



Gompers Park
Athletic Association
www.gpaabaseballsoftball.com
gpaachicago@gmail.com

INTERMEDIATE SOFTBALL DIVISION RULES FOR 2024

GENERAL RULES

1. The home team is listed second on the schedule and is responsible for the setup and takedown of the bases, screens, helmet racks and any other GPAA equipment. Home team will occupy the third base dugout.
2. Base lines are 60 feet from the back of home plate to the back of the base; pitching distance is 40 feet from the front of pitching rubber to rear point of home plate.
3. Each team supplies one game ball to be used by their team in the field.
4. Length of game will be 6 innings, plus any extra innings during a tie game that can occur under the time limit whereby no inning will begin after 1:45 hours of play. (See rule #8.) 4 innings will be considered a complete game or 3 ½ innings if the home team is leading. A game that has lasted at least 2 hours shall be considered a complete game regardless of the number of innings played.
Before the game starts, the two coaches and umpires shall confirm the actual start time.
5. A team's half of the inning shall consist of three outs or five runs, whichever occurs first.
EXCEPTION: A team may score 9 runs in the last inning of the game. If a team trails by more than 9 runs going into the last inning the game will be called.
6. If an uncompleted game (as defined in #4 above) is stopped by darkness or weather, it shall be rescheduled as a new game.
7. There are no suspended games. If a game is stopped by darkness or weather and it is a complete game (as defined in #4 above), the following scoring shall take place:
 - a. If the visiting team is batting, the final score will be the score of the completed previous inning.
 - b. If the home team is batting and has tied the game or is leading, the final score will be the score at stoppage.
 - c. If the home team is batting and is losing, the final score will be the score of the completed previous inning.
 - d. For purposes of the standings, a win shall count as one point and a tie as 1/2 point.
8. No inning will begin after 1:45 hours of play.
9. All rostered players present at a game will bat the entire game and must play a minimum of three innings in the field. Once removed from the game defensively, all players may be reinserted at any position for a minimum of one inning.
10. The maximum number of defensive players on the field shall be 9, including the pitcher and catcher, maximum number of infielders shall be six.
11. All catchers must wear chest protectors, shin guards and face masks.

12. A team can play with 7 players. There is no penalty for having 7 players. Players arriving late will be inserted at bottom of line up. If a team has less than 7 players, they forfeit the game.

FORFEIT TIME

Forfeit time for all games shall be 15 minutes after the official scheduled starting time. (Exception: This time may vary only on agreement among two opposing managers and the Home Plate Umpire.

BATTING AND BASERUNNING RULES

1. Bat must say "Official Softball", not be longer than 34" and not exceed 2 ¼" in diameter. If a player is caught using an illegal bat they will automatically be called out. The play is dead, and all runner(s) will return to their bases.
2. There will be unlimited foul balls.
3. If a batter throws the bat after a swing, she will get a warning and if the batter throws the bat for a second time, the batter will be out. The play will be dead; runners may not advance.
4. If a pitched ball hits the batter she will be awarded first base provided the ball hit her on a fly and the batter made a reasonable attempt to get out of the way (umpire judgment).
5. The Infield Fly Rule and dropped third strike shall not apply.
6. A batter may not fake a bunt and then swing. Batter will be out and the play will be dead; runners may not advance.
7. Any player throwing or kicking equipment will be warned by the umpire once; a second infraction will result in ejection from the game.
8. Runners may steal any base NOT including home at their own risk when the pitched ball passes home plate. There will be no leadoffs. Any runner leading off or leaving early will be called out. If the ball is hit, it will be called a no-pitch. If a strike or ball is called, the runner will be out and the pitch will count. There are no delayed steals, nor two base walks. A batter who reaches first base on a walk can only advance if a play is made on another runner or on an errant throw back to the pitcher.
9. When there are two outs and the catcher is on base, a courtesy runner may be used for the catcher so that she may put on her equipment. (Runner will be the player that made the last out).
10. The Look-Back rule is in effect on all plays. This rule specifies that when the pitcher has control of the ball inside the pitcher's circle or where a pitcher's circle would be and does not attempt to make a play on any runner, then all runners who are on base must stay on the base. Runners who are not halfway to the next base must return to previous base.

PITCHING/FIELDING RULES

1. Each pitcher is allowed three innings. One pitch is considered an inning. The three innings do not need to be consecutive, but the pitcher may only come back to pitch one time in a game.
2. The pitcher shall not deliver a pitch until base runners are on base, catcher and batter in position. Penalty: No Pitch is called.
3. A pitcher's windup shall be a continuous motion without interruption, stop or reversal of the forward motion.
4. The ball must be delivered underhanded, below the hip. No side arm pitches.
5. The pitcher shall take a position with the pivot foot on or partially on the pitching rubber. The non-pivot foot can be in contact with or behind the pitching rubber. The pitcher's pivot foot must be in contact with the ground throughout the delivery, no leaping. Any step backwards must begin prior to the start of the pitch.
6. On the manager or coach's second visit in the same inning, the pitcher must be removed from the position. Exception: On occasion of injury, the manager or coach will not be charged with a visit.
7. A pitcher must be removed from the game after the fourth time they hit a batter who is awarded a

base.

8. There is no dropped 3rd strike rule.

LIGHTNING POLICY

When thunder is heard or a lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and remove all players from the field and park. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is seen prior to resuming play. For any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count, reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.

INJURIES

When a player is injured the umpire will call a time out immediately. Runners will be entitled to the base(s) as determined appropriate by the umpire. Home Plate Umpire's decision is final on all matters related to injuries.

FIELD REGULATIONS

1. No smoking, no vaping and ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES will be allowed on the field or in the dugouts at anytime. This applies to all spectators as well as managers, coaches, umpires and parents. Failure to comply with the alcohol regulation can result in forfeiture of the game, suspensions from the league, or at worst, arrest. (Alcohol is prohibited by the law on Park District Property.)
2. No one except managers and coaches are allowed in the dugout during the game.
3. *Only 2 coaches for the batting team are allowed on the field during the game. All other coaches and players not in the field or batting must remain in the dugout (coaches) or behind the dugout (players).*
4. Players are required to be at the field 30 minutes before game time. This allows proper time for warm-up.
5. No one will be permitted to stand or sit behind the backstop during the game. Exception: At Gompers Park fields, the on-deck batter is allowed behind the backstop in the on-deck cage.
6. Each team's spectators will be responsible for keeping their area cleaned of empty cans, food wrappers, etc., following the game.
7. A contact avoidance rule will be enforced. Any deliberate, forceful, or intentional contact with a fielder will result in the runner being called "out" regardless of the location of the ball. REMEMBER: it is the responsibility of the runner to avoid the fielder whether the fielder is fielding a batted ball, receiving a thrown ball, or tagging a runner. If the fielder impedes the runner, interference will be called on the fielder and the appropriate base or bases will be awarded to the runner, but under NO circumstances should the fielder be considered "fair game" to the runner. The catcher must allow a clear path to home plate for the runner advancing. On plays at the plate, the batter must move out of the batter's box.
8. An overthrow is a dead ball. An overthrow is defined as a ball thrown beyond the boundaries of the field. The runner is entitled to the base he is facing and advancing towards plus one, unless specified differently in Division specific rules
9. A pitcher is allowed 5 pitches between innings. Any new pitcher will be allowed 8.
10. On any ball hit to the outfield fence at Big Gompers, the fielder must get to the spot where the ball landed and attempt to find it. If they cannot easily find it, the fielder will throw their hands up and the umpire will award the batter the base they are approaching. A ball that bounces over the fence is a ground rule double. A ball that clears the fence on the fly is a home run.

MANAGERS AND COACHES FIELD DECORUM

1. The manager or acting manager will be the only person to hold discussions with the umpire once the game is underway. No one other than the manager or acting manager will be permitted to approach the umpire. This applies to players, spectators, parents, and other coaches. Failure to comply with this rule may result in forfeiture of the game.

2. Managers are responsible for the behavior of all their players, coaches, and fans.
3. Managers and coaches should wear team shirt at all games.

4. Only the team on offense may have a coach in each coach's box at first and third bases. All other coaches, offensive and defensive, must remain in the dugout.
5. No verbal abuse of any kind should be allowed by one team toward the other. (Opposing team should not say "swing" when opponents are at bat.) Derogatory remarks about a specific batter to the pitcher should be strongly discouraged. (He can't hit! or "Easy Out!" for example) **IN THE INTEREST OF SPORTSMANSHIP, ONLY POSITIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO ONE'S OWN TEAMMATES SHOULD BE ALLOWED.**
6. At the conclusion of the game, teams should line up on their respective foul lines and recognize the other team.
7. No cell phones allowed on while on the playing field.

UNIFORMS

1. Uniforms are to be worn in regular season games only, not for practice.
 - (A) Uniform is hat/visor, shirt, socks & pants/shorts approved by the Association. Athletic shoes must be worn. No other head apparel will be allowed.
 - (B) Player without full uniform will not be allowed to play. **EXCEPTION:** In the event of a last-minute substitution managers must agree if player can play without uniform.
2. Uniform shirts must be tucked in at all times. Failure to comply with this rule will be as follows: Batter will be called out if this is noticed before the batter has taken a swing. If the play has happened and this is noticed, then the batter will not be called out, but must fix the shirt. A fielder will be warned once and removed from the game for 1 inning if shirt continues to not be tucked in.
3. All players are required to wear a helmet when at bat or on the bases, during the games and practices. Intentional removal of a helmet by a batter or base runner, while the play is in progress, will result in that player being called "OUT." (Umpire judgment).
4. All batters must remove jacket, sweater, sweatshirt, etc. so that the uniform number is visible while batting. (In cold weather, a jacket or sweater may be worn over the uniform shirt on the bases and in the field.)
5. No metal spikes or opened toe shoes shall be allowed.
6. A team warning should be made during "ground rules" regarding jewelry. **Absolutely NO jewelry is to be worn by any player during practice or games. Any player caught wearing jewelry during the game while on the playing field or in the dugout will be ejected from the game. This rule is for the safety of all players on the field and will be strictly enforced. Band-Aids or other forms of concealment will not be allowed.**

UMPIRES

1. All decisions by the umpire are final. Umpires have the authority to eject players, managers, coaches and spectators from the game. They also have authority to call a game a forfeit if actions of the spectators or participants warrant.
2. There are no appeals. Umpire has final judgment on all calls.
3. The Home Plate Umpire has the final word on any play. In certain situations, he/she may confer with the base umpire if requested to do so by a manager or coach. In those cases, the decision may or may not be overturned depending on the outcome of the conference. The Home Plate Umpire still has the final decision in these cases.
4. Umpires and base coaches are part of the playing field. If a batted or thrown ball hits an umpire or coach, the ball is still in play.
5. Managers and/or coaches cannot call off a game for any reason.

The Home Plate Umpire's decision shall be binding and final on all matters not specifically covered in any GPAA rules. The Board of Directors retains the right to interpret, amend or add to

these rules at any time.

PROTESTS

There are no protests

EJECTIONS

- 1 Any manager, coach, or player that gets ejected from the game will automatically be suspended for the next game. There are no exceptions. NOTE: Until the umpire leaves the playing field you can still be thrown out
2. Any person that gets ejected will have to leave the playing area. Playing area is dependent on the umpire's judgment.
3. IF MANAGER OR COACH GETS EJECTED FROM A GAME THEY CAN NOT MANAGE OR COACH ANY TEAM IN ANY DIVISION UNTIL THEY HAVE SERVED THERE SUPENSION FOR THAT DIVISION THEY WERE EJECTED FROM. THIS INCLUDES IF THE MANAGER OR COACH IS A SPECTATOR AT ANOTHER GAME IN ANOTHER DIVISION.

SPECTATORS

1. Only the on-deck batter is allowed behind the backstops.
2. Any problems or questions regarding the interpretation of rules should be directed to the Division Vice President or the President.
3. Any problems or questions regarding the umpires should be directed to the Umpire in Chief or the President.

WEATHER

1. Unless notified by their manager or the league, all players must report to the playing field as scheduled. In the event the field is determined to be playable by the umpire, the forfeit rule goes into effect automatically.
2. Some games may be permitted on the grass, subject to Board Approval.
3. The decision to cancel a game will be delayed as long as possible, right up to game time, if necessary.
4. If managers of both teams do not agree on playing conditions, the Home Plate Umpire will decide whether to play the game.
5. All canceled games will be scheduled for the next available open date.
6. Canceled games must be reported to the Division Vice-President and the Umpire-in-Chief immediately by the manager of the Home Team.
7. Once the game has begun, stopping, or cancelling the game becomes the responsibility of the Home Plate Umpire.

PLAYOFFS

1. Playoff seeding will be based on record. In case of a tie, the tiebreakers are: 1) head to head record; 2) runs allowed head to head; 3) coin flip.

STATE LAW (720 ILCS 5/12 – 4 FROM CH.38 PAR. 17)

Knows the individual assaulted to be a sports official or coach at any level of competition and the act causing the assault to the sports official or coach occurred within an athletic facility or an indoor or outdoor playing field or within the immediate vicinity of the athletic facility or an indoor or outdoor playing field at which the sports official or coach was an active participant in the athletic contest held at the athletic facility. For the purposes of this paragraph “sports official” means a person at an athletic contest who enforces the rules of the contest, such as an umpire or referee, and coach means a person recognized as a coach by the sanctioning authority that conducted the athletic contest.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

ANY CONDUCT DETRIMENTAL TO THE LEAGUE WILL BE GROUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE DISMISAL FROM THE GOMPERS PARK ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION