

## **BIG WEST LEAGUE RULES**

The league rules are found in our bylaws at <https://rp-file-storage.nyc3.digitaloceanspaces.com/Big-West-Bylaws-usasb-mn-639105608387553036.pdf>

### **1. Scheduled Games**

- a. These games may be rescheduled by mutual agreement of the respective coaches.
- b. All teams will play double headers with the first game starting at 6:15 PM and the second game will start five (5) minutes after the completion of the first game.
- c. The games shall be seven (7) innings long.
- d. When the time limit rule is in effect time begins with the first warm up pitch.
- e. Games that are not a completed game will not count toward seeding.
- f. If a game is started but not completed due to unforeseen circumstances, any rescheduled game shall play a new game from the start. The new game will not begin where the inning left off during the postponed game. Coaches must decide on the field if the game is rescheduled.
- g. The tiebreaker rule is used starting in the eighth inning with the last batter on second base.
  - i. 10-Under C will start the half inning with one (1) out.
  - ii. 12-Under C will start the half inning with one (1) out.
- h. No new inning can start after 65 minutes, and league games can end with a tie. These are doubleheader games, and it is the responsibility of the umpire to keep the games going to complete both games.
- i. Any team not in attendance fifteen (15) minutes after the established game time will forfeit the game. Teams not in attendance within an additional fifteen (15) minutes will forfeit the second game.
- j. The run rule during league games shall be, any team ahead by fifteen (15) runs after three (3) innings, twelve (12) runs after four (4) innings, and eight (8) runs after five (5) innings of play shall be declared the winner and the game is complete.
- k. On deck batters will be placed to the back of the batter for safety purposes.
- l. The host team will be the home team during the first game of double header. The visiting team will be the home team for the second game.
- m. All teams are required to play ten (10) games in the league to advance to the qualifier/state/nationals. This is required as team winning percentages help determine league playoff seeding.

- n. Teams can move scheduled games to other nights to facilitate multiple team schedules. Any game schedule change must be agreed upon between the two teams and changed on the website to reflect the change.
  - o. Home team coaches are required to enter the final scores of their games within twenty-four (24) hours of the completion of the games. Visiting coaches may enter the scores as well.
  - p. The following rules are specific to the 10-Under division:
    - i. Games shall be played on Tuesday nights in May adding Thursday nights in June.
    - ii. Teams are limited to five (5) runs per half inning.
    - iii. If the batter was not out or part of the fifth run of the inning will be the first up to bat the following inning.
    - iv. Teams will play with an eleven (11) inch softball.
    - v. The pitching distance shall be 35 feet.
    - vi. In 10-Under C games a dropped third strike, the batter will be out whether the ball is caught, dropped, or missed. The batter will not be out on a foul ball.
  - q. The following rules are specific to the 12-Under division:
    - i. Games shall be played on Monday and Wednesday nights.
    - ii. The pitching distance shall be 40 feet.
    - iii. Teams are limited to five (5) runs per half inning. This applies to B and C teams only.
    - iv. If the batter was not out or part of the fifth run of the inning will be the first up to bat the following inning.
  - r. The following rules are specific to the 14-Under division:
    - i. Games will be played on Tuesday and Thursday nights.
    - ii. The pitching distance shall be 43 feet.
    - iii. Players may wear steel cleats.
  - s. The following rules are specific to the 16/18-Under division:
    - i. Games will be played on Monday and Wednesday nights.
    - ii. The pitching distance shall be 43 feet.
    - iii. Players may wear steel cleats.
2. Postponed Games.
- a. Teams needing to postpone a game shall notify the opponent at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the game. Umpires shall be notified by the host team.
  - b. The host team shall notify the opponent and the umpires as soon as possible if field conditions warrant a postponement. A fee may be charged if the call does not reach the umpire prior to the game start.

- c. The home team coach may postpone the game for unplayable conditions until 4:00 PM. After the game begins the umpire shall decide if the field is playable.
  - d. The rescheduled game shall play a new game and not where the inning left off during the postponed game.
  - e. Postponed games shall be made up within a reasonable time. If an impasse develops, the League Director shall have the authority to set a game date and time. If a team cannot play the opponent at the rescheduled place and time, the winner shall be declared a winner by forfeit. In the event neither team can show up, the games will be listed as cancelled with no changes in the team's records.
3. No Shows.
    - a. A team must contact their opponent by 4:00 PM on game day if they are not able to play. Failure to do so results in a "Forfeit due to no show." This will be recorded as a 7-0 win. Any team forfeiting three league night games will be ineligible to play in the league tournament.
  4. Equipment.
    - a. All equipment shall meet the specifications described in the USA Softball rulebook.
    - b. Each team will provide one "new" softball for the doubleheader.
    - c. ASA or USA Softball approved yellow optic, .47cor 375 lbs. softballs will be used for all games.
    - d. All bats shall have the ASA or USA Softball stamp on them and are not on the ASA banned bat list or they will not be allowed for use in the games.
  5. The team with the highest winning percentage will get a league championship plaque.
  6. Each team shall complete a minimum of ten (10) league games to advance to state.

The rules for the Big West League Tournament/State Qualifier are in the league bylaws document referenced above.

### **GENERAL NOTES**

- 10-Under is not a coach-pitch league. Under no circumstances should coaches be pitching.
- Defense may only have 9 players on the field. Fast pitch does not have a rule for four outfielders.
- You will need to have completed and scored ten (10) games on the league website to play in the state qualifier tournament.
- All equipment (softballs and bats) should have either the ASA or USA Softball stamp on them. This equipment goes through testing for us, NCAA, and High School. Using practice softballs (non-stamped) is strictly prohibited.

## **QUESTIONS**

Contact us at [dan@mnssoftball.com](mailto:dan@mnssoftball.com) or [stone@mnssoftball.com](mailto:stone@mnssoftball.com).