

Texas Charter School Academic & Athletic League (TCSAAL)
Softball Rules & General Procedures
2018-2019 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 ASA 2000

Certification Mark, ASA 2004 Certification Mark, or ASA 2013 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 losing 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) **A vote will take place at the 2018 TCSAAL Coaches Conference to institute time limitation rules for playoff games (tie-breaker / regional tournament / state tournament).**
- iii) **A vote will take place at the 2018 TCSAAL Coaches Conference to institute run cap per inning rules for playoff games (tie-breaker / regional tournament / state tournament).**
- iv) At the State Tournament, home team designation will be determined first by winning percentage, then total number of wins (if winning percentage is tied), then a coin flip (if total number of wins is tied). However, if both teams have undefeated records, the home team will be determined by a coin flip.
- v) All TCSAAL Varsity Softball games will be capped at 7 innings. All TCSAAL 6th-8th Grade Softball games will be capped at 6 innings.
- vi) 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.

DUGOUT DESIGNATIONS / ASSIGNMENTS

- i) For all regular season games, home teams will choose their dugout and the visiting team will take the remaining dugout.

- a. **EXCEPTION:** For regular season games in which a team is hosting the game as the visiting team (using their own facility), said team will be able to choose their dugout.
- ii) For all playoff (tie-breaker, regional & state tournament) games, TCSAAL will assign both home and visiting team dugouts. Teams will not be able to choose their own dugouts for any reason.

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.

Team Requirements for Playoff Games:

In any playoff round, the Home Team is responsible for the Official Score Book and the Visiting Team is responsible for keeping the Official Score Board. Both these volunteers will sit at the Official Scorer's Table and they will be the only personnel at the table. If one team doesn't have a TCSAAL approved volunteer, the opposing team will be responsible for both volunteer roles. All other Regular Season requirements remain in-effect for Playoff Games other than the volunteer roles described above.

Any rules not covered in these rules will follow NFHS rulebook.

All players, coaches, and spectators are bound by these rules and the TCSAAL Handbook.