

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. The only fee to participate in Tar Heel Leagues, Inc. competition is a sanction fee of \$45.00 per team. All sanction fees are due by May 1 of the current season

2. Tar Heel Leagues, Inc. has adopted the USA Baseball bat standard for all baseball divisions. For 8U, 10U, 12U and 15U, all non-wooden bats must be USA Baseball approved and carry the USA Baseball stamp or, must be NFHS approved and carry the BBCOR stamp (High School) for use in Tar Heel Leagues. Bats may not exceed 2-5/8 inches in diameter nor 36 inches in length. There is no rule regarding weight/length ratio.

3. Tar Heel Leagues, Inc. recognizes and utilizes USA Softball's certification process. For a bat to be legal for use in a Tar Heel Leagues, Inc. sanctioned contest it must be marked with the ASA 2000, 2004, or the USA Softball All-Games Certification mark. All bats that are approved by USA Softball, formerly known as ASA, for use in fast pitch play shall bear one of these certification markings. Additionally, any bats with one of these certification marks must not appear on the list of the USA Softball Non-Approved Bats with Certification Marks list. This list was created to alert players and coaches that a bat that was once approved for use has now been deemed no longer approved for use.

Non-Approved Bat List with Certification Marks:

<http://usa.softball.com/e/BB1P2000.asp>

4. The mandatory play requirement rule for all softball and baseball age divisions is as follows: Each player listed on the lineup card and present for the game must have one (1) at bat and three (3) defensive outs in the field. PENALTY: Forfeit, unless the game is shortened by the run rule. Once the mandatory play rule is met, if a player is injured or sick and there are no available substitutes, the team may use an expended player to assume the position in the lineup. If a team is using a continuous batting order, the player making the last out will assume the position in the lineup.

5. **Baseball Pitching Rule change for 2023 (10U,12U,15U)** Allow any combination of 6 innings pitched (10U,12U) 7 innings pitched (15U) by the same pitcher in two games on the same calendar day.

6. Tar Heel Leagues Inc. has removed language prohibiting the wearing of jewelry.

7. **Softball Rule Change for 2023 (12U).** Dropped 3rd strike advancement has been removed from 12U softball. Batters **may not** advance to 1st base on a dropped 3rd strike. The ball is not dead, and all other base runners may advance at their own risk.