

Summary of 2013 Hereford Zone Recreation Council Softball Rules - 7th Edition USSSA Rules apply unless a exception listed below

	<u>K - 1st - 2nd Grade</u>	<u>3rd - 4th Grade</u>	<u>5th - 6th Grade</u>	<u>7th - 10th Grade</u>
Length of Game (1)	6 Innings	7 Innings	7 Innings	7 Innings
Minimum players/Forfeits (5)	6	6	6	6
Ball Size	11" flex	11"	11"	12"
Base Distance	55'	60'	60'	60'
Pitching Distance-USSSA Rules	N/A	35'	40'	43'
Pitcher	Coach Pitch	Player (6)	Player	Player
Batting	Entire Team	Entire Team	Entire Team	Entire Team
Bunting	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dropped 3rd Strike	No	No	Yes	Yes

Minimum Inn/Game	N/A	4 (4)	4 (4)	5 (4)
Infield Fly Rule	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
# of Fielders	10 (2)	10 (3)	10 (3)	9
Pitch Limit	N/A	4 innings	4 innings	4 innings
Runner leaves base ball	Is hit	Crosses Plate	Crosses Plate	Pitched
Sliding	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stealing	No	Only 3rd base (not 2nd)	Only 2nd & 3rd (not home)	Yes
Lookback Rule in effect	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Substitute runner for cather	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Face Mask on Batters Helmet	No	Strongly Recommened	Strongly Recommened	Strongly Recommened
Foul Balls after two strikes	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Courtesy Runner-Pitcher/Catcher	N/A	Last out	Last out	Last out
Max runs/inning (last inn - no limit)	5 (except last inn)	5 (except last inn) (7)	5 (except last inn) (7)	5 (except last inn) (7)
Pitcher hits a batter with the ball (8)	Batter gets 1st	Batter gets 1st	Batter gets 1st	Batter gets 1st

(1) Umpire will call last inning on or about 7:45

(2) Maximum infielders will be 7 including catcher, no closer than pitcher.

(3) Maximum infielders will be 6 including catcher, no closer than pitcher.

(4) No "slaughter rule" in place. Games are played until all innings are finished or the umpire calls the game (for time/weather).

(5) The team forfeits the game if they don't have the minimum player BUT games are still played AND umpired even if the minimum players is not met.

(6) Coach Assist Pitch Rule

- The rule starts in the 1st inning.

- The coach pitches from 35 ft just like the players.

- The coach comes in if the count is 3 balls (any # of strikes). The pitcher comes back in for the next batter.

- The coach pitches to his own batters and can strike them out on swings or called pitches.

- If a coach pitcher hits a batter with the ball, the batter gets 1st.

- When the coach is in, the pitcher stands to the right or left of the coach & fields all balls that come her way. The coach can't make any plays.

- There is no limit to the number of pitches a coach can pitch to his players.

- A runner can steal when the ball crosses the plate, but she can only steal 3rd.

(7) Maximum of 5 runs, except for the last out and then all runs count until the play ends.

(8) After a pitcher hits a third batter, they may not pitch for the remainder of the game.

Exception from USSSA rules