PYAA Recreation Softball Rules & Regulations

Rules for Recreation Copper League (Grades 1st- 2nd)

Revised February 2026

Section I– Copper Recreation League

Copper League (1st -2nd grade): This is an instructional league. Coach-Pitch Only. No Tees. This league is intended for athletes who are ready for the next level of softball after Tee Ball.

1) Game Length: up to 4 innings; 60 minutes of field space allotted.

2) Ball Size: 11in

3) Pitching Distance: 35 ft* Coach to pitch from inside the pitching circle.

4) Base Patch Distance: 60 ft

5) End of Inning: 3 outs or 5 runs scored; after a minimum of 5 batters have batted.

6) Scorekeeping: Only to change innings. No official score kept.

7) Pitching: Coach-Pitch only; Coach should pitch from a standing position and pitch underhand with minimal arc to encourage success at the plate. Player in pitcher position must start each play from inside the pitching circle and wear a face covering. Ball buckets are not to be on field of play. A ball hit off a coach pitcher is considered live.

8)Pitches Thrown: Coach Pitch only. Max of 6 pitches unless 6th pitch is fouled, then continue until the last pitch is in play or struck out.

9) Base limits on a Hit: 1 base if in the infield. 2 bases if hit to the grass. Players can be thrown out if attempting multiple bases.

10) Batting: Every player must be in the batting order. Late players are added to the bottom of the order.

11) On-Deck Hitters: Permitted. Player must stay by the dugout to the batters back.

12) Hit by Pitch: No base given.

13) Lead Off: No. May leave the base when the ball is hit.

14) Bunting: Not permitted.

15) First Base sliding: Not permitted.

16) Sliding (2nd, 3rd, & Home): Permitted.

17) Stealing: Not permitted.

18) Overthrows: Runners may not advance a base on an overthrow, wild pitch, or passed balls.

19) Defensive Players: Traditional positions must be played, excluding Catcher. Outfielders must start each play in the grass.

20) Defensive Rotation: Required. No player can play the same position in a game.

21) Coaching: Defensive on-field coaching is permitted.

Section II – General Rules

The following general rules apply to all leagues of Pickerington Recreation Softball.

1) Goals and Objectives:
   a) Teach the rules and skills of fast pitch softball.
   b) Teach and encourage the values of team play, fairness, and sportsmanship.
   c) Have Fun.

2) Sportsmanship:
   a) Player/Parent Code of Conduct - The PYAA sportsmanship guidelines will be strictly adhered to. If a player or parent does not conduct oneself in an appropriate manner, actions may be taken and applied as outlined in the Charter & By-Laws of the PYAA, Section 1-Behavior and Attitude. All player participants and their parents were required to review, understand and sign the Registration Form.
   b) Coach Code of Conduct - All coaches are expected to conduct themselves in a respectable, responsible, and mature manner at all times to achieve the goals and objectives in Section 1, Item 1. If a coach does not conduct oneself in an appropriate manner, actions may be taken and applied as outlined in the Charter & By-Laws of the PYAA, By-Laws, Section 1-Behavior and Attitude.

3) Eligibility:

a) This program is available to all youth who are residents of the Pickerington Local School District. Girl's grades PreK through 8th as of (spring ball) current school year (fall ball) entering school year, are allowed to play in the following leagues:

PYAA Recreation Softball Rules & Regulations

1) Little Diamonds TeeBall: Grades PreK-Kindergarten
2) Copper: Grades 1st – 2nd
3) Bronze: Grades 3rd – 5th
   a) All Bronze participants must attend pre-draft evaluations, due to draft of teams.
4) Silver: Grades 5th- 8th
   a) All Silver participants must attend pre-draft evaluations, due to draft of teams.

b) OHSAA Rules – PYAA must monitor compliance with OHSAA rules. Please refer to OHSAA rules 10.A.1, 10.A.2, 10.A.3, 10.A.4, 10.A.5, 10.B and 10.C. Basically, a school player may not meet, practice, scrimmage, game play or tournament play during school season (3/1 to 6/1). From 6/1 to 7/31, school players may meet, practice, scrimmage, game play and tournament play. From 8/1 to 3/1, not more than four school players from the same school, same squad, may meet, practice, scrimmage, game play and tournament play. DO NOT take the above definition as the exact interpretation. If you have any doubt as to the interpretation of the rules, please contact the Softball President to assist in the interpretation. ANY RULES NOT OUTLINED IN PYAA RULES WILL REVERT TO OHSAA RULES.

c) Call-Up Players: **Only Bronze players can play-up to Silver.** Little Diamonds/Copper players may not Play-up in Bronze/Silver. Director of Bronze league will compile a list of available players to "play up". The coaches will ask the parents if they want to make their athlete daughter available to "play up". The coach will forward the name and phone number of the interested players to the Softball Director. The Director will provide the "play-up" list to all the team coaches in the Silver league. Under no circumstances may a coach utilize non-roster players. If a player is used that is either not on the roster or was not obtained through the League Director's "play up" list, that team will forfeit that game. "Play up" athletes may only be used to fill out a roster of the call up team to a total of 10 players. If an athlete has been requested to "play up" and 10 or more players show up for the call up team, that player will not be allowed to play. Call-Ups cannot be utilized if it is during players regularly scheduled game or practice. Call-Up players are not eligible to play the pitcher position (Silver league) or in any tournament games.

PYAA Recreation Softball Rules & Regulations

4) Format:

a) Official Time - **It is important that all games start on time.** The umpire will have the official time and coaches should check with the umpire prior to the game to avoid problems. All coaches should have their players at the field 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.

i. Field Space Time for TeeBall is **60 Minutes**
ii. Field Space Time for Copper/Bronze is **60 Minutes**
iii. Field Space Time for Silver is **90 Minutes**

b) Home / Away Designation - Home team will sit on first base side. Visitors will sit on the third base side. Designation will be determined by which team is listed first or second on the schedule. Home team is listed second.

d) Suspended Play - The umpire can call or suspend a game at his/her discretion if there is inclement weather. If thunder is heard or **lightning is sighted before or during a game, the game will be delayed a minimum of 30 minutes.** Players should leave the field and sit in their cars. If a game cannot continue after reasonable time and is not a complete game, it is declared a "no game" and will be rescheduled or canceled if unable to reschedule. Stats and innings pitched will not be counted if the game is a "no game". If teams have completed three innings or at least 60 minutes and the game is called, the score will revert back to the end of the last full inning played and will be declared a complete game. Exception: Any Silver or Gold tournament game must resume exactly where it was stopped, and finished at another time. The rescheduled remainder of the game is chosen by the league director—not the coaches. Ie: The rescheduled game may conflict with certain players. Batting order must stay the same unless you are missing a player or adding a player. If you are missing a player she will be removed without penalty. Any additional player will be added to the bottom of the lineup. If any players are on base at the time of delay are unable to make the makeup game, they will be replaced by the last recorded out.

e) Cancelled Games- The League Director or a Diamond Board member will notify coaches of cancelled games. Please do not assume a game is called because it is raining. We will try to give as much notice as possible so the coaches can contact the parents. Field status will be updated on the PYAA Facebook page, as soon as possible.

PYAA Recreation Softball Rules & Regulations

5) Facilities:

a) Diamond Set Up – PYAA field maintenance is responsible for preparing the field prior to play.

i. A chalk circle 8 feet radius should be placed around the pitching rubber.
ii. Batter boxes should be made to regulation with frames that are provided.

b) Equipment Care & Pick Up Trash - Remind players and parents to please help take care of the equipment and to use the trash receptacles. After each game, teams are responsible for picking up trash in their dugout area. Please designate a parent or assistant coach to help. If the game completed is the last of the day, make sure all equipment is placed into the field boxes and ensure the boxes are locked.

c) Base Path Distances - The distances for base paths will be:

i. Little Diamonds/Copper/Bronze/Silver- 60 ft, pegged

d) Pitching Rubber Distances - The pitching rubbers will be:

i. Softball TeeBall/Copper Leagues – 35 feet; Coaches pitching distance should be appropriate for the batter to have success at the plate.
ii. Softball Bronze League- 35 feet; Coaches must pitch from the pitching rubber.
iii. Softball Silver League – 35 feet; Kid-pitcher 1 foot on the pitching rubber.

e) Official Ball – The official balls to be used will be:
i. TeeBall- Optic Yellow 10" Softball
ii. Copper, Bronze, & Silver Leagues – Optic Yellow 11" Softball

f) Pitchers Circle - The diameter of the pitcher's circles will be 8' radius (16' diameter).

6) Coaches:

a) Official Game Results - Coaches should verify score with each other after each inning to ensure no disagreement. Both coaches must e-mail final score to League Director within 24 hours of game end. League Directors will post league standings weekly.

b) Coaches Boxes - Offensive coaches may be placed in the first and third base coaching boxes. If a coach touches a player during live play, that player will be automatically out.

c) Speed of Play – Let's keep the innings moving. Have line-ups ready before you send the kids out. Have the players hustle on and off the field. Have a coach assist the catcher with her equipment. Players should be encouraged to run on and off the field between innings. There is to be no balls on field during inning switches.

d) Total Number of Coaches On The Field- There is a maximum limit of 3-coaches allowed in live ball territory for Teeball/Copper/Bronze Leagues and 2-coaches allowed in live ball territory for Silver League.

e) Throwing Bats- There will be one team warning for a thrown bat, unless that bat hits any person, then it will be an automatic out. All subsequent thrown bats will be an automatic out.

f) High School Coaches – High School Students can be **Assistant coaches only. Each high school coach must be approved by the softball director.** One high school Assistant per team.

a The Highschool Coach **MAY NOT** be the only coach present at a game or practice.

7) Umpires:

a) Sanctioned and Non-Sanctioned Umpires - PYAA umpires will officiate the games. If for any reason an umpire is not available, coaches or board members are to perform this function.

b) Strike- Zone – The umpires will be calling a big strike zone; shoulders to knees and one ball width on either side of the plate. A knee-high fastball is our goal.

8) Equipment:

a) Players will be prohibited from wearing metal cleats of any kind or metal toe plates. Players are allowed to wear tennis, soccer, or turf shoes.

b) No jewelry will be allowed to be worn by any player at any time. Exception: A player may tape a stud on a recently pierced ear.

c) Players are required to wear a helmet. Helmets with a face guard at parent discretion and strongly encouraged by PYAA executive board.

d) Players in the pitcher position must wear a face covering (face mask or helmet with a face guard).

e) Bats must be compliant with OHSAA rules.

9) Disputes:

a) In the event of a play or event that is disputed between coaches, and unresolved by the game official for the reason(s) of the rules being unclear, contradiction, or a paradox, the final call will be decided by the league director's discretion. If the league director happens to be a coach on either team that is in dispute, the final call will be made by the next closest league director. (ie. Silver uses the Bronze director, Bronze uses the Silver director.