

PYAA Softball Rules - Quick Reference

	Little Diamonds TeeBall (PreK-Kindergarten)	Copper (1 st /2 nd Grades)	Bronze (3 rd /4 th /5 th Grades)	Silver (5 th /6 th /7 th /8 th Grades)
Game Length (Regular Season)	60 minute Max. No new inning after minute 45.	Up to 4 innings; 60 minutes of field space	4 Innings minimum; extras can be played if field space allows.	4 inning games.
Ball Size	10in	11in	11in	11in
Pitching Distance	35 Feet At an appropriate distance to encourage success at the plate	35 Feet Must be within the pitching circle.	35 Feet Coach must pitch from the pitching rubber.	35 Feet One foot on the pitching rubber.
Base Path Distance	60 Feet	60 Feet	60 Feet	60 Feet
End of Inning	After all batters have batted. Last batter is the Home Run hitter.	3 outs or 5 runs scored. Minimum 5 batters per inning.	3 outs or 5 runs. Additional runs can be scored on the last play.	3 outs or 5 runs. Additional runs can be scored on the last play.
Forfeit	N/A	N/A	N/A	Minimum 7 Players to start^
Score Keeping	No Official Score.	Yes - Only to change innings. No Official Score.	Yes - Only to change innings. No Official Score. Unofficial score should be kept for developmental awareness. * Tournament scoring kept.	Yes-Coaches should verify score with each other after each inning to ensure no disagreement. Both coaches must share final score to League Director after each game.
Base limits on a hit	1 base per hit. Last batter is the Home Run hitter.	1 infield – 2 if ball is hit to the grass. Players can be thrown out if attempting multiple bases	1 infield – Unlimited if a ball is hit to the grass. Batters may continue running until the ball is returned to the infield dirt.	Unlimited until ball is contained by the pitcher inside the pitcher's circle.
Base Path	Players shall not block the base path. Coaches to begin teaching proper fielding position.	Players shall not block the base path. Coaches to begin teaching proper fielding position.	Players shall not block the base path. Coaches to emphasize proper fielding position.	Players shall not block the base path. If they do, umpire may award runner extra base.
Batting	Every player present must be in the batting order. Late players are added to the bottom of the order. Batting out of order is an automatic out (TeeBall & Copper exempt from this rule).			
Hit By Pitch	No base given	No base given	No base given	Takes 1st base.
Lead off	No, may leave the base when the ball is hit.	No, may leave the base when ball is hit.	May take 1 step lead when the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.	May leave the base when the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. Lead off runner must return to bag, unless an overthrow occurs during pick-off attempt.
Bunting/Slap Hitting	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Bunt, no. Slap, yes.	Permitted
Fake bunting	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
First base sliding	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
Sliding (2nd, 3rd and Home)	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
Stealing	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted; may leave bag when ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
Infield Fly Rule	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dropped 3rd Strike Rule	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Short fielder	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not Permitted
Pinch Runner (Catchers)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Permitted if there are 2 outs. The player that made the last out is the pinch runner.
Defensive Players	Traditional positions to be played, excluding catcher. "Deep infield can be considered outfield".	Traditional positions must be played, excluding catcher. Outfielders must start each play in the grass.	Traditional positions must be played, including catcher. Less than 9 players, catcher position is at coaches' discretion. Outfielders must play traditional outfield position.	No more than 10 on the field (6 infield, 4 outfield)*

Defensive Rotation	No players can play the same position in a game.	No players can play the same position in a game	Each player must play the infield at least once per game.	Not Required.
Pitching	Coach Pitch encouraged for 3 pitches, if coach feels appropriate for batter. Tee to be used otherwise or if no hit after 3 Coach pitches.	Coach Pitch Only. Player must field the position and wear face covering. Ball buckets are not to be on field of play. A ball hit off a coach pitcher is considered live.	Coach Pitch Only. Player must field the position and wear face covering. Ball buckets are not to be on field of play. A ball hit off a coach pitcher is considered live.	Kid-Pitch. Pitcher must wear a face covering. Some variation of a 'windmill' style pitch must be thrown.
Pitches Thrown	3 Coach Pitches Max. Pitches must be underhand.	Coach Pitch Max 6 Pitches, unless the 6 th pitch is fouled. Continue until the last pitch is in play or struck out. Pitches must be underhand.	Coach Pitch Max 6 Pitches unless the 6 th pitch is fouled. Continue until the last pitch is in play or struck out. Pitches must be underhand. Emphasis on working toward Fastpitch.	Kid Pitch; Pitcher must wear a face covering. Some variation of a 'windmill' style must be thrown. Emphasis on working toward Fastpitch.
Pitched Innings Limits	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bench Sitting	No player shall sit the bench twice until all players on the same team have sat the bench once that game.			
Unscheduled Practices	Whether at PYAA facilities or offsite, are NOT allowed. A violation of this rule will hinder your future PYAA coaching opportunities.			
Scrimmages	Scrimmages are allowed but must be cleared through the PYAA Softball board. Practices and game times may not be changed without permission of the PYAA Softball board and PYAA scheduler.			
Cancellation, Stoppage, Suspension of Play	Field management/Diamond League President will cancel games. The decision will be placed on the Pickerington PYAA Softball Facebook Page and an email or text will be sent to all League Directors. League Directors will then email or text the coaches of their respective leagues. Please do not assume a game is called because it is raining. Coaches are expected to notify the parents and players. As much notice as possible will be given to allow Coaches adequate time to notify parents. Two make-up games are built into the schedule. Needs for additional make-ups will be coordinated with the PYAA scheduler. Under no circumstances are coaches permitted to 'walk the fields' prior to games to assess field conditions. Field management/PYAA Diamond Board members will assess and make field playable decisions.			
Lightning Rule	ONCE THUNDER IS HEARD, PLAY WILL IMMEDIATELY CEASE AND CANNOT RESUME FOR 30 MINUTES. RAIN DELAYS WILL BE ALLOWED BUT WILL BE BASED ON ASSESSMENT OF ONSITE SUPERVISOR. THUNDER IS THE RESULT OF LIGHTNING ALREADY OCCURRING, SO PLAY WILL BE SUSPENDED IF LIGHTNING IS SEEN OR THUNDER HEARD. If the delay lasts longer than 30minutes, and the game HAS NOT HAD AT LEAST 2 FULL INNINGS the game can be rescheduled.			
Weather/Field Conditions	The Umpire or any on-site PYAA Diamond Board member can delay or suspend a game at his/her discretion due to weather or unsafe field conditions. If the game is delayed by rain/unplayable field conditions, and cannot be resumed within a reasonable time, the game will be suspended and rescheduled. If the stoppage occurs in the bottom half of the inning and the score is a tie, the game will conclude with a tie score and not be rescheduled. Everyone must go to their vehicles until it is deemed safe to resume games. If the fields are closed and deemed unplayable by PYAA NO ONE IS TO PRACTICE OR PLAY on the fields FOR ANY REASON.			

^Coach with the lesser players to decide if play for contention or forfeit if less than 7 players. Only applies to Silver League.

*Tournament rules apply (Bronze/Silver Leagues).