

FSA Baseball and Softball General League Rules  
Revised January 16,  
2023

## PARTICIPATING CONDUCT

FSA players, coaches, parents and fans are ALWAYS expected to act in a courteous and sportsmanlike manner both on and off the fields. Our coaches and parents are expected to teach our players by example. All games will be conducted with honesty and a high degree of integrity. The games will be played with the utmost respect for the game and for competition.

The FSA umpires have the authority to take whatever measure they feel is necessary to maintain control over our games. That includes dismissing or ejecting any player, coach, or spectator from the fields for unsportsmanlike behavior. We will not tolerate any behavior considered detrimental to the players or the league. FSA holds our head coaches responsible for maintaining control over their assistant coaches, players, parents, and fans. If head coaches do not, then they will be ejected from the game. We will not permit foul or abusive language by anyone under any circumstance. We will not tolerate unsportsmanlike conduct of any kind. Anyone ejected from a game is required to serve a one game suspension.

FSA is a NON SMOKING FACILITY. There will be NO tobacco product use on the playing fields, bleachers, in or around the dugout area. Pets are NOT ALLOWED on FSA Property during games. Golf Carts need to stay in the parking lot. Violation of any of these can be reported through the league commissioners who will then advise that person of the violation. The head coach will be held responsible and punished if the violation is not corrected in a timely manner.

It is the responsibility of each head coach to review the rules before the season begins.

## PLAYER ELIGIBILITY - BASEBALL

A player's age for FSA Spring Baseball division placement will be determined by the player's age as of April 30th of the current year.

Ex: For the 2021 Spring Baseball Season the age determination date would be April 30, 2021.

During Fall Baseball play, the age for division placement will be determined by the same means and all players will play FSA Fall Baseball in the Division they are determined to play in the NEXT Spring season.

For every age group, if a team has eight players then they must start the game, but will **take an out for the 9th player**. For divisions that use 4 outfield positions, an out will be taken for the 9th player but not the 10th.

During the regular season, if a team has seven players then the head coach can contact the league rep to ask for a waiver on adding **one additional player** for a total of eight, and must notify the opposing coach. Waivers must be obtained **prior to the game start** from the league rep. Many league reps participate in tournaments on the weekends, so it is

imperative to obtain permission as early as possible. If a team has 7 players but is unable to obtain permission, then the game will be suspended and ruled a forfeit.

If agreed, the added player A) must be an FSA registered player from the team's same division, B) cannot be an impact player, C) must hit last in the batting order, and D) must play right field.

There are **no waivers discussed during the tournament** to add players.

## PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – SOFTBALL

A player's age for FSA Spring Softball division placement will be determined by the player's age as of September 1st of the prior year. Ex: For the 2021 Spring Softball Season the age determination date would be September 1, 2020.

For FALL LEAGUE play, the age for division placement will be determined by the same means and all players will play FSA Fall Softball in the Division they are determined to play in the NEXT Spring season.

## SAFETY

- (A) Safety of the players is the top priority. Everyone is empowered to stop an unsafe event. If it occurs during a game, spectators must inform a manager of the team's playing so that they can discuss with the umpires.
- (B) No live batting practice is permitted on the fields. The fields are restricted to everyone aside from the scheduled game time. Practices **WILL NOT** be allowed on the fields during the spring season.
- (C) Approved batting helmets must be worn at all times, including batting, on deck, base running, in batting cages, and while playing the pitcher position for the divisions of 8U and under.
- (D) Catching equipment must be in good condition and consist of a helmet with a face mask, chest protector and shin guards. Catcher's glove is required for ages 9U and above.
- (E) Baseball players are required to wear a cup for **ALL** divisions except tee ball. Not just the catcher.
- (F) No jewelry shall be worn by any player practicing or playing in a game. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces may be worn provided they are taped to the body. It is strongly recommended that pierced ear studs, including those in newly pierced ears, not be worn during a game. Ear studs in newly pierced ears may be allowed provided that they are taped with athletic tape (it is encouraged to use cotton or similar padding under tape for further protection). The plate umpire shall have the final decision on whether to allow the ear studs or any other item considered to be jewelry. Safety of the players is the primary concern.
- (G) All equipment must be kept clear of the playing field, **h** areas and on deck circles at all times. This includes coach's buckets or anything that can pose a tripping risk to players.
- (H) All warm-up activities (soft toss, warming up, ground balls) are restricted to areas away from spectators. The area between Lowe and Ouano cannot be used to hit

balls outside of the cage or warming up. The area behind Ouano is the primary area for warm up activities. The area behind Lowe's left field cannot be used on Saturdays when T-ball is scheduled.

- (I) If the batter is determined to throw the bat in a dangerous manner, the umpire will – at their discretion – issue a warning on the first offense, and issue a dead ball / batter out on the second offense.

## GAME TIMES & REGULATIONS

- (A) All teams must show up to play at their designated game starting time. FSA Commissioner will have the final decision, up to game time, as to whether or not the fields are in playable condition. The attempt is always made to give advance notice on the rain-out status through electronic communication. A 'facility closure' notice is sent to confirm games are canceled. At game time and during the game, stoppage of play due to weather will be the responsibility of the umpire in charge or an FSA committee member acting in accordance with the FSA lightning policy. If Thor Guard is active, everyone must IMMEDIATELY clear the FSA complex and return to their cars.
- (B) The plate umpire will declare the game a forfeit if a team is not ready to take the field within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled game time.
- (C) All games with an umpire will begin with an umpire's conference at home plate, five minutes in advance of the scheduled game time. Coaches will exchange line-ups and umpires will discuss rules, playing conditions, etc. Unless waiting for the required players, coaches must be timely for this conference.
- (D) Home team according to the schedule shall occupy the first base dugout and the visiting team shall occupy the third base dugout.
- (E) Boom box volume should be kept to a reasonable level and not loud enough to be heard at surrounding fields. Music should be appropriate and have no inappropriate language or themes.
- (F) Prior to kid pitch games and coach pitch games, each team will have 25-minutes of batting cage time with the AWAY team's time beginning 1-hour prior to game time and the HOME team's time beginning 35-minutes prior to game time. The cages are located behind Ouano and are to be used according to game times. Teams with later games cannot use the cages if another team with an earlier time wants to use them.
- (G) The Home team is responsible for the official score book.
- (H) The Visiting team is responsible for designating someone to operate the scoreboard and to return the control box if they are the last game of the night.
- (I) It is the responsibility of the head coach to maintain order with his/her assistant coaches and parents in accordance with the FSA Code of Conduct.
- (J) Only the head coach will be permitted to approach the umpire during a game with a dispute or question. The home plate umpire will have the final decision in resolving in- game disputes or questions.

- (K) Both teams will be responsible for raking the fields and cleaning trash from dugout and spectator areas following a game. If a team fails to rake the fields, the head coach will receive a warning. A second violation will result in a one game suspension for the head coach.
- (L) In kid pitch games, no noise should be made with the intention of distracting the pitcher. No artificial noise is permitted at any time (banging on dugouts, etc.)
- (M) No infield practice on the field prior to the start of games. This includes hitting of balls into the fences.
- (N) Substitute players: Typically, teams will have 10 or more players - meaning one or more player(s) will not play a defensive position when in the field during a given inning. They will sit on the bench. This “sitting” position shall be rotated. No player shall sit out twice before ALL players sit out once. This is NOT a per game rule. Those who do not “sit” in a given game shall be the first players to “sit” in the next game. The ONLY exception that can be made to this rule is that a coach may “sit” a player for disciplinary reasons, illness, or lack of team participation (never shows up for practice). Again, this is the head coach’s decision. Failure to comply with this rule shall result in a one game suspension for the head coach. Repeated violations will result in the removal of the head coach from the team.

#### RESCHEDULING

- (A) Rain outs will be rescheduled and coordinated by the Commissioner.
- (B) Normally scheduled games WILL NOT be rescheduled unless postponed due to weather or an unusual circumstance exists. The Commissioner will make a determination as to what constitutes an unusual circumstance.
- (C) Rescheduled events will be posted on the team website as soon as possible.

#### SUSPENSION DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

- (A) Once a game has started it will be the umpires’ judgement regarding continuation or suspension of play. Ultimately, the decision rests with the plate umpire for each game in accordance with the FSA lightning policy. The Baseball and Softball commissioner or their league representatives may also declare a suspended game when there is a threat of severe weather present. Thor Guard will be the first indication of suspended play.
- (B) A game that is suspended due to inclement weather will ~~be~~ complete game in the event that (3) complete innings have been played i.e. each team has had 3 turns at bat or if (2 ½) innings have been played and home team is ahead in runs scored. Should a game be suspended in a half inning beyond the third with the home team behind, the score will revert back to the last complete inning to determine either a winner or a tie in the game. If less than one inning is complete the game will be re-started as if it had never taken place.
- (C) In the event that a suspended game is not a completed, it will be rescheduled at a later make-up date and will resume at the point of suspension, including pitch counts and resting requirements. The official scorekeeper will write down the amount of time remaining in the game per the umpire’s official time. The batting

order will pick up at the point of suspension. The official score sheet should be retained for the resumption of the game.

- (D) Head coaches cannot make a decision on whether a game will be played. Only an umpire or commissioner can declare a game suspended or canceled.

#### ACTIVITY LIMITATIONS

- (A) Only three (3) activities per week are allowed, which includes, games and practices. Cage times do not count towards those events, but only one cage time will be permitted per week.
- (B) Violation of the activity limitations will result in a one game suspension for the head coach.

#### COACHES AND PLAYERS ATTIRE

- (A) All players must wear the team uniform provided by the league. It must be worn as designed. Jerseys must be neatly tucked in during play.
- (B) No jersey, pants, shorts, socks, coach's shirt, etc may be altered, rolled up or cut in any way as to deviate from its original design. "Cutoff" jeans or open toe shoes will not be allowed.
- (C) Steel toe cleats are prohibited, and a player cannot participate until they are removed.
- (D) Pitchers can not wear white sleeves under their jersey.

#### REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS AND RESULTS

- (A) It is the responsibility of the winning team to report scores within 24 hours of the completion of each game.
- (B) For all competitive divisions, all regular season games will count towards standings. There will be awards given to the top finishing teams in the regular season and post-season tournament. In the case of a regular season tie in the standings, the tie will be resolved as follows:
  - a. head-to-head play
  - b. fewest runs against
  - c. co-champ or co-second place awards will be given if all tiebreakers are even.  
\*\*in the case of co-champs no second place will be awarded.

#### POST SEASON TOURNAMENT

- (A) It is the responsibility of the winning team to report the score within 24 hours of the completion of each game through the TEAM WALL app.
- (B) Tournament seeding will be determined after all teams have played all regular season games.
- (C) Each of the competitive divisions will have a post season double elimination tournament. The tournament bracket will be seeded based on the regular season results with ties resolved as follows:
  - a. Winner of head-to-head play
  - b. Team with fewest runs against
  - c. Coin flip

