

Texas Charter School Academic & Athletic League (TCSAAL)
Softball Rules & General Procedures
2017-2018 Season

TCSAAL will primarily follow the NFHS Softball Fast Pitch Rule Book.

FIELD DIMENSIONS

Mandated field distances will be as follows:

- i) Bases shall be 60 feet apart.
- ii) The rear tip of home plate and the front edge of the pitcher's plate shall be 43 feet.
- iii) A circle with a diameter of 16 feet shall be drawn with its center at the midpoint of the front edge of the pitcher's plate.

EQUIPMENT

TCSAAL will follow NFHS Equipment guidelines for fast pitch softball. Fast pitch utilizes the 12" ball.

Bat Requirements: The bat shall meet the 2004 ASA Bat Performance Standard, bear either the 2000 or 2004 certification mark and not be listed on the ASA non-approved bat list as found on <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/play-usa-softball/certified-usa-softball-equipment>. Bat barrels made entirely of wood are permitted and need not bear an ASA mark, but shall not exceed 2¼ inches in diameter.

Exception: TCSAAL will not enforce article 3 or 4 of the uniforms section concerning logos.

DURATION OF GAME

- i) In all regular season games, TCSAAL will enforce the following in regard to duration of gameplay:
 - **During the regular season, games will be scheduled for 1 hour 45 minutes for 6th-8th Grade and 2.0 hours for High School. A new inning cannot take place following the 1 hour 30 minute mark for 6th-8th Grade or 1 hour 45 minute mark for High School, unless the score is tied at the time.**
 - Regular season games will have a 10-run cap per inning.
 - Exception: If the losing team is down by 10+ runs, this rule will not take effect unless the team retakes the lead. If a team retakes the lead after having a 10+ run deficit, their half of the inning is over.
 - TCSAAL will also enforce the following mercy rule: The game shall end when the visiting team is behind 10 or more runs after 4 ½ innings, or after the fifth inning, if either team is 10 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat.
- ii) In all playoff games (tie-breaker, regional & state tournament), time limitations and run cap per inning rules will not apply.
- iii) **All TCSAAL Varsity Baseball games will be capped at 7 innings. A vote will take place at the 2017 TCSAAL Coaches Conference to reduce the number of innings in TCSAAL 6th-8th Grade Baseball games from 7 innings to 6 innings. Only coaches in attendance will be allowed to vote on the issue.**
- iv) In all regular season games in which games end in a tie by virtue of time or inning ruling, said game will finish as a tied game. Only playoff games will result in extra innings (tie-breakers and regional/state tournaments).

UMPIRES

TCSAAL will utilize a 2 member crew. Umpire in chief (**home plate**) and 1 field umpire.

HOME TEAM EXPECTATIONS

The home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook, but TCSAAL will require both teams to keep a scorebook as well as provide a line-up card for the opposing team and the umpires. The home team is also responsible for providing a scoreboard for the game. The home team is responsible for providing a digital or flip scoreboard for all of their home games if the facility scoreboard will not be available to them. Lastly, the home team is responsible for providing 1 volunteer to record on the official scorebook and 1 volunteer to update the scoreboard throughout the game.