

**SOFTBALL BY-LAWS**

**1. GOVERNING RULES**

The National Federation of State High School Associations Rules shall be followed.

**2. TEAM CLASSIFICATIONS**

1. Official competition shall be conducted in Varsity and Junior Varsity Classification.
2. No seniors may participate on a JV team.
3. Any player can move up and down (varsity & JV with the exception of seniors) all season just as long as that player does not exceed 27 games in a season. (6/2/14)

**3. GAME LIMITATION**

1. No team shall exceed 27 games, 2 scrimmages and 1 Non-CIF contest. (5/28/09)
2. No games or scrimmage shall be scheduled prior to the end of the last league contest of the previous season.
3. Tournaments count the number of games played. (5/24/12)

**4. PRACTICE AND LIMITATIONS**

1. Saturday practice is allowed throughout the entire softball season. (05/16/08)
2. JV games shall be played at sites opposite those of the Varsity games date.
3. Machine batting practice prior to games is prohibited. (10-17-90)
4. For Varsity games the 10 run rule will be in effect after five (5) complete innings. For Junior Varsity: The 10 runs rule will be in effect after five (5) innings. (05/28/09). OR - When the 3<sup>rd</sup> out of the previous inning happens, the official should check his/her watch. If the 2-hour time limit has not expired, he/she should notify both coaches of the time remaining and the next inning will begin and be played through. ANY INNING STARTED MUST BE FINISHED. (05/26/11) No new inning shall start after the 2-hour time limit.

**5. GAME MANAGEMENT**

1. Starting times for all weekday League games shall be 3:30 PM prior to daylight savings time and 4:00 PM following daylight savings time. (5/26/11)
2. The recommended ball for league play will follow the CCS requirements and guidelines. (05/26/11)
3. Scheduled games will be played even though it may be the other school's vacation time. Games may be changed only if both schools agree.
4. Rain outs will be played the first available date in the first round.
  - 4.1 First round games that are not officially completed due to rain, darkness or any other unforeseen reason will be completed at the site where the 2 teams meet in the next round.

- 4.2 Games played in the second round that are rained out before completing 5 full innings will resume at the original site.
- 4.3 If 5 innings are not completed and a game is halted due to darkness/rain outs and is tied, the game will begin play from the last completed inning. The site location will be determined according to what round of play they are in.
- 4.4 After 9 complete innings of play, if the score is tied, the International Tie-Breaker will be used. Softball games cannot end in a tie.

**International Tie Breaker Rule**

During each half inning of the inning used to enforce the tie breaker, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat ninth in that respective half inning being placed at second base. (e.g., if the number five batter is to lead off, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base. A substitute may be inserted for the runner.)

It is the responsibility of the umpire and scorekeeper to notify the teams involved as to what player starts at second base. If the wrong player is placed on the base and it is brought to the umpire's attention, there is no penalty, correct the error and place the correct person on the base. This should occur whether a pitch has been thrown, or if the runner has advanced a base. If a substitute has been entered without reporting, and one pitch has been thrown, the umpire should enforce the illegal substitute penalty when it is brought to his attention.

In scoring, the run scored by a player starting as a runner at second base shall be charged to the defensive team and not the pitcher. Depending on the judgment of the official scorekeeper, a run scored by any other player will be charged to the pitcher's ERA.

**5. Tie Breaking System**

- 1. Records of teams head to head
- 2. The records of teams against opponents placing above them in league standings.
- 3. Use the CCS power ranking system against league/division games as well as games played against Blossom Valley opponents. The total points will be divided by the number of games played.
- 4. Coin flip (5-18-98)
- 5. Entry into at-large CCS berths will be based on the final league standings. If there is a tie in the standings the team with the highest power points will be submitted by the league. (5/20/02)

**6. CCS QUALIFYING**

- 1. Mt. Hamilton Division - 4 teams
- 2. Santa Teresa Division - 1 team
- 3. West Valley Division - 1 team
- 4. If the 4th place team in the Mt. Hamilton division has an over-all record greater than .500 then they would apply for an at-large berth and relinquish the Mt. Hamilton 4th spot to the Santa Teresa division. Entry to at-large CCS berth will be based on the team's power points for ranking. (5/27/10)

**7. ALL LEAGUE SELECTIONS**

- 1. Each division will select 11 - 1st team and 11 - 2nd team All League players for both Varsity and JV

teams. In addition Varsity will receive 5 special recognition awards. MVP, SR. JR., Soph, and Freshman of the year. (5-25-00)

**Section 1:** In an attempt to avoid confusion when selecting All-League teams, this section provides a number of formulas in which a division chairperson can follow. It is required that all JV-F/S level teams use these formulas and allow Varsity level teams the option to use them. (5/27/10)

- Special awards are limited to ~~5~~ **six (6)** and not to be included in the 1<sup>st</sup> team (these are considered “over and above” the 1<sup>st</sup> team recognitions)(MVP, SR, JR, SOPH, FRESH, **PITCHER** of the year are automatically included in 1<sup>st</sup> team and do not need to be added/listed as such.
- In the case of a tie in the league standings, extra certificates will be provided to equal the exact finish amount (i.e.: if 2 teams tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, both teams will receive the number of all-league certificates that the formula states the 2<sup>nd</sup> place should receive.)
- Honorable mention awards will be pre-printed (with “Honorable Mention”) and be limited to 2 total per school (these will not be recorded by the BVAL) and may be used at the school’s discretion. (5/31/13)
- If you choose to give Co-MVP, Co-SR, etc., you must give up one of your remaining special awards. **You may not give up an all-league spot for a Co- spot.**

**Section 2: Baseball and Softball Formula - 11 All-League certificates –(1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> team)**

(8 teams)			(7 teams)			(6 teams)		
1st	3	2	1st	3	3	1st	3	3
2nd	2	2	2nd	3	2	2nd	3	2
3rd	2	1	3rd	2	2	3rd	2	2
4th	1	2	4th	1	1	4th	1	2
5th	1	1	5th	1	1	5th	1	1
6th	1	1	6th	1	1	6th	1	1
7th	1	1	7th	-	1			
8th	-	1						