

COPPER STATE FASTPITCH

TOURNAMENT RULES & RAIN-OUT / REFUND POLICY

Effective for Copper State Fastpitch Events

1. Governing Rules

- **All teams are required to carry a valid team insurance policy and provide proof at check-in**
- Games will be governed primarily by the current National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Softball Rules, except where specifically modified by these Copper State Fastpitch tournament rules.
- Pitching will follow current NCAA softball pitching rules and requirements. If a pitching provision conflicts with an NFHS provision, the NCAA pitching provision will govern pitching mechanics and legality for this tournament.
- All other playing rules, including base running, batting, fielding, substitutions, dead-ball situations, interference, obstruction, and sportsmanship, will follow NFHS rules unless specifically modified below.
- The tournament director and umpires have final authority regarding tournament administration, field conditions, game management, and interpretation of these tournament modifications.

2. Lineups & Batting

- Teams may bat their entire roster/available lineup. A team is not required to limit its batting order to nine players.
- When batting the entire lineup, players may move freely in the defensive lineup without changing their place in the batting order, subject to the tournament's substitution rules and umpire notification.
- A team that elects to bat its entire lineup may continue to do so throughout the game unless a player is removed because of injury, disqualification, or another rule-based circumstance.
- The batting order submitted and accepted by the plate umpire is official. Any changes must be reported to the umpire before the player participates.

3. Courtesy Runners

- Courtesy runners are permitted for the pitcher and catcher at any time the applicable player reaches base, in both pool play and bracket play.
- If an eligible substitute is available, the substitute **MUST** be used as the courtesy runner.
- If no eligible substitute is available, the courtesy runner will be the player who made the last completed at-bat/out, as determined by the official scorekeeper.
- The same player may not serve as the courtesy runner for both the pitcher and catcher in the same inning when prohibited by the governing rule.
- A courtesy runner may not run for another courtesy runner.
- Teams are responsible for notifying the plate umpire and scorekeeper of all courtesy runners.
- These courtesy-runner provisions are a Copper State Fastpitch modification to simplify tournament play and apply in both pool play and bracket play.

4. Pitching

- NCAA pitching rules will govern pitching mechanics, delivery requirements, legal position, and illegal pitches.
- Pitchers must comply with the applicable NCAA requirements in effect for the current tournament season.
- Umpires will have final authority on pitching legality and may issue warnings, dead-ball penalties, or other penalties required by the applicable rule.
- Pitching changes should be reported to the plate umpire before the replacement pitcher delivers a pitch.

5. Game Management

- Tournament game time limits, run rules, time between innings, and other event-specific procedures will be posted in the tournament schedule or communicated at the coaches' meeting.
- Games that are shortened, suspended, or terminated because of weather, field conditions, darkness, or other circumstances will be handled by the tournament director in consultation with the umpires.
- The tournament director may alter schedules, field assignments, game times, or formats when necessary to protect players and staff and to complete the event safely.
- Teams are expected to be ready to play at their assigned field at the scheduled time. Delays caused by teams may result in penalties or a forfeit at the tournament director's discretion.

6. Rain-Out, Weather & Cancellation Policy

Copper State Fastpitch will make every reasonable effort to play scheduled games. Player and staff safety, field conditions, and the ability to complete the event will be the primary considerations when making weather-related decisions.

- If no games are played by a team because the tournament is canceled or conditions prevent play, the team will receive either a 100% credit toward a future Copper State Fastpitch event OR a refund of 90% of the entry fee (10% administrative fee retained).
- If 1 game is completed, the team will receive an 80% refund of the entry fee.
- If 2 games are completed, the team will receive a 60% refund of the entry fee.
- If 3 games are completed, the team will receive a 50% refund of the entry fee.
- If 4 or more games are completed, no refund will be issued.
- Refunds are based on the number of completed games for the affected team, not the total number of games completed by the tournament.
- A game is considered completed when it meets the tournament's official game-completion requirements or has been declared official by the umpires/tournament director.
- Once a game has been completed, that game counts toward the rain-out/refund calculation even if later games are canceled.
- Refunds will be processed after the tournament director determines the final weather-related status of the event. Processing timelines may vary based on the payment method.
- Credits are non-transferable unless approved by Copper State Fastpitch and must be applied to a future Copper State Fastpitch event.

7. Rain-Out / Refund Schedule

Games Completed	Refund	Credit Option
0	90% refund (10% admin fee)	100% credit to a future event

1	80% refund	—
2	60% refund	—
3	50% refund	—
4 or more	No refund	—

8. Weather Delays & Suspended Games

- When weather creates a temporary delay, teams should remain available unless released by the tournament director.
- The tournament director may shorten game times, modify schedules, or move games to available fields when necessary to maximize completed play.
- A suspended game may be resumed or declared complete at the discretion of the tournament director and umpires based on field availability, schedule constraints, weather, and tournament format.
- If a game is declared official, it will count as a completed game for purposes of the rain-out/refund policy.

9. Conduct & Sportsmanship

- Players, coaches, parents, and spectators are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and respect for umpires, opponents, tournament staff, and facilities.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct, harassment of umpires, fighting, or behavior that threatens the safety or integrity of the event may result in ejection, suspension, forfeit, or removal from the tournament.
- The tournament director may take action beyond the minimum NFHS penalty when necessary to protect the event, its participants, or its officials.

10. Tournament Authority

Participation in a Copper State Fastpitch event constitutes acceptance of these tournament rules and policies. The tournament director reserves the right to interpret, clarify, and modify tournament procedures when circumstances require, provided that player safety and competitive fairness remain the primary considerations.

Official Rule References

NFHS Softball Rules: Current NFHS softball rules and interpretations serve as the primary rules framework, except where modified above.

NCAA Softball Rules: Current NCAA softball rules govern pitching as specifically adopted by Copper State Fastpitch.