouts. This includes vape pens and liquid.
2. No foul or abusive language allowed on the playing field by players, coaches, or spectators.
3. No player or coach will show up at practice or games under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
4. The manager of a team is responsible for the actions and conduct of all coaches and players on his/her team.
5. Every team shall turn in a roster of players on their team. The rosters will be kept by the league to settle any discrepancies.
6. Four (4) full innings is a game due to rain out. If the game is rained out prior to the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) inning, it will be rescheduled and will start over from the beginning.

7. All players will wear a shirt with a number on it. No metal spike cleats will be worn for any age division.
8. A team failing to field a team fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled game time will forfeit.
9. 12U and 14U will bat the roster.
10. Substitutions:
  - 10a. Each team will bat its full roster with unlimited defensive substitutions.
  - 10b. Each player can substitute at any defensive position but still has to maintain the same position in the batting order.
11. All players will play a minimum of two (2) innings per game defensively, If the game is suspended before completed, players will be credited with playing in the un-played innings.
12. Disciplinary actions of coaches are left to their own discretion. However, they must have a valid reason and notify the opposing coach that such action is being taken.
13. All divisions will be played with nine (9) players defensively. Games may be played with eight (8) players. A team with only seven (7) players or less will forfeit.
14. Games will be six (6) innings for 12U division and seven (7) innings for 14U division or a two (2) hour time limit, whichever comes first, with no new innings starting after the two hours. Time starts with the delivery of the first pitch of the game. After the first pitch is delivered, the umpire should note the time and report it to the home scorekeeper for entry into the scorebook.
15. Ten (10) run mercy rule is in effect after the 5<sup>th</sup> inning. Home will not bat in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning if they are ten (10) runs ahead. Five (5) full innings must be played.
16. There will be a six (6) run limit per inning.. No runs will be counted after the 6<sup>th</sup> run crosses home plate, unless in the last inning.
  - a. The last inning of the game will have no run limit. The last inning **MUST BE DECLARED** by the umpire prior to the inning start. **An umpire may declare “last inning” after 1 hour and 40 minutes of play has been completed. If at the beginning of the last declared inning, the home team is losing, then the home team will bat first for that inning. If the home team is not able to catch up, the game is over. If they are able to catch up and surpass or tie the**

**visiting team, the visiting team will then get their last chance to bat. If the home team is ahead at the beginning of the declared last inning, the inning will proceed as normal with the exception of their being no run limit.**

17. 12U division can have an unlimited number of pitching conferences per inning during league games. 14U division will be held to one (1) pitching conference per inning during league games. If teams are blended to 12/14U League, the conference amount must be discussed by coaches to best accommodate the age of pitchers.

18. The strike zone will be enforced as defined by USA as being; when a batter assumes a natural batting stance adjacent to home plate, the strike zone is that space over any part of home plate between the batter's arm pits and the top of the knees.

19. Pitching; Played by USA rules. 40' pitching distance from back tip of home plate to front of pitching rubber for 12U and 43' for 14U divisions. If teams are blended to 12/14U League, the pitching distance must be discussed by coaches to best accommodate the age of pitchers.

19a. When teams are combined 12U/14U, no 14U aged player will be allowed to pitch in a game if that player is a pitcher on a year round, select or competitive softball team.

20. Players shall assume normal softball positions. A team shall consist of nine (9) fielders. Three (3) shall be outfielders. Outfielders shall play a minimum of fifteen (15) feet behind the base paths or as indicated by a chalk line drawn on the field at the before mentioned distance. Outfielders should be evenly spaced in the outfield, no rovers. All defensive positions must be positioned in fair territory when the pitcher delivers the ball to the batter, the only exception to this rule is the catcher.

21. All batters, including those on deck and base runners shall wear batting helmets. Batting helmets must be equipped with chin straps and faceguards approved by the manufacturer for use with the helmet.

22. No head first sliding – players may dive back.

23. The home team is responsible for informing the umpire before the game of all the rules contained within this document prior to the game and clarifying any questions appropriately. Youth umpires shall be at least two (2) years older than the age division of the players participating in the game,

i.e. a 12 & under game requires that umpires be at least 14 years of age. This applies to both home plate and base umpires.

24. If a ball hits the ground before hitting the batter, it is considered a wild pitch and the batter will take her base. Batter must make an attempt to get out of the way of the ball. The home plate umpire will be responsible for making the call.

25. If a play is being made at home plate, the runner has to make the attempt to slide. The runner would be called out for no attempt to slide, this is at the umpire's discretion.

26. Will be using a standard 12" softball.

## **Protests**

Lewis County Girls Fastpitch strives to promote a positive learning environment based on good sportsmanship, competition, and safety. In the event that there is a perceived possible violation of a playing rule, every effort should be made to bring the matter to a quick, peaceful, and agreeable conclusion for all parties involved. At the conclusion of the play, we encourage that "time" be called and both managers approach the umpire to calmly discuss any possible misinterpretation of the playing rules and that any corrections be made accordingly by the umpire and for play to resume uninterrupted. In the event that he issues cannot be resolve on the playing field by the parties involved the following protest procedure shall be followed:

1. The opportunity to protest occurs when the manager gives reasonable indication to the umpire that he/she wants to make a protest. Managers have the right to insist on filing a protest even if the umpire believes the call is not open for protest.
2. Protests are to challenge interpretations of the rules. Judgment calls cannot be protested. Judgment calls include, but not limited to; runner safe or out, ball or strike, fair or foul, legal or illegal pitch, did or did not touch base, or did not leave base too soon on fly ball, was fly ball caught legally or illegally, was it not an infield, fly playing field safe or not safe and any other matter involving only the accuracy of the umpire's judgment.
3. A \$25 fee must accompany all protests, payable to Lewis County Fastpitch.
4. A protested game is a game in which an official protest was properly entered and the game was played to its completion. If the official protest is upheld, the game will be replayed from the point of the upheld official protest. These games will be rescheduled as soon as possible so all situations shall be approximately the same as when the game was officially protested. If the official protest is denied, the game stands as played.
5. In an official protest, the manager will request "time" prior to the next pitch. The manager will then proceed to the umpire and say, "I want to enter an official protest." At that time, if needed, the plate umpire shall allow the manager a reasonable time to give the rule number to enter the official protest.

6. If after requesting "time", the manager is unable to provide the plate umpire the rule number within a reasonable time, the official protest is lost and the umpire call, "play ball".
7. If, after requesting "time", the manager is able to provide the plate umpire with the rule number within a reasonable time, the manager will proceed to the plate umpire and say, "I formally protest the interpretation of rule # (state rule) by the umpire on the last play." If the protest is based on a misinterpretation of the rule by the umpire rather than a judgment call. The umpire shall change the call to conform to the rule of allowing the game to be played under an official protest.
8. The plate umpire shall notify the official scorekeeper and order the official protest and rule number to be entered at the exact point of the game.
9. The umpire(s) of an officially protested game shall immediately contact the league president, and shall relate their views in writing so that the president will be informed of all facts in order to make a protest decision.
10. The protesting manager shall deliver the official protest in writing with the \$25 protest fee to the league president within 24 hours after the game. If the official protest is upheld, the fee will be returned to the manager, but if the protest is denied, the fee will be deposited into the league's treasury. Failure to deliver the written protest of fee to the president within 24 hours shall result in the protest procedure to be lost.
11. The league president will make the final decision on any playing rules protest, unless the president was a coach during the game under protest, then the final decision will be made by a third-party town league president.
12. An upheld protested game should be rescheduled as early as possible as decided by the league president.

## **Sportsmanship**

1. The umpire has complete authority to eject players, staff, or spectators for unsportsmanlike behavior.
2. Managers and staff are responsible for the conduct of their team and spectators.
3. Managers, coaches, team staff, players, and parents may not say things to harass the umpires, pitchers, or players on the opposing team.
4. Bat throwing may be called intentional or unintentional by the umpire. No more than one (1) warning per team will be given. Intentional throwing of the bat in an unsportsmanlike manner will result in the ejection of the offending player. In the case of unintentional bat throwing, the umpire will issue one warning. A second infraction, and all others that follow, will result in the batter being called out and having all runners return to the base(s) held at the time of the pitch (dead ball).
5. At the conclusion of the game each team shall complete an "appreciation cheer" for the opposing team **followed by a high five line.**
6. Each team is responsible for cleaning out their dugout at the conclusion of the game and

disposing of any garbage into an appropriate container.

### **Pick-Up Players**

Teams, during the course of the regular season, that have difficulty fielding a minimum of 10 players for a game may pick-up a player or players from a team from their hometown in the same division or the division directly below for the purpose of playing a game. The pick-up player(s) will not be added to the teams' official roster for the post season tournament. The pick-up player(s) is/are not allowed to pitch during the game. A maximum of two (2) pick-up players are allowed per team per game. Teams using pick-up players shall not have a game line up of more than ten (10) players. Teams using pick-up players must inform their opponent prior to the game and provide them with the specific players' identities of the team they players were picked up from.

### **Score Reporting**

The home team score book will be the official score book for the game. Both teams are responsible for reviewing and comparing score books to verify the score of the game prior to leaving the field. It is the responsibility of the winning team to report scores to their league president by the last game day of the week, (Friday). League presidents will report winning scores to the designated platform Lewis County Youth Girls Fastpitch chooses. Please list division and team division with scores. Failure to do so WILL result in forfeiture of points in league standings. Standings will be posted on the league's chosen platform and will be updated for the week by every Sunday evening.

### **Make-Up Games**

All make-up games must be played by the date of the last scheduled game. The home team is responsible for attempting to schedule make-up games. Coaches are required to make contact within 72 hours to reschedule the game. In the event that there is a difficulty in scheduling a make-up game either by a failure to come up with an agreeable date for make-up or a lack of interest by either team manager to schedule a make-up game, the following procedure shall be followed.

1. The coach or coaches shall make a reasonable attempt to contact each other within 72 hours of game cancellation.
2. The coach or coaches shall report the problem to their town league president.
3. The town league presidents of the affected teams will attempt to resolve the matter by one of the following methods: (a) they will schedule a new date for the game or, (b) they will agree to a forfeiture by one of the teams based on upon the teams' willingness to reschedule or, (c) they will refer the matter to the league president who will review the situation and render a final decision.