

# 2025 Carol Stream Swing for the Ring



**Any rule not covered by these rules will be covered by NAFA Girl's Fast pitch rules.**

## 1. LENGTH OF GAMES

No new inning shall start after 75 minutes from the start of the game. The first warmup pitch of the pitcher will determine the start of the game. In both pool play and bracket play, a full 12U/14U game consists of 7 innings. A 10U game consists of 6 innings. A game is complete if 7 (6 for 10U) innings are completed and the score is not tied, play time expires, or the run rule is in effect. Extra innings can be played as time allows.

*In pool play*, games can end in a tie.

*In bracket play*, games cannot end in a tie. In the event the game or time ends in a tie, the tiebreaker rule shall be in effect at the start of the next inning.

*In championship games*, games will be a full 7-innings (6 innings for 10U championship games) with no time limit. In the event of a tie after 7 innings, the tiebreaker rule shall be in effect.

## 2. RUN RULE

The run rule awards a win to a team that has a 12-run lead after 3 completed innings or 2 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead, 10 runs after 4 completed inning or 3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead, 8 run lead after 5 completed innings or 4 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead. The run rule is the same for all age groups.

## 3. TIEBREAKER

In bracket play, after the completion of 7 (6 for 10U) innings, or when time limits have expired, and the score is still tied, the tiebreaker procedure will begin. The player, who had the last completed at bat, assumes a position on 2nd base. A courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher or catcher. The courtesy runner must be the last batted out. This procedure would be done at the beginning of each half inning; until a winner is determined. If the wrong player is placed on second base, the correct runner should be inserted immediately even if a pitch has been thrown, or the runner has advanced a base. All plays made while the incorrect runner was on base stands. It is the responsibility of the umpire and scorekeeper to notify the teams involved as to which player starts the half inning at second base.

*In championship games*, courtesy runners are only allowed for the catcher and when there are two outs. The runner must be the last batted out.

## 4. HOME TEAM

*In pool play*, home team will be determined by mound bocce. The team captain that rolls the ball closest to the pitching plate may choose to be home or visitors.

*In bracket play*, home team will be the higher seed.

The scorekeeper for the **HOME TEAM** is the official scorekeeper. It is the responsibility of the **VISITOR TEAM** to verify all scores.

## 5. REPORTING SCORES

The winner of a game **must** report the game score to tournament central immediately after the game. For tie games, the home team must report. **PLEASE TEXT SCORES TO 708.275.3879**. We will be utilizing Tourney Machine and will update that with scores and seeding.

Once pool play is completed, the order of finish within each pool is determined by a point system, whereby 2 points are awarded for each win, 1 point for each tie and no points for a loss. Teams are ordered by the points earned per game played. To break ties, the following are used in order:

1. Record
2. head-to-head
3. lowest runs allowed
4. run differential (max run differential per games is 7 runs)
5. coin toss

## 6. PRE-GAME MEETING

5 minutes prior to start of the game, the Manager/Head Coach & up to two (2) Captains from each team must meet with the umpire to discuss the game rules/exchange lineups.

## 7. WARM UP

There will be a maximum of 5 warm up pitches for new pitchers entering the game and for pitchers warming up between innings. No warmup balls allowed between innings, after the first inning, for the rest of the infield and outfield.

## 8. GAME TIME

Teams must be ready to play up to 20 minutes early. No infield practice will be allowed on the diamond prior to all games. Game time is forfeit time unless the team is involved in another Swing for the Ring game. Forfeits will be scored 7-0.

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Revised 11/19/2024

## 9. LINE-UP RULES/COURTESY RUNNERS

Teams may use book option (nine players with substitutes), DP/Flex, EP (teams can use one or two extra players; they can be placed anywhere in the line-up, and they are free to open substitution), or bat the entire roster. In the event of an injury during the game, a player can be removed from the line-up without penalty if a team chooses to bat the entire roster. If a team does not have any available substitutes, a player may be reentered to replace the injured player. Once the line-up shrinks, and the player is removed from the game, the player is ineligible to return in that game.

A game may be played with 8 players. The short-handed team must take an out for the 9<sup>th</sup> player as long as the spot in the line-up is vacant. A 9<sup>th</sup> player can be added at anytime during the game. Any team unable to field 8 players at game time will forfeit their game.

**For pool play**, courtesy runners are allowed at any time for pitcher or catcher. A courtesy runner **must** be used for the catcher when there are two outs. The runner must be the last **batted** out.

**For bracket play**, courtesy runners are allowed at any time for pitcher or catcher. A courtesy runner **must** be used for the catcher when there are two outs. The runner must be the last **batted** out.

In **championship games**, courtesy runners are only allowed for the catcher and when there are two outs. The runner must be the last batted out.

## 10. EQUIPMENT

**No metal cleats are allowed in the infield at McCaslin Field (the infields are all turf)**

## 11. PITCHERS

NFHS rules apply to pitchers while pitching. Pitchers must start with at least one foot on the pitching plate. A backwards step with the non-pivot foot from the pitcher's plate is allowed prior to or simultaneous with the coming together. The penalty for an illegal pitch is **ONLY** a ball on the batter.

## 13. SAFETY

Players must be properly equipped with appropriate helmets with facemasks and USSSA or NAFA approved bats.

## 14. AUTHORITY OF UMPIRE

All protests will be settled on the field. Umpire decisions are final. No appeals will be allowed to the tournament director.

If a rule clarification is needed the Manager/Head Coach must bring the NAFA rule in question to the umpire or tournament director.

The umpire has the authority to ask any player, parent, coach, manager, or fan to leave the premises if there is any type of harassment during the game. The umpire has the authority to stop play until said person has left the premises. If they do not leave the umpire can declare a forfeit for the team that is involved. If both teams are involved, it will result in a double forfeiture. If a player or Coach is ejected, he/she will be ejected for the remainder of the day and all included games. If the team has no other games that day, the coach/player will be ejected from the first game of the following day. Head coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players, assistant coaches and all the team's spectators.

**For pool play**, there will be one umpire per game.

**For bracket play**, semifinal games and championship games (*can*) have up to two umpires per game.

## 15. REFUND POLICY

With regards to weather cancellations, refunds will be afforded as follows:

- 100% if no games played due to weather
- 50% if only 1 game played due to weather
- \$0 if 2 or more games played

Teams canceling more than 30 days prior receive 100% refund provided the team is backfilled. If the team can't be backfilled the refund will be forfeited. Teams canceling less than 30 days prior receive 90% refund provided the team is backfilled. If the team can't be backfilled the refund will be forfeited. Any team found violating eligibility rules will be immediately disqualified with no refund.

## 16. SPECTATOR & PARTICIPANT CONDUCT

Only players, managers, & coaches shall participate in the game or occupy the playing field, dugouts and bench areas.

Undue vocal or physically threatening actions by fans towards umpires, managers, coaches, or players will not be tolerated. This will result in the ejection of the person from the premises. Head coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players, assistant coaches and all the team's spectators.

No smoking or tobacco products permitted

No sunflower seeds or gum permitted on the fields or in the dugouts

No outside alcohol is permitted

Grilling & open flames are prohibited

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## 17. DUGOUTS

Dugouts will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

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## 18. AGE SPECIFIC RULES – 10U

- Drop 3<sup>rd</sup> strike is not enforced at 10U
- Infield flies are not enforced at 10U
- 11" softballs are used for 10U
- Pitching plates are placed at 35' for 10U
- 6 run limit per inning in pool play with no run limit on the last declared inning
- No run limit per inning for bracket play
- Slashing is not allowed at 10U  
A "slash bunt" is defined as the act of showing or faking a bunt and swinging at the pitch instead. A slash is considered a slash when the pitcher's hands break during her windup. A slash bunt will be ruled a strike and a dead ball whether the batter makes contact with the ball or not.

## 19. AGE SPECIFIC RULES – 12U

- Pitching plates are placed at 40' for 12U
- Slashing is not allowed at 12U  
A "slash bunt" is defined as the act of showing or faking a bunt and swinging at the pitch instead. A slash is considered a slash when the pitcher's hands break during her windup. A slash bunt will be ruled a strike and a dead ball whether the batter makes contact with the ball or not.

## 20. LIGHTNING WARNING

Everyone must clear the field and get under cover (in cars or a building) if the THOR Guard system is activated or if the umpire clears the field due to lightning. Play cannot resume until the THOR Guard signals "all clear" with three short blasts.

## 21. AGE ELIGIBILITY

Throughout the tournament, all teams must have each rostered player's birth certificate available for review. If a protest of eligibility is made, the Tournament Director has final authority on whether a violation of eligibility has occurred. If the Tournament Director determines that a violation of eligibility has occurred, the previous game played (or all previous games played) reverts to a forfeit. A violation of eligibility may also result in the ejection of a team from the tournament.

Teams must check in with the tournament director (or designee) prior to the first game with the following:

1. Copy of **Certificate of Insurance**
2. **Official NAFA Roster** – With Current 2024 NAFA Team Registration Number
3. **Birth Certificates** (copies) of every rostered player should be maintained in your dugout should there be a question

\*\*\* Coaches are encouraged to email documents in advance to: [cstsba.softball@gmail.com](mailto:cstsba.softball@gmail.com)