

ESL Softball League Rules

ESL will follow USSSA Fast Pitch Softball Rules. Any rules herein that conflicts with the USSSA Fast Pitch Softball Rules shall take precedent. Exception is Lookback Rule for 10U and up (reference USA Softball Lookback Rules located in **Downloads** on our website)

AGE QUALIFICATION AND TEAM FORMATION

1. ESL league will be formed based on player age as of December 31st of the Season Year.
 - a. 2025 season runs from 8/13/2024 – 8/11/2025
 - b. If you are unsure on what age division your child qualifies for, please use the following link: <https://www.ussa.com/fastpitch/ageCalculator>
2. A player may “play up” an age division, but cannot “play down”
3. No Grade Exceptions allowed
4. Maximum number of players on a roster shall not exceed 15

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY RULE

1. **Official Roster Requirements:**
No player is eligible to participate in any game unless they are listed on the team’s official roster. The official roster must be submitted through the league website during the team registration process. Only players on the submitted roster will be allowed to play in the league.
2. **Ineligible Player Consequence:**
If a player is found to be ineligible, the game will result in a forfeit for the offending team. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure all players meet eligibility requirements.
3. **Temporary Pickup Players:**
Temporary pickup players is not allowed under any circumstances. The only exceptions are as follows:
 - a. **A team permanently removes a player from their roster and adds a replacement player**
 - b. **A team adds an additional player permanently to their roster at a later time**For any permanent roster changes, there must be proof provided through a sanctioned organization (i.e. USSSA, USA Softball) verifying that new player has been officially added to the team’s roster.

MINIMUM PLAYER REQUIREMENT

A team may play with 8 players minimum. An automatic out will be taken for the missing ninth player. However, opposing coach can agree to exclude this rule prior to the game and must inform the umpire. Teams that only have 7 players must forfeit the game or contact ESL within 24 hours of the scheduled game to attempt to reschedule.

TIME LIMITS

A completed game will be declared if the game is played under a time limit and the time limit has expired. No new inning will start within 5 minutes of game time expiring. A new inning is considered started when the final out of the previous inning is made.

GAME TIMES AND INNING COMPLETION

Each game will be 70 minutes.

6 Runs per half inning

- **Official Timekeeper**
The umpire shall serve as the official timekeeper for the game.
- **Starting a New Inning**
A new inning shall not begin if fewer than five (5) minutes remain on the game clock.
- **Time Expiration During Visiting Team's At-Bat**
If time expires while the visiting team is at bat **and** the home team is trailing, the home team shall be allowed to complete the bottom half of the inning, provided they have a mathematical opportunity to tie or take the lead.
- **Time Expiration During Home Team's At-Bat or Lead**
If the home team is ahead at the time the game clock expires, or if time expires during their at-bat, the game shall end immediately and the current score will be recorded as final.

Game time begins at the conclusion of the plate meeting between the Umpire and Team Coaches. League games may end in a tie.

RUN RULES

ESL will not implement Run Rules. Game will continue until the scheduled game time expires, regardless of the score.

COMPLETED GAMES

If a game is called prior to the expiration of the official game time or innings allowed, the game shall be deemed complete if:

- 2 or more innings have been played and home team had last at bat, unless home team is winning at the time the game is called.

INCOMPLETE GAMES

If a game is stopped and does not meet the requirements of a completed game, the game will be rescheduled at a later date. The umpire has the right to call the game for unsafe playing conditions and/or weather.

BALL REQUIREMENT

ESL will provide each facility with game balls. We will use '11 hard core optic yellow balls provided by our sponsors.

EQUIPMENT & SAFETY REGULATIONS

Each team is responsible for providing their own equipment:

1. Catchers must be equipped with chest protectors, shin guards, full helmet, and mask at all times
2. Batting helmets with face mask must be worn by the players while batting or running bases. Chin straps are optional
3. No metal cleats allowed on playing surface
4. Bats must meet official softball specifications and have a 1.20 USSSA stamp on the bat. No baseball bats will be allowed

PITCHING DISTANCE

8U & 10U Fast pitch Softball league pitching distance shall be 35'

All pitching distances are measured from the back tip of the home plate to the front of the pitching rubber.

DISPUTED CALL PROCEDURE:

Judgement calls and balls/strikes shall NOT be disputed. Disputing judgement calls could result in ejection at the umpire's discretion.

Non-judgement calls can be disputed in a civil manner, by calling time-out and calmly approach the umpire that made the call to discuss. The coach can ask the umpire to discuss non-judgement calls with the other umpire on the field. However, the umpire is not required to ask the other umpire for assistance. Aggression from the coaching staff could result in an ejection.

PROTEST PROCEDURE

All protests must be made by the head coach. Your protest must be submitted in writing to ESL (edmondbaseballleague@gmail.com) with full description of the situation. ESL board will review your protest and resolution will be made within 24 hours of the official protest.

JUDGEMENT CALLS CANNOT BE PROTESTED

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

The Edmond Softball League is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and enjoyable environment for all players, coaches, officials, and spectators. To uphold these values, the league enforces a **Zero Tolerance Policy** regarding inappropriate conduct.

The following behaviors will not be tolerated under any circumstances:

1. **Verbal or Physical Abuse:** This includes yelling, harassment, threats, intimidation, or any form of physical altercation directed at players, coaches, officials, or spectators.
2. **Disrespect toward Officials:** Arguing calls, making derogatory comments, or engaging in any form of unsportsmanlike behavior toward umpires or league officials.

3. **Bullying or Harassment:** This includes any form of discrimination, offensive language, or unwelcome conduct based on race, gender, religion, or other personal characteristics.
4. **Substance Abuse:** The use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products at any Edmond Softball League event or on league property.
5. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** This includes taunting, excessive arguing, or any other behavior that disrupts the positive spirit of competition.

Consequences for Violations

Any individual found to be in violation of this policy will face immediate disciplinary action, which may include:

- **Warning:** For minor first-time offenses.
- **Ejection:** Immediate removal from the game or event.
- **Suspension or Ban:** Further violations may result in suspension or permanent removal from the league.

The Edmond Softball League expects all participants and attendees to act in a manner that reflects positively on the league and the community. By attending or participating in any league event, you agree to adhere to this policy.

LOOKBACK RULE – 10U and Up ONLY

Please see Lookback Rules listed in **Downloads** on website. USSSA and USA Softball Lookback Rules are extremely similar; USA Softball explains it better. Rules listed on website are from the USA Softball rule book