

Bi-County Girls League Rules

Last updated 4/21/23

I. Player Eligibility

1. The cutoff date for each age group is April 1.
- 2. 11u (Juniors) may not turn 12 before April 1, 14u (Intermediates) may not turn 15 before April 1.**
3. A player must play ball with their hometown team or the team from the town where they attend school, if that town provides the appropriate age level team. If a player starts the season with a team, they must stay with that team for the remainder of that season unless their residency changes. Once a player has opted to join a team sponsored by the baseball association or equivalent in a particular town, then they are required to continue with the program in that town unless the town should no longer offer an age appropriate team or if the player moves. If a town does not offer a team in a particular age group, the players in that age group from that town are allowed to play in another town which offers an age appropriate team.
4. A player must play at least half of the regular season games with that team or a younger team from the same Bi-County town in order to be eligible for representing that town in tournament play, except in the case of an injury. A player may only pitch for one team at one level during tournament play.

II. Field and Equipment Requirements

1. All leagues play at 60' bases. Batter's box must be drawn and enforced.
2. Pitching distances for each league: 11u (Juniors) 35', 14u (Intermediates) 43'.
3. Official ball size: 11u (Juniors) - 11" non-restricted flight, 14u (Intermediates) - 12" non-restricted flight. Girls will use yellow balls.
4. The home team is responsible for providing at least two qualified umpires for each of the scheduled games with the home plate umpire always being an adult or otherwise qualified umpire. Failure to provide at least two qualified umpires will constitute a valid protest on the part of the visiting team and could lead to forfeiture of the games by the home team, unless the visiting team coach waives the protest.
5. Any ground rules regarding the home field must be discussed prior to the onset of each game with both umpires and the coaches of both teams.

6. Uniforms or shirts will be required to be of the same color with a different number on the shirt required for each player. Uniform number must be clearly visible from either front or back side.

7. Players in all divisions must wear batting and running helmets. Catchers in all divisions must wear protective gear including shin guards, chest protector, mask, and helmet.

III. Lineups and Fielding Positions

1. 11u (Juniors) will bat entire team. 14u (Intermediates) will bat 10 players.

2. Any team batting their entire lineup may substitute openly. If a team is playing with substitutes, proper substituting procedures must be followed. The starting pitcher may be reentered to pitch as long as they have not left the field.

3. Teams will field 10 players, but may field as few as 7 without penalty.

4. In every league only 6 players, including the pitcher and catcher, are allowed to play in front of the baseline. All other players must play behind the baseline.

IV. Game Play

1. 11u (Juniors) will play 5 innings or 1 ½ hours, whichever occurs first. 14u (Intermediates) will play 6 innings or 2 hours, whichever occurs first. Once the time limit is reached, the current inning must be completed, and no new inning started. The clock will stop during rain delays or any other delay not caused by one of the teams. No infield will be allowed if game is 20 min or more behind schedule. 8u Coach pitch cannot start an inning after 7pm if there is a game following. If any game is tied, then it will be played out to determine a winner regardless of time.

2. 11u (Juniors) have a 4 run limit per inning. 14u (Intermediates) have no per inning run limit. They do have a 10 run mercy rule after 5 innings, and an optional 15 runs after 3 innings if the losing team agrees.

3. 11u (Juniors) are allowed to steal bases after the ball has crossed Home plate. 14u (Intermediates) are allowed to steal after the ball has left the pitcher's hand. If a player leaves the base before they are allowed, each team will be allowed one warning by the umpires, but the runner will be sent back to the base she was occupying and the plate umpire will call no pitch. For a second and any subsequent instances of leaving a base too early once a warning has been given, the player will be automatically called out and the plate umpire will call no pitch. In 11u (Juniors) an overthrow to the pitcher from the catcher after the pitch is considered a dead ball. **In 11u (Juniors) the batter may advance past first base on a walk only if a play is being made on another base runner.**

4. 14u (Intermediates) have an open home plate. 11u may not steal home unless a play is made on that runner or another baserunner. There is no infield fly rule in any league. 14u (Intermediates) play the dropped third strike rule. No other league plays with a dropped third strike. There are no balks.

5. The Bi-County has no mandatory slide rule. No deliberate running down of players. This will be discretion of the umpire. First offense- the player will be called out. Second offense- the player will be ejected from the game.

6. There are no inning limits for softball pitchers.

7. All softball pitching rules will be enforced according to the NFHS rules book, including crow hoping and the circle rule.

V. Scheduling and Cancelations

1. All first games will begin at 6:00 pm. The visiting team will have a 15 minute grace period. If the home team is not ready to play at 6:00 pm, the first game is forfeited and the second game will start at 7:30 pm. The first game will be played in its entirety or until one team is mathematically eliminated. Even if the first game mathematically decided, they may continue to play until 7:15. If the second game must be suspended because of a park "lights out" rule, the game shall be picked up at the point that it was suspended and played to its completion at a later date.

2. Home team must make every attempt to reschedule any scheduled game that needs to be rescheduled because of a rainout, within one week or the home team will forfeit. The requesting team must make every attempt to reschedule any scheduled game rescheduled for any other reason within one week or they will forfeit. **Games must be rescheduled, not necessarily played, within a week to avoid forfeit.**

VI. Standings and Tournament

1. Win/loss record will determine position in the tournament. In the case of a tie in the standings, head to head records will be used. If still a tie, run differential among tied teams, lastly a coin flip. If more than two teams are tied, the tie breakers are used to determine the top seed among the tied teams. After one spot is determined, the remaining teams will start over with the tie breakers. Records must be submitted to tournament host coordinator as soon as possible. **Coaches please contact the tournament host 7-10 days prior to the start of the tournament with your current record, in an effort to speed up the seeding process.**

2. During each tournament, the tournament host team will be responsible for providing a minimum of two umpires for each tournament game. Each team will be responsible for contributing two new balls to the host team during the tournament.
3. Early round games will use regular season time limits, but Championship and 3rd place games will be played to their entirety. Mercy rules and mathematical elimination will still be used in all games. Any games suspended due to weather will be resumed at the point the game was suspended and played to its completion.
4. Any league with more than 8 teams will start their tournament on Sunday, leagues with 8 or fewer teams will start on Monday.
5. Teams will not be permitted to warm up on the field before games during the tournament.
6. All lineup changes must be reported to the official scorekeeper and to the opposing team.
7. The Bi-County baseball league will furnish trophies for the first, second, third and fourth place teams, unless there are 6 or fewer teams in a league then only three places will be given. Trophies will be given to each player on the regular season first place team.

VII. Conduct and Process

1. If a coach has to be forcibly removed from a game due to un-sportsmanlike behavior, it will constitute a one game suspension for the next game. Any future such instances will constitute a lifetime ban from coaching in the Bi-County League. Any such incident is to be reported to the Bi-County League.
2. These rules are specific to this league, anything not covered is subject to the NFHS rule book.
3. It is expected that these rules will be understood and adhered to by all coaches and umpires in the Bi-County League. Every attempt should be made to work out any differences and clarify ground rules prior to the beginning of each game to minimize any difficulties, which may ensue. Protest of games is discouraged by the Bi-County League.
4. Protests are discouraged and must be made by town presidents.
5. Anyone, including fans, using profanity or offensive words towards the umpires, coaches or players will be removed by the umpire or tournament director.

Bi-County President- Dan Summers