

# Capistrano Girls Softball

## 14U Division Rules - 2019 Season

This division's goal is to teach the fundamentals of girl's fast pitch softball. These fundamentals are taught during practice and executed during games. The games should provide an element of healthy competition. Sportsmanship, safety, and fun should be stressed and promoted by all managers, coaches, and parents at all times throughout the season.

The manager, assistant coach, or team mom must not leave the practice or game location until all players have been picked up by their parent or designated other, as specified by the player's parents.

All games of the Capo Girls Softball league shall comply with the rules set forth by the USA Softball as well as the rules set forth herein. If there is a discrepancy between an USA Softball rule and a CGS rule set forth in this document, the CGS rule will prevail.

### **RULES OF PLAY**

**REGULATION GAME:** A regulation game in the 14U division will be (7) seven complete innings, or as ended by time limit (below). If the game is tied at the end of seven innings, or when the time limit has been reached, the game will end in a tie.

**TIME LIMIT:** Official time will be kept by the home plate umpire, or his designee. He /she will start the clock after the plate meeting. No new inning shall be started after 1 hour and 30 minutes. An inning that is started before the time limit has been reached will be completed, unless the home team is ahead, in which case the last 1/2 inning will not be played. This rule will be waived if necessary to comply with rule listed below.

**OFFICIAL GAME:** The game must last a minimum of 4 innings to be considered official in the 14U division. This requirement must be met regardless of the "time limit".

**UMPIRES:** All games will be played under the direction of the CGS appointed umpire. CGS will make every effort to insure that the umpire is USA Softball certified. In the instance where there is no USA Softball certified umpire available, the game will be re-scheduled unless both managers agree on an available replacement umpire for the game. In this case, the result of the game will be final, and the game will not be re-scheduled.

**DUGOUTS:** Only coaches/managers/team moms and team members are allowed in the dugouts during regulation play. All players **must** remain in the dugout unless on the field, and **must** refrain from sitting in the stands during the game. Only water may be provided to girls once a game begins, food should be held to after the game.

**COACHING:** Coaches are only allowed to coach from the dugout or designated coach's box on the field during the game. Coaches are prohibited from coaching from the stands or behind the backstop.

**UNIFORMS:** All players are expected to present a neat appearance in uniform during the game. This includes, but is not limited to shirts being tucked in. Coaches should wear closed toed shoes for safety while on the field. All players in the 14U division are required to wear sliding shorts underneath uniform shorts or softball pants.

**JEWELRY:** Players are prohibited from wearing jewelry during games.

**MINIMUM PLAYERS:** A game may begin and end with a minimum of eight players. In the instance where a team cannot field at least eight players, said team shall forfeit.

**LATE ARRIVALS:** Team members arriving after a game has begun shall be placed at the end of the batting order.

**EARLY DEPARTURES:** The opposing coach shall be notified if it is necessary for a team member to leave the game before it is completed. Said player's spot in the batting order will be skipped from that point on, with no penalty or "out" being assessed.

**BATTING ORDER:** All team members will be placed in the batting order. The batting order need not be arranged in conjunction with who starts the game defensively.

**PLAYING TIME:** No girl will sit out for a second inning until all other girls have been substituted for an entire defensive half. This applies per game only. Every girl must play at least one inning in the infield by the 4<sup>th</sup> inning of each game.

**MERCY RULE:** The mercy rule will be enforced when the opposing team is ahead by 15 after 3 innings, 12 after 4 innings or 8 after 5 innings.

**PITCHING LIMITS:** A pitcher in the 14U division will be allowed to pitch a maximum of 8 innings per day. The pitching limits apply to both inter-league games, as well as games between 2 CGS teams.

**INFIELD FLY RULE:** The infield fly rule shall be enforced in all games.

**BASE RUNNING:** In accordance with USA Softball rules, an OFFENSIVE player has the duty to avoid a collision with a defensive player attempting to field a ball or make a play on the runner. If a collision occurs, the offensive player shall be automatically ruled out.

In order to avoid any collision with a defensive player, runners may slow down, slide, change directions, and stop entirely or even run around a defensive player within 3 feet of the base path

**STEALING BASES:** All bases including home plate may be stolen in the 14U division.

**DROPPED 3<sup>RD</sup> STRIKE:** The dropped third strike rule will be in effect in the 14U division.

**COURTESY RUNNERS:** No “courtesy runners” will be allowed for the pitcher/catcher. In the event that a batter reaches bases, and cannot run due to injury, a substitute runner may be used. The substitute runner must be the person who was the last recorded “out” for the team. If the player is removed from the game, the same rule shall apply to determine the substitute runner. Players removed from the game due to injury will have their spot in the batting order skipped, without penalty or an “out being recorded.

**SCORING LIMITS:** there will be a maximum of 5 runs per team, per inning through the first 3 innings. Unlimited runs will be allowed in innings 4 through 7.

**SCOREKEEPER:** Each Home team must supply an official scorekeeper to record the game in the team scorebook. Gamechanger may be used. Score by inning and pitching records will be kept.

**FIELD PREP:** Home team is responsible for field prep; which includes dragging the field in which you are playing, watering, and lining for play. The use of CGS equipment will be provided; however, the users are responsible for the care of the equipment as well as the grounds.

Home team occupies 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout

**EQUIPMENT:**

1. All equipment used shall be USA Softball approved.
2. USA Softball approved regulation 12" Dreamseam softballs will be the official game ball.
3. All players must have the proper equipment to take the field including cleats and glove.
4. Catchers must wear protective equipment including helmet, mask, chest protector and shin guards.
5. All batters, on-deck batters and runners will wear a batting helmet with a protective faceguard.
6. All bats used must be USA Softball approved bats

**BASEPATH AND PITCHING DISTANCE:** The base path distance will be 60 feet. The pitching distance will be 43 feet