

Thumb 14U Softball League Rules – 2024

- MHSAA high school rules apply for games except as follows.
- All games will consist of a doubleheader with play starting at 6:00 pm. Each game will be 6 innings in length or per time limit. If tied after 6 innings, please move on to game #2 to make sure both games get played. Tie breaker for game #2 will be international tie breaker (last player to complete a turn at bat the previous inning is placed at second base with no outs).
- A max of 15 minutes between games to help get both games in will be used.
- Hosting team will be home team the first game and then will be visiting team the second game.
- Four completed innings is a completed game if foreshorten by weather or darkness.
- There is an 8 run limit per inning other than the last inning as declared by the umpire.
- Time Limit - Umpires will establish the official start time of each game with the head coach and scorekeeper from each team. The umpire will then set a game timer for 75 minutes. Once the 75 minutes is reached, the inning currently in will be finished – home team will only bat if behind. When the last inning is called, it is unlimited runs and 3 outs are needed to end the inning.
- On-deck batter shall use on-deck circle on same side as batter.
- The pitcher will get no more than one minute to pitch no more than 5 warmup pitches at the beginning of each inning or when coming in as a relief pitcher.
- Mercy rule - (10 runs after 5 innings) (15 runs after 3 innings).
- If a team or teams can't play on a scheduled date it the responsibility of the two coaches to make arrangements for the teams to reschedule.
- The 14U Softball Division is for players who are age 14 or under prior to January 1st of the current year. However, each team may carry up to (2) 15U players on their roster, ***but they cannot pitch or catch.*** If a player turns 16 on or after January 1st – they are still eligible to play. All 15U players must be identified on the lineup card.
- Please have at least one registered (or experienced adult) umpire for games - home team is responsible for providing the umpires. The leagues strongly encourages teams to not have a home plate umpire that is a parent or sibling to the pitcher.
- Home team is responsible for providing two new game balls.
- Please respect and remember umpires are giving up their time to be there. They are not paid a lot of money to do so. If you have a question for an umpire during the game ask for time and please simply ask them what they saw and live with the answer that is given. There will be no games played under protest. Remember, to be good role models for our 14u athletes. Thanks for your assistance on this.
- Sixteen games must be completed to be eligible for the end of season tournament. Tie breaker if needed to determine the tops teams will be runs allowed then runs earned.
- Game scores must be reported to tourney machine, by the winning coach, within 24 hours or the game will be a forfeit.