



ECSD Junior High Athletics: Mixed 2022 Slo-pitch Rules of Play



All rules should be applied from CASA Rules of Play with the following clarifications adopted for our league:

1. Ball Size: 12" (30.48cm) MSP- .47 or less - Blue dot synthetic – **need a new ball as this one has been discontinued. Decided that the blue dot ball from previous years will still be acceptable along with the grey dot ball. They can be purchased from either United Cycle or Sport Factor.**
2. Pitching Distance: 46' (14.0m) Baselines: 60' (19.81m) Pitching mound: between **42 – 50 feet**, Pitching Arch: between 6' and 12', Bats: BPF 1.2 or less, Strike mat 1.22m by 0.74m and is placed flush with the front of the plate – **There is a great example on the Softball Canada Website. The exact page link is: https://softball.ca/_uploads/590751f892a79.pdf**
3. **Commitment Line** – a line drawn or pylons 21' (6.4m) from the back of home plate and perpendicular to the third base line. When a runner crosses this line (one complete foot) they must proceed home. Prior to reaching the line they may return to third base.
4. **Safe Line** – is a line drawn in foul territory starting at the front corner of home plate closest to third base and perpendicular to the third base line. It extends 10' (3.05m) from the third base line into foul territory. The runner only needs to pass this line (not the plate) before the ball reaches the catcher in contact with the plate to be safe.
5. A double base or safe base is used on first base.
6. Shoes must be closed and may have non-metal cleats. Batters and runners must wear helmets. Catcher must wear a face mask and chest protector. Other catching equipment is optional. Pitcher must wear face protection.
7. **10 players are in field.** Pitcher(1), Catcher (2), 1st Base (3), 2nd Base (4), 3rd Base (5), Short Stop (6), Left Field (7), Left-Center Field(8), Right-Center Field (9) and Right Field (10). The 10 players must consist of 4 females and 6 males.
 - o Minimum players allowed are 3 girls and 8 players.
 1. 3 girls & 5 boys = no outs
 2. 3 girls & 6 boys = 1 out per rotation of batting order
8. The batting order must alternate between male and female. The batting order must follow an alternating Male/Female format. Based on this rule, the following batting order is allowed MFMFMFMFMM. Please keep in mind that this alternating pattern must continue until all females have batted before males are allowed to bat consecutively.
9. Player must field in the 7th inning in order to bat in the 7th inning.
10. Any outfield position player including the rover is not permitted to defend past the encroachment line (12m up the first and third base lines and 15m back of second base) until the ball is hit
11. Home team shall bat last as determined by a coin toss. For playoffs, the home team will also be determined by a coin toss
12. **Line up** (~~max. 20 players~~ **no limit as we would like as many kids as possible to be able to play**) with team name, starting players with # and position and any substitutes listed must be signed by the coach. Substitution – subbed players can return for the same person, batting order cannot be altered (**you may have more than one sub for each player to allow more kids to play in each game**)

13. A player must have played in at least one full league game to be eligible to compete in playoffs. No exceptions will be allowed. This will be monitored on an honor system by coaches.
14. Batting order cannot be changed, and exchanges must be made at the top of the inning.
15. Games consist of seven Innings.
 - If for any reason BOTH teams agree to shorten the game, the last inning to be played will become an open inning. For example, if both teams agree to play 5 innings then the 5th inning will become an open inning. This conversation must happen before the game starts.
 - **For playoffs only**, a minimum playoff game is 5 innings. If a game has started and weather causes it to be postponed or delayed, completed innings will be recorded and maintained. The game may resume after a reasonable amount of time (30 minutes) if possible. If the game is to be continued on a different day, the game will resume with the score as it stood after the last completed inning and using the same batting order that was in place when the game was suspended.

Any regular season game that ends under 5 innings still counts toward league points. For example, a game that is rained out half way through still counts! **NO TIES ALLOWED**
16. In the event of a tie each team will begin its half of the extra inning with the last batter on second base.
17. At least one foot of the pitcher must be in contact with the pitching rubber until the ball is released. The Ball must be released in an underhand motion and below the hip.
18. Batter has the option to swing at a low pitch. If the call is made and the batter swings and misses, this will count as a strike. Make sure to call low pitches the entire season!
19. Bunting is not allowed. A chopped ball is also not allowed.
20. There is no stealing or leading off. The runner may leave the base once the bat has made contact with the ball. Sliding is allowed at 2nd & 3rd base.
21. **Open Inning** – The 7th inning is always an open inning for league and playoffs. This means there is no 7 run maximum for this inning (unlimited runs allowed), play continues until the batting team has 3 outs.
 - Example – If a team is winning 10-1 after the 6th inning the 7th will still be played as the next inning is open. If a team is winning 10-1 after the 5th inning, then the mercy rule can be applied. Both coaches must agree if one team concedes defeat.
22. **Mercy Rule**
 - 7 run maximum per inning. This **does not** include includes the 7th inning
 - Coaches can concede after 5 innings
23. Over throw – one base only advancement on a passed ball
24. Any outfield position including the rover is not permitted to defend past the infield base line until the ball is hit
25. For infield safety, all fielders must be behind the pitcher prior to batter contact
26. Infield Fly Rule ECSD Slo-Pitch

INTERPRETATION:

The infield fly rule is most easily explained as being in effect when there is a force play in the infield with less than two (2) outs. This means that there are runners on first base, at first and second or the bases are loaded and there are less than two (2) outs.

Note: ECSD has added runner on 1st to keep this rule simple to interpret and to avoid confusion.

To qualify as a fly ball and not a line drive, the ball must travel in an arc of some kind. This is a judgement call by the umpire at the time of the hit, immediately following contact with the bat.

The true key to an infield fly however is the statement that it "can be caught by an infielder with an ordinary effort". This means that if a shortstop has to run ten steps into left field and dive to make the catch then the infield fly rule does not apply. However, if that same shortstop had been playing back ten steps into left field and could therefore catch the fly after taking only a couple of steps, then this is an infield fly. **It does not matter where the infielders start nor where they can catch the ball, if they can get there with a reasonable effort (again, in the judgement of the umpire) then this is an infield fly.**

The most important part is the first part with the forces and outs, if you understand when the rule is in play then the rest is up to the umpire's judgement.

The umpire must call "Infield Fly-batter is out" while the ball is ascending and prior to its descent to warn the fielders and any base runners. If a base runner chooses to advance despite the call by the umpire they do so at their own risk.

RATIONALE:

This rule was created to eliminate a player from intentionally dropping a fly ball near the infield to put out a base runner that is forced to tag up and wait to run to the next base(s).

Source: Canadian National Softball Association Website
www.softball.ca/files/2012BTLSpring.pdf