

CYM Softball Rules 2026

General Rules: If a rule is not specifically addressed herein, NFHS (“Federation”) rules apply. **In the event of a conflict between sets of rules, these rules control.**

1. **Length of games** – Regular season games will consist of 6 innings. Playoff games will consist of 7 innings
2. **Time Limit for New Innings** – No new inning after 1 hour and 45 minutes of play. The clock starts immediately after the coach/umpire meeting at the beginning of the play.
 1. At approximately 10 minutes to go:
 1. If visiting team is at bat, teams are informed that **this inning** is the last.
 2. If home team is at bat, teams are informed that **next inning** will be the last.
 3. e.g., top of 3rd, the 3rd will be last; bottom of 3rd, the 4th will be last.
 4. The unlimited batters rule then applies to the designated last inning.
3. **Number of Players** – A team will consist of 9 players. However, a team may begin a game with 8 players (but not fewer). If a 9th player appears later, she may enter the game but must bat in the 9th position. If a team has fewer than 8 players 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the game, the game will be considered a forfeit and the team that is forfeiting the game will be charged the umpire fee by the CYM Office.
4. **More than 9 rule**

Nine defensive players will bat or teams have the option of having up to and including all roster players present bat.

When batting up to all roster players, any additional batter(s) shall be listed as an EP and may be listed anywhere in the batting order and may play defense at any position. The EP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.

The EP may be substituted for at any time. The substitute must be a player who has not yet been in the game. The starting EP may re-enter one time.

Players who are currently in the game or have participated in the game in any playing capacity are not eligible to serve as courtesy runners, except when all roster is in the lineup.

DP/FLEX is an option. DP/FLEX rule is in a separate file.

5. **Re-entry rule** – **NFHS allows one re-entry for all players.** Any player may be withdrawn and then re-enter 1 time. The player must occupy the same position in the batting order upon return. The starting player and the substitute may not be in the game at the same time. A starting player, once withdrawn, may not re-enter the game until a minimum of 6 outs are recorded. (3 for home team, 3 for away team).
6. NFHS Rules govern removal of the **starting pitcher** if she is withdrawn while pitching. However, if the starting pitcher is replaced using a substitute batter or base runner (or Courtesy runner), she may re-enter the game immediately as the pitcher.

7. **Runs Ahead rule** – In the regular season, if a team has a 10 run lead at the completion of 4 innings, the game will be complete. If the home team is leading by 10 after 3 1/2 innings, the game will be complete. In playoff games, if a team has a 10 run lead at the completion of 5 innings, the game will be complete. If the home team has a 10 run lead after 4 ½, the game will be complete.
8. **Extra Innings** - In the event a game is tied at the end of regulation, we will play the following Tie Breaker Rules in extra innings to determine a winner.
- a. Starting with the top of the first extra inning and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base (ex. if the number five batter is the lead-off batter, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base.) A substitute may be inserted for the runner.
 - b. If the expected batter is no longer present, simply use the player whose name precedes the absent player's name in the line-up. No out is recorded.
 - c. A clarification is that if the player placed on second base is the pitcher or catcher, they may have a Courtesy Runner.
 - d. These rules will only apply to regular season games. Playoff games and championship games will play extra innings without a runner starting on second.
9. **Stopped games** – A game that is stopped due to weather, darkness or permit expiration will be ~~considered~~ complete if 4 full innings were played, or if 3 ½ innings were played and the home team is ahead. If fewer innings were played, the game will be considered a suspended game and will be played at a later date from the point where the game was stopped. To be suspended, the game has to be interrupted for a minimum of **15 minutes** or be judged unsafe to continue. Coaches for both teams are to have the umpire sign their scorebooks noting the point and reason the game was stopped.

In the event of postponement, the home team coach is responsible for coordinating the make-up game. Rescheduling is to be completed within 48 hours of the cancellation. If the game has not been played prior to the beginning of seeding for playoffs, it will be considered “no contest.” If the Softball coordinator has not heard from either coach with 48 hours of the originally scheduled day and time, the game will be scheduled on the next available date, including weekend

10 Pitching – The pitching distance is 40 feet. Between innings, NFHS allows **5 pitches within 60 seconds** from the end of the previous inning.

11 Batting

- a. Once batting order is established, it does not change.
- b. Bunting is permitted. A foul ball on an attempted bunt with 2 strikes, batter is out.
- c. A 3rd strike is not charged to a batter on a swinging foul ball that is not caught.
- d. A batter may attempt reaching first base on a third strike if the catcher does not catch the ball in flight. See Federation rules for additional information on this rule. NFHS 7-4-5, 7-4-7, 8-1-1b, 8-2-1

12 Running Bases

- a. A base runner is out when the runner does not slide or attempt to avoid a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag. If the runner maliciously runs into the fielder, the runner will be ejected from the game.
- b. Stealing is permitted. The runner cannot leave the base until the pitcher releases the ball
- c. Courtesy runner See NFHS 8-10.

13 Equipment

- a. The softball used for games will be a 12-inch ball that reads “COR .47” on the ball. The color and stitching do not matter. Each team will provide 1 game ball. NFHS requires both COR and max compression 325 +/-50.
- b. All bats must be USA Softball certified and not listed on the “banned” bat list. The website for “banned” bats is https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/ffe8-3121724/Non_Approved_Batlist_2024.pdf

One of these ASA/USA Softball certification marks must appear on the bat.



Allowed in all games

- c. All catchers must wear a one piece helmet and mask certified by NOCSAE with throat protector, chest protector, head protector, and shin guards.
- d. Players warming up the pitcher between innings or off the field must wear a one piece helmet and mask certified by NOCSAE with throat protector. NFHS says catcher's helmet, others (e.g., 2 piece) not legal.
- e. Players who are batting, waiting on-deck, running the bases or coaching a base must wear NOCSAE approved batting helmets with NOCSAE approved face protector. “Meets NOCSAE standard” must be permanently affixed to the face protector.
- f. The home team must bring bases and pitching plate to all games. It is recommended that both teams bring all equipment.
- g. Metal cleats are prohibited.