



2026

All Star Rules

Rev. 8/17/2025

USA SOFTBALL OF ALABAMA - ALL STAR RULES

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USA SOFTBALL OF ALABAMA - ALL STAR RULES

IF A RULE IS NOT COVERED WITHIN, REVERT BACK TO THE LATEST USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL RULEBOOK. THE LINK BELOW WILL TAKE YOU TO THE LATEST VERSION OF THE USA SOFTBALL NATIONAL RULEBOOK.

[2025 OfficialRulebook USASoftball.pdf](#)

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AGE REQUIREMENTS: A player’s age as of August 31st determines the age classification in which the player is eligible to participate. Any player can play in a higher classification but cannot play in a lower classification.

Match month (top line) and the box with the birth year. The player's age and division is indicated on the right.

SEP	AUG	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	AGE	DIVISION
2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	5	6U
2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	6	6U
2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	7	8U
2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	8	8U
2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	9	10U
2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	10	10U
2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	11	13U
2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	12	13U
2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	13	13U
2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	14	14U
2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	15	16U
2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	16	16U
2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	17	18U
2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	18	18U

NOTE: This age chart is for USA Rec Softball, and only for the 2026 Season.

BATS: USA Softball bats must have the 2000, 2004 and 2013 ASA stamp or the USA Softball Certified stamp and of course not on the banned list which is provided on the www.teamusa.org website. The gray and yellow Easton Ghost is not allowed. For 6U, players may use a “T-ball” bat that does not have the USA, ASA or USSSA thumbprint. However, the barrel must not exceed 2 ¼ inches in diameter. **BE SURE TO READ “USE OF ILLEGAL BAT” BELOW.**



Figure 1: Legal bat stamps

USA SOFTBALL OF ALABAMA - ALL STAR RULES

BAT WARMERS: Bat Warmers approved by USA Softball are permitted.

BAT SHOCK/CHOKER UP KNOB: Rubber shock knobs / choke up knobs are allowed.

CLEATS: Metal cleats can be utilized by player in 15U and up.

COURTESY RUNNER: A player not in the game, a substitute, may be used to run for the pitcher of record and/or catcher. This courtesy runner may be used at any time. If a substitute is not available, the player with the last completed at bat not on base may run. The pitcher and/or catcher of record may be used as a courtesy runner. The same player may not run for the pitcher and the catcher in the same inning. For 6U & 8U, a team can use courtesy runner for catcher if a catcher is being utilized, but no courtesy runner may be utilized for pitcher.

EJECTION: If a coach or player is ejected from a game, for any reason, the coach or player will be suspended for the remainder of the current game and the next game the coach or player are scheduled to participate. If a coach or player is ejected in an elimination game, then the coach or player will be suspended for the first game of the next tournament they are scheduled to participate. In addition to being ejected from a game, a coach can be ejected from the tournament to ensure that the tournament is free from unruly behavior.

EXTRA PLAYER (EP): team can put up to two (2) extra players in the batting line up. These players will bat where placed in the line-up and can substitute freely on defense.

JEWELRY: Any jewelry judged by the umpire as dangerous, must be removed. Medical alert items are not considered jewelry. (3:6f)

NOISE MAKERS: NO ARTIFICIAL NOISE MAKERS ARE ALLOWED DURING GAME, including but not limited to, cow bells, air horns, bull horns or megaphones.

PITCHERS CIRCLE: The pitcher's circle will be a 16' diameter (8' radius) circle. See *PLAYING FIELD DEMINISIONS* below for positioning.

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PLAYER PARTICIPATION: A player cannot compete in any USA Softball sanctioned tournament with more than one team during the same tournament.

PLAYING FIELD DEMINISIONS:

AGE DIVISION	CIRCLE MID POINT	PITCHER'S RUBBER	BASE PATH	MIN FENCE DISTANCE
6 and under	40'	30'	60'	140'
8 and under	40'	35'	60'	150'
10 and under	35'	35'	60'	170'
13 and under	40'	40'	60'	180'
All others	43'	43'	60'	200'

SANCTION YEAR: The USA Softball sanction runs from September 1st until August 31st.

SLINGING A BAT: If a batter unintentionally throws her bat and it interferes with a defensive player, interference is called, and the batter is out. If the batter throws her bat intentionally, the batter is out, and she may be ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct.

USE OF ILLEGAL BAT: When a batter enters the batter's box with or is discovered using an Altered or Non-Approved bat, the batter is out, and the coach is warned if a first offense. When discovered using an Altered or Non-Approved bat after completing her turn at bat and before the next pitch, legal or illegal, the batter is out, the coach is warned if a first offense, all outs stand, and all other runners return to the base occupied at the time of the last pitch. If an additional player on the same team enters the batter's box with or is discovered using an Altered or Non-Approved bat, the batter is out, and the coach is ejected from the Tournament being the second offense.

USA SOFTBALL OF ALABAMA - ALL STAR RULES

THE GAME – PLAYING RULES

6 and under rules

- a) The game shall be five (5) innings or 60-minute time limit, when the time limit is up, the teams must finish the inning unless the home team is ahead when the top half of the inning is over. Time limits may be decreased with adverse weather or in other situations.
- b) Seven (7) runs are the maximum number of runs a team may score per half inning, or until the defense records three - (3) outs, whichever occurs first. The batting order shall be a revolving batting order consisting of ten - (10), eleven - (11) with 1 EP, twelve - (12) batters with 2 EPs, or you may bat your entire roster. No matter the number of batters, you must maintain the integrity of the batting line up. When batting the entire roster, you have free defensive substitution.
- c) Each batter will get 5 pitches to put the ball in play. If the Batter fouls the 5th pitch, she will get another pitch until she hits the ball in fair territory or swings and misses the pitch. There are no intentional walks.
- d) If a team does not have 10 players present, the 10th batting position will be an out every time the 10th batting position should come up to bat. If the 9th batter is the 3rd out of the inning, the next inning will start with one out. You cannot play with less than 9 players.
- e) No stealing. If a player leaves the base before the ball reaches home plate, she will be called out.
- f) A vertical line will be drawn 30 feet from home plate towards 1st base and from home plate towards 3rd base. No defensive player may play in front of this line before the ball is hit. Halfway lines will be drawn between First and Second bases, between Second and Third bases and between Third and Home Plate.
- g) The defensive team shall have no more than 6 infielders. Up to four (4) players shall be positioned in the outfield at least 10 feet behind the baselines until the ball is batted. Only 10 players will play on defense at one time. The Player Pitcher can be moved directly behind 2nd base (10 feet from the base) if the coach chooses to do so.
- h) A 11" optic yellow leather softball (375# Compression, .47 core) will be used.
- i) The player-pitcher shall stand with both feet inside the eight-foot radius circle even with or behind (but not in front) of the pitcher's plate (40 feet). The circle will be centered at 40' with a safety line at 40'. The defensive pitcher must be in the circle and behind the 40' line, or at least 10' directly behind second base before the Coach Pitcher pitches.
- j) Mercy Rule – 12 after the 3rd inning, 10 after the 4th inning, 8 after the 5th inning.
- k) The umpire shall call time when the defensive player has possession of the ball in front of the lead runner, or the defensive player has possession of the ball in the pitcher's circle, or all play has stopped. Once the umpire calls time, the ball is dead. If the runner has passed the half-way line advancing to the next base, then it shall be awarded to them at the judgment of the umpire.
- l) The coach pitcher must make every effort not to interfere with the defensive team. This includes, but not limited to, avoiding interfering with any ball put into play by either being hit by a batter or thrown by a defensive player. They should leave the field when the ball is in play, if they can do so without interfering with the play.
- m) In the umpire's judgment if the Coach Pitcher interferes either verbally or physically with the play: 1st offense, it will be a dead ball and the lead runner will be called out, after that it will be a dead ball and the lead runner will be out and the coach ejected.

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- n) There can be an adult at the backstop (Coach Catcher) to help the player catcher get the ball back to the coach pitcher. If there is a Coach Catcher is used, this coach must not interfere verbally or physically with the batter and any player catcher. He is there simply to return the ball back to the pitcher if it was not hit or hit foul, to speed up the game.
- o) The defensive team can choose to have a player catcher. The Coach Catcher can stand on either side of the player catcher or behind the player catcher. The player catcher can be positioned as far back as she likes, all the way to the backstop. If the defensive team chooses NOT to use a player catcher, then that position is lost. That player may not be used as an extra infielder or an extra outfielder.
- p) A catcher will be in full catcher's gear. The catcher shall wear a NOCSAE approved head protector (with dual earflaps), an approved mask with throat protector, a body chest protector and shin guards. If a hockey style NOCSAE approved catchers' helmet is used, a separate throat protector is not needed.
- q) If a player catcher starts off from a squatted position in the catcher's box and a foul ball is caught it is an OUT.
- r) All base runners must return to the last base they legally occupied. If, in the judgment of the umpire, a coach pitcher unintentionally interfered with the play then the ball is ruled dead, and the pitch replayed. NOTE: The coach pitcher shall only field the ball when it is being thrown to him/her in order to put the ball back in play.
- s) The Coach Pitcher may talk to the batter until he/she releases the ball. If the Coach Pitcher talks to the batter after he/she releases the ball, then there will be a dead ball-strike called. On the 2nd offense the Coach will be removed from the pitching circle and another pitcher will be put in his/her place.
- t) Coach Pitchers will pitch from 30 ft. with one (1) foot in contact with the rubber or pitching line. Pitching circle will have a 40 ft. center radius.
- u) A ball thrown from an infield position towards first base in an attempt to get the batter out that is overthrown to the first baseperson and goes past the 3-foot running lane is considered a dead ball at this point. All runners will be allowed one additional base. The ball must go past the 3-foot running lane line to be considered an overthrow. The 3-foot running lane should be run 10 feet past the bag.
- v) Bases will be 60' length in distance.
- w) The defensive team may have two coaches on the field, one in left field foul territory and the second one in right field foul territory. These coaches must remain in foul territory in the outfield. A warning by the umpire will be given to any coach who during a pitch is in the playing field.
- x) NO BUNTING (a drag BUNT is a BUNT).
- y) NO SLASHING or SLAPPING.
- z) No DP/Flex allowed
- aa) No intentional walks

USA SOFTBALL OF ALABAMA - ALL STAR RULES

8 and under rules

- a) The game shall be six (6) innings or 60-minute time limit, when the time limit is up, the teams must finish the inning unless the home team is ahead when the top half of the inning is over. Time limits may be decreased with adverse weather or in other situations.
- b) Seven (7) are the maximum number of runs a team may score per half inning, or until the defense records three - (3) outs, whichever occurs first. The batting order shall be a revolving batting order consisting of ten - (10), eleven - (11) with 1 EP, twelve - (12) batters with 2 EPs, or you may bat your entire roster. No matter the number of batters, you must maintain the integrity of the batting line up. When batting the entire roster, you have free defensive substitution.
- c) Each batter will get 5 pitches, or 3 strikes. If the Batter fouls the 5th pitch, she will get another pitch until she hits the ball in fair territory or swings and misses the pitch. There are no intentional walks.
- d) If a team does not have 10 players present, the 10th batting position will be an out every time the 10th batting position should come up to bat. If the 9th batter is the 3rd out of the inning, the next inning will start with one out. You cannot play with less than 9 players.
- e) No stealing. If a player leaves the base before the ball reaches home plate, she will be called out.
- f) A vertical line will be drawn 30 feet from home plate towards 1st base and from home plate towards 3rd base. No defensive player may play in front of this line before the ball is hit.
- g) The defensive team shall have no more than 6 infielders. Up to four (4) players shall be positioned in the outfield at least 10 feet behind the baselines until the ball is batted. Only 10 players will play on defense at one time.
- h) A 11" optic yellow leather softball (375# Compression, .47 core) will be used.
- i) The player-pitcher shall stand with both feet inside the eight-foot radius circle even with or behind (but not in front) of the pitcher's plate (40 feet). The circle will be centered at 40' with a safety line at 40'. The defensive pitcher must be in the circle and behind the 40' line, or at least 10' directly behind second base before the Coach Pitcher pitches.
- j) Mercy Rule – 12 after the 3rd inning, 10 after the 4th inning, 8 after the 5th inning.
- k) The umpire shall call time when the defensive player has possession of the ball in front of the lead runner, or all play has stopped.
- l) The coach pitcher must make every effort not to interfere with the defensive team. This includes, but not limited to, avoiding interfering with any ball put into play by either being hit by a batter or thrown by a defensive player. They should leave the field when the ball is in play, if they can do so without interfering with the play.
- m) In the umpire's judgment if the Coach Pitcher interferes either verbally or physically with the play: 1st offense, it will be a dead ball and the lead runner will be called out, after that it will be a dead ball and the lead runner will be out and the coach ejected.
- n) A catcher will be in full catcher's gear. The catcher shall wear a NOCSAE approved head protector (with dual earflaps), an approved mask with throat protector, a body chest protector and shin guards. If a hockey style NOCSAE approved catchers' helmet is used, a separate throat protector is not needed.
- o) If a player catcher starts off from a squatted position in the catcher's box and a foul ball is caught it is an OUT.

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- p) All base runners must return to the last base they legally occupied. If, in the judgment of the umpire, a coach pitcher unintentionally interfered with the play then the ball is ruled dead, and the pitch replayed. NOTE: The coach pitcher shall only field the ball when it is being thrown to him/her in order to put the ball back in play.
- q) The Coach Pitcher may talk to the batter until he/she releases the ball. If the Coach Pitcher talks to the batter after he/she releases the ball, then there will be a dead ball-strike called. On the 2nd offense the Coach will be removed from the pitching circle and another pitcher will be put in his/her place.
- r) Coach Pitchers will pitch from 35 ft. with one (1) foot in contact with the rubber or pitching line. Pitching circle will have a 40 ft. center radius.
- s) Bases will be 60' length in distance.
- t) The defensive team may have two coaches on the field, one in left field foul territory and the second one in right field foul territory. These coaches must remain in foul territory in the outfield. A warning by the umpire will be given to any coach who during a pitch is in the playing field.
- u) NO BUNTING (a drag BUNT is a BUNT).
- v) NO SLASHING AND NO SLAPPING.
- w) No DP/Flex allowed
- x) No intentional walks

10 and under rules

- a) The game shall be seven (7) innings or 70-minute time limit, when the time limit is up, the teams must finish the inning unless the home team is ahead when the top half of the inning is over. Time limits may be decreased with adverse weather or in other situations.
- b) Pitching distance will be from 35 ft.
- c) A 11" optic yellow leather softball (375# Compression, .47 core) will be used.
- d) The batting order shall be a revolving batting order consisting of nine – (9), ten - (10) with 1 EP, eleven - (11) batters with 2 Eps, or you may bat your entire roster. No matter the number of batters, you must maintain the integrity of the batting line up. When batting the entire roster, you have free defensive substitution.
- e) If a team does not have 9 players present, the 9th batting position will be an out every time the 9th batting position should come up to bat. If the 8th batter is the 3rd out of the inning, the next inning will start with one out. You cannot play with less than 8 players.
- f) The defensive team shall have no more than 6 infielders, and three (3) outfielders. Only 9 players will play on defense at one time.
- g) Bases will be 60' length in distance.
- h) A catcher will be in full catcher's gear. The catcher shall wear a NOCSAE approved head protector (with dual earflaps), an approved mask with throat protector, a body chest protector and shin guards. If a hockey style NOCSAE approved catchers' helmet is used, a separate throat protector is not needed.
- i) Mercy Rule - 12 after 3rd inning, 10 after 4th inning, 8 after 5th inning
- j) If a player leaves the base before the pitcher releases the ball, she will be called out.

USA SOFTBALL OF ALABAMA - ALL STAR RULES

13 and under

- a) The game shall be seven (7) innings or 70-minute time limit, when the time limit is up, the teams must finish the inning unless the home team is ahead when the top half of the inning is over. Time limits may be decreased with adverse weather or in other situations.
- b) Pitching distance will be from 40 ft.
- c) A 12" optic yellow leather softball (375# Compression, .47 core) will be used.
- d) The batting order shall be a revolving batting order consisting of nine – (9), ten - (10) with 1 EP, eleven - (11) batters with 2 Eps, or you may bat your entire roster. No matter the number of batters, you must maintain the integrity of the batting line up. When batting the entire roster, you have free defensive substitution.
- e) If a team does not have 9 players present, the 9th batting position will be an out every time the 9th batting position should come up to bat. If the 8th batter is the 3rd out of the inning, the next inning will start with one out. You cannot play with less than 8 players.
- f) The defensive team shall have no more than 6 infielders, and three (3) outfielders. Only 9 players will play on defense at one time.
- g) Bases will be 60' length in distance.
- h) A catcher will be in full catcher's gear. The catcher shall wear a NOCSAE approved head protector (with dual earflaps), an approved mask with throat protector, a body chest protector and shin guards. If a hockey style NOCSAE approved catchers' helmet is used, a separate throat protector is not needed.
- i) Mercy Rule - 12 after 3rd inning, 10 after 4th inning, 8 after 5th inning
- j) If a player leaves the base before the pitcher releases the ball, she will be called out.

15 and under thru 18 and under

- a) The game shall be seven (7) innings or 70-minute time limit, when the time limit is up, the teams must finish the inning unless the home team is ahead when the top half of the inning is over. Time limits may be decreased with adverse weather or in other situations.
- b) Pitching distance will be from 43 ft.
- c) A 12" optic yellow leather softball (375# Compression, .47 core) will be used.
- d) The batting order shall be a revolving batting order consisting of nine – (9), ten - (10) with 1 EP, eleven - (11) batters with 2 Eps, or you may bat your entire roster. No matter the number of batters, you must maintain the integrity of the batting line up. When batting the entire roster, you have free defensive substitution.
- e) If a team does not have 9 players present, the 9th batting position will be an out every time the 9th batting position should come up to bat. If the 8th batter is the 3rd out of the inning, the next inning will start with one out. You cannot play with less than 8 players.
- f) The defensive team shall have no more than 6 infielders, and three (3) outfielders. Only 9 players will play on defense at one time.
- g) Bases will be 60' length in distance.
- h) A catcher will be in full catcher's gear. The catcher shall wear a NOCSAE approved head protector (with dual earflaps), an approved mask with throat protector, a body chest protector and shin guards. If a hockey style NOCSAE approved catchers' helmet is used, a separate throat protector is not needed.
- i) Mercy Rule - 12 after 3rd inning, 10 after 4th inning, 8 after 5th inning

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- j) If a player leaves the base before the pitcher releases the ball, she will be called out.

PITCHING

Prior to Pitch:

- a) Shoulders square with 1st and 3rd base with ball either in glove or pitching hand with hands separated and one foot on the rubber. (start back rule)
- b) Pitcher should take or simulate taking a signal.
- c) Pitcher must have possession of the ball to get on or near pitchers' plate.
- d) After hands have been brought together, all motion must go forward.
- e) The pivot foot may remain in contact or push off from the rubber and drag away prior to front foot touching down. Drag foot does not have to keep contact with the ground.
- f) Lateral movement on rubber is not considered a step.
- g) A pitcher is not considered to be in position unless the catcher is within the lines of the catcher's box in a position to receive the pitch.
- h) No foreign substance or tape on the pitching hand.
- i) Pitcher has 1 minute from the last out to be ready to deliver pitch to batter.
- j) Umpire may award warm up pitches during inclement weather or for pitcher returning from injury.
- k) Pitcher cannot deliberately drop, roll, or bounce the ball to prevent the batter from striking at it.
- l) After pitcher has possession of ball in circle, she has 20 seconds to release the pitch (the batter has 10 to get ready and pitcher has other 10 to pitch).

No Pitch:

- a) When the pitcher pitches during suspension of play.
- b) Quick pitch.
- c) Runner called out for leaving early.
- d) Ball is pitched before base runner has time to return to base after foul ball.
- e) When any coach, manager or player calls "Time" and obviously tries to interfere with the pitcher making a pitch.

USA SOFTBALL OF ALABAMA - ALL STAR RULES

TYPE OF PROTEST

There are 3 types of protest:

- A. Misinterpretation of a playing rule – must be made:
 - a. Before the next pitch, legal or illegal.
 - b. Before the next play.
 - c. Before all infielders have left fair territory
 - d. On the last play of the game, before the umpires leave live ball territory
- B. Illegal Player – Must be made while the player in question is in the game and before the umpires leave the playing field.
- C. Ineligible player – can be made any time. Eligibility is the decision of the protest committee.
 - a. During any tournament, there is a \$100.00 Protest fee, to protest a player's eligibility. This is per player, not per roster.

APPEALS

Live Ball:

- a) This appeal may be made by any fielder in possession of the ball by touching a missed base or the base that was left early. She may also tag the runner that committed the violation even if she is standing on another base.

Dead Ball:

- a) This appeal may be made after all runners have completed their advancement and time has been called. The coach or any defensive player, with or without the ball, may make a verbal appeal on a runner missing the base or leaving too soon.
- b) After time is awarded, an appeal may be granted if made by the Head Coach with the umpire making the call on a rule interpretation of that call. **THERE WILL BE NO APPEALS ON JUDGMENT CALL.**
- c) All appeals must be made before the next pitch (legal or illegal), at the end of half inning before all infielders have left fair territory OR on last play of game, before umpires leave the field.
- d) More than one appeal can be made and more than one out can be called during an appeal.
- e) If appeal out was awarded at a forced base, no runs would score if it is the 3rd out.
- f) If a tag up appeal is awarded all runs would score in advance of the appealed runner if the appeal is the 3rd out.

USA SOFTBALL OF ALABAMA - ALL STAR RULES

LOOK BACK RULE (to wait, to be uncertain, to hesitate)

Rule violation is an automatic dead ball, the offending player will be called out, the other runners must return to the last base legally touched at the time of the “dead ball”. The pitcher must have possession of the ball in the circle and NOT attempting to make a play on any base runner.

Violation occurs when any of the following happen:

- a) When the act of any base runner is to challenge the pitcher intentionally or unintentionally.
- b) Where the base runner stops, changes directions, and stops again.
- c) Where the base runner stops and waits.

INTERFERENCE vs OBSTRUCTION

Section 9.1 Interference: (offense)

- a) Any act, physical or verbal, by a member of a team at bat that illegally impedes, hinders, or confuses any fielder or when a runner creates contact with any fielder in or out of the base line. “Dead Ball” to be called when there is Interference.

Section 9.2 Obstruction: (defense)

- a) Any act of a defensive team member that hinders or impedes the batters attempt to contact the ball or impedes the progress of a base runner.
- b) Delayed Dead Ball Situations
 - a. Catcher Obstruction
 - b. Fake tag
 - c. Blocked base

USA SOFTBALL OF ALABAMA - ALL STAR RULES

DP/FLEX

- a) The DP and Flex are “married” to each other as far as where either one will bat in the line-up.
- b) DP- Designated Player who can be listed anywhere in the 9 positions on the line-up and can freely play defense at any position.
- c) FLEX-is defensive player only who will always be listed in the 10th spot on the line-up but will not bat (if she bats, it will be in the DP spot only which will cause the DP to leave the game, and this constitutes a substitute).
- d) The DP/FLEX must be on the line up to start the game for it to be official.
- e) DP and FLEX can be substituted by a legal sub just like any other player on the line up.
- f) No DP/Flex allowed in 6U or 8U

SUBSTITUTIONS

- a) Any player that leaves the batting line up and returns to the game is tied to that spot in the lineup and will always have to bat in that position.
- b) If any batting position is left open due to illness, injury, or ejection it will be an automatic out when that spot comes to bat if a sub is not available.
- c) All players/subs can be pulled from game and re-enter (1) time, after the 2nd time they leave the game, they are no longer a legal or eligible sub.
- d) Eligibility rules are tied to players, not positions (except pitchers returning during same inning)

USA SOFTBALL OF ALABAMA - ALL STAR RULES

All-Stars General Rules

- All-Star participants must be age eligible.
- All-Star teams should have a maximum of 20 players.
- USA Softball of Alabama strongly encourages that every player on each All-Star team play in every All-Star game.
- A player's All-Star age classification eligibility is determined by the roster they are on during the regular season. For example, a player that is age eligible to play in 8U, but elects to play up in 10U, cannot play in 8U All-Stars. They must compete in the age group they played in the regular season, or higher.
- A protest over a team's eligibility must be presented by June 1st.
- Districts / Areas having 3 teams or less, could be moved to another district/area that makes sense geographically and helps provide a better All-Star experience.
- Rosters must be submitted online before the All-Star season begins.
- Rosters will be locked the day of the first All-Star district tournament.
- Once the rosters have been locked, you will not be able to make any further modifications.
- Coaches need to always have player's birth certificates available.

All-Star Team Formation

- All players must have been on a roster at a USA sanctioned park during this spring season.
- If a park does not have enough interest to form an All-Star team, they can join with another park, or parks, that they interlocked games with that season.
- If forming a multi-park All-Star team, all teams represented must have played each other during the spring season. It must be a closed loop.
- If a multi-park All-Star team is formed, the name of the team must be a combination of the park involved. Leagues forming a multi-park team should use the name of the league as the team name. If the league has more than one league formed team, then a color designation after the league name should be used. IE: League Name – Red, League Name – Blue.
- All-Star players must have played in at least 10 games prior to the start of the All-Star season. With exception of 13U and up divisions, which must have played in 6 games. This is to help with players that may have been in middle school and do not have enough time to play 10 full games.
- USA Softball sanctioned Mid-Season League tournaments, Rec Only Ring Tournaments, or League State Tournament may be used to satisfy the 10 game eligibility criteria.

USA SOFTBALL OF ALABAMA - ALL STAR RULES

All-Star Uniforms

- Each uniform must have the name of the park or league prominently displayed on the front of the jersey. Numbers must be a minimum of 6" on the back of the jersey. Duplicate numbers are allowed. For geographically formed teams such as Oak Mountain forms a team with Springville they could select a combined name of Spring Mountain, or they could take the name of the park that the majority of the players are from, or they could use the park name the head coach comes from as the team name.
- No nicknames allowed. Must be name of park or league. No abbreviation.
- If there is more than one team from a park or league, the uniforms will need to be different colors.
- Teams that do not have matching uniforms lose the ability to pick whether they'd like to be home or away. If both teams do not have proper uniforms, home and away will be determined by the guidelines for that tournament. It is not up to the umpire to make this ruling. It must be appealed by the opposing teams head coach. After the plate meeting has been concluded, the appeal opportunity is
- over.

All Stars Credential Meeting

- The following items will be required at the credential meeting
 - Tournament entry fees. It is the coach's responsibility to make sure the entry fee has been paid. If league, park, or city is paying the entry fee, please make sure it is paid before the start of 1st game of tournament. In the event that the park/city has not provided the entry fee in time, the coach is responsible for paying the entry fee before their first game. And then can get reimbursed from proper payee.
 - Affidavit signed by park president and head coach certifying that all information turned in is factual and legal for the 2025 All Star season.
 - Parks needing invoices, due to requirements to get a check from their city, need to request invoices prior to the credential meeting.

All Stars vs Travel

- A player must decide to play All Stars or travel ball. A player cannot play both during the All-Star season.
- The All-Star Season is defined by when the first USA Softball All-Star tournament is held in the state. Not when the player plays their first tournament.
- If a player is determined to have played in a travel tournament after the USA Softball All Star season has begun, the player and her All Star team are disqualified from any remaining USA Softball All Star tournaments.

USA SOFTBALL OF ALABAMA - ALL STAR RULES

All-Stars Tournaments

Points System: Points will be awarded in the District and Area tournaments to determine the seeding in the area and state tournaments.

How are points awarded?

- **District Tournament**
 - 2 points for each game win.
 - 10 bonus points for 1st place.
 - 5 bonus points for 2nd place.
 - If a team is scheduled to play a 3rd pool game, because of the number of teams entered, they will only receive points based on the first 2 pool games.
- **Area Tournament**
 - 60 points for each game win, or bye in the winner's bracket.
 - 30 points for each game won in the loser's bracket.
 - 100 bonus points for 1st place.
 - 50 bonus points for 2nd place.

Point Tiebreakers:

1. Average Runs Allowed
2. Average Runs Scored
3. Computer Generated Coin Flip

District Tournament

- District tournaments will be (2) pool to single elimination format.
- During bracket play for the District tournaments, the higher seed will determine home or away.

Area Tournament

- An All-Star team must participate in the District Tournament to be eligible for the Area Tournament.
- Area tournaments will be a seeded, double elimination bracket. The seeding will be from the points accumulated during the District tournaments.
- During the bracket play for Area tournaments, the higher seed will determine home or away. If there is an IF GAME, we will flip for home or away.
- The format of each tournament will be double elimination, although each area could be different depending on number of teams, adverse weather, etc. If there are only two teams available to play in any tournament, the best of three format may be used. The two teams will flip for home or away each game.

USA SOFTBALL OF ALABAMA - ALL STAR RULES

State Tournament

- All-Star teams must participate in the Area tournament to be eligible for the State tournament.
- All teams will be entered into an initial seeding bracket.
 - Teams will be seeded by points earned in the district and area tournaments, with higher seeds playing lower seeds in a typical tournament format.
 - Byes could be awarded as necessary to make sure rounds work into a multiple of 8.
 - For example:
 - a 33 team bracket would have 1 bye
 - a 11 team bracket would have 5 byes.
 - Teams that win their first bracket game in the seeding bracket, and teams that received a bye in the seeding bracket, will move into a double elimination which will be the State Championship Bracket.
 - Teams that lose their first bracket game in the seeding bracket will move into the Major's Championship Bracket.
 - Teams that win their first bracket game in the Major's Championship bracket, and teams that receive a bye in the Major's Championship bracket, will move into a single elimination bracket to decide the Major's Championship.
 - Teams that lose their first bracket game in the Major's Championship Bracket will move into a Single Elimination bracket which will be the Captain's Championship Bracket.
- This format is an attempt for all teams to get a minimum of 3 games, while separating teams into different brackets based on their performance, not just the points they have earned.
- Format can change due to number of reasons including weather, or other unforeseen circumstances. We will exhaust all reasonable effort to complete the tournament.
- Home team will be decided by the following:
 - State Championship Bracket
 - Winner's bracket: higher seed
 - Loser's bracket: coin flip
 - Championship game: higher seed
 - If game: coin flip
 - Major's Championship Bracket: coin flip
 - Captain's Championship Bracket: coin flip

USA SOFTBALL OF ALABAMA - ALL STAR RULES

League Guidelines

- If a park has more than one team in an age group, a draft must be utilized to organize the teams.
- Leagues are strongly encouraged to play by the USA Softball of Alabama All Star Rule Book during their regular season, except for any local league rules.
- We encourage each league to schedule their respective season so that the last games played are completed by the end of the 2nd week in May.
- To sanction with USA Rec Softball, you will be required to enter your teams' rosters on our website. WWW.USASOFTBALLOFALABAMA.COM
- Sanctioning cost \$25 per team within your park.
- Sanctioning deadline March 15th.
- Team that has not sanctioned with USA Rec Softball of Alabama during the 2026 season will not be eligible for an USA Rec Sanctioned tournaments.

Rec Roster Tournament Pickup Player Guidelines

You can pick up a max of 4 players, to make enough to play, plus 2 subs.

Where you can pick up players from:

- If your park has 3 or more teams in your age group, you must pick from the teams within your park.
- If your park only has 2 or fewer teams in your age group, you can pick-up players from teams that you interlock games with.
- The pick-up guidelines are not intended just for you to make a stronger team. They are so you can still play though your entire team may not be interested or available to play that day.

Please note that a pickup player cannot play with her team, and another team during the same tournament. A player can only play with one team during a tournament. You will need to add the guest player to your online roster.

Examples:

If your 6U/8U roster has 10 girls on it, and some cannot play in the tournament you have entered. You may pick up 4, not to exceed 12 players.

If your 10U/13U roster has 13 girls on it, and 2 can't make it, you still have enough to play and have 2 subs. You do not qualify for a pickup.