

# ECIC SOFTBALL SPORTS STANDARDS

## Softball Official Rule Book

The ASA rulebook shall be the official rules of softball games for ECIC and Section VI teams.

### **I. Scheduling**

- a) All teams can participate in a maximum of 20 regular season contests-including tournament games and out of state contests.
- b) All individual players can participate in a max of 20 regular season contests.
- c) All divisional softball games shall take precedence over non-divisional games starting with the first game of the season.
- d) If both teams agree, the next available day can include Saturday or Sunday. This applies for regular season only and the 7-day rule is in effect.
- e) If a team is scheduled to play in a 2 to 4 game weekend tournament, they will not be expected to cancel/forfeit tournament games in order to make up a league contest.

### **II. Game Procedures**

- a) Pitching distance is 43 feet and double first-base must be used.
- b) Visiting teams must be allowed on the field for a minimum of 15 minutes for warm-up.
- c) The visiting team, if possible, shall notify the host school due to bus breakdown, accidents or traffic problems that they may arrive late.
- d) JV/Varsity Run rule: It is an official game if the visiting team is up by 12 or more runs after 5 completed innings, or if the home team is up by 12 or more runs entering the bottom of the 5th inning.
- e) Tie breaker Rule: If the contest is tied after 9 completed innings. The tiebreaker begins in the top of the 10th inning. (\*Tournament run rule may be different.)
- f) All suspended games will resume from the last recorded pitch.
- g) Music can only be played by the home team. It can be played during pregame and/or between innings of play. Walk up music between batters is not allowed.

### **III. Weather Issues and Game Locations**

- a) If the home team can not host the contest, the home team will make a decision by 1pm.
- b) If the home team's field is unplayable, the home team can find a neutral site. The field can not create a longer traveling destination for the visiting team.
- c) If the home team can not host the contest. The visiting team can host the contest if their field is playable. The contest will flip locations. Home and Away teams will be agreed upon prior to first pitch.
- d) Weather/Darkness: An official game is 4.5 completed innings if the home team is winning, or 5 completed innings if the visiting team is winning. \*The game reverts back to the last completed inning when declaring a winner. (Example, the game is called with 2 outs in the top of the 7th inning. The official score reverts back to 6 completed innings.)

- e) Suspended league contests must be rescheduled on the next available day on which neither team has a league contest scheduled. The game will resume from the last recorded pitch of the postponed game.

#### **IV Officials**

- a) Umpires shall complete the game at hand despite their own commitments.
- b) The Spaulding or its' equivalent is the official softball and must be NFHS and NOCSAE approved with their seal.
- c) Anytime a team whose coach is expelled and cannot be replaced by a licensed school personnel (teacher, coach, administrator), that team shall forfeit said game.
- d) Protests-All protests must be filled within 24 hours of said game through regulated ECIC procedures. The umpire must be told before the next pitch that the game is being played under protest. The situation and reason for the protest must be noted and signed by the umpire in both scorebooks. Protests may be lodged only on rule interpretation and not on judgment rulings.

#### **V. Postseason All Star Selections**

- a) All ECIC coaches should participate in selecting their division all-stars. All-star selections include: 1st and 2nd team selections (up to 14 players per team). Player of the Year, Pitcher of the Year, Coach of the Year, Sportsmanship Player and Sportsmanship Team of the year.
- b) Each division should rank their top players moving forward to ALL WNY selection.
- c) There may be two separate ranks in a division with more than one classification of teams.

(Revised 2009, 2015, 2020, 2022)