

8U CACHE VALLEY FAST PITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE 2024 BYLAWS

Current Year NFHS (Highschool Softball Rules) will be followed with the following exceptions:

1. PLAYER REQUIREMENTS:
 - a. The age for all divisions is based on the player's grade for the 23-24 School Year
 - b. At least 7 players are needed to have a legal game.
 - c. Players must be registered in the league and on the team roster to be eligible to play.
 - d. Individual players may only play for one team in a division.
 - e. Players may play up on a second team, but not down on any team.
 - f. If there are fewer than 7 players on a team, the game will still be played by divvying up players from both teams evenly.
 - g. No penalty for missing players.
 - h. Every player must play the field for at least 3 outs or 1 inning.
 - i. ALL PLAYERS MUST BAT and must bat in order.
 - i. The batter is out on the 3rd strike.
2. NO new inning after 50 minutes of game time. Once an inning begins (before 50 minutes) finish the inning. There are no tiebreakers!
3. Sides will be retired after 3 outs or 5 scored runs with no exceptions.
4. Any 10 players can take the field. The 10th player must start on the grass, allowing 4 players in the outfield. These outfielders may progress forward when contact is made with the ball.
5. Free substitutions on defense.
6. SOFTBALL SIZING: 10" Optic yellow or pink/yellow softballs with a sponge rubber center.
7. PITCHING:
 - a. The pitching distance from home plate to the rubber is **35 feet**.
 - i. Coach can come in close to pitch, $\frac{1}{2}$ way between the batter and the pitching rubber
 - b. Coaches will pitch up to 5 balls. The players either hit the ball or they are out. If the 5th pitch is fouled off, the batter gets one and only one more pitch for a chance to hit it fair.
 - c. The coach pitching will be the umpire for that half of the inning. The umpire will be the one to ensure all rules are enforced.
8. **NO STEALING.**
9. SPORTSMANSHIP: All coaches and spectators are expected to behave with good sportsmanship and positive support for the players and umpires (coaches). Failure to do so could result in game forfeiture and suspension from the league. **Arguing balls and strikes is not allowed**. Coaches are responsible for spectator's actions and behavior. League coordinators may eject coaches, spectators, or players from the game. Any person ejected from a game must miss the next game. Coaches (especially base coaches) can not impede a play but may give high 5's as a way to encourage players.
10. LIGHTNING: In the event that lightning is seen and/or thunder heard, the Umpire and Coaches will stop the game and clock to check the (FREE) **Weather Bug Phone App** to determine the proximity of lightning. If lightning is detected within 6 miles, players and spectators will be asked to take cover in vehicles. The Umpire will confirm that the scorebooks are up to date and match, the game will resume after 20 min if there is no lightning within 6 miles of the ballpark.