

## **FOUR CORNERS FASTPITCH ASSOCIATION RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **3.01 AMENDMENTS**

Amendments shall be approved by two-thirds of the general membership in attendance at a general meeting. Amendments shall be presented to the board in writing at least two weeks prior to the meeting or presented by the board at the General Meeting of the league.

### **3.02 PLAYER INFORMATION**

**3.02.01** Seasonal year and age limit definition - shall be governed by USSSA age requirements. Insurance and registration shall be for the same period of time. Recreational players will participate on a team in their own geographic location unless she has approval to be playing in a different geographic location. Competitive teams may be formed from more than one area. Please refer to the USSSA website competition age calculator to define the appropriate age group for your player.

- A. The Head Coach of each team shall have the sole and final responsibility to determine that each player on his/her team satisfies the age requirement for that particular age group division. The Vice-President of an age group division may, at any time, require any player in that division to provide verification of her birth date. The penalty for the use of an ineligible player in any game shall be as set forth in the current USSSA rulebook.
- B. If there is a conflict within a team, it may be brought to the attention of the Vice-President of the respective division by the player, parent, or coaching staff. If no understanding or agreement can be reached, the Board of Directors shall be approached. Any decisions reached by the Board will be final.
- C. Refunds of player registration fees will be made only until the first regular season game is played.
- D. Families having more than three players shall only pay registration fees for three.
- E. The FCFA does not allow males to participate on teams in the 6U division and up, if there is currently an existing program for males, in Farmington, in that particular age division.

#### ***Age Groups & Designation:***

- T-Ball - (3& 4) will not have reached the age of 5 by January 1st but will have reached the age of 3 before the current season begins.
- 6U Coach Pitch- (5& 6) has not reached the age of 7 by January 1st.
- 8U Coach Pitch - (7 & 8) has not reached the age of 9 by January 1st.
- Under 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 - same as above.
- Playing-up of a player will be limited to playing up one age division above a player's normal age group for players under the age of U-12 and will require board approval. U-14 and above players will be in accordance with guidelines of the USSSA and board approval.
- In the event two or more sisters have registered to play in the league and fall into the same group division, it will be the coach's option to have the sisters placed on the same team. The team will be the one the older sister is a member of. However, the sisters are counted as two picks from the allotted 12.

For those players wishing to transition from the 12U division to the Senior division (14U) they will be committed to their 12U team until after the End of Season tournament. They may then contact the Senior Division VP to begin the transition. A fee of \$40 will be implemented.

### **3.02.02 PROOF OF AGE AND PLAYER PARTICIPATION**

All players must have registered with FCFA to be eligible to play or practice in FCFA. If a player is ejected from a game for any reason, they will be reported to the FCFA board. The player is ineligible to participate in another game until the board has concluded that she may participate.

However, the player shall be open to "challenge" by the opposing team. If the coach of the opposing team desires to challenge, he or she must notify the umpire or board official and the coach of the player that the player is under "challenge" prior to the start of the game. The player(s) being challenged shall give their name and birthday to the official. The challenged player shall then contact the President or VP of their perspective age group for verification. If the player is registered correctly, then the matter is finished. If the player is not properly registered, his/her team shall automatically forfeit the game and may face further disciplinary action by the Board. Authority to contest: any player can be called upon to prove his or her legal age by the Board or umpire or by a majority vote of the teams in the league.

### **3.02.03 PLAYER PARTICIPATION**

In the event a coach would like to drop a player due to lack of participation, the following procedure must be adhered to:

- A. After four (4) unexcused absences, from either practices or games, the coach must notify the VP of that age group.
- B. The VP will call the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the player and try to ascertain what the problem is.
- C. The VP will then get back with the Coach and review the discussion with the player's parent(s) or guardian(s).
- D. In any event, that player will only be allowed two (2) more unexcused absences and will then be dropped from the team's roster.
- E. An unexcused absence shall be defined as "any absence in which the player, parent(s) or guardian(s) neglect to call the coach and inform him/her that the player will not be present for a scheduled practice or game.

Before a player is permitted to play, a player must pay the annual registration fee. If a player is allowed to play in a game without complying with the registration fee, it shall result in game forfeiture.

### **3.02.04 PLAYER'S TEAM OBLIGATION**

A player shall be obligated to her recreational team only for regularly scheduled, season play. For FCFA hosted tournaments refer to rule 3.07

### **3.02.05 PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT/UNIFORMS**

Players must be equipped with the appropriate equipment for practices and games.

T-Ball/6U/8U are required to wear the T-Shirts that were provided at the beginning of the season. In the event a team is not wearing the required league issued T-Shirt a \$75.00 penalty will be assessed. All subsequent games will be forfeited until the fine has been paid.

U-10 and up teams may wear uniforms of their choosing provided they comply with the authority of the USSSA association. It is the responsibility of the player to return all equipment at the end of the season, failure to do so will result in penalty as set forth by the Board of Directors.

Should two teams appear wearing the same colors, the following method shall be used to determine which team must change into a contrasting color:

- A. If only one team is wearing its area color, the team not wearing its area color must change into an alternate jersey.
- B. If both teams are wearing their area colors, or if neither team is wearing its area color, the home team must change into an alternate jersey.
- C. The umpire or board official will have discretion over the matter.

### **3.03 COACHES INFORMATION**

#### **3.03.01 BASIC REGULATIONS**

Coaches shall not verbally or physically abuse any player on either team, regardless of whether that person is a parent of said player. Coaches shall be responsible for the actions of their assistant coaches and/or parent helpers. Coaches, assistant coaches, parent helpers and players must remain within the designated areas at all times while play is in progress. Parents/Spectators are to remain outside the fence during the game. Coaches are to maintain an orderly player bench. Players should not be allowed to practice within the field area, regardless of what teams are playing, while a game is in progress. Coaches and assistant coaches shall control crowd abuse or poor sportsmanship, especially from their own team's supporters. **Please refer to the Zero Tolerance policy adopted in Spring 2019.**

- A. If your team does not have a full roster at the time of rostering and per 3.04.01 you are assigned players, it is not permitted to demand that a player pay additional money above normal costs that may be associated with the team fee and uniforms.
- B. Coaches are to have their teams police litter in practice and/or game areas.
- C. The Board reserves the right to dismiss any coach when deemed necessary.
- D. Those persons having youth eligibility will be allowed to be managing, coach or assistant coach in the following capacities as outlined below and is contingent on-board approval:
  - i. Must be 16 years or older to be a manager or head coach of the 10U, 8U and Tball divisions, and have at least one assistant coach that is 20 years of age or older.
  - ii. Must be at least 15 years of age to be an assistant coach.
- E. Head Coaches must be in control of their team at all times. Any profanity, smoking, alcoholic beverages, or unsportsmanlike conduct on or off the field will not be tolerated. Any violations of this nature shall be reported to the secretary in writing to the Board of Directors who in turn will determine the appropriate action to be taken.
- F. If any umpire, coach, assistant coach, parent, spectator, or player is found violating any USSSA rules, league rules or league By-Laws, or conducting themselves in a manner that indicates misrepresentation of the intentions and/or standards of the league, the guilty person(s) will be reprimanded. Violations of this nature will be reviewed by the Board of Directors who will use their discretion in determining the necessary action to be taken, based on the nature of the violation. Guilty people may be suspended from the league.
- G. Any coach, assistant coach, parent, spectator, or player making physical contact with an official, coach, assistant coach, or player with intent of bodily harm will be automatically suspended and banned from any future participation in league activities.
- H. Any coach ejected will be required to meet with the BOD and/or special committee. Refer to Risk management policy.

- I. If a Head Coach falsely indicates that a player is leaving the team or guilty of coercing a player to leave his or her team, that Head Coach will be suspended from league participation for the remainder of the season and the following season and the player in question returned to the team.
- J. Background checks are required for all coaches, managers, and assistant coaches. Background check results will be evaluated on an individual basis. Coaches with reports including conviction of abuse or neglect of a minor will be immediately relieved of all coaching responsibilities indefinitely from the League. See Risk Management for more details.

### **3.04 TEAM INFORMATION**

#### ***3.04.01 ROSTER LIMIT***

A team is required to carry 10 for TBall and 12 (6U-18U) on its roster if players are available. The VP of any age group at his or her discretion may require a team to carry more than the designated 10/12 players on its roster at any time, but no more than 13. If a team roster drops below the limit, then the coach should contact the VP of his or her age group and ask for a player from the waiting list. No refunds will be given for any player assigned to a team after May 1st of any year unless the registration date changes. The roster must be submitted two weeks prior to the first scheduled game to your designated VP. Once a player has been assigned to a team that becomes the primary team for the player. If additional players are added to the team, permission slips must be completed before they are permitted to play.

#### ***3.04.02 PLAYER TRANSFER OR RELEASE***

Once a player is assigned to a team, the player is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless:

- A. The team disbands or
- B. The player moves to a new address which makes it impractical in the opinion of the Board for him/her to continue with the original team.
- C. If a player desires to transfer teams, an application must be made to the BOD for release as follows:
  - i. A player wishing to change teams at any time after completion of the team assignments will be required to obtain a written release from the Head Coach of the team from which the release is sought. In the event the coach will not grant the requested release, the player may petition the Board for the release. The Board may grant, in writing within 48 hours, the requested release after review of the circumstances. In the event the requested release is granted, the player shall not be eligible to play with any team for a period of two (2) weeks beginning with the date of the written release; provided, however, that in the event the release is granted prior to the beginning of regular season game play in the Division in which the player seeks to play, then the player shall not be eligible to play with any team until two (2) weeks after the beginning of regular game play in that Division.

The removal of a player from a roster shall not be effective until the Vice-President of the division in which the player is registered determines that removal is justified in accordance with the above guidelines or that the requirements for removal have been satisfied.

At any time, subsequent to the draft or team assignments, players who were not placed, not listed on a roster or who were removed from rosters in accordance with the guidelines set forth above may be added to a roster in accordance with the following guidelines:

- A. A player shall be assigned to a team on the basis of the rotation draft order; provided, however, that any team or teams having fewer players than any other team or teams shall be assigned the first available player or players.
- B. A player who has been released in accordance with the provisions set forth above shall be assigned as soon as a release has been obtained as specified above; and
- C. The Vice-President of the Division in which a player is registered shall make all decisions regarding the addition of a player to a team roster.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in this Paragraph, a player who quits a team without written release as provided above shall not be eligible to be added to another team roster.

### **3.04.03 REGISTRATION WAITING LIST**

Players interested in joining the FCFA, on a recreational team, after registration has closed, should contact the FCFA and ask to be put on a waiting list. When a coach calls his designated VP and asks for an "add-on player" the VP will give the coach the player's name at the top of the list. If for some reason the top player does not join that team, then that player will go to the bottom of the waiting list.

### **3.04.04 REGISTRATION**

At the time of the annual registration, each team's Head Coach will submit to their respective League Vice-President a roster that lists the player names.

A week prior to draft day, all coaches will submit their contract list of up to 10/12 players. All players on a coach's list must have paid their league participation fees.

On the day of the coaches meeting, coaches will submit their sponsor fee. Players not signed or players on a team with no sponsor fee submitted will then be placed on teams by a blind draw with the minimum number determined by the remaining player pool. Draft order will be determined by drawing lots. Teams will begin participation in the rotation draft once all teams have reached the same number of players. Ultimately it is the VP of that age group's decision.

No team will be permitted to play in the FCFA until all required league fees have been paid for.

### **3.05 SPONSORS**

Team sponsors shall pay a sponsor fee each year in an amount to be determined by the Board of Directors. There shall be no exceptions from the obligation to pay sponsor fees, or from the obligation to pay tournament entry fees for association-sponsored tournaments. A team cannot play in any regularly scheduled league games until the team sponsor fee has been paid. TBall/6U and U8 Leagues will pay \$250.00 sponsor fee and be provided with league tee shirts and equipment. They must wear the league tee shirts in league games. U10, U12 & Senior Division (14-18) will pay a sponsor fee of \$250 and will provide their own uniforms and equipment.

### **3.06 TOURNAMENT EXPENSE FUNDING**

The board will award a team with a donation in an amount determined upon a vote of the FCFA board based on our available funds for USSSA Nationals and World Series. Refer to 3.07 for Local Tournament participation requirements. The team representative will be required to submit a letter requesting funding to the board with documentation showing proof of qualification to the VP or Board. Teams who

receive automatic berths from the USSSA will not be eligible for funding from FCFA. Board vote will be of eligible voters with a quorum.

### **3.07 FCFA TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION**

- A. All teams participating in the Four Corners Fast Pitch Association, FCFA, who are in town the weekend of the Kathy Rouse Tournament, must participate in the tournament to be eligible for FCFA post-season money for consideration of National or World Series sponsorship.
- B. Any tournament that is hosted by FCFA will require that FCFA registered players must participate with their league team if their team is participating in the tournament, regardless of when league season has ended. This excludes the State Tournament and any Fall tourneys if FCFA is hosting.

### **3.08 GENERAL GAME INFORMATION~**

A. Borrowing Players: In the FCFA recreation league you are permitted to borrow players from other teams so as not to forfeit or cancel a game because of lack of players. Teams can borrow defensive players from opposing team during game. If you are aware before game time you will be borrowing players from another team the following steps must be followed:

1. Contact VP of your age group
2. Notify the Coach of the team you are borrowing player from and Coach of the team you will be playing.
3. If you borrow players, it is the coach's responsibility to ensure that the rostered players for the team take priority over the borrowed players.
4. The borrowed player is permitted to wear their regular jersey from the team they are rostered with.
5. If you have two or more teams in the league you will be required to provide a core roster for each team to your VP. Prior to each game the list of floating players is to be provided to the scorekeeper for tracking purposes. The floating player shall never take precedence or playing time over a core player.

**6. You may not borrow players for the End of Season Tournament**

- B. Pitchers will be required to wear a face mask, if a team does not have one the umpire will provide it.
- C. During league and the end of season tournament all subs and defensive changes must be reported to the plate umpire. If they are not reported and it is determined that a player was not reported as playing as outlined in the mandatory play rule, a coach shall be disciplined as outlined in the mandatory play rule.

### **3.09 General Game Regulations**

All play shall be conducted in accordance with the current USSSA Rule Book, with the exception of the 4-8-year-old divisions, which will be playing T-Ball, 6U or 8U. The 3-8-year-old division By-laws will be written by the respective Vice-President of that division and must be approved by the Board of Directors. All other divisions will play in accordance with the USSSA Rule Book with the exceptions listed as outlined in the Rules of the Game as approved by the Board of Directors.

#### **3.09.01 Time Limit**

Time Limit:(TBall/6U & 8U please refer to separate rule) Games will be played for a total of seven (7) innings for 12-18 age division, six (6) innings for 10U or for one hour and ten minutes (1 hr. 20 min), whichever comes first. If there is less than 2 minutes on the clock when the third out is made, a new inning WILL NOT START;

- A. 14-18 A&B Division: USSSA run rules will apply- 12 after 3, 10 after 4 and 8 after 5.
- B. 10U & 12U- League Run Rule 10 after 4

- C. At the end of one hour and twenty minutes, the inning shall be completed UNLESS the home team is at bat and already ahead on the score.
- D. No inning may start after the specified time limit has elapsed.
- E. Games can end in a tie.
- F. Coaches & Umpires will ensure that every player has had the opportunity to hit and play defense, in the event a team cannot catch up the inning will be flipped to give those players the opportunity to complete an at bat and defense. This is only for the team that is not ahead! If your team is winning, and you have not played all your players according to the Bylaws, disciplinary actions will occur according to policies set for by FCFA.
- G. Both the umpire and the scorekeeper will be keeping track of time, and only the umpire will call a game on the time limit.
  - 1. The scorekeeper will keep track of the following and provide the scoresheet with the below information along with a copy of the scorebook to the league at the end of each game day:
    - a. Lineups with "borrowed players" noted.
    - b. Substitutions
    - c. Umpires
    - d. Scorekeeper
    - e. Game time starts and ends.
    - Comments or Issues

### **3.09.02 Mandatory Play Rule**

All players must play a minimum of one (1) full inning in each game, consisting of one (1) time at bat and one (1) time on defense (3 outs). This requirement shall be referred to as the "Mandatory Participation Rule." Coaches (winning or losing) who violate the Mandatory Participation Rule will be suspended from coaching for the next scheduled game and will result in game forfeiture. Compliance with the Mandatory Participation Rule shall not be required under the following circumstances:

- A. When player injury or illness, compliance is impossible.
- B. When a player is absent from the game at the official game start time.
- C. When a player is under disciplinary action imposed by the manager or coach.

In the event a player is injured or becomes ill after substitutes have been used, a player previously in the game will be allowed to reenter as a replacement for the injured or ill player. The injured or ill player will not be allowed to return to the game.

In the event a player arrives at the game after the official game start time, the manager or coach, in his or her discretion, may, at any time, insert the player into the line-up; provided, however, that the Mandatory Participation Rule shall not apply to that player.

Refer to Rule 3.09.01 f regarding opportunities to flip an inning.

Senior Division Mandatory Play Rule to be determined by VP & Coaches before season begins.

## **Guidelines:**

1. Bat entire lineup-
  - i. 14-18U division may choose between batting the entire lineup or subbing in players
  - ii. Tball to 12U divisions all teams will be required to bat their entire lineup.
2. Free substitution
3. Integrity of the lineup must be maintained.
4. The following steps for reporting defensive changes must be followed for 10-18:
  - a. Original lineup must show what players will be playing defense first.
  - b. Subsequent changes will be reported to the press box scorekeeper. Refer to appendix A for example.

### **3.09.03 Required Number of Players and Rosters**

Official line-up cards are to be completed and submitted to the official scorekeeper or the umpire at the start of each game. The line-up shall contain the first and last name, position, and uniform number of each player.

If a team has less than 9 but more than 7, per our bylaws, may start a game with NO automatic outs for the batting order positions missing. Utilize the players from the opposing team for defensive players. If a forfeit occurs without 48 hours' notice a penalty will be assessed to cover the umpires & scorekeeper fees.

**NOTE:** *If a team has a vacant spot and a substitute arrives or the original player can play again, he/she must be inserted immediately into the vacant spot.*

### **3.09.04 Run Rule**

For 10/12 age division (TBall/6U & 8U refer to separate rules) there will be a six (6) run rule per inning. After the 6<sup>th</sup> run has scored, half of the inning will be over. If the batter drives in more than the 6<sup>th</sup> run, she will be credited for the additional RBIs, but the score shall not exceed six (6). Senior Division is at the discretion of the coaches to decide at the plate meeting.

### **3.09.05 Forfeits**

All decisions regarding forfeits as it relates to official starting times (i.e.: line-up must be turned in by the call of the first pitch), must be verified by an FCFA Board member before a game can be classified as a forfeit by any umpire.

## **3.10 PROTEST**

There will be a \$25.00 protest fee. Teams wishing to protest a game must do so at the point of the infraction, stopping the game and informing the umpire, the other coach and scorekeeper that the game will be played under protest. This means that a protest is legal only if it is made prior to the next pitch being made. The \$25.00 protest fee and the written account of the protest must be submitted to the Vice-President of their respective league. If the division Vice-President is not available, then the fee and the written protest may be presented to any of the officers on the league's Board of Directors. If the protest is deemed valid, the protest fee will be returned. Once a protest is made, it may not be withdrawn. Protest will be acted upon by the Board within 48 hours so receipt of the protest. Once the protest is filed, the required \$25.00 fee will be paid, or the protesting

coach will be suspended until the fee is paid. The protest procedure shall not be applicable to the enforcement of the Mandatory Participation Rule.

REVISED

Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2017, February 2018, August 2018, February 2019 USSSA updates, July 2019, January 2023, January 2024, September 2024, January 2025

Appendix A

Order	Jersey	Player	Position				
1	22	Jane Doe	P-1	P-1 indicates Pitcher 1st Inning			
2	23	Jane Doe	C-1				
3	24	Jane Doe	1B-1				
4	25	Jane Doe	2B-1				
5	26	Jane Doe	SS-1				
6	27	Jane Doe	3B-1				
7	28	Jane Doe	LF-1				
8	29	Jane Doe	CF-1				
9	30	Jane Doe	RF-1				
10	31	Jane Doe	P-2	P-2 indicates Pitcher 2nd Inning			
11	32	Jane Doe	LF-2				
12	33	Jane Doe	CF-2				
13	34	Jane Doe	3B-2				
* Coach will be required to confirm with scorekeeper that the change has occurred							