

Franklin-Simpson Parks & Recreation
Youth Softball
2025 Bylaws

Introduction

The Franklin-Simpson Parks and Recreation Youth Softball League (the “league”) operates under the Franklin-Simpson Recreation Department to conduct youth softball in Simpson County for ages 7 – 12. The management of the league shall be conducted by the softball board (the “board”) which will be comprised of a minimum of five (5) members and a maximum of nine (9) members.

Division of the Rules/Bylaws

- 1.0 League Administration
- 2.0 League Teams/Players (draft, etc)
- 3.0 League Coaches
- 4.0 Team Sponsors for the League
- 5.0 Scheduling
- 6.0 Conduct of Games
- 7.0 Miscellaneous

League Administration

1.01 All Babe Ruth (Cal-Ripken Division) Rules and Regulations and the official softball rules shall be in effect for each game. Local rules shall supersede Cal Ripken Rules and Regulations, which shall supersede official softball rules.

1.02 All players must have paid their registration fee (unless sponsored) by a designated date and have satisfied age requirements before participating in any game. A valid birth certificate to establish their league age may be asked for at any valid time. A valid birth certificate is required to participate in All-Stars.

1.03 Any member of the Board shall have the power to have undesirable persons removed from the field and spectator area.

1.04 A non-coaching board member shall be present at every game.

1.05 No person or team shall have a fundraiser to raise funds for their team or the League without the consent of the Board. The Board must have approval from the FS Parks Board (“Parks Board”) prior to any fundraiser and all fundraisers must adhere to Parks Board fundraising guidelines and accounting procedures.

1.06 A simple majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. Any addition or change to the current bylaws must be presented verbally or in writing (text or email) to all board members. A quorum for voting purposes can be established in person, text or email.

1.07 The Board (on a case-by-case basis) may address unusual situations and circumstances.

1.08 Normally the President will call a meeting of the Board, but with the President unavailable, an officer of the Board may call a meeting of the entire Board.

1.09 The League President is a non-voting board member. The President will only be able to cast a vote on the actions taken by the board in the case of a tie.

1.10 Board members may only receive compensation for scorekeeping and umpiring when on other option for officiating or scorekeeping is available.

2.00 League Teams/Players (draft, etc)

2.01 Youth Softball shall redraft each year. Each head coach is allowed one child that is his/her own or from their previous year's team and all other players will be drafted, with board discretion for unique situations.

2.02 Players will be chosen by draft from applications in each age group and ages will be divided evenly to the teams based on the total number registered in that age category. **Effective 2026, players in 10U and 12U will be chosen by a draft off of evaluations.** The board highly recommends that all players attend evaluations. Draft positions may be affected by missing tryouts.

2.03 Parent requests for a particular league, manager, coach, or teammate will NOT be honored unless deemed necessary by the Board.

2.04 As long as numbers allow, unless a parent, guardian, or head of household requests otherwise, sisters (this term includes half-sibling, step-siblings, etc. if their primary residence is the same household as the sibling) of a player will automatically be assigned to the sibling's team, and her spot on the roster shall be treated as a back-to-back pick.

2.05 If the player is a child of a sponsor, that player will automatically be placed on the sponsor's team and will cost the team their next available pick.

2.06 No player may be dismissed from a team without Board approval. Managers and coaches may enforce the Code of Ethics without Board approval.

2.07 Any player requesting to be removed from a team will be placed back in the draft and cannot be redrafted by the team she is asked to be removed from. Board members have to approve after evaluation of the reason for removal.

2.08 Players are NOT permitted to wear metal cleats during games or practices.

2.09 Players are REQUIRED to wear heart guard protectors and helmets with chinstrap and face mask during practices and games.

2.10 Minimum play rule. All players must play a minimum of 6 consecutive outs in the field and all players will be included in the batting lineup.

2.11 Should a team be unable to field 8 players within fifteen minutes after the designated starting time, the home plate umpire shall declare the game a forfeit. Teams are allowed to pick up players from the opposing team they are currently playing if they cannot start the

game with at least 8 players. In that case, the game will not be an automatic forfeit. Teams can pick up players from any other league team if they cannot start the game with at least 8 players. In that case, the game will be considered a forfeit. The players being picked up as a substitute cannot pitch, they have to play outfield, and they have to bat at the end of the batting lineup.

2.12 If a team starts a game with only 8 players they will be given an automatic out in the 9th batting position. If a team starts the game with at least 9 players and loses players during the game due to injury or illness, they will not be assessed an automatic out.

2.13 For purposes of league age divisions: 8U is any child aged 6, 7 or 8 per the Cal Ripken birthday chart and 10U is any child age 8, 9 or 10 based on the same chart as long as numbers allow 6 or 8 year olds to play up. 12U is any child age 10, 11 or 12 based on the same chart as long as numbers allow 10 year olds to play up. **2026 playing age determination changes to August 31, 2025 (not December 31, 2025)**

3.00 COACHES

3.01 All coaches shall be approved by the Board. Each team shall have at least one head coach and no more than two assistant coaches. 10U is allowed one additional coach and 8U is allowed one additional coach in the pitcher's position. Coaches and dugout parents must be listed when roster is set.

3.02 All coaches are required to complete a coaching application and turn back into the Parks office for approval. Coaches must then complete a background check, abuse video component and coach certification as required by the Parks Board and Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Charter.

3.03 All coaches are expected to conduct themselves in a good sportsman-like manner. Vulgarity, profanity, or other conduct not in keeping with the rules and spirit of Cal Ripken Softball will not be tolerated and will be dealt with by game umpires and the Board.

3.04 All coaches and umpires must abide by the Tobacco Policy established by the Parks Board. No tobacco products or vaping are allowed during practice or game times and within 25 yards of any fence.

3.05 All players must play in a defensive and offensive position for at least one (1) inning. Disciplinary benching of players for missed practices, etc. is permitted after informing all parties involved (parents, guardians, umpires, scorekeepers, board member-in-charge, etc.)

3.06 No more than three adults may occupy the dugout and will be permitted on the field a time except for 10U and 8U which will be allowed an additional assistant/pitcher. No person who is not a listed coach may occupy the dugout or playing field except in the place of an absent coach, in which case, with the consent of the coach of the opposing team and upon informing the home plate umpire, a player's parent may assist in the dugout or on the field if they have completed the required background check.

3.07 The League President & non-coaching board members are to serve as a supervisory committee to address nonconformance of coaches, players, or parents as to league policy, and if

necessary to impose disciplinary action. The Park Director will serve as a supervisory committee chairperson in the case of the league President being a coach or involved in a certain situation. Coaching board members involved in certain situations will not be serving on the committee and will not have a vote in the disciplinary actions.

3.08 Any coach ejected from a game must appear before the Board before he/she can coach a league game

3.09 All head coaches must be 18 years of age and out of high school.

3.10 Dugout parents must complete volunteer application, background check and abuse prevention video. They will be “non-coach volunteers” and are not required to complete coaching certification course.

4.00 TEAM SPONSORS FOR THE LEAGUE

4.01 All sponsors must be approved by the Board.

5.00 LEAGUE SCHEDULING

5.01 The League game schedule shall be available by April 1st of each year, and it shall be as equitable as possible in terms of the number of games each team plays per week.

5.02 Practice times will be determined by drawing out of a hat with reverse order for the second practice time chosen. The lowest number gets the first pick. These practice times are in effect until the regular season begins. No fields will be reserved for Wednesday or Sunday practices. Fields are first come, first served once the regular season begins.

5.03 Games not yet started, may be called for playing conditions by the league president or other available guidelines in accordance with FS Parks Field Playability policy. Games in progress will be called for rain, fog, etc. by the home plate umpire who shall consult with league president or other board members. Called games will automatically be rescheduled at the next available time. In the event of many rainouts, which make rescheduling impracticable, some games may be cancelled. During school, any game not begun by 8:30 p.m. on a weeknight (not Friday) will be treated as a rainout.

5.04 Games will not be rescheduled due to personal scheduling conflicts which players or coaches may have with other activities.

5.05 The League encourages all school activities. No team shall be required to forfeit a game due to the absence of players because of their presence at school activities. In such cases, the opposing team’s coaches must decide if the team in question should field only 8 players, or the game shall be rescheduled. The Park Director must be notified prior to the rescheduling of the game.

5.06 Make up games will be in order of cancellation using the next available rain out date on the schedule or Saturday. No team will be required to play more than three games in a calendar week unless approved by the Park Director in unusual circumstances.

6.0 Conduct of Games

6.01 The head coaches from each team must inspect the field before game play. If there is anything that needs to be altered (ex. Raking around the plate/bases or filling in holes on the field), it should be completed before the games starts. Park maintenance field crew is in charge of getting the fields lined and prepared to play on game days.

6.02 Game line-ups shall be turned into the press box not later than 15 minutes prior to the start of the game. Coaches are required to print the first and last name of the player along with their jersey number for proper identification and bookkeeping.

6.03 No one is allowed in the press box except the scorekeeper, scorekeeper's assistant or league officials. Press box should be cleaned at the end of each night of play and trash placed in outdoor trash cans.

6.04 All bats must have the USA Sticker/stamp and cannot be modified in any way and must be on the approved Cal Ripken bat list.

6.05 If a runner attempting to reach home plate (or any other base) intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player around home plate ((or any other base), she will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. The objective of this rule is to penalize the offensive team for crashing the defensive play. This is an umpire's judgment call.

8U Coach Pitch

6.06 No new inning shall be started after 60 minutes. Teams will finish the inning if needed and home team will get last at bat unless mathematically out of reach.

6.07 GAME (run limit): A run rule is in effect for all games. The run limit is 15 runs after 2 innings and 10 runs after 3 innings

PER INNING (run limit): A run rule of 5 runs per inning will be enforced during the regular season. When a team has scored its fifth (5) run in their half inning, play will stop immediately and both teams will switch offensively and defensively.

6.08 Each batter will get five (5) pitches. They cannot strike out on a foul ball. The home plate umpire will keep the pitcher/coach informed of the count.

6.09 35 ft pitching rubber, 16 ft diameter circle. Pitch from front of circle.

6.10 Full lineup hits, free substitutions.

6.11 Time is called when LEAD runner's progress is stopped.

6.12 No bunting and no stealing.

6.13 Ten positions (4 outfielders). Players must play true positions, 1 pitcher (one foot must be in the circle at the release of the a pitch). Shortstop and 2nd play behind/on baseline, 3rd and 1st play in front of bags. Outfield must be minimum 10 feet from baseline.

6.14 Catchers must wear full gear and catch from the correct position.

6.15 *Regular season* can end in a tie. *Post Season* – 60 minute time limit, finish the inning if needed, home will get last at bat unless mathematically out of reach – play until finished.

6.16 Tournament seeding based on head to head, runs allowed, runs scored, coin flip

10U Machine and/or Player Pitch

6.17 No new inning shall be started after 90 minutes. Teams will finish the inning if needed and home team will get last at bat unless mathematically out of reach.

6.18 GAME (run limit): A run rule is in effect for all games. The run limit is 16 runs after 2 innings and 8 runs after 3 innings

PER INNING (run limit): A run rule of 8 runs per inning will be enforced during the regular season. When a team has scored its eighth (8) run in their half inning, play will stop immediately and both teams will switch offensively and defensively.

6.19 Machine: Each batter will receive five (5) pitches. They cannot strike out on a foul ball. The home plate umpire will keep the pitcher/coach informed of the count.

6.20 35 ft pitching rubber, 16 ft diameter circle. Pitching machine set at rubber.

6.21 Full lineup hits, free substitutions.

6.22 Runners stop when control of the ball in the circle by the player “pitcher”, not the coach.

6.23 No intentional walks.

6.24 Nine positions (3 outfielders) Players must play true positions, shortstop and 2nd play behind/on baseline, 3rd and 1st play in front of bags. Outfield must be minimum 10 feet from baseline.

6.25 Catchers must wear full gear and catch from the correct position.

6.26 *Regular season* can end in a tie. *Post Season* – 90 minute time limit, finish the inning if needed, home will get last at bat unless mathematically out of reach – play until finished- international tie breaker will start at the bottom of the next inning.

6.27 Tournament seeding based on head to head, runs allowed, runs scored, coin flip

12U Player Pitch

6.28 No new inning shall be started after 90 minutes. Teams will finish the inning if needed and home team will get last at bat unless mathematically out of reach.

6.29 GAME (run limit): A run rule is in effect for all games. The run limit is 20 runs after 2 innings and 10 runs after 3 innings

PER INNING (run limit): A run rule of 10 runs per inning will be enforced during the regular season. When a team has scored its tenth (10) run in their half inning, play will stop immediately and both teams will switch offensively and defensively.

6.30 40 ft pitching rubber, 16 ft diameter circle.

6.31 Full lineup hits, free substitutions.

6.32 Runners stop when control of the ball in the circle.

6.32 No intentional walks.

6.34 Nine positions (3 outfielders). Players must play true positions, shortstop and 2nd play behind/on baseline, 3rd and 1st play in front of bags. Outfield must be minimum 10 feet from baseline.

6.35 Catchers must wear full gear and catch from the correct position.

6.36 *Regular season* can end in a tie. *Post Season* – 90 minute time limit, finish the inning if needed, home will get last at bat unless mathematically out of reach – play until finished- international tie breaker will start at the bottom of the next inning.

6.37 Tournament seeding based on head to head, runs allowed, runs scored, coin flip

6:38 Profanity and abusive language shall not be used by anyone on the field or any spectator during a game. Umpires and board members can immediately eject anyone from a game for violating this rule. Violators may be subject to the consequences of the Code of Ethics with the FS Parks Board. Excessive taunting of any player will not be tolerated. Violators will be given a warning. Continued taunting can be subject to further consequences by the League Board or FS Parks Board.

6:39 Umpires, teams, and coaches should make every effort to start every game on time to avoid lost time during games.

6:30 The Youth Softball Board shall serve as a protest committee in the event a game is protested. Judgment calls by umpires cannot be protested. Only a head coach may protest a game, and he/she must do so at the exact time of deemed protest. The umpire shall be notified that the game will be placed under protest so that it may be recorded in the scorebook. To protest a play or ruling, a manager must submit to the board in writing within twenty-four hours the circumstances leading to the protest. The protest must be accompanied by \$25.00. If the protest is upheld, the \$25 will be refunded to the head coach. If the protest is denied, the League will keep the \$25.00.

6:31 If a player is ejected from a game for disciplinary reasons, then another player, even though she has already been in the game, may reenter. The ejected player must sit out the next game played by his team. An ejected coach may not participate in his/her team's next game.

6:32 Pitching limitations follow Cal Ripken rules. Coaches are encouraged to develop talent and establish players who can play various positions to help their respective team. During 10U

machine pitch, a player is out on 3 strikes or 5 pitches, no walks called. Pitching limitations are as follows:

In the 12U and younger, a pitcher, regardless of age, may pitch no more than 9 innings per calendar week.

- a. This applies to all games regardless of when played. This included rescheduled and make-up games.
- b. If a pitcher delivers one (1) pitch in an inning she shall be charged for one (1) inning pitched.

The calendar week of Babe Ruth Softball is Monday through, and including, Sunday.

Games in which an ineligible pitcher has been used as specified in the above paragraphs shall be declared forfeited.

7:00 MISCELLANEOUS

7:01 A double first base will be used as a safety requirement.

7:02 Equipment must be signed out by a head coach and must be returned immediately following the last game of the season or tournament regardless of whether they are coaching another season.

7:03 If the umpire calls interference, the runner automatically advances to the base.

7:04 Coaches must teach players to throw the ball instead of running it in from the outfield.

7:05 Coach/Pitcher must exit the field in a manner that will not interfere with play after the ball is hit. First infraction: a warning will be given; second infraction: batter will be called out.

7:06 Coach/Pitcher is responsible for removing the bat out of the way of the players. First infraction: a warning will be given; second infraction: batter will be called out.

7:07 Dropped 3rd strike applies if there are less than two (2) outs and first base is unoccupied, or if there are two (2) outs.

7:08 During machine pitch, if batter hits, and ball hits machine, it is a dead ball. Do over.

7:09 Awards will be awarded to the first place team for the tournament and for regular season standings. In case of a tie, the winner will be determined by total runs scored.

