

# 2026 Rule Change Overview

## Section IV, Rule 7 (Starting and Ending Of The Game)

In boys and girls A, B and C, any inning beginning after 1 hour and 30 minutes from the scheduled start time will be called “open inning” and will have no run limit per half inning. No inning shall start after 1 hour 45 minutes from the scheduled start time. Both games will end no later than 1 hour 55 minutes after the scheduled start time of the game, unless an at bat is taking place at that time, in which case that at bat will be allowed to be completed naturally, and the game will end immediately following the completion of that at bat.

This adds a time triggered “open inning” to add excitement to the end of the game and give the losing team a chance to come back in the last inning if they are down by more than 5 runs.

## Section XIX, Rule 5 (E Division)

Games will end one hour after the scheduled start time, regardless of the score and regardless of the inning being played. There will be no “open inning” for Class E games. There will be a five (5) run maximum rule for every half-inning of every Class E game.

We’re shortening the game length in E division to one hour due to feedback that Players lose interest/focus after an hour.

## Section XIV, Rule 5 & Section XVIII, Rule 5 (Girls & Boys D)

Games will be scheduled at 5:30pm or 7:30pm. No inning shall begin after 1 hour and 30 minutes from the scheduled start time and games will end no later than 1 hour and 45 minutes from the scheduled start time, regardless of the score and regardless of the inning being played. There will be no “open inning” for Class D games. There will be a five (5) run maximum rule for every half-inning of every Class D game.

This change aligns scheduled start times with older divisions so divisions can play all their games on the same field.

## Rule Change XVIII, Rule 6 (Girls D)

Pitches will be delivered from a Coach or representative from the offensive team. If the batter has not hit the ball after three pitches, the batting tee will be used. Only one ball may be used at a time, and the catcher must return the ball to the pitcher after each pitch. The Coach pitcher must make every effort to avoid interfering with a batted ball or a defensive play. If the Coach is hit by the batted ball or by a ball thrown to first in an attempt to get the batter out, the play will be ruled dead and treated as a foul ball. If the Coach is hit by any other thrown ball, the play will be ruled dead and the umpire will award the runners the base they would have reached if there was no interference.

We’ve changed Girls D to Coach pitch because our pitching machines throw balls in a downward motion as it would be delivered in baseball, not softball. This will better prepare girls for higher levels of softball.

## Section II, Rule 5 (Substituting, Coaching And Charged Conference)

A coach shall be allowed one trip to the pitching mound per inning, which must be limited to 45 seconds from the time the Umpire calls time out. If a second trip is made to the pitching mound during any one inning, he/she must change pitchers. Attending to an injured player does not constitute a charged conference.

This sets a limit on the time allowed for a charged conference to keep the game moving and prevent Coaches from using pitching changes to stall the game.