

Western Iowa Girls Softball League (WIGSL)

Administration Rules & Rules of Play

The following rules, supplemented by the official rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) for fast pitch softball and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union interpretations, shall govern play and conduct of players and team officials in all league games.

Article I – League Organization

- Section 1. WIGSL shall be divided into leagues containing no more than ten (10) teams.
- a. Leagues shall be known as “North League”, “South League” and “Central League”.
 - b. The Board of Directors shall divide the teams into leagues at the pre-season meeting.
- Section 2. WIGSL is composed of four (4) participation divisions. These divisions are determined by the grade the player is in as of May of the season year.
- a. “D” division – Grades 1st and 2nd
 - b. “C” division – Grades 3rd and 4th
 - i. 2nd grade girls are allowed on the roster if needed to complete a team.
 - c. “B” division – Grades 5th and 6th
 - i. 4th grade girls are allowed on the roster if needed to complete a team.
 - d. “A” division – Grades 7th and 8th
 - i. 6th grade girls are allowed on the roster if needed to complete a team.
 - ii. 8th grade girls may play both WIGSL and high school softball.

Article II – Team Rosters, Town Information and Insurance

- Section 1. A team roster, for all “A” and “B” division teams, shall be sent to the softball@WIGSL.com email by **May 1th** of each season.
- Section 2. Rosters shall include the player name, uniform number, town in which the player lives, the school which the player attends and the grade the player is in as of May of that season.
- a. A player shall not be allowed to change numbers during a season or tournament. Violation of this will result in an out charged for that player.
 - b. Any open enrolled exceptions need approval by the League’s Board by **May 1th**. A letter from the school will need to be submitted to the board.
- Section 3. A player may only appear on one (1) team roster.
- Section 4. When a 6th grade girl is placed on an “A” division roster she is ineligible to play on a “B” division team.
- a. A “B” division girl may play in an “A” division game if needed to field a team upon agreement of both coaches.
- Section 5. A player must appear on the team roster and have played in at least half of the league games to be eligible for tournament play.
- Section 6. A player must play for either the town she lives in or school she attends. When no WIGSL team exists she may play for the nearest available team.
- Section 7. Use of an illegal player shall make that player ineligible for the league tournament. Use of an illegal player will result in the team taken a forfeit their 1st tournament game.
- Section 8. Town information is due **April 1st**. shall be sent to softball@WIGSL.com. Town information shall include town coordinators contact information, list of coaches contact information for each team in that division and the fee due.
- Section 9. All teams playing in WIGSL must have insurance.

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- a. Insurance must include both liability and accidental medical.
- b. Insurance shall be obtained by each team/town.
- c. Failure to provide proof of insurance to the league shall make that town/team ineligible for league or tournament play.
- d. Proof of insurance shall be sent to the softball@WIGSL.com email by **May 1th** of each season.

Article III – Team and Player Equipment

- Section 1. All players must wear a National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) approved helmet with both a face guard and chin strap attached when at bat, on base, on deck or coaching 1st or 3rd bases.
- a. A player shall not remove her batting helmet until she is completely inside the dugout. Violation of this rule will be a charged out to that team.
- Section 2. All bats used in a game must have “Official Softball” imprinted on it by the manufacturer. Non-approved ASA Certified bats not allowed. (<https://ighsau.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/2016-Non-Approved-Bats.pdf>)
- Section 3. Catchers must wear a NOCSAE approved helmet/mask combination with throat protector, chest protector and shin guards.
- a. A player warming up a pitcher must wear a NOCSAE approved helmet/mask combination.
- Section 4. All age group infielders must wear a face mask.
- Section 5. All players must wear shoes. Metal cleats are NOT permitted in any division.
- Section 6. All players on the same team must wear like uniforms shirts with different numbers.
- Section 7. Uniforms (shirt and pants) are not allowed to have Optic Yellow or Green on them.
- Section 8. Players are allowed to wear different color compression or sliding shorts under their uniforms.
- Section 9. WIGSL is not responsible for supplying any team or player equipment. All team and player equipment is to be provided by the sponsoring town, organization or parent.

Article IV – Game and Field Equipment

- Section 1. “A” and “B” divisions shall use 12”, optic yellow, red stitch, .47 cor, “NFHS” logo imprinted softballs in all games. Examples of acceptable balls include but are not limited to:
- a. Dudley SB12L Fastpitch Softball NFHS Logo
 - b. Rawlings NFHS12Y47L
 - c. Wilson A9011B
 - d. Worth X120RYCH
- Section 2. “C” and “D” division shall use 11”, optic yellow softballs in all games.
- Section 3. Two (2) new balls will be provided by the home team to start each game.
- Section 4. It will be the responsibility of the home team to provide and set-up the playing field(s) prior to game time. Setting up the field(s) includes:
- a. Chalk the field with all markings for that division.
 - b. Placement of bases and pitching plate at the correct distances for that division.
- Section 5. Field Specifications
- a. Bases are to be set at 60’ for all divisions.
 - i. A safety or double bases shall be used at first base. After the runner has advanced to first base the orange base is no longer in play.
 - b. Pitching Rubber is to be set at:
 - i. “A” division – 40ft
 - ii. “B” division – 37ft

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- iii. "C" division – 35ft
- iv. "D" division – 35ft
- c. Field markings:
 - i. "A" division – batter's/catcher's boxes, foul lines, coaching boxes, alternate baseline on first baseline, 8' radius pitchers circle (measured from the middle front of the rubber)
 - ii. "B" division - batter's/catcher's boxes, foul lines, coaching boxes, alternate baseline on first baseline, 8' radius pitchers circle (measured from the middle front of the rubber)
 - iii. "C" division - batter's/catcher's boxes, foul lines, coaching boxes, alternate baseline on first baseline, 20' hash mark for leading off, 8' radius pitchers circle (measured from the middle front of the rubber)
 - iv. "D" division - batter's/catcher's boxes, foul lines, coaching boxes, alternate baseline on first baseline

Article V – Officials, Scorekeepers & Scorekeeping

- Section 1. All towns are to schedule umpires according to the following for regular season games:
- a. "A" division – must have a certified plate umpire and a knowledgeable base umpire
 - b. "B" division – must have a knowledgeable plate and base umpire, it is recommended that the plate umpire be certified
 - c. "C" division – must have a knowledgeable plate umpire
 - d. "D" division – can be coach umpire
 - e. Towns should inform opponent that they are unable to provide a certified umpire. An agreement to play or reschedule should be discussed.
- Note: A & B division umpires must wear a mask and chest guard
- Section 2. Each town is required to have a current copy of the NFHS, IGHS AU, and WIGSL rules available at the field.
- Section 3. The home team will provide an official scorekeeper for all "A" and "B" division games unless otherwise agreed upon by both coaches.
- Section 4. Line-Up cards will be exchanged before all "A" and "B" division games.
- a. Line-Up cards shall have full name, uniform number and position.
- Section 5. All substitutes must be reported to the official scorekeeper prior to the start of play.
- Section 6. Score should not be kept in "C" or "D" divisions.
- Section 7. There will be no ties in "A" or "B" divisions. The international tie-breaker rule is in effect for both "A" and "B" divisions.
- a. It starts in the first new inning after the full time limit expires or with the 8th ("A" division) or 6th ("B" division) inning of play.
 - b. The player at bat causing the 3rd out of the inning shall start on second base in the next inning. For example, if the 5th batter is up, the 4th batter is on 2nd.
- Section 8. Game limits are as follows:
- a. "A" division – Two (2) hour from first pitch – Seven (7) inning games with the twelve (12) runs in three (3) innings and ten (10) runs in five (5) innings rule in effect. Three (3) innings constitutes a complete game. 7 run limit per inning. No run rule limit in tournament.
 - b. "B" division – One and one half (1 1/2) hour from first pitch – Five (5) inning games with the ten (10) runs in three (3) innings rule in effect. Three (3) innings constitutes a complete game. 5 run limit per inning. No run rule limit in tournament.
 - c. "C" division – One and one half (1 1/2) hour from first pitch (hard stop). Every player has to have batted once in the game.
 - d. "D" division – One (1) full hour from first pitch

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- e. "C" division will play using the three (3) outs, or ten (10) batters per inning, whichever happens first.
 - i. The number of batters per inning may be changed if agreed upon by both coaches.
- f. "D" division will play all 10 batters each inning, if a play is put out on bases she goes to the dugout.
- g. A new inning may not start within fifteen (15) minutes of the end of the time limit unless the game is tied in "A" and "B" division.
- h. The official scorekeeper shall note the scheduled start time and the time of the first pitch in the scorebook.

Article VI – Team & Player Rules

- Section 1. Taunting is prohibited.
- Section 2. All coaches are to be in the dugout when their team is on the field (defense). Coaches shall remain in the coaching boxes when their team is at bat. Exception to this is when a time out is called. A "C" Division coach can be behind catchers to help field pass balls. Failure to comply with this will result in a warning on the first offense and ejection from the game on the second.
- Section 3. A team of ten (10) players shall be fielded. Positions are pitcher (1), catcher (2), 1st base (3), 2nd base (4), 3rd base (5), shortstop (6), left field (7), center field (8), right field (9), and rover (10). Rover and outfielders shall not line up inside the baseline prior to the pitch.
 - a. A team may field nine (9) players without penalty.
 - b. A team may field eight (8) players with an out being accessed in the ninth batting position.
 - c. A team with less than eight (8) players shall be assessed a forfeit.
- Section 4. A team starting the game with ten (10) players and then reduced to fewer players shall:
 - a. Not be penalized for nine (9) players.
 - b. Receive an out in the batting order where players were lost when reduced to eight (8) players.
- Section 5. The designated player position is permitted as per NFHS/IGHSAU rules in "A" and "B" divisions.
- Section 6. Players may start, enter or re-enter the game as long as they remain in the same batting position in the batting order.
- Section 7. Hurdling is prohibited.
- Section 8. A defensive player may not block the base path or base if they are not making a play nor have possession of the ball.
- Section 9. Roster batting is allowed for all divisions. All players on roster are to bat. "A" and "B" division can still have a courtesy runner. The courtesy runner will be the player that was the last out in the last inning. But this rule excludes pitcher and catchers. If the coach decides not to roster bat then regular substitution and courtesy runner is required. If coach decides to roster bat then free substitution is allowed.
 - a. If a player gets injured, she can miss one at bat and be allowed to return to the game.
- Section 10. There will be no warming up on the infield prior to the game. Teams may use the outfield to warm up.
- Section 11. If a girl is injured during the season, the coach must notify the board. If she is able to play at tournament time the coach will request approval from the board.

Article VII – Rules of Play

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- Section 1. Base stealing is allowed in “A” division per NFHS rules.
- Section 2. Base stealing is allowed in “B” division per NFHS rules. Sliding will be enforced.
- Section 3. Leading off will be allowed in “C” division.
- A runner may lead off to a distance of 20ft. after release of the pitch.
 - Leading off past the 20ft. mark, when the ball is put into play, will result in the runner being called out.
 - Runners must return to the base between pitches. Failure to return to base between pitches will result in the runner being called out.
- Section 4. Base stealing or leading off will not be permitted in “D” division.
- Section 5. Dropped 3rd strike rule
- “A” division – NFHS and IGHSAU rule apply
 - “B” division – NFHS and IGHSAU rule apply
- Section 6. Sliding rules will be enforced for player safety in “A” and “B” divisions.
- Section 7. The infield fly rule shall only be used in “A” and “B” divisions.
- Section 8. Dead ball rules:
- “A” and “B” divisions – NFHS and IGHSAU rules apply
 - “C” and “D” divisions – A pitched ball is dead after crossing the plate.
- Section 9. In the case of a suspended game for “A” and “B” divisions, the game should start exactly how it ended. (Example: Runner on second with 1 out in the bottom of the 4th).
- Section 10. “C” division rules
- A batter may be struck out by the pitcher but there will be no walks. In the event of 4 balls called on the batter a coach from the offensive team will come in and pitch three (3) more pitches to the batter from within the pitching circle. In the event the batter fouls the third pitch, she will continue to be pitched to until she either puts the ball in play or misses the pitch.
 - If a batter is hit by a pitch thrown by a player than the batter goes to first base.
 - On overthrows, base runners can advance one base. All runners can advance 1 base from where they were when the play was attempted. It is not an automatic base. The runner cannot advance another base due to error on second play attempt.
 - Bunting is allowed, if batter is hit by a pitch while attempting to bunt, it doesn't count as hit by pitch.
 - Sliding is allowed.
- Section 11. “D” division rules
- Coach pitch league only – pitching machine may be used with coaches agreement
 - Coach must pitch from within the circle
 - After 4 pitches, 2 soft tosses will be given to the batter
 - Tee's are not allowed.

Article VIII – Tournament/Overall Tournament

- Section 1. At the end of each season a tournament will be held for the teams in leagues, “A” and “B” divisions only.
- Section 2. The tournaments will be organized as double elimination standard bracketing.
- Section 3. The host town will be chosen by alphabetical order using town names. Host will be determined at the Preseason meeting (scheduling meeting). If the host town is not present at the meeting then the next town in order will be picked for tournament location.
- Host town must have 2 fields for tournament play
- Section 4. The host team shall be responsible for providing fields for play, hiring umpires and providing official scorekeepers for each field/game.

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- Section 5. The WIGSL Board members shall seed each tournament with the assistance of the League Coordinators.
- Section 6. A tournament meeting will be organized by WIGSL Board for the purpose of tournament seeding, sportsmanship award voting and any other business regarding the league tournament.
- Games not played due to rain will not be counted for seeding placement.
- Section 7. All tournament play shall be complete by the second weekend in July.
- Section 8. Softballs for the tournament shall be provided by WIGSL.
- The official softball for tournament play will be a Dudley SB12L Fastpitch Softball NFHS Logo.
 - These softballs will be used for tournament play only and any unused softballs turned over to the league coordinators for use in the next year's tournament.
 - Softballs used in a game shall be divided between the two teams after each game.
- Section 9. No run rule limit in tournaments.
- Mercy rule is 12 after 3 or 10 after 5
- Section 10. "A" and "B" teams are required to have their season scorebooks present at tournaments. Town host will verify scorebooks if an issue occurs.
- Section 11. High seed is HOME team and dugout option goes to high seed.
- Section 12. A team can only play a total of 3 games in a day. Tournament hosts are responsible for monitoring brackets for this situation.
- Section 13. Game times shall not be scheduled before 5:00pm on weeknights and 9:00am on Saturday. Games shall not start before 12:00 (noon) on Sunday. A game shall not be scheduled later than 8:00pm on any night. Please be ready to play 30 minutes prior to start.
- Section 14. Game time limits will be 1½ hours during tournament play. Time limit will not be used in the semi-final and final rounds of the tournament. No new inning after 1hr 30 minutes.
- When no time limit then play to the same innings as during the season.
A is 7 innings and B is 5.
- Section 15. All teams shall report their team records/scores for tournament seeding to the softball@WIGSL.com by the end of the day of the last day of play, determined at the preseason meeting.
- Section 16. Championship and runner up teams shall receive medals provided by WIGSL.
- Section 17. Championship teams shall receive \$100 and Runner up teams shall receive \$50 in all "A" and "B" league tournaments.
- Section 18. There will be no warming up on the infield prior to the tournament games. Teams may use the outfield to warm up.
- Section 19. **Overall Tournament:** First and Second winners from each division. Use the same rules as the regular tournament. Seeding rules for Overall tournament:
- Runs allowed during Monday's final tournament game
 - If a tie then runs scored during Monday's final tournament game