

CATHOLIC GIRLS SOFTBALL RULES  
Softball Rules at a Glance  
Updated – 4-20-10

Weather Cancellation/Update Phone Line – 456-9563

GRACEAC Website – [www.graceac.com](http://www.graceac.com)

<b>Rule</b>	<b>5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>7/8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
<b>Innings Played</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Time Limit</b>	<b>80 minutes</b>	<b>80 minutes No time limit for tournament</b>
<b>Ball Size</b>	<b>11 inches</b>	<b>12 inches</b>
<b>Ball Color</b>	<b>Each League will play with optic yellow, red stitched softball, must be COR of .47. Home team will provide 1 new ball, visitors 1 gently used ball.</b>	
<b>Jewelry</b>	<b>No rings, ear rings, no metal, plastic hair pieces or wrist</b>	
<b>Undershirts</b>	<b>Must be all same or similar color, no multi-colored undershirts</b>	
<b>Run Rule</b>	<b>5 innings per game</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Mercy Rule</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes-15 runs after 5 innings</b>
<b>Substitution Rule</b>	<b>Both Leagues – Free Substitution</b>	
<b>Pitching Distance</b>	<b>Both Leagues – 40 Feet</b>	
<b>Base Path Distance</b>	<b>Both Leagues – 60 Feet</b>	
<b>Batter Count</b>	<b>1 and 1 All season</b>	<b>1 and 1 except Tournament then 0 and 0</b>
<b>Dropped Third Strike Rule</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes-batter becomes a Runner when 3rd strike Called by umpire is dropped, 1<sup>st</sup> base must be Unoccupied or 1<sup>st</sup> base is Occupied with 2 outs</b>
<b>Batting Rules</b>	<b>Both Leagues – Rocket Rule</b>	
<b>Pitching Rule</b>	<b>Both Leagues – Fast Pitch</b>	
<b>Coaches Visits to Pitching Plate</b>	<b>Both Leagues – 4 per game</b>	
<b>Position Rotation</b>	<b>Everyone every 3 innings</b>	<b>Only Pitcher-limit to 4 Innings per game-includes Tournament. 1 pitch is 1 Inning.</b>

<b>Shoes</b>	<b>Both Leagues – no Metal Spikes</b>	
<b>Bunting</b>	<b>Both Leagues – Yes</b>	
<b>Thrown Bat</b>	<b>Both Leagues – one warning per team, then automatic out</b>	
<b>Stealing</b>	<b>Yes - Both Leagues-runner must maintain contact with base til ball leaves pitchers hand. Runner steals all bases at their own peril</b>	
<b>Infield Fly</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes-less than 2 outs w/ runners on 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.</b>

**Fake Tag-fielder cannot attempt a fake tag, by pounding mitt, acting or faking a catch to make a tag, one warning per team per game. Ejection thereafter.**

**Sliding-All runners in a close play must avoid contact. Runners not avoiding contact will be declared an out.**

**Ejected or removed players from the line up, their place in the order will not be an out. Instead that ejected or removed player will be skipped over. Ejected players will not be eligible to play the next game.**

**Courtesy Runner – Yes and encouraged to speed up game – for catchers and pitchers-replace with player who made last out. If not out is yet declared, last batter in line up will be courtesy runner.**

**Batter Hit by Pitch – Both Leagues – only if umpire determines batter made a valid attempt to avoid being hit.**

**Over Throw Rule – Both Leagues – at time of release of the throw, the runner is awarded the base they are running to plus one. This applies to outfield and infield throws. If ball remains in playing field, runner may advance at their own peril. The play will be called “TIME” by the umpire when ball is returned in control of any defensive player in the infield and runners are not advancing to next base.**

**For 7/8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Both winning team and losing team shall report their score to the league president within 24 hours of game. League President shall provide an email address or phone number to report scores.**

**Weather – if lightning or thunder is seen or heard, play is suspended and all will find shelter. Game will not resume 30 minutes after last thunder or lightning is seen or heard.**

**Each team may play 10 fielders, 4 in infield, 1 catcher, rest in outfield. Team may begin game with 8 players.**

**Fielders, most notably infielders, including catcher may not obstruct or interfere with runner or batter. Blocking the plate or standing on the base is forbidden. Officials decision to enforce obstruction and interference rule.**