

12U & 14/16U Division Local Rules

This handout presents 12U and 14/16U local rules used for recreational league play in the south bay Inter-League softball regular season. If you have questions, please contact the Umpire-in-Chief, by email: uic@valleygirlssoftball.org.

- 12/16.1 The official rules of the American Softball Association (ASA) will prevail with the following general exceptions and additions below. In case of conflict between these Inter-League and ASA rules, the Inter-League rules shall take precedence.
- 12/16.2 Minimum of eight (8) players in order to start or continue a game (loaning players in order to play a scheduled game is acceptable).
- 12/16.3 Start time: within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time (based upon field availability)
- 12/16.4 Field Availability: the Home Team is responsible for notifying the visiting team of a postponement, or unplayable field situations.
- 12/16.5 Postponed games: rescheduling is the responsibility of the Home team
- 12/16.6 Dugouts -- Home team shall use the third base dugout/bench and be responsible for preparing the field before each game.
- 12/16.7 Only players, managers, coaches and scorekeepers of the teams playing are permitted to occupy the player benches and dugouts.
- 12/16.8 Playing Lineups-
- Continuous lineup
 - Free substitution for all players
 - Short-handed rules do not apply
 - Players arriving after the game starts shall be inserted at the end of the lineup. (Exception: Late arriving player whose first turn at bat has not passed).
- 12/16.9 Game length: No new inning shall begin after the completion of 100 minutes of play; games should end 15 minutes prior to the start of the next scheduled game; games should complete after 120 minutes of play.
- 12/16.10 Complete game is 6 innings (12U), 7 innings (14U) time limits have precedence.
- 12/16.11 Tie games are allowed.
- 12/16.12 Defense:
12U Ten players are allowed on defense, six infielders and four outfielders on the grass.
14U: Nine players are allowed on defense, six infielders and three outfielders on the grass.
- 12/16.13 Scores: A half-inning ends if during the first three innings the offensive team scores four runs before making a 3rd out. If a team is ahead by 13 runs after four complete innings, the game is over.
- 12/16.14 The home team is responsible for maintaining the official scorebook for the game
- 12/16.15 Batters -- All rules affecting the batter are governed by ASA: bunting, dropped third strike, batting out of order, etc.
- 12/16.16 Courtesy Runners -- allowed as substitutions for the next inning's pitcher and/or catcher. The courtesy runner must be announced prior to the substitution and must be the player in the dugout who is the least likely to come to bat.
- 12/16.17 Injured players, no longer able to play, will be treated as if they had to leave the game early -- no out shall be automatically taken. An injured player may reenter the game upon agreement of the opposing Managers and the umpire(s). An injured batter/runner may be substituted with a Courtesy Runner (see above).
- 12/16.18 Pitching eligibility is by week, Saturday through Friday:
12U Pitchers are eligible to pitch no more than 6 innings per week (a full inning is charged upon throwing at least one pitch).
14U Pitchers are eligible to pitch no more than 10 innings per week. If a pitcher appears in and throws at least one pitch within any inning, a full inning of pitching is charged to the pitcher.
- 12/16.19 Guideline: Hit batters -- A pitcher must be relieved if she hits 3 batters in an inning or four within a game.
- 12/16.20 Bats must meet the following criteria:
a) Bear the ASA approved 2004 certification mark
b) May not appear on the list of ASA non-approved bats http://www.softball.org/about/certified_equipment.asp
- 12/16.21 Double 1st base -- shall be used when available; rules for use of a double base are contained in ASA Rules of Softball.

