



2024 CAA Softball Rules

Girl's 8th and 7th fast-pitch is played according to State High School League rules without modification.

Girl's 6th and 5th fast-pitch is played with the same rules but is subject to the modifications described in rule number ten below.

1. Base and Pitching Length

The bases are sixty feet apart at all levels.

Eighth and seventh grade teams pitch from forty-three feet.

Sixth pitch from forty feet.

Fifth will pitch from thirty-five feet.

2. Game Length:

All games will be six innings.

The ten-run rule is in effect at every level after five innings (or four and a half innings when the home team is winning).

3. Softball Size

5th & 6th grade softball use an 11-inch ball.

7th-8th grade softball uses the 12-inch ball.

4. Each team will provide one new ball for each game. Additional balls will be provided as necessary by the home team.

5. The home team will supply bases.

6. Players must be students at the school they represent. Co-op teams are allowed.

7. Rosters must be submitted by school athletic director to the CAA office by May 1st. Players must only play on one team. For example, a player on a 6th grade team would not be eligible to also play on a 7th or 8th grade team.

8. Substitution Rule

A player may be pulled from a game and replaced with a substitute. For the original player to re-enter the game, she must re-enter the same position in the batting order that she had previously occupied.

9. Rainouts or any weather cancellations are the responsibility of the home team. The home coach and/or Athletic Director should check on field condition then inform the CAA and the visiting team of the game status. Both schools should agree to a makeup date and time and inform the CAA so that an umpire can be provided.

10. **Girl's 6th and 5th fast-pitch** is played according to State High School League Rules with three modifications:

- a. Should a catcher drop a third strike, the batter is out. They are not afforded the opportunity to run to first. Third strikes that are dropped are dead balls, so base runners already on base are stuck at their present base without an opportunity to steal.
- b. Base runners are not allowed to steal bases unless the pitch is missed or dropped by the catcher and it travels behind the catcher towards the backstop. A dropped pitch that remains in front of the catcher or below the catcher shall restrict base runners from stealing a base on that pitch.
- c. Base runners who steal a base shall stop at one stolen base per play. In fifth and sixth grade softball, there is a five-run rule per inning until the sixth inning when teams may score seven runs.



11. Time Limit

All levels shall be played with a 90-minute time limit. No new inning will start after 90 minutes.

12. The **infield fly rule** is in effect at every level. Coaches may assign a designated hitter to bat for any player, or every player may bat for herself. You finish the game the way you started. Coaches at every level may bat nine players and be subject to the substitution rules, or they may bat every player and enjoy free substitution. Again, you finish the game the way you started it.
13. If you have fifteen players and you choose to bat only twelve or thirteen, the remaining girls must substitute into the game on a one for one basis.
14. Metal cleats are approved for all softball games and grade levels.
15. The decisions of the umpire on judgement calls are final and not subject to unreasonable judgement. The CAA will only accept protests pertaining to misinterpretations of the rules. The judgment of an official shall not be grounds for protests or appeals.