

Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Georgia Softball Tournament Rules

A. Tournament Policies

1. This tournament will be held in accordance with the rules of the International Softball Federation for slow pitch play.
2. There will be two umpires per field who will be responsible for any mediation during the course of the game. The umpires have absolute authority in passing judgments.
3. Minor and Recreational Leagues will use Japanese soft balls, and Major League will use American soft balls.
4. In the event that a team has a dispute with an umpire's ruling, the captain of each team (in the spirit of friendly competition) should keep all players from overreacting.
5. Major/Minor League teams will consist of ten players. Without prior approval from the tournament organizer, only three non-Japanese males will be allowed to field or bat at any given time. There is however no limit to the number of female players. Player substitutions may be made at will.
6. Recreational League teams will also consist of ten players plus up to two additional batters (Extra Hitters or EH's). EH's can only be female players and/or children between the ages of 10 and 14. Any additional female players or children would also play in the field.
7. No player may belong to more than one team. If a player is found to have played for multiple teams, the player and the entire teams involved will be ejected.
8. A game will consist of seven innings with a fifty minute time limit. If time expires in the middle of an inning, the game will not continue into a new inning. In the event of a tie, three representatives from each team will face each other in a best two of three rounds of rock, paper, scissors to decide the winner. There are however no time limits in the final games to determine the first through third place winners.
In addition, Recreational League teams play will have the following special rules.
 - 1) There is a five run scoring limit per inning. After a team scores five runs, they must switch sides and return to the field.
 - 2) After a batter hits an over the fence home run, he/she must bat from the opposite side of the plate for the remainder of the game. (In the park home runs are exempt from this rule.)
9. If teams finish with the same win-loss record, the following methods will be used to rank them.
 - 1) Head to head results
 - 2) Total number of points scored
10. As soon as the home team takes the lead in the last inning, the game will end.
11. Immediately after finishing a game, players will quickly proceed to their next designated field and assemble within five minutes of the start time. If all players have not arrived by the designated start time, play will begin with the members who are present.
12. At the end of the fifth inning or any later inning, if there is a point differential of fifteen or more runs, the game will end.
13. In order to prevent any accidents, the catcher must wear a protective mask and cap while catching.
14. Bats must be official softball bats (including aluminum) and should have tape wrapped around the handle.
15. Metal spikes on cleats are prohibited.
16. After every game, both team captains must report the final score to the tournament organizer.

B. Rules of Play

1. All pitches must be between six and twelve feet in height and must be pitched slowly.
2. The strike zone is between the shoulders and knees of the batter; however, the final judgment is up to the plate umpire.
3. Three strikes equal an automatic out, even if the catcher drops the ball on the third strike. Four balls equal a walk with the runner advancing to first base.
4. The pitcher's rubber must be forty-six feet (13.8 meters) from home plate. The pitcher must first step on the rubber and pause before making a pitch.
5. On force outs or tags, the runner will be out on a tie.
6. Runners may not steal bases. If a runner leaves a base before the batter makes contact with the ball, the runner will be out.
7. Because of the restrictions on pitching, no bunting is allowed. Any batter who bunts will be called out.
8. If the umpire declares an infield fly, the batter is automatically out.
9. A base runner may tag up on a fly ball and advance after confirming that a fielder has caught the ball.
10. If something happens that is not covered by these rules, the head umpire will make a ruling using common sense.
11. After two strikes, a foul ball will result in an out.
12. In order to avoid any close (i.e. dangerous) plays at home plate, there will be a separate home plate for base runners. If there is no force out (in which the fielder must tag the runner), the umpire will determine if the runner is safe or out.

JCCG Softball Tournament Supplemental Rules

Concerning EH's

The EH position is being created to allow greater team participation in a safer manner than as a regular player. Under the conditions mentioned below, teams may use a maximum of 2 EH's per inning.

- A EH may be of any nationality, but must be between 10-14 years old if they are male and at least 10 years old if they are female.
- Use of the EH is not considered a player substitution as the EH will only bat and not field a defensive position.
- If a EH reaches base, a regular team member may pinch run for him/her.
- Anyone who could serve as a regular team member should not be used as a EH.
- EH's may be inserted or removed from the lineup at will during the game; however, any player changes must be reported to the opposing team.
- Anyone who might be used as a EH must be listed on the lineup card before the game begins.
- A team can choose whether or not to use EH's.

< Restriction list >

Age	Japanese Male		Non-Japanese Male		Female(Any nationality)	
	Regular	EH	Regular	EH	Regular	EH
0~9	X	X	X	X	X	X
10~14	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
15~	OK	X	Max 3	X	OK	OK

Concerning Pinch Runners

If a team has a regular player who (for whatever reason) has difficulty running the bases, a pinch runner may be used if the following conditions are met.

- After a hitter reaches base, he/she must ask the opposing team's permission to substitute a pinch runner.
- The pinch runner must be the regular team member who made the last out prior to the current at bat.
- Use of the pinch runner is not considered a player substitution as the regular player who was substituted for will return to their defensive position.
-