

Please refer to CVF General Rules and the USA Softball official rulebook for complete rulings.

12U, 14U, 16U, 18U CVF LEAGUE RULES (updated 1/1/2019)		
Base distance	60 ft.	
Batting/base running	Yes (#3) Yes (#4)	1.) Runners may advance as far as they wish at their own risk on any fair hit.
		2.) Bunting <u>IS</u> allowed.
		3.) Batters hit by pitch will be awarded a free base.
		4.) Pitcher is in control in 16 foot circle, with no immediate play by offense; the look-back rule is in effect (USA Softball rule 8, section 7, article T, & R/S #34).
		5.) THROWN BAT INFRACTIONS STRICTLY ENFORCED (SEE USA SOFTBALL RULEBOOK, R/S #52) -- NO WARNINGS!
Defensive substitutions		Free defensive substitutions are allowed throughout the game. Note pitcher limitations in "pitching" section.
Dropped 3rd strike	Yes	
Game ball	12" regulation	Provided by umpire.
Game time limits/ innings	1 hr. 30 min. or 7 innings	No new inning after one hour, thirty minutes.
Grace period	10 minutes	Game shall be forfeited when unable to field the minimum 7 defensive players.
Infield fly rule	Yes	
Minimum number of players	7	A team may start a game with a minimum of 7 players, but may not continue with less than 7 players. Players showing up late may be added to the defensive team at any time, and shall be placed at the bottom of the batting roster.
# of defensive players/ positioning	10 (12U) 9 (14/16/18U)	6 maximum infielders (including pitcher and catcher). Infielders are defined as players positioned on the skinned (non-grass) areas of the playing field. Outfield players must position themselves at least 10 feet behind the baseline.
Pitching		1.) Players will pitch to opposing team.
		2.) 4 consecutive inning limit for pitchers; No re-entry. One pitch in an inning constitutes a complete inning.
		3.) Pitching substitutions must be announced to the official scorekeeper at the time of substitution.
		4.) Pitcher must wear protective headgear (see CVF general rules).
		5.) Two consecutive batters or the third batter in the game hit by a pitch delivered by the same pitcher shall require the immediate removal of that pitcher from pitching. A pitcher removed from a game may field any other defensive position for the remainder of the game, but shall not re-enter as a pitcher.
		6.) Illegal pitch: See CVF general rules and USA Softball rulebook (rule 6 -- fast pitch).
		7.) Trips to the mound by manager/coach shall be kept to a minimum. Two charged conferences in one inning in the game to the same pitcher shall cause removal of that pitcher from pitching for the rest of the game. Player may assume another position.
Pitching distance	40 ft.	12U: 40 ft. live arm. See "pitching" section for pitching specifications.
	43 ft.	14U, 16U, 18U: 43 ft. live arm. See "pitching" section for pitching specifications.
Protests	Yes	A protest properly filed shall have a hearing scheduled within 48 hours of the protest (see Article XII in CVF bylaws & USA Softball rule 9).
Rotation rule		Managers and coaches shall rotate players in and out of defensive positions so that a player on the bench one inning shall be in the field the next inning. EVERY PLAYER MUST PLAY AT LEAST ONE INNING IN THE INFIELD IN EVERY GAME.

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Run limit per inning & "Equalizer" rule	4 runs	<p>1.) A half inning shall end when either three (3) outs are made by the defense or when four (4) runs are scored by the offense (Exception: See "Equalizer Rule" below).</p> <p>2.) Equalizer Rule: Teams trailing in the game may score additional runs above the 4 run limit. Teams may score no more than 4 additional runs over their opponent's score to "equalize" the 4 run limit.</p> <p>3.) When the fourth run is scored or trailing team goes up by four, the ball is immediately dead, and teams shall change sides.</p>
Stealing	Yes	Runner can leave base as soon as sthe ball leaves the pitcher's hand. Effect if runner leaves early: Dead ball, runner is out, and all other runners return to the last base occupied. Runners may advance more than one base per pitch, and may steal home.
Trips to the mound/ charged conferences		Trips to the mound shall be kept to a minimum. Two charged conferences in one inning in the game to the same pitcher shall cause removal of that pitcher from pitching for the rest of the game. Player may assume another postion.