

**GENERAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS KANSAS SOFTBALL RULES**  
**(Updated June 2017)**

**GAME**

- A. In cases not covered by these rules, ASA rules will govern.
- B. The Tournament Rules Committee shall make all final decisions.
- C. The Tournament Rules Committee reserves the right to eliminate a team, coach or player from competition for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- D. This committee will consist of Softball Tournament Chairperson, Director of Officials and SOKS Staff.
- E. The ball must be pitched in an underhand motion, and should travel in an arc that is no less than 1.83m (6') and no greater than 3.66m (12').
- F. If a coach touches a runner while the ball is still in play, that runner will be declared out. Coaches are required to stay within the boundaries of the coaches' boxes.
- G. Run Rules: The game will end if the following occurs: 15 runs spread after 3 complete innings. 10 run spread after 4 complete innings.
- H. A regulation game shall be 5 innings or 1 hour, whichever comes first, but if conditions dictate time can be adjusted.
- I. If both teams are tied and the visitors are batting when time limit is reached – normal 5th (last) inning rules apply to decide a winner. If a tie occurs at the end of regulation play, International tie breaker will be used: Another inning of play will begin with the last batter of the previous inning being placed as a runner on 2nd base. Play will continue until a winner is declared.
- J. Each roster may have 8-15 players; less than 8 players is a forfeit. If a team starts with 8 or 9 players, that team can only bat every player once in an inning. The 10<sup>th</sup> batter rule (see L below) (last batter rule in this case) would apply to the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> batter of the inning. If another player(s) arrives during the game, they can be added to the end of the line up without penalty and bat when that spot is due up in the lineup. They cannot be added to the middle of the line-up.
- K. The ball will be a regulation softball (30cm, 12") with a core 47.
- L. The diamond shall have 60' base line.
- M. 10th batter rule per inning will be in effect. There will be 10 batters or 3 outs per inning, which ever may occur first. When the 10th batter comes to the plate, there will be 2 outs automatically assessed to the offensive team. Play will be stopped and the inning will end when the 10th batter stops forward progress or the ball goes to any base in front of the 10th batter.
- N. A team must bat all roster players, there will be free substitution on defense; the batting order will always remain the same throughout the game. If an athlete is injured, ejected, or leaves the game, an out will be assessed each time they appear in the batting order.
- O. Only bats marked by the manufacturer as "Official Softball" may be used.
- P. The catcher must wear a mask and helmet.
- Q. All batters and base runners must wear a helmet.

**SLOW PITCH RULES – updated June 2017**

For higher functioning athletes who have an adequate understanding of the game and demonstrate accuracy in throwing, pitching, catching, and hitting.

**BATTING**

- A. Batter starts with a 0 – 0 count. Four balls constitute a walk. Three strikes constitute an out. If a batter has 2 strikes and hits a foul, it will be declared an out.
- B. If the 10<sup>th</sup> batter is walked, the offensive team is credited with one run.

**FIELD**

- A. The pitching distance shall be an area no less the 40' from home plate and no more than 46' from home plate.

## COACH PITCH RULES – updated June 2017

Coach pitch softball is for athletes who have an adequate understanding of the game and attempt to throw, catch and hit. This level of play is geared for the average team that does not have a pitcher who can throw strikes with any consistency. ASA rules will apply with the following adaptations:

### BATTING/PITCHING

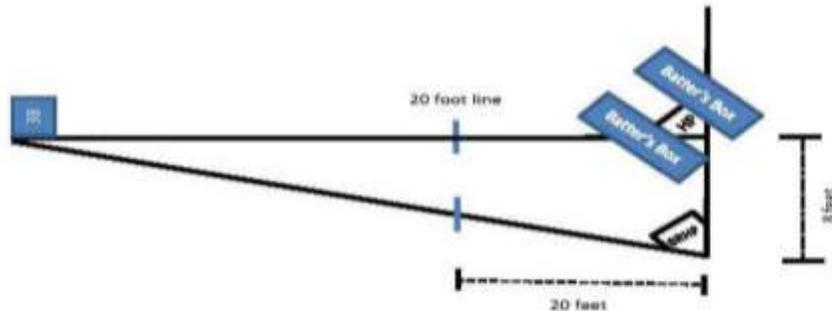
- A. The distance for coach pitch shall be: Junior (8-21) - 40' Master (22+) - 46'  
The pitcher can pitch closer to the batter if need be; when this occurs the defensive pitcher can stand next to the offensive pitcher.
- B. Athlete in the pitcher position must assume defensive position after the coach pitches the ball. Coach-pitcher must move out of the way and avoid contact with the ball.
- C. Each batter receives a maximum of 5 pitches. If the ball is not hit fairly in those 5 pitches, then the batter is out; there are no balls and strikes
- D. Offensive team can have no more than 3 coaches per team, not including the pitcher, on the field during an inning.
- E. Defensive team can have no more than 2 coaches team on the field.

### ADDITIONAL ADAPTIONS

- A. Individuals using walkers or wheelchairs may participate in the Coach Pitch division.
  - 1. **Athletes using a wheelchair/walker/some other device to assist with movement** - Athletes may choose to bat and attempt to reach base. If the athlete reaches first a courtesy runner must be brought in.
  - 2. **Athletes that cannot hold a bat** - A team can choose to have the athlete run only - another coach will swing the bat and once the ball is hit, the running athlete (must stand behind the catcher while the ball is pitched) will try to make it to first base.
  - 3. If the athletes plays on defensive it must be in the outfield.
- B. 12 inch softball with a softer texture will be used in Coach Pitch Level 2
- C. A Batting Tee may be used if both teams agree.
- D. Home Runs, over the fence, are outs – and the play is dead immediately. Batters that score on an inside the park home run or by defensive team error(s) are not out.

### New Rule in 2017 – Second Home Plate for Slow and Coach Pitch Games

- A. Second home plate, same dimensions as the regulation home plate, will be located in foul territory 8ft from the back tip of the regulation home plate extended from the first base foul line.



- B. The commitment line is located 20ft up the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line from the tip of home plate.
- C. Once a baserunner passes the commitment line defensive players can touch only the regulation home plate and baserunners can only touch the second home plate. Runners must touch the second home plate to be declared safe at home and score a run. All plays at home are force outs.
- D. Passing the commitment line is defined as one foot stepping entirely over the marked line or, if line has been obscured, where that line was originally marked. Once the line has been crossed, the baserunner may no longer return to 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
- E. Baserunner may not be tagged out after crossing the commitment line. They may be tagged before crossing the line.
- F. Baserunner who touches or crosses the regulation home plate shall be declared out and the ball remains live.
- G. Defensive player touches the second plate, then touches the original home plate before the runner touches the second home plate, the runner is out.

## T- Ball - Updated June 2017

T-ball is for lower function athletes who are trying to learn the skills of softball. Emphasis will be on athletes' participation in the game. The rules will be modified in acceptable manners (with coach agreement) to allow everyone to compete as best they can. For example – having someone hit and another athlete run.

### BATTING/PITCHING

- A. Batters get 5 swings to hit a fair ball. If after the 5<sup>th</sup> swing the batter has not hit a fair ball, they will be called out.
- B. A 10ft arc will be marked from home plate extending from the 1<sup>st</sup> base line to the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line, if the ball does not completely cross the line, it will be a foul ball; unless it is their 5<sup>th</sup> swing and they will be called out.
- C. The defensive player playing the pitcher position must start with 1 foot on the 46' pitching rubber.
- D. A 10 foot circle will be placed around the pitcher's mound. For the play to be called dead by the umpire, the pitcher must be in possession of the ball. When the umpire call the play dead any runners less than halfway to the next base will be placed at the previous base, if the runner is over halfway to the next base, the umpire will place the runner at the next base.
- E. The offensive team can have no more than 4 coaches on the field and no more than 3 defensive coaches are allowed on the field.
- F. Overthrows that end up in foul territory – runners awarded 1 extra base  
Overthrows that end up in fair territory – played just like any fair ball hit by a batter

### ADDITIONAL ADAPPTIONS

- A. Individuals using walkers or wheelchairs may participate in the T-Ball division.
  - 1. **Athletes using a wheelchair/walker/some other device to assist with movement** - Athletes may choose to bat and attempt to reach base. If the athlete reaches first a courtesy runner must be brought in.
  - 2. **Athletes that cannot hold a bat** - A team can choose to have the athlete run only - another person will swing the bat and once the ball is hit, the running athlete (must stand behind the catcher while the ball is pitched) will try to make it to first base.
  - 3. If the athletes plays on defensive it must be in the outfield.
- B. 12 inch softball with a softer texture will be used in Coach Pitch Level 2
- C. A Batting Tee may be used if both teams agree.
- D. Home Runs, over the fence, are outs – and the play is dead immediately. Batters that score on an inside the park home run or by defensive team error(s) are not out.