

BRANSON PARKS AND RECREATION

Junior High Softball League – Rules Summary

Except for the rules covered in these by-laws, Competitive League will be governed by USSSA (United States Specialty Sports Association) Softball Rules.

- NUMBER OF INNINGS PLAYED: 5
- TIME LIMIT: 1 hour, 15 minutes
- MINIMUM REGULATION GAME: 3 innings or 45 minutes

BATTING ORDER

- The USSSA rules concerning 8, 9, 10, and continuous player batting orders will be in effect.

BATTING/BASERUNNING

- Junior High: On a dropped third strike, the batter will be declared out if she takes five or more steps toward her dugout before attempting to run to first base.

PLAYING FIELD

- Pitching distance is set at 43'
- The diamond shall have 60' bases

RUN LIMIT

- Max of 5 runs per inning

RUN RULE

- 12 runs after 3 innings
- 10 runs after 4 innings
- 8 runs after 5 innings

PITCHING

- Umpires shall not be lenient and will not give a warning on illegal pitches in the Junior High division.
- Pitchers shall have two minutes between innings to complete their warm up pitches. This is a speed of the game rule.

TIME LIMIT

- No new inning shall begin with five (5) minutes or less remaining. If an inning has started, the inning must be finished.

COACHES

- One defensive coach will be allowed to position themselves outside the dugout. All other coaches must remain in the dugout. One warning will be issued and upon the second offense the offending coach will be restricted to the bench for the remainder of the game. A third offense will warrant ejection. Coaches may not sit on a bucket past the opening of the dugout. This is a safety rule and is not applicable during time outs or dead ball situations.
- Under no circumstances will coaches or players argue judgment calls including balls and strikes. After a warning, a coach or player will be ejected.
- The team designated by the schedule to be the home team shall be the official scorekeeper for the game. The official scorekeeper must use a regulation scorekeeping book and must keep track of the following:

- Count (balls, strikes, outs)
- Score of the game
- Line up used by both teams.

TIES

- If the game is tied at the end of regulation, one extra inning will be played to determine a winner. If no winner exists following that extra inning, the game will end in a tie.

PROTESTS - No protests are allowed.

GENERAL

- For rules not covered in these bylaws, the USSSA rules will be in effect.
- The Branson Parks and Recreation Staff will determine the readiness of the field for play of all ball games.
- The Field Supervisor will have power to rule on all infractions.
- Unsportsmanlike behavior may result in penalties being imposed upon the offending individual, including coaches, participants, or spectators. Penalties will be decided by a committee made up of Director of Parks and Recreation, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, and the Branson Parks and Recreation Staff person in charge of the activity.
- No batboys or batgirls are allowed in the dugout or on the field. This rule is instituted solely for safety's sake.
- The Manager is ultimately responsible for the team's crowd and their actions. If a problem occurs in your team's crowd, you will be given a warning to take care of the situation. If the problem persists, the coach will once again be notified and the umpire will eject the offending spectators. Further problems will result in forfeit of the game and possible suspensions of team, coaches or fans.
- The Branson Parks Department requires that players, parents and coaches sign a "Code of Conduct" prior to the season starting that relates to behavior and sportsmanship to which ALL will be held accountable. Sportsmanship violations, including foul language, intimidation, and threat of infliction of bodily harm against game officials, staff or other participants, coaches and spectators will not be tolerated and those in violation will be subject to ejection from the game and suspension from future games at the discretion of the Parks Staff.
- The program supervisor will make final determination on any rules or interpretation that may arise throughout the season.
- Any rules not covered in this rules packet will be left to the discretion of the Recreation Specialist in charge of the program.