

## 2026 Washington County Juniors Girls' Softball Rules

1. Players wanting to play Juniors must be going into 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th grade of the upcoming school year. Younger players may be used if needed to make a team (roster may be filled up to 10 if you are using players from Coach Pitch). Pitchers for Juniors may pitch for Seniors and then come back to pitch at the Junior level.
2. NFHS rules will apply with the following exceptions:
3. Per NFHS rules: The pitcher must start with one foot on the rubber. REVISED MARCH 2021
4. All players must be in the line-up for 3 defensive outs OR one at bat or that team must forfeit the game. A player that starts the game can play and re-enter the game once. When a player re-enters, she must go back into the same batting order that she had previously occupied. In case of injury or illness, this rule does not apply and substitutes may be used. A team must have 7 players to play a game.
5. All players must wear shoes.
6. The distance between the bases will be 60'. The pitcher's mound will be 40' from the BACK of home plate.
7. A 12" ball will be used, either fluorescent or white. All teams will use the Dudley 12", Cor.47 ball cork center – no rubber core. Two new balls will be provided by the home team for games.
8. Regular Season Games will start at 8:30pm and will be only 5 innings or 90 minutes. An inning will consist of 3 outs or 6 runs, whichever comes first. If a team is so far ahead that the other team cannot win, the game is considered over. If the game is tied after regulation play, up to 2 extra innings can be played if needed. If the score is still tied after the additional 2 innings, the number of outs during the game will be counted to determine the winner.
9. The catcher must wear a chest protector, facemask, throat protector and helmet.
10. A runner may not leave the base UNTIL THE BALL LEAVES THE PITCHER'S HAND. In the event a runner leaves early, the play is called "dead" with that runner out and all other base runners returning to the base they occupied. A warning may be issued by the umpire but not required.
11. The infield fly rule is in effect.

12. The visiting team, followed by the home team, may take up to 5 MINUTES infield before the game for warm up.

13. Pitchers will be allowed 5 warm up pitches between innings and 7 pitches before the game. A substitute pitcher may take up to 7 pitches when coming in for relief.

14. 2 high school age or older umpires are required and furnished by the home team. A younger umpire may be used if approved by the visiting team. Please make sure your umpires have read the rules. If you have a question about a call, wait until the play is dead, call time out and ask to approach the umpire that made the call. Please be respectful and remember that most umpires are of high school age and volunteering their time.

15. A safety base will be used at every league game and will be used when there is a play at first base. If the throw pulls the first baseman from the white base the runner may use the white base to avoid a collision. The fielder may then touch the safety base to record the out.

16. Each team must submit a roster to the league secretary prior to the first scheduled game.

17. Players must play at least half of the regular season games in their respective town to play in the league tournament at the end of the season.

18. To appeal a missed base, once the ball is dead, the coach must first call a timeout and then inform the umpire of the base they wish to appeal. A throw does not need to be made to that base to appeal the call.

19. Following NFHS rules, anytime there is a force out at any base for the 3rd out, runs will not count, even if the player crosses the plate before the out occurs.

20. To add a team to the league, a majority vote must be attained. Each level (t-ball, coach pitch, junior and senior) will only vote for their level. One vote per team.

Tournament Rotation: When it is your turn to host the tournament and you choose to pass, the next team will have the option. You must wait until it is your turn again to have the option. Any new team entering the league will have to go to the end of the rotation. If your town fails to send a team to the tournament that is played in the regular season, you will lose your turn in the rotation.

Palmer 2026, Clifton/Clyde 2027, Washington 2028, Hanover 2029, Valley Heights 2030