



Lori P. Rulebook 2026

Run Rule: 15 runs after 3 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings

Game Time: Pool play: Games will be 80 minutes. If an inning starts before time runs out, you'll finish that inning.

Bracket play: Games will be 90 minutes, and if an inning starts before time expires, you'll finish that inning.

Batting: Batting order must be followed exactly — batting out of order is an appeal play and can result in outs.

Pitching: Pivot foot must stay in contact with the pitching plate until the ball is released -no crow hopping or leaping off the mound.

Substitutions: All substitutions must be reported to the plate umpire before they enter. Re-entry is allowed once for starters (must re-enter in the same spot in batting order). If an unreported substitute bats and it's caught before the next pitch, all runners go back to their original bases, any outs stay, and the unreported substitute is called out and officially in the game.

Equipment Standards: Bats, balls, helmets, and other gear must meet ASA/USA Softball certifications. Non-approved bats or altered equipment can lead to player ejections and game forfeits.

CERTIFIED/APPROVED: The official bat for USA Softball Championship Play must meet all the USA Softball specifications and the requirements of Rule 3, Section 1, and:

1. The official bat, made up of the knob, handle, grip, taper, barrel and end cap shall be free of burs, dents cracks, sharp edges, rattles and show no signs of excessive wear. The official bat may be marked OFFICIAL SOFTBALL by the manufacturer, and shall be no more than 34 inches long nor exceed 38 ounces in weight. The official bat shall not be more than 2.250 inches in diameter at its largest part, including any tolerance for expansion. The official bat must bear either the 2000 Certification Mark, 2004 Certification Mark, or 2013 Certification Mark (Slow Pitch, Men's Adult Fast Pitch, Junior Olympic Boy's Fast Pitch and Men's Modified only), as shown below and must not be listed on the USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List with 2000 or 2004 Certification Mark.



NON-APPROVED BATS: <https://usa.asasoftball.com/e/BB1P2000.asp>

International Tie Breaker (Bracket Play Only): Last batter from the previous inning starts on 2nd base to speed up scoring.

Look- Back Rule: Once the pitcher has the ball in the circle and is not making a play, runners must immediately advance or return; hesitation can result in an out.

Obstruction & Interference: Obstruction: Defensive player blocks a runner without the ball = runner is awarded bases.

Interference: Offensive player hinders a fielder = runner is out.

Infield Fly Rule: When there are runners on 1st and 2nd (or bases loaded) with less than two outs, and a fair fly ball is hit that can be caught with ordinary effort by an infielder, the batter is automatically out to protect baserunners.

Extra Players (EPs): Any batters who aren't defensive players or DP/FLEX players are called EPs (Extra Players). You can make defensive changes anytime, but the batting order must stay the same.

Pool Play ONLY: You can use multiple EPs, but they have to be listed on the lineup card before the game starts.

Flex Players: The starting FLEX player can re-enter the game once and must either return to their original FLEX spot as the 10th player in the lineup, or take the place of the starting DP in the batting order. If the FLEX re-enters and the DP is playing defense in the FLEX's spot, the DP must keep batting in the DP position, play offense only, or play defense for another player. This does not count as the DP leaving the game.

DP Players: The DP can play defense for any player and at any position. If the DP plays defense for someone other than the FLEX, that player continues to bat but does not play defense. That player is still considered in the game. If the DP and FLEX switch places, the change must be reported to the umpire. If it's not reported, it will be treated as an unreported substitution.

Dugout Conduct: Except for the on-deck batter, players are not allowed to stand outside the dugout near the batter's box between innings or watch the pitcher warm up. They also can't step outside the dugout to watch the game from behind the backstop.

Other Notables: Lineup cards must be given to umpires before the game starts. Jewelry is prohibited for safety.