

VAIL FAST PITCH / BAJA 2018 OFFICIAL LEAGUE PLAY RULES

Vail Fast Pitch follows the Baja Arizona Softball Association Official Rules.
The following rules have been copied from Baja Arizona Softball Association:

12 & Under and 14 & Under Divisions

The USA Softball Official Rules of Softball 2018 will be used for 12-Under and 14-Under.

1. PLAYERS -

- a) 12U and 14U teams may have a minimum of 8 players per team to play.
- b) May have a maximum number of 9 defensive players in the field.

2. SAFETY -

- a) No jewelry may be worn during any practice or game. This includes, but is not limited to, earrings, bracelets, necklaces, or rings. Exception: Medical alert bracelets, medical alert necklaces, and non-removable silver baby bracelets are allowed to be worn, if covered. If a player is found wearing jewelry, the umpire will instruct her to remove it.
- b) Only appropriate baseball/softball cleats may be worn to practices or games. Metal cleats are not allowed. No tennis shoes. Socks must be both knee socks and uniform in appearance for each team.
- c) Chin straps are mandatory on all helmets in addition to required face masks.
- d) Fielder's face masks are mandatory for all 12U & 14U players while playing infield positions.

3. FIELD AND EQUIPMENT -

- a) The game ball will be a 12-inch, optic yellow, raised seam ball, .470 cor., and a ball compression of 375 lbs. or under. The ball must be "ASA Certified."
- b) Pitching Distance will be 40 feet.
- c) Bases will be at 60 feet.

4. REGULATION GAME -

- a) No new inning may begin after 1hr, 30min. Time begins at the conclusion of the home plate pregame meeting and both teams should be ready to play. The game will be stopped at 1hr, 50min after start and score revert to the last complete inning, unless the home team is at bat in the bottom of the inning and is ahead.
- b) If the visiting team is leading by 10 or more runs after 4 complete innings, the game is over. If the home team is leading by 10 or more runs after 3 1/2 innings, the game is over.
- c) Regulation game is six (6) innings for 12U and seven (7) innings for 14U.
- d) During the regular season games, ties stand.
- e) Two umpires will be scheduled to officiate each game - one plate umpire and one base umpire.

5. OFFENSE -

- a) All players in attendance are listed on the batting order, and it will remain the same through the game.
- b) The batter must have one foot in and one foot out of the batter's box when receiving signals from the coaches' box.
- c) If a team begins a game with only eight players, no outs are assessed for playing shorthanded.
- d) If a player must leave the game due to injury or other reasons she may be replaced on defense and, if she is unable to bat, her place in the batting order is skipped without penalty (no automatic out is assessed). A player who must miss a turn at bat or has been substituted for as an injured runner may not re-enter the game.

6. RUN LIMIT -

- a) Each team shall be limited to scoring four (4) runs in their half of the first three innings of play. Under this rule an inning is over when the defense makes the third out or the offense scores their fourth run.
- b) No "continuation runs" shall count. A play in progress is allowed to be completed after the fourth run has scored, however, runs in excess of four shall not count in the game score.

7. DEFENSE -

- a) There will be nine (9) defensive players in the field.
- b) A team must field a minimum of eight players. Having fewer than eight players constitutes a forfeit. [This rule does not prohibit both managers from loaning or borrowing players to complete/start the game if mutually acceptable.]
- c) If a team is short players, the opposing team is not obligated to play short-handed.
- d) Unlimited defensive substitutions are allowed (subject to the rules on minimum playing time). Each team is required to submit their substitution plan to the opposing manager and home plate umpire prior to the start of the game. Adjustments are allowed during game play provided the opposing team and umpire are notified and that minimum play rules are not violated.

8. BASE RUNNER -

- a) Runners may slide feet-first only. A girl sliding head-first will be called out. Diving back to a base from a very short distance away is not considered head-first sliding and is legal.
- b) Pinch or courtesy runners are NOT permitted in games. In the case of a runner needing to leave the game due to an injury, the player on the bench in the closest previous position in the batting order shall assume running duties. The player removed from running due to injury may not re-enter the game.

9. PITCHING -

- a) No pitcher may pitch more than three (3) for 12U or four (4) for 14U of the first five (5) innings of a game. If a game goes 6 or more innings, all players are eligible to pitch after the fifth inning. One pitch in an inning constitutes a whole inning.

- b) Any pitcher who hits two batters in the same inning must be removed from pitching and may not return to pitch in the same inning or the next inning. For purposes of this rule, a pitch that contacts the ground prior to hitting the batter does not count towards the total of two hit batters; however, the batter may be awarded first base in accordance with ASA Rule 8, Section 1F.

