

2021 Farmette Softball Rules

Preseason

1. The maximum age for this league is 10 years old. Players cannot turn eleven 11 before July 1, 2021. (However old a girl is on June 30, 2021 is considered her age for the year.)
2. Rosters must be turned into the President of the league before the first game.
 - a. There is no limit on the rosters.
 - b. Teams are permitted 10 players on the field.
 - i. 10 players are positioned on the field with the understanding that the outfielders are positioned in the outfield.
 - ~~c. Teams can play with 9 if needed.~~
 - ~~i. When using only 9 players, the 10th batter is not an out unless the team starts with 10.~~
 - ~~d. Any less than 9 players is a forfeit, not a reschedule.~~
 - e. For the 2021 season there will be no minimum number of players required to play and will be no penalties for having less than 10 players at a game. *COACHES DISCRETION*
3. Buckeye Girl Play
 - a. A Farmette player may move up to a Buckeye league game only if the Buckeye team does not have enough players for that game.
 - b. Each Farmette girl is allowed this option only 3 times. This does not alter her playing in the Farmette league. However, if she plays a 4th game, she can no longer come back to the Farmette league. If there is a Farmette girl that will be filling in for the Buckeye League, this must be reported to the league president each time.
4. A set of rules must be given to all base coaches and assistants.
5. Coaches please remember we are all here for the kids and we need to keep this in mind at all times. Profanity and any disrespectful activity will not be allowed. When you are the visiting team, please try to follow the home team's rules and regulations.

Field/Ball/Umpire Guidelines

6. Bases are set at 60ft.
7. Pitchers' mound is set at 35ft. with a circle measuring 16ft. across.
8. The balls are to be 11in. restricted flight optic yellow with 47 core, 375lbs. compression (preferably leather).
9. The batter's box is required and should measure 3ft. by 7ft. and be 6in. from home plate. It is not necessary to make up a catcher's box.
10. Umpiring
 - a. During the regular season, plate umpires are to be at least 16 years old and the base umpires are to be at least 14 years old.
 - b. During the tournament, plate umpires must be at least 18 years old and the base umpires must be at least 16 years old.
 - c. Umpires are to have a copy of the rules prior to the start of the game.
 - d. No parent umpiring unless necessary. Both coaches must agree.
 - e. Plate umpire should keep track of score after each inning to be sure both books agree.
 - f. The strike zone will be batter box to batter box, shin to chin.

- g. For the 2021 season, the home team may provide only 1 umpire. If only 1 umpire is present, they will be positioned behind the pitcher and will call balls/strikes as well as base umpire duties.
11. Protests: This should follow fast pitch rules as closely as possible. The protest must be made at the time of play. The home plate umpire should make clear written record of the play in both scorebooks. If the incident cannot be resolved at the game, a meeting of coaches will be held and a ruling will be made. You cannot protest an umpire's judgment.
12. No negative taunting of the opposing team. Team chants cannot be directed at the other team's batter or pitcher.

Pregame

13. Home teams provide umpires and 2 game balls.
14. Teams need to be at the ball fields by 5:45 p.m. for weekday games and by 9:30 a.m. for Saturday games.
15. The away team gets the diamond for warm-up for 15 minutes beginning at 30 minutes prior to start of the game. The home team gets the diamond for warm-up for 15 minutes beginning 15 minutes prior to start of the game.

Game Rules

16. Games are 6 innings in length. The 6-run rule must apply to all innings. If a team is behind in score, they can then go ahead by a maximum of 6 runs per inning. There is no run limit in the last inning. If the last inning is not the 6th inning, the teams need to be notified before the inning starts that it will be the last inning. The game is considered **over** when one of the following applies:
 - a. If a team is 15 runs ahead after 4 complete innings.
 - b. If a team is 12 runs ahead after 5 complete innings.
 - c. If the 2 hour time limit has expired. Another complete inning cannot be started if the time limit is up.
17. Substitutions: Players may be substituted for and later return after 1 inning. The player must return to the same batting position in the lineup.
18. Interference: If a fielder is trying to field the ball and the runner interferes by running into the fielder, the runner is out. If a runner is advancing bases and is struck by the batter's hit, the runner is out.
19. Coaches Interference: A coach cannot touch the base runner at any time in order to restrain or advance a player, if the coach does so, the runner is out.
20. Pitching:
 - a. Pitchers must begin motion with at least one foot on the pitcher's mound and the other foot behind or touching the pitcher's mound, within the pitcher's 24in. plate with hands separated. Pitcher must contact the ground when releasing the ball (no hopping).
 - b. If the batter is hit on the hand and no swing was attempted, the runner is awarded 1st base.
 - c. If the pitched ball bounces off the ground and then hits the batter, the batter will not be awarded the base unless it is ball 4.
 - d. Total inning limit for League tournament. Restrictions are as follows:
 - i. 6 innings pitched followed with 3 innings rest.
 - ii. 5 innings pitched followed with 2 innings rest.
 - iii. 4 innings pitched followed with 1 inning rest.
 - e. 1 pitch equals 1 inning.

- f. In accordance with OHSAA rules, a pitcher can re-enter as a pitcher unlimited times as long as the player never leaves the game. If the pitcher leaves the game, they may re-enter in their previous position in the batting order, but cannot re-enter as a pitcher.
 - g. All pitchers must wear a mandatory face guard. A heart guard is recommended.
21. When the pitcher has control of the ball within the 16ft. circle, the base runner has 1 second to decide on advancing to the next base or returning to the previous one. Faking towards the next base in an attempt to make the pitcher throw the ball or leave the circle will result in the base runner being called out. If the base runner is in between bases and no play is attempted at the base runner, she may only proceed to the next base (example: pitcher has control of the ball in the circle and base runner is in between 1st and 2nd bases, she may only advance to 2nd). Advancement is at the risk of the base runner. If a play is made toward the advancing base runner, and she is not called out, she can proceed one base on that overthrow. You cannot advance toward home plate if the ball is in the control of the pitcher in the 16ft. circle.
 22. Base stealing is permitted to 2nd and 3rd bases only on past balls behind the catcher and out of her reach (out of the crouch position). A runner may not steal 2nd or 3rd base on a 3rd strike or a 4th ball to the current batter.
 23. If the catcher makes a play on a runner stealing 2nd with a runner on 3rd, the 3rd base runner can steal home.
 24. Base runners may lead off two steps once the ball has left the pitchers hand. Base runners need to return to their base when the catcher throws the ball back to the pitcher.
 25. The catchers must give the right away to the runner coming home if she does not have the ball or if no play can be made on the runner. Catcher can only block the plate when she has the ball.
 26. If the runner takes out a base person purposely, they are automatically out. This will be at the umpire's discretion.
 27. Overrunning the base:
 - a. The runner may overrun the 1st base and not be played on only if she does not make an attempt to advance to 2nd base.
 28. Bunting is permitted.
 29. There is NO infield fly rule.
 30. All batting helmets must have a face guard.

Rainout Games

31. Rainout games:
 - a. In case of a rainout, the home team must notify the opposing team by 4:45 p.m.
 - b. In the event of rain, a game that is called before 4 complete innings have been played, the game must be started where the game left off.
 - c. Regardless of the inning, if lightning is spotted, the game must be stopped. The coaches can make decisions how the game will be played out.
 - d. Make up games must be made up before the start of the tournament. If one of the opposing teams decides not to make up the rainout game, the result will be a forfeit for that opposing team not wanting to play. Otherwise, if a game cannot be made up and agreed upon by both teams, the result will be a forfeit for both teams. Games can be made up at any start time with an agreement of both teams. Contact the League President for any rainout game discrepancies.

Post-Game

32. The home team coach must report the final score of the game to the President of the League after each game, by text. (Josh Knapke 419-305-7263)

League Standings/League Tournament

33. The league champion will be determined solely on the team who finishes with the best overall record.
 - a. If two or more teams finish with the same record, they will each be designated as co-champions.
 - b. Only the first game between two teams will count towards the league championship and tournament seeding. If two teams play a second game during the season, that game will not count towards the league championship or tournament seeding.
34. Banners will be awarded to 1st and 2nd place teams in both the league standings and tournament standings.
35. Individual trophies will be awarded to 1st and 2nd place teams (league & tournament).
36. The tournament draw will be held the week of the tournament and will be run by the League President.
37. League Tournament: A single or double elimination tournament will be held in the city, which the league president is from. The tournament fee is \$150.00. The fees are for the cost of trophies and umpires for the league tournament. The tournament will be seeded.

Please make check payable to: **Rockford Rec.**

(check should be turned in prior to 1st game) by mailing to: Josh Knapke
1630 St. Rt. 707
Rockford, OH 45882

All Star Team

38. The All-Star teams are made up of 3 girls each team. (These are subject to change according to the number of teams in league.)
39. The league's 1st and 2nd place teams' head coaches will be the head coach for the All-Star Teams. Assistant coaches from both teams are invited to help out.
40. Cost of shirts for the teams will be determined.

League President / Tournament Rotation for 2021

1. Middle Point 2020
2. Ohio City 2021
3. Rockford 2021
4. Van Wert 2022
5. Willshire 2023
6. Wren 2024
7. Convoy 2025
8. Mendon 2026
9. Middle Point 2027