



2026 UTAH GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION STATE TOURNAMENT RULES Falcon League



NO DOGS / Animals, Bikes, Scooters, Skateboards, Hover Boards or Rollerblades allowed in any of the Parks!

1. **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP.** Every coach, player and fan is responsible to show good sportsmanship, loyalty, honesty and courage in meeting and supporting the AIMS and OBJECTIVES of UGSA. If we lose track of our objectives, we lose the game no matter what the final score is.
2. **CHECK IN WITH AREA TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS AT LEAST ONE HOUR PRIOR TO YOUR FIRST GAME.** They will review rosters with you (they will have an official copy) and add the pick-up player and uniform numbers where needed. Plan to have your equipment checked at this time. Chin straps are not required on batting helmets. Metal cleats are not allowed.
3. **LINE UPS.** Coaches WILL bat their entire line-up (including pickup player) which will allow them free defensive substitution throughout the game. This is not an option! The batting order must remain the same for the entirety of the game.

Defensively, ten players will play — the extra player must play in the outfield. The four outfielders must be positioned in the traditional outfield position in an umbrella formation. Outfielders must line-up in the grass of a skinned infield. Outfielders are not to be used as extra infielders.

A team failing to field fewer than nine uniformed players will be assessed an automatic out.
(9 Players = no outs, 8 Players = 1 automatic out, 7 Players = forfeit)

4. **SUBSTITUTION RULE.** Coaches may move their players defensively in the field at their discretion. The batting order must remain constant for the entire game. No designated defensive players allowed.
5. **BASE RUNNERS.** Base runners shall not leave their base until the pitched ball has reached the batter. The ball will be considered as having reached the batter when it reaches home plate. If the base runner leaves the base before the ball reaches the batter, the base runner is out. The pitched ball then becomes dead. **Falcon will not be allowed to steal home when leading by 12 or more runs!**
NO DELAY STEALING!
6. **BALL GAME TIME LIMIT.** Ball games will be limited to 1 hour. No new innings should begin after the 1 hour time limit. Time limit is based on when the last out is made. Championship game will be limited to 1 hour 15 minutes. All mercy rules will be in effect for all games including the championship game. If an "IF" game is required after the championship game, the time limit again applies to this game.

Mercy Rules: 15 runs after three innings, 12 runs after four innings and 8 runs after five innings.

The first two innings of play will be governed by a 6 run offensive limit. The last play will be live. This will allow more than 6 runs to be scored. Once the play is completed teams will switch.

When a game is tied at the end of regulation innings or the expiration of the time limit, the game will be decided by an international tie-breaker.

7. **PICK-UP PLAYER.** Pick-up players can play in any position and must play in their own team's uniform

8. **SLIDE RULE.** A runner is out when they do not legally slide or attempt to get around a player who **HAS** the ball and is ready to make a tag. This is **NOT** a “must slide rule.” Any player who does not attempt to get around the player and cause malicious contact will be ejected from the game. Umpire discretion on attempt and malicious. Any fielder that blocks the base path without possession of the ball will be called with obstruction
9. **INTERFERENCE RULE.** The catcher or fielder cannot block the home plate when she does not have the ball. The runner can try to elude the tag by running around or sliding into home plate. If a player does not slide and the umpire feels (**judgement call**) that interference occurred as a result of such conduct, the runner is automatically out, the ball is dead, and every other base runner must return to the last base touched at the time of the collision. If the act is flagrant, the runner is ejected from the game and suspended for the following game.
10. **CONFERENCES.** Offensively, only one time out can be taken in a ½ inning. Coaches can give signs to all batters in a timely manner. Coaching players in between innings does not constitute a time out.

Defensive Conferences: The defensive team will be allowed a total of three conferences without penalty during a game. After three charged conferences in a game, or for any charged conference in excess of one in each extra inning, the pitcher shall be removed as pitcher. A conference is not charged when a pitching change is made.
11. **PITCHING.** The pitcher must start with the pivot foot in contact with the rubber. U.G.S.A. will allow a pitcher to step backward from the pitching rubber with the non-pivot foot while delivering the ball. Falcon/Filly - there is no such thing as a crow hop as far as UGSA is concerned.
12. **INFIELD OR BATTING PRACTICE.** There will be no infield or batting practice taken on the field prior to game time.
13. **PITCHERS CIRCLE.** All play must stop when the pitcher is standing within the pitching 8 foot radius circle and the ball enters or passes through the circle — regardless of whether the pitcher catches it or not. Base runners must go to the nearest base. **NO DELAY STEALING!**
14. **PROTESTS.** Any protest must be made at the time of the infraction, before the next pitch is thrown, and will be handled quickly by the tournament director and the host committee of at least two additional people (3 total). No appeal beyond them. Game clock will stop, however no undue game delay will be allowed for lengthy protests.
15. **GATE FEES.** \$3.00 per person per day (age 12 and over) will be charged to those attending except for players and coaches (2 only) and the spouses of coaches. This admission fee helps cover costs of umpires, softballs, scorekeepers and awards.
16. **HOME TEAM.** Home team will be determined by a coin flip until the championship game. In the championship game, the home team will be the undefeated team. If an “IF” game is required, home team will be the winning team of the first championship game. There are no assigned dugouts.
17. **WEATHER.** In the event of inclement weather that results in game cancellation or postponement, tournament host will be required to play games on the next available calendar day that the fields are playable, excluding Sunday. Host city will determine day and time according to field playability.

***** THESE & ALL OTHER U.G.S.A. RULES APPLY *****

GOOD LUCK! Play well ... play fair ... and have FUN!

REMEMBER . . . IT IS JUST A GAME!