

**NEOSHO VALLEY
PONYTAIL RULES
Revised May 2024**

AGE: 5th thru 7th grade girls are eligible to play.

TEAM: Teams may play with 9 or 10 players in the field.

LINEUPS: Each coach has the option of putting all his players in the batting order if they choose to do so, however they must have at least a 10 player lineup if they have enough players on their bench. If teams have less than 9 players in their batting lineup they will take an out each time those spots come up in the batting order. Any player listed in the batting order may play the field each inning, up to the maximum of 10. Any players not in the batting order have to use the standard re-entry rule, which states that a substitute may enter the game for a starter and the starter may re-enter the game at a later point, but must be entered in the same spot of the batting order.

RUN RULE: The offensive team shall bat until they get three outs or score 6 runs.

PITCHING: The pitching distance is 40'. ASA rules regarding fast pitch pitching shall be in effect. No intentional walks are permitted. Five warm-up pitches are allowed between innings.

STOPPING PLAY: Once the pitcher has the ball in the 8' radius circle around the pitching mound runners must immediately advance to the base they are going or proceed immediately back to the previous base touched. Any hesitation will result in an out being called.

GAME LENGTH: Doubleheaders will be scheduled if field availability allows. Games will be 5 innings in length with a 1 ½ hour time limit in the 1st game and a 1 hour time limit in the second. If the game is tied in the 1st game at the end of the time limit or regulation it will be extended for 1 extra inning. No extra innings shall be played in the 2nd game. **Only the first game will count towards a team's record for league standings.** All Games will be ruled over when the run rule makes the score mathematically out of reach. **Seeded games will not be double headers and will be 7 innings with a 2 hour time limit.** There will be 10 minutes between games, teams must be ready to start play after this time period.

BASES: The bases shall be 60' apart.

BATS: Softball bats must bear a current ASA or USSSA certification mark on its taper. All certification marks must be permanently applied to the bats by the manufacturer and may not be a sticker or decal.



HELMETS: All girls batting helmets must be equipped with an attached facemask.

BALLS: Ponytail shall use white or optic yellow 12" fast pitch softballs.

CHANTING: Team cheers are encouraged; however, teams should direct all chatter and comments to their team only.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:

1. Infield fly rule will be used.
2. NO dropped third strike rule.
3. Runners may steal as long as they do not leave the base until the ball has left the pitcher's hand.
4. No jewelry or body adornments shall be worn.
5. Infield practice will only be permitted when time permits and if both teams have the same opportunity to have it.
6. Neosho Valley leagues are tobacco and alcohol free.
7. **Steel Cleats are not permitted.**