



## 2015 Specific Game Modifications ECSA Rules

The official Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Rulebook will govern all games, with the exception of the following modifications:

- 1) Time Limit: 1 hour and 15 minutes. No new innings will start after 1 hour and 5 minutes. Official end of game is 7 innings or time limit, whichever one comes first. Start time is game time listed on the official website schedules.
- 2) You must start a game with 9 players. There is a 5 min late player grace period if you do not have 9 players at the start of a game. If after 5 min you still do not have 9 players your team takes a forfeit. You can drop down to 8 due to an injury. An ECSA Board member has discretion to extend the grace period without penalty of forfeit, as they deem appropriate.
- 3) Pick-Up Players: A team can pick up an eligible ECSA Women's Division player (Paid/Rostered) from the same division or lower if you have 8 or less players. The # of players you pick up can't exceed 9.
- 4) Run Rule: If the home team is leading by 12 or more runs after 4.5 innings or if the visiting team is leading by 12 or more runs after 5 complete innings, the game will be ended and considered complete.
  - a. **DIV 4 ONLY and prior to 4.5 innings:** If a team is ahead by 12 runs per inning AND has batted through entire line up. There will be an automatic end of the inning and the losing team will be up to bat. (If the winning team is the Home team, they will become the Visiting team for the remainder of the game). The losing team will be allowed to bat through their entire lineup regardless of outs. Once having batted through, the 3 outs rule will be reinstated,
    - i. If after three outs, they were not able to reduce the run difference, the Winning/Visitors team will receive its turn at bat and play out the inning till 3 outs have occurred. (This will continue until the losing team either reduces the run difference or 4.5 innings has been reached)
    - ii. If the Losing/Home team is able to reduce the run differences, the Visiting team will come up to bat and continue the game as normal. The flip/flop rule will reinstate itself any time this situation occurs.
- 5) Unsportsmanlike Conduct: Violence, threat of violence and use of profanity will not be tolerated. Any player playing in an unsafe or dangerous manner to themselves or others will be considered Unsportsmanlike conduct. Umpire and Board have full discretion to determine unsportsmanlike behavior which may result in immediate ejection from the game up to and including ejection from the league.
- 6) Alcohol at Lower Woodland Softball Fields: Alcohol is prohibited.
- 7) Courtesy Runner: Unlimited courtesy runners per team are allowed. Batter must make it to at least 1st base safely and time must be called prior to change. Runner must be the last recorded out. If there has been no out then it will be the last person in the batting order. If the last person in batting order is the on-deck batter then the last player to cross the plate may serve as the runner.

- 8) Game Balls: The league will present the umpires with a new game ball prior to the start of the game. The home team will provide a new or good quality back up ball. Both balls will be returned to the home team at the end of the game.
- 9) Home Runs: One over the fence home run per team/per game. Each over the fence home run after that becomes an automatic double. Note: Field 4 only: Right of pole is considered an automatic double. If hit to the left of the pole it is considered a home run. Rule above still applies.
- 10) Banned/Approved Bats: ECSA follows the ASA banned/approved bat rule.
- 11) Catchers masks are required
- 12) No metal cleats shall be worn by any player, manager, coach or umpire.
- 13) The pitch count starts at 0- Balls; 0-Strikes. There is NO courtesy foul.
- 14) Games can end in a tie we do not use the international tie breaker rule.
- 15) You may bat up to 12. All players listed must bat and in the order listed.
  - a. Extra Player/Hitters: ASA Rules apply. If an EP/EH is used, it must be known prior to the start of the game and must be listed on the scoring sheet in the regular batting order. EP/EH must be used for entire game.
- 16) Pitching Distance is 50' (Last pitching rubber); Base Paths Field#3 (70'), Field#4 (65'), Field#5 (65'), Field#6 (70')
- 17) ASA Pitching Arch: Is 6-10 feet (Use the last pitching rubber)
- 18) Report the Score: The Home team will be official score book - winning team will submit the score on the ECSA website [www.womensecsa.org](http://www.womensecsa.org)
  - a. Winning team is responsible for entering the score
  - b. Scores must be entered no Later than midnight of the following TUES
    - i. **Any score not entered by that deadline will constitute a forfeit by the winning team**
  - c. All score discrepancies should be address and resolved DURING the game.
    - i. Please verify scores at the end of each inning
    - ii. If at the END of the GAME a team does not agree with the Official Home Book score and wants to protest the score the following steps must be followed:
      1. Both books must be presented to the umpire for review, all parties must verify and sign each score book ensuring no further changes or edits will be allowed.
      2. Protesting Coach/Manager must officially request a Score Review in person or via email AND pay the \$25 protest fee before it will be considered (If protest is upheld a refund will be issued)
      3. Both teams score books must be made available upon request from the Board for review.
  - d. If a score is entered into the system incorrectly you can contest it on your Team Dashboard
  - e. All TIES will be entered by the HOME TEAM and will be scored 7-7
  - f. **ONLY THE WEBMASTER or BOARD DESIGNEE WILL ENTER FORFIETS or modify any scores**

19) Protests may only involve the interpretation of a rule and can only be made by the Coach/Manager

There are three types of protests:

- a. Misinterpretation of a playing rule - must be made with the Umpire:
  - i. before the next pitch legal or illegal,
  - ii. before the next play
  - iii. before all infielders have left fair territory,
  - iv. on the last play of the game, before the umpires leave live ball territory
  - v. **Process:** Coaches should at all times have a copy of the ECSA play rules and an ASA rules book in their possession –the best way to resolve a rules interpretation is to present the rule as written from the ASA rule book. (No fee for Umpire resolution)

If there is still a misinterpretation of the rule after using this method, a coach or manager may request a Board member to make a decision on the rules interpretation protest. To involve a Board member a \$50 Protest fee is due immediately. The game will be stopped at the point of the protest and will not continue until a ruling on the protest has been made.

If for some reason an ECSA Board Member is not available at the time of the protest. The protest should be noted by both teams (both coaches should sign the other teams score book to indicate agreement on the game situation at the time of the protest) and the game will be allowed to proceed. After the game has been completed, and the protest fee paid, an ECSA Board member will make a decision on the protest. If the protest is approved, the game will be rescheduled and replayed from the point where the protest was filed. Fees for Board participation of this protest are not refundable.

- b. Illegal player/substitutions - must be made while the player in question is in the game and before the umpires leave the playing field. (No fee for Umpire resolution; if board involvement is requested or required at \$20 protest fee will be applied and due before protest will be considered)

NOTE: A-B An umpire cannot reverse a decision after a pitch; legal or illegal.

- c. Ineligible player – this protest can be made any time based upon the following and requires a \$20 protest fee:
  - i. The player has not completed online registration
  - ii. The player has not signed the electronic waiver and/or is not listed on the official team roster
  - iii. The ECSA player fee of \$65/player has not been paid.
  - iv. **Process:** The Coach/Manager of record for the protesting team shall immediately notify the plate umpire that the game is being played under protest. The plate umpire shall in turn notify the opposing coach/manager and official scorekeeper. To aid in the correct determination of the issue, all interested parties shall take notice of the information, details and conditions surrounding the decision to protest. The ineligible player in question must produce valid ID upon request. If the protest is upheld all games that included the ineligible player will be forfeit and the protest fee returned. If the protest is not upheld the protest fee is retained by the league.