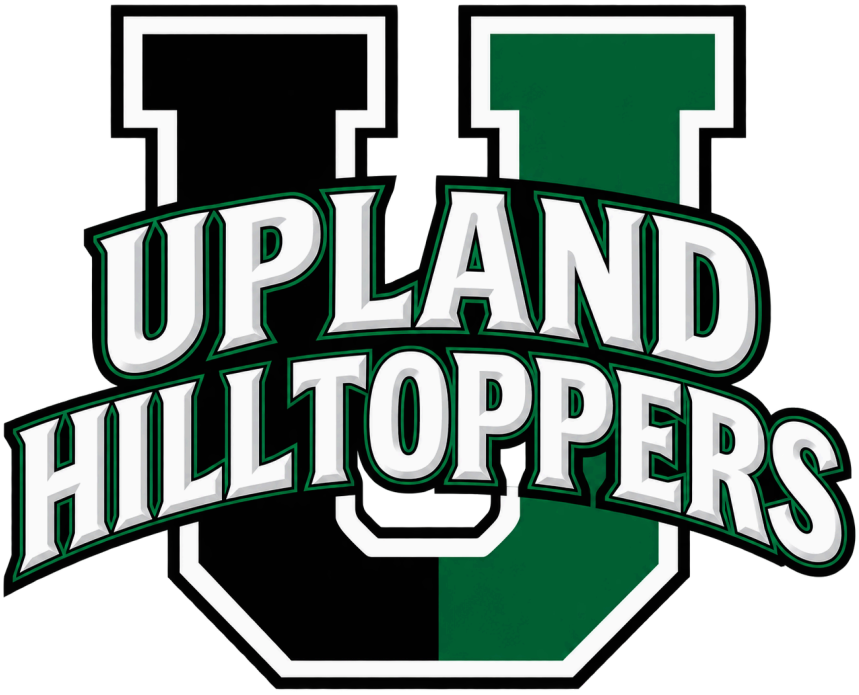


League Rules and Regulations

Revised July 2026

I. REGISTRATION

A. SIGN-UPS

1) Girls must play at their age level, unless otherwise approved by the Board.

2) A parent may request that one particular manager not draft his/her child with reasonable cause and explanation.

3) All information is confidential (1989).

B. ELIGIBILITY

Division eligibility is determined by the player's age September 1, of the current year.

1) T- Ball Ages 4 & 5 (2023)
2) 6U Ages 6 (2022)
3) 8U Ages 7 & 8
4) IOU Ages 9 & 10
5) 12U Ages 11 & 12
6) 14U Ages 13 & 14

C. LEAGUE ELIGIBILITY

Players who are interested in playing on a travel ball team, another recreational league, or a hardball league during the Hilltoppers season, require Board approval and will be based on a player's commitment to the Hilltoppers season. (2010).

D. ASSESSMENTS

Players will attend assessment events where athletes will participate in a series of demonstrative drills to allow managers to observe their skill level to prepare for player drafts. (2022)

1) Players will attend a drill demonstration where will be evaluated:

a) Pitchers will pitch 3-5 pitches from their age division mound distance for manager evaluation (2022)

b) Catchers will catch 3-5 pitches and throw from home plate to second base on their fifth pitch for manager evaluation. (2022)

2) General Assessments:

a.An athlete will receive 3-5 pitches in the batter's box to bat to. On the final pitch, athletes will be expected to sprint to first base for manager evaluation.

(2022)

b. An athlete will receive 3 pop ups at the second base position and throw each pop up to first base for manager evaluation. (2022)

c. An athlete will receive 3 grounders at the shortstop position and will be expected to throw each ball to first base for manager evaluation (2022)

E. Division Eligibility

1. Requesting to move divisions is not guaranteed and will be based on division registration and board approval.

2. Players may request to play down a division if they are new to the sport and would like to acclimate for safety purposes. The board will have to approve the request and may ask the athlete to assess in both divisions. (2022)

a. If the player plays down a division, they are no longer eligible for the Select Program or All Stars of the division they choose to play for. (2022)

3. Players may request to play up a division. The player will have to assess in both the current birth year division and the desired division. If a player chooses to play up in a higher division, then the player forfeits playing select or all stars in the younger division. The board will have to give the final approval to any request to play in another division.

a. If a player wants to try out for a Select team for an older division, they must apply and attend the mandatory work outs like any other applicant and go through the process for the league to evaluate who are the most competitive athletes for the roster and will be board approved. (2022)

b. Pending team availability, players may be asked to play at a different level for select and or all stars with board approval.
(2024)

II. PLAYER DRAFT AND TEAM STRUCTURE PROCEDURES

A. The forming of Upland Hilltoppers Girls Softball League teams and the player draft shall be conducted by the following rules and regulations:

1) All players will be in the open draft for 6u-14u divisions. (2026)

a) Exceptions:

1. Option player (who will be drafted as outlined in Section 9)

2. Blind Draft - A registered player eligible for the open draft who doesn't participate in tryouts will have her registration card turned face

down during the draft and will be "blind" drafted. When it is a manager's turn to draft, he/she may select from either the listed open draft numbers or select from the blind draft cards.

3. Blind Draft exclusions - Rated pitchers and all-stars will not be in the blind draft. Any other player unanimously agreed upon by the managers prior to the opening of the draft will also not be included in the blind draft. (1997)

4. Select All-star players from the previous year will be identified.

5.) DIVISIONS - The drafted and undrafted divisions will be titled as follows:

a)Drafted: 6U, 8U, IOU, 12U, 14U. (2024)

b) Undrafted: T-ball

1. Tball will be placed on a team by the board.

Teams will be divided as the board deems fit so they are evenly balanced. The following criteria will be used to balance the teams such as returning all star players, age, and skill in order to keep the teams balanced.

6.) MAXIMUM/ MINIMUM PLAYERS - The maximum number of players per team will be twelve unless otherwise voted by the board. The minimum number of players per team will be 10. (2022)

7.) The draft status of all registered players will be listed on an evaluation sheet prior to the official tryouts.

8.) The order of the draft will be determined by the drawing at the draft.

9.) If the manager is unable to attend the draft, he/she shall appoint an alternate to draft the team. He/she may not have an alternate with a child in the same division. If a team has not been assigned a manager, the Player Agent will appoint a Hilltopper Board member to draft the team. (1993) Only one manager or designee at the draft.

a.) The draft is a closed event for only the team designee's and Board members conducting the draft. (2022)

10.) Each team will have one (1) draft per round.

11.) The draft will be conducted in a top-to bottom, bottom-to-top fashion, i.e., 1 through 10, 10 through 1, etc.

12.) PITCHING POOL

A manager whose daughter has received an A or B rating as a pitcher either by the Board or by the divisional managers is restricted from drafting any rated pitcher in the first round of the draft.

He/she may not draft a sister-option in the first round when one or both of the sisters is a rated pitcher.

A manager whose daughter is a "C" rated pitcher may choose another "C" rated pitcher in the first round. (1997)

A.)Pitcher evaluation rating:

A-Rating:

Pitcher is a returning all star pitcher in same division or a pitcher who played in the Select program

B-Rating:

Pitcher who was an all star pitcher and moving up in division or a pitcher who played in the Select program

C-Rating:

Limited experience to pitching with minimal pitches or technique

D- Rating Beginner or no experience

B.) All players who would like to pitch in the season or who have taken the mound in any game must attend pitching assessments.

C.) Pitchers who have never pitched, new pitchers to the league, new pitchers who have taken pitching lessons will be rated in comparison to the A,B,C, D rating.

D.) Managers will come to a consensus on the A,B, C, and D rating for each pitcher.

13) <u>DRAFT POSITIONS:</u>

A.) Manager's/Sister options: To qualify as an option, the player must be a blood relation, (daughter, granddaughter) step-daughter or legal dependent of the manager.

More than one relation will be treated as a sister option. (1997)

B.) Ratings are:

1. #2 - All-Star A Rated pitcher or all star positional(same division) or original rostered select player (same division)
2. #5 - Non-selected

3. #3 - Coach's daughter if pitcher- B rating or All Star positional (moving up in division) or original rostered Select positional players moving up in a division

C.) If a manager's daughter:

1. Was selected as an "A" All-Star the previous season in any division or league, his/her daughter will be drafted in the second round.

2. Was a non-select player the previous year, she will be drafted in the fifth round.

3. Exception:

a. If an All-Star and/or Select player is moving from one division to another 8U to IOU, etc., they will move down one place in the draft. (2nd round to 3rd round) except for an "A" rated All-Star and/or Select pitcher, who will be drafted in the 2nd-round.

b. An "A" rated pitcher under manager's option will go in the same round as an "A" All-Star.

D.) Sister Option:

1. When two or more sisters are eligible for the same division, they shall be assigned/drafted on the same team, unless otherwise requested by parents.

2. Non-selected sisters shall be drafted four rounds apart. Any mandatory sister option must go when the last two picks are remaining for any manager.

Should sisters remain to be drafted after the tenth-round coaches will draw or have them assigned to their team.

3. Any manager selecting a sister option of 2 or more sisters that are both all stars / select players, they will be drafted one round apart (2025)

14) **PROBLEM RESOLUTION** - All problems concerning options and draft procedures should be brought to the attention of the Player Agent and will be handled by the Upland Hilltoppers Board of Directors.

15) **VIOLATIONS** - Any violation of these options will result in game forfeiture and possible dismissal of both manager and coach after review by the Board of Directors, as covered by Article XI of the League By-Laws.

16) **TRADING** - Following the selection of the last player in the draft, managers will have ten minutes in which to make trades. All trades will then be discussed in an open forum and will not be final until 10 minutes following discussion. (Intent: All managers are aware of and may discuss any trade). All trades will be recorded.

17) **ADD/DROP PROCEDURES (1987)**

A.) All girls wishing to participate after teams are full shall be placed on a waiting list. The list will be on file with the Player Agent.

B.) These girls shall be assigned in the following manner:

1. All added players shall be placed on teams until all teams have a full roster.

2. All girls wishing to participate in the League shall have their names listed with the Player Agent a minimum of three days prior to assignment.

3. All players being added on will follow the snake order of the draft to be placed on teams until teams are full. (2022)

18) If a player is dropped, quits or cannot finish the season because of injury, the Manager must notify the Player Agent or Divisional Representative within 72 hours of the time the player notified him/her. Otherwise, the Manager is subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

19) If possible, the player will be replaced in order to bring the team up to the player limit. A player will not be added after the 4TH game of the season: the only exception is with Board approval. Any Board member signing up a player must provide written notification to the Player Agent within 24 hours. (1997)

20) All teams without full rosters are equally eligible to receive added players. When a player is to be placed, the Player Agent assigns a random number to each eligible team. The League President, or his designee, with no knowledge as to the teams' random numbers, selects one in a blind draw. The Player Agent informs the Divisional Representative and Team Manager as soon as the blind draw is made. All girls must be listed with the Player Agent 72 hours prior to placement on a team.

21) **CONFIDENTIAL** - This list will be kept in absolute confidence. No disclosure of its contents will be permitted under any circumstances

III. All Stars

A. All Star Eligibility/Requirements

1. Players must have played 75% of the current season's league games.

A. EXCEPTION: High school students who are age eligible may return to the 14U age classification if they played the spring or fall ball season the prior year, and no current players desiring to play All-Stars are cut from the team." If the league forms more than one team, no more than four (4) high school players are allowed to play on a single All-Star team, and no player who is interested in playing shall be denied the opportunity to play. A player returning to the 14U age classification must be registered with the league before May 15th of the current season. Returning high school players must be approved by the league board of directors. (2025)

2. Must be able to commit 100% to the entire all star season (all practices, friendlies, tournaments, and team functions)

3. Must have no other commitments that conflict with the entire all star season (vacations, family events, extra-curricular activities, etc.)

4. All Star players are not allowed to participate/play in a travel ball team/organization by the USA Softball deadline. Travel ball activities that are not allowed include: clinics, workouts, tryouts, guest playing, friendlies, tournaments, or team functions.

5. Players are responsible for all costs, travel expenses, and fulfill the time commitment to the team.

6. Violation of any of the above will result in removal from the team with no refunds

7. Failure to complete the Eligibility/requirements will result in forfeiting future participation on all star teams and Select teams.

B. The league can decide to put an All-Star Application form out to the community prior to All-Star voting to verify athletes are available and committed for the All-Star season. (2022)

C. The league can choose one or more ways to select all star players. This may include an all-star application, tryout, or manager nomination.

D. All All-Star players are voted on by all of the division managers. All Star vote selection will consist of 10 players with the highest vote count. In the event of a tie then 2 players will be selected by the manager from the nomination list, and possibly 1-2 alternates with the next highest vote count. In addition to 1 discretionary player with executive board approval. (2023)

1. Players who are selected onto the all star team are final and cannot be disputed.

2. All Star players are not allowed to participate/play in any travel ball organization activities. This includes clinics, guest playing, friendlies, tournaments, or team functions.

3. If for any reason a player withdraws from the team, it will affect her eligibility for future select and all star teams.

E. Any manager or team representative, at the All-Star draft, can nominate any player from another team in the division, subject to Executive Board approval. The Board can limit Player nominations. (2026)

F. All players selected are eligible for the division played during that league season.

A player who played in a higher age classification during the current season, is eligible to play in their proper age classification with executive board approval.

(2026)

G. Selection of All-Star managers will be determined by the executive board and eligible board members. If the board fails to approve the nominee, then the board may select another manager from outside of the division.

1. If one of the committee/board members has a conflict based on applying for a position in that division, then that member will be excluded from that election process in that particular division.

H. Managers applying for the All Star Manager position will have the opportunity to present themselves amongst the board panel.

I. The league will sponsor each all-star team registration for States and regional championships if qualified. The league will also supply the pins for the States tournament.

J. Managers must be 100% committed to all team activities such as practices, friendlies, tournaments, and team functions. Request of absence must be approved by the board.

K. In case the selected manager is dismissed or declines the position, the executive board will fulfill the position by completing the following process.

1. Look at the applicants that put in for all stars for that division
2. Look at the applicants that put in for select for that division
3. Look at Managers/Coaches and overall softball experience
4. Discuss with the Division representative in that particular division.

L. In the event that the league is able to form two teams in a division, players may be asked to complete an interest form to be eligible for team placement. Team placement will be determined solely by the league's voting procedures. By submitting an interest form the player agrees to accept placement on any team.

M. Refusal to accept the assigned team will affect the player's eligibility for future all star and select team placement.

IV. LEAGUE "SELECT" TEAM SELECTION

A. Select Eligibility/Requirements

1. Select players must play 75% of the recreational program to be eligible for Select. Select players must participate in the recreational program in order to participate in the Select program. Select program has no bearing on making the all star team.

2. Select Players must attend a minimum of 1 recreational practice and 1 recreational game each week in order to participate in the weekly activities for the Select team. Failure to meet these weekly requirements will result in no participation with the select team for that current week.

3. SELECT players are not allowed to participate/play in any travel ball organization activities. This includes tryouts, workouts, clinics, guest playing, friendlies, tournaments, or team functions.

4. Must be able to commit 100% to the entire select season (all practices, friendlies, tournaments, and team functions)

5. Must have no other commitments that conflict with the entire select season (vacations, family events, extra-curricular activities, etc.)

6. Players are responsible for all costs, travel expenses, and fulfill the time commitment to the team.

7. If for any reason a player withdraws from the team, it will affect her eligibility for future select and all star teams.

8. Violation of any of the above will result in removal from the team with no refunds

9. Failure to complete the eligibility or all of the above will result in forfeiting future participation on select teams and/or all star teams.

B. The league can decide to put a Select Application form out to the community prior to Select Voting to verify athletes are available and committed for the Select season. (2022)

C. The league can also decide to host mandatory work outs or “try outs” for athlete evaluation prior to Select voting to help managers evaluate athlete selection. (2022)

D. The selected manager and at least two board members will evaluate the pool of athletes interested in Select in the mandatory work outs to determine collectively who will represent the league in the additional program option. (2022)

1. Players who are selected onto the select team are final and cannot be disputed.

E. Selection of Select managers will be determined by the executive board and eligible board members. If the board fails to approve the nominee, then the board may select another manager from outside of the division.

1.If one of the committee members has a conflict based on applying for a position in that division, then that member will be excluded from that election process in that particular division.

F. Managers applying for the Select Manager position will have the opportunity to present themselves amongst the board panel.

G. The manager must be 100% committed to all team activities such as practices, friendlies, tournaments, and team functions. Request of absence must be approved by the board.

H. In case a select manager picks up a GUEST player:

1. It must be approved by the board.
2. Guest players will play with stipulations provided by the board.

I. In case the selected manager is dismissed or declines the position, the executive board will fulfill the position by completing the following process.

1. Look at the applicants that put in for select for that division
2. Look at Managers/Coaches and overall softball experience
3. Discuss with the Division representative in that particular division.

J. In the event that the league is able to form two teams in a division, players may be asked to complete an interest form to be eligible for team placement.

K.Team placement will be determined solely by the league's voting procedures. By submitting an interest form the player agrees to accept placement on any team.

L. Refusal to accept the assigned team will affect the player's eligibility for future all star and select team placement.

UPLAND HILLTOPPERS RULES FOR PLAY

V. OVERALL LEAGUE RULES

A. Official softball rule (as adopted by USA Softball rules) applies in all instances unless superseded by the local League rules.

1) An adult woman must be present at all team functions, practices, and games.

B. Practice (regular season) not playoffs or tournaments 1989

1) A team consisting of four or more girls may be on the field only two- three times (pending availability), including practice, game, and batting cages, in one calendar week (Sunday through Saturday.)

2) Rec Practices may not be longer than two hours for all divisions.

Managers are not required to use a full two hours but have field availability for planning a practice for that block. (2022)

a) T-ball/6U- 1 hour

b) 8U/10U/12U/14U- 1.5 to 2 hours

3. Select meetings - ONE DAY ONLY

a) 8u/10u- 2 hours

b) 12u/14u- 2.5 hours

4) Teams will not use the League pitching machine on days they are scheduled to play. (1988)

5) "Warm-up" may not start earlier than 60 minutes prior to game. (2010)

6) Teams may not use infield (including pitcher's mound) for warm-up prior to game. (2010)

C. Field Preparation:

1) Both teams will be required to prepare the field. Teams that do not help with prepping their field will be penalized points. (2026)

a. If you are scheduled for the first game of the day:

1. Both teams must arrive 40 minutes before game time to prep the field

b. If you have a game during the day or the second game:

1. Both teams must arrive 15-20 minutes before game time to prepare the field.

2) Both managers involved in the last game of the day or last game are responsible for field clean up (mound, bases, rakes etc) and lock up of facilities. (2026)

3) Both managers at every game are responsible for cleaning of dugouts and instructing parents and spectators to put all trash in receptacles. (2022)

4) If it is determined that field preparation is necessary after time has started then the umpire shall stop the clock until all field preparation is completed, the time will resume once the next ball is thrown. (2001)

5) The pitching circle for all levels is eight (8) feet in diameter, centered from the pitching mound.

6. When playing a visiting city, the UPLAND team will be completely responsible for field preparation and closing field (if they are designated the last game of the day/night).

D. If an Umpire does not appear for a game, a Board member will designate an Umpire.

E. Players

1) Batting order - each player present must be placed in the batting order for the entire game unless injured or benched. (1990)

a) Line-up sheets (given to scorekeeper) must list all rostered players.

b) Line-up rosters become official when handed to the official umpire.

c) A player arriving after the line-up roster is official, will be entered into last position in the batting order regardless of how much time is left in the game. (1997)

2) Substitutions: No player will sit out two consecutive defensive innings.
Exception: Injury, discipline, or the game called by an umpire. Violation of this rule will result in STARTING THE NEXT INNING WITH ONE OUT. (2010)

3) Player responsibilities: All team members shall confine themselves to the game area, field, and Dugout, except for explicit permission given by the Manager/Coach. (1994)

4) A player must notify his/her Manager/Coach in advance, if he/she will arrive late, leave early, or be unable to attend a practice or game. (1997)

5) Jersey Numbers must be visible. Hoodies may be worn if numbers are present and/or umpires approval.(2026)

F. Game Time - A game will officially start when the umpire indicates game start time or starts the scoreboard clock. (2012)

1) A team must field a lineup of at least 8 players at the start of the game with a 10 minute grace period or the team will forfeit the game. (2022)

2) If neither of the two teams scheduled can meet the required player minimum, The Umpire shall call the game. This will be counted as a loss against both teams in League standings.

G. Games shall consist of:

1) T-Ball……. I hour drop dead
2) 6 Under…….. 6 innings or 1 hour 10 minutes Drop dead
3) 8 Under…….. 6 innings or 1 hour and 15 minutes drop dead
4) 10 Under…… 6 innings or 1 hour and 15 minutes drop dead
5) 12 Under…… 6 innings or 1 hour and 15 minutes drop dead
6) 14 Under…… 6 innings or 1 hour and 15 minutes drop dead

H. In the event the game is called due to the time limit, the game shall be considered a regulation game regardless of the number of innings played.

I. The new inning begins when the third out is called.

J. Once an inning has begun, it must be completed unless, in the opinion of the plate umpire, it is too dark or wet, or unsafe conditions exist.

K. When a game is called for reasons other than the time limit, four complete innings will constitute a legal game in IOU, 12U, 14U, (3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead). (1999)

L. A tied game at the end of regulation play shall continue play within the time limit.

M. All games that do not finish a complete inning, will revert back to the last completed inning to determine the winner.

N. In all drop dead instances:

1) If the home team is ahead, then the score stands.

2) If the home team has tied the game in their half inning, the tie score stands.

3) If the home team is behind or the visiting team has tied the game in their half inning, the score reverts back to the previous inning.

O. Games may end in a tie.

P. Runs/Batting –

1) A team may score:

a) Tee Ball- the whole line up bats round robin up to nine and then adjusted by the board as needed. (2022)

b) 6U- three runs per inning (2022)

c) 8U- three runs per inning (2022)

d) 10U- four runs per inning (2022)

e) 12U- four runs per inning (2012)

f) 14U- five runs per inning. (2022)

2) If three outs have been attained before a team can score their limited runs, the team batting will have completed its turn at bat; therefore, three outs or runs limit will constitute a half an inning.

3) **Catch Up Rule** - The team with the lesser score in any inning if behind by:

a) 6U- three runs (2022)

b) 8U- three runs (2022)

c) 10U- four runs (2022)

d) 12U- four runs (2012)

e) 14U- five runs (2022)

May score as many more runs needed to tie the score.

(2022)

4) Throwing the Bat - The plate umpire may warn the batter the first time she throws her Bat and instruct the scorekeeper to record it. If she throws the bat a second time in the same game, she may be called out and benched for the remainder of the game.

Any player who throws equipment in anger will be benched immediately for the remainder of the game.(1987)

Q. Leaving the game and injured players -

1) Batting order will automatically be adjusted to reflect the loss of an injured player with NO OUT being recorded. This also applies to any player leaving a game for reasons other than injury.

A manager is expected to inform the opposing team's manager, the umpire, and the official scorer before the game if he / she knows that any player will be leaving before the end of the game.(1997)

An injured player cannot reenter the game without parent/guardian approval. If the player does reenter the game, no penalty will be assessed.(2010)

2) If an injury occurs while running the bases, at the discretion of the Umpire a courtesy runner may be used (last recorded out.) (1992)

R. If the game is tied at the conclusion of regularly scheduled play and game time remains on the clock, a one-inning international tiebreaker will be implemented, If the game remains tied after the tiebreaker, the game will be officially recorded as a tie.(2006)

S. Playing Field and Safety Equipment

1) Players will NOT be allowed to be base coach in any division.

2) All teams have the option to wear shorts or pants. Decisions must be Majority. (1993)

3) Protective headgear and face mask MUST be worn at all times by batters and base runners while on the playing field. (2010)

4) No player should be using cell phones. Managers, or coaches can be on a device if softball related, within reason. . (2022)

T. Music (2025)

1. Music must be appropriate. No foul language, no negativity, no words that must be blocked out.

2. Appropriate walk-up music is permissible. Walk up music cannot be played when the ball is live.

3. The team on defense may play appropriate music between innings, no music can be played when the ball is live. Between innings is not between plays.

4. Should there be any complaints or should music be used to intimidate opposing teams the privilege will be removed for the remainder of the game.

U. Travel Players (2026)

1. Travel players who are pitchers may only pitch a total of 3 innings (No more than 2 consecutive) in all divisions.

V. Pick Up Player Procedures:

1.May only pick up a player if the team cannot fulfill the 8 player minimum to play a game , with the exception of missing pitcher and catcher.

2. If standings are being kept, you will forfeit the game if a pick up player is needed.

3. 12u and 14u teams may only pick up a pitcher/catcher if there are no other players available for that particular game. All managers should be developing pitchers and catchers. You may not pick up a pitcher/catcher due to weather.

6u-14u:

- Pick up player may only play in the outfield
- Must bat last in the line up
- May not start in a game.
- Priority must be given to the original team members

If picking up a pitcher or catcher:

- Must follow the rules above.
- Can only pitch or catch pending the player's position.
- Should only pitch/catch for 1-2 innings.

VI. DISCIPLINE

A. PLAYER:

A manager may bench a girl for disciplinary measures for one game at a time, providing the manager notifies the board member on duty, the opposing team Manager, the Divisional Representative and Player Agent prior to game time.

B. CODE OF CONDUCT - PLAYERS

The Players shall:

1. Display good sportsmanship and team play at all times, on or off the playing field.

2. Follow the direction of the Coaching Staff and respect all coaches, players, board members, umpires, parents and spectators.

3. Make every attempt to be on time and ready to play for all games and practices.

4. Use social media appropriately without the use of negative or derogatory remarks associated with players, coaches, umpires or board members.

5. Behave in such a manner that shall bring positive credit to the League and all participants.

THE PLAYERS SHALL NOT:

6. Use abusive or profane language.
7. Taunt or humiliate any other player. ZERO BULLYING
8. Question an umpire's call.
9. Abuse, mistreat or mishandle any Upland Hilltoppers' league equipment or property.

C. PARENT CONDUCT

Parents and Spectators shall support the players, coaches, umpires and board members.

Parents and Spectators shall not "coach" or "officiate" while on the sidelines.

Parents and Spectators will do their best to provide the players a positive experience.

Parents and Spectators agree to the following:

1. Will be positive role models and display & instill in all players the principles of good sportsmanship and team play.

2. Will not speak negatively about Upland Hilltoppers Softball or its coaches, board members, players, minors or volunteers. Any issues or concerns should be addressed with Upland Hilltoppers Executive Board Members.

3. Will conduct themselves in a manner that best serves the interests of the players.

4. Will make certain that their children show respect for all other players, coaches, officials and spectators.

5. Will not ridicule or demean players, coaches, board members or umpires. • Will treat all players, board members, spectators, and umpires fairly and with respect.

6. Will not question an umpire's call.

7. Will respect the opponent and avoid any confrontation with opposing players.

8. Will remember that coaches/board members are volunteering their time.

9. Will use social media appropriately without the use of negative or derogatory remarks associated with players, coaches, umpires or board members.

10.Will be drug free and not allowed to drink alcoholic beverages or use tobacco products on the field, inside or outside of the dugout.

11.Upland Hilltoppers Rules and Regulations, will be enforced.

12.Upland Hilltoppers Disciplinary action shall be enforced for all coaches, players and spectators.

13.Intoxication: Any parent, coach, board member or spectator who appears to be intoxicated, under the influence of any impairing substance at a league game or league events/functions may be immediately removed from premises. Any allegations will also be reviewed and if deemed valid will result in dismissal.

Prior warning will not be required and will result in immediate removal of team, board, and league.

14.Any Parent, Coach, Board Member, Spectator that engages in disrespectful, confrontational, use of negative or derogatory comments will be ejected from the game and may lead to removal from the team and/or league. Depending on the nature or severity of the violation, disciplinary action may be imposed without prior warning.

15.NO ONE IS EXEMPT FROM REMOVAL FROM THE TEAM OR LEAGUE.

D. SOCIAL MEDIA, TEXTING, GROUP MESSAGING Applies to all Upland Hilltoppers affiliates/participants.

1. All Participants:

a. Protect the privacy of all youth participants unless you have direct written permission from a parent or guardian.

b. Do not post inappropriate, derogatory or offensive writing, gestures, photos or videos.

c. Do not post personal or sensitive information about any participant including but not limited to Players, Coach, Board Member, USA official, or Umpire.

d. Do not “vent” on social media about issues pertaining to the League, its Board members, coaches, participants, USA officials, or Umpires.

e. Keep messages focused and relevant to the entire team. (Personal or individual issues shall be dealt with privately)

f. Any unresolvable issues need to be addressed in writing through the proper channels.

E. CODE OF CONDUCT - COACHES Coaches shall remain unconditionally supportive of Upland Hilltoppers commitment to the ideals of good sportsmanship, team play, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect for others. Likewise, coaches shall remain sensitive to the physical and emotional wellbeing of the players on his/her team. In order to adhere to these doctrines the coaches agree to the following:

1. Coaches will abide by the Upland Hilltoppers Bylaws Upland Hilltoppers league rules, and Safesport Protocols.

2. Coaches will abide by the USA Softball Coaches Code of Ethic Pledge

F. Violations:

Violation of any of the above items (VII. Discipline A-E) may result in suspension or other appropriate disciplinary action deemed fit by the Upland Hilltoppers board.

Violations(pending the violation)

1. Warning - verbal notice and or email notification

2. 2nd Violation- will result in additional disciplinary action deemed fit by the Upland Hilltoppers Board. Violations may result in removal from the team and the league.

3. Violations of being under the influence or being intoxicated will be immediate expulsion from the team, the board or from the field.

4. Depending on the severity or nature of the violation, the league reserves the right to impose immediate disciplinary action without first issuing a warning. Certain violations may result in immediate penalties.

G. Umpire imposed Violations:

1.The Board strives to support umpires in their decisions on the field. If a manager, coach, parent or player has been thrown out of a game for any reason, he/she will not, under any circumstances, be allowed to participate in the following:

a) First offense: Said game they have been ejected from and up to two additional games (including all preceding practices.) Board will discuss offense and determine additional games if necessary.

b) Second and subsequent offenses during the same season: two game suspension (including all preceding practices.) Further, the manager, coach or player may be subject to Board Discipline, up to and including removal from the league.

2. Disciplinary actions may be taken against league members in circumstances including, but not limited to, an umpire taking action on the field of play, or the hearing and investigation of a complaint brought to the Board's attention by any concerned party.

VII. Scorecards, Standings, Rescheduling & Awards

A. The home team will record and maintain the official league scorebook. (2022)

1) End of the Game - The Manager/Coach and the Umpire must sign and verify the official scorebook/scorecard at the completion of each game.

2.) Scorecards will be collected at the end of the game. Please return scorecards to the snack bar, preferably to the board member on duty.

B. The away team will be asked to update the game changer for each game if league provides game changer

VIII. STANDINGS

A. Standings will be determined by point count. Points will be assessed as follows:

Win = 2 points, Tie= 1 point, Loss = 0 point.

B. The winning Manager will record the "win" directly after each game, on the Division Scorekeeping Schedule located on the Snack bar bulletin board.

C. Keeping game standings will be determined when the league schedule is complete.

IX. RESCHEDULING OF GAMES

A. Rainouts - Games canceled due to weather/conditions may be rescheduled on the next available date and field, providing both teams are available and fields are available.

B. Games canceled due to field closures implemented by the city will not be rescheduled.

X. UNIFORMS

A. Each team will be supplied with a league- jersey for each player.**The league supplied jersey is the only jersey that will be allowed for all hilltopper sanction games/friendlies/tournaments.**

B. Player last names can be added to the back of the shirt if it does not interfere with the player's number and uniformed amongst the entire team.

C. Teams are not authorized to participate in any fundraising for their individual team.

D. Additional uniform supplies, such as shorts, sliders, socks shall be supplied by the player and/or parents, although must comply with League standards.

E. The League policy is to maintain an equal and uniform appearance among all teams participating. Any **"Team Personalized"** uniforms are not authorized and are thereby forbidden with the exception of modification and/or additions of hats and sweatshirts. At no time will parents be required to provide and pay for any "team personalized equipment".

F. Jersey numbers must be visible during games. Sweatshirts may be worn underneath jerseys during games. Hoodies may be worn if numbers are present and/or umpires approval.

XI. T-BALL DIVISION RULES

A. The primary purpose of the T-Ball division is for instruction and fun. All boys and girls will play at all times. The season will run eight to ten weeks and will conclude at the end of the Hilltopper season.

B. Goals to be obtained for T-ball players are as follows:

1) To learn the nine positions, i.e., catcher, pitcher, etc.

2) To learn where to stand in relation to the tee, to hold a bat and hit a ball.

3) To learn how to run the bases.

4) To learn the basic rules of the game.

5) The emphasis will be on learning, not winning.

C. DRAFT PROCEDURES: The Board will conduct the Draft. Children will be placed on teams determined by the school they attend and/or player requests (players may select one friend).

D. TEAM - Each team will consist of nine (9) or more players depending on the total number of players registered.

E. PRACTICE - Practice will be held once or twice a week for one hour. There must be a woman present at all functions, practice, and games.

F. PLAYERS

1) All players will play a defensive position. No substitutes. If ten (lO) players are present, four (4) play the outfield, if eleven (11) are present, five (5) play the outfield. Outfield is defined as at least 10 feet behind the base path.

a) North and South Field- grass area is the designated outfield

b) WestField is 10 ft behind the base path

2) Teams may play with six (6) players. When there are eight (8) players, one must play as catcher.

3) Catcher is optional. (2001)

G. PLAYER EQUIPMENT

1) The batter and base runners shall wear protective headgear. The catcher will also wear a helmet. (1990)

2) Players may wear long or short pants or sweats.

3) An eleven (10) inch soft stitch will be used.

4) A small T-ball bat will be used.

5) The fields will be lined (all bases, batter's box & bench area) prior to game time.

H. UMPIRES

1) Manager, coach, or mutually designated person will umpire. (2001)

2) The Plate Umpire, Manager or Coach will be responsible for adjusting the tee to the height desired by the batter.

I. THE GAME

1) Score and standings will not be kept.

2) The length of the game shall be one (1) hour drop dead .

3) The batter will hit off the Tee.. If the batter swings and misses the ball, it is a strike. Four (4) strikes, the batter is out. No walks.

4) At the halfway point of the scheduled season, the manager or coach may

pitch up to 3 pitches to any or all players. (2023) IF the player does not hit the ball after 3 pitches, then the Tee will come into play. Players may hit off the tee till the ball is in play. (2026)

5) For the entire season, an inning is complete when each player has batted once.

6) Any ball hit will be played. The ball must pass the ten-foot arc line from home plate to be considered a fair ball.

7) If a catcher is used in the game, then the catcher shall assume a position behind home plate which will not interfere with the batter's swing.

8) The pitcher will stand within the pitching circle. The pitcher must pitch in the pitching circle.

9) No sliding or stealing is allowed.

10) Any ball thrown to the pitcher, while standing in the pitching circle with the intent to end play, is considered a dead ball. The only exception is the final batter of each inning. (1990)

11) Only one base will be allowed each runner for an overthrown ball to 1st, 2nd or 3rd base, including the last batter in the line-up. (1992)

12) No bunting is allowed. A full swing must be attempted.

13) A player may play at one position for two innings only. He/she must then rotate to another position that he/she has not yet played in that game. (1997)

14) The last batter in the line-up must be different each game.

15) A maximum of one manager and one coach may stand in the outfield during their team's defensive inning; they may not enter into or interfere during the play but may instruct after each play. (1997)

16) All players will receive a participation award. (1990)

17. Games shall consist of:

1) T-Ball……. I hour

18. Runs/Batting –

1) A team may score:

a) Tee Ball- the whole line up bats round robin up to nine and then adjusted by the board as needed. (2022)

XII. 6u Rules for League Play

A.Games are limited to 6 innings or 1 hour 10 minutes Drop dead whichever occurs first.

1. Balls used for 6u will be the 10”-Rif 1 sof dot
2. Batting round robin

B. Pitching distance shall be thirty feet (30). The player acting as the pitcher shall stand anywhere behind the pitching rubber with at least one foot in the circle while the adult pitcher is pitching. (Players may not pitch the ball to a batter). The pitcher will stand within the pitching circle. The pitcher must pitch in the pitching circle. One foot or both feet must be on the rubber. If you choose to use one foot on the rubber, then the other foot must be behind the rubber when starting to pitch the ball. No foot can be in front of the rubber when starting to pitch.(2026)

C. A coach/pitcher must have ONE foot or both feet on the rubber while pitching.The coach that is pitching must exit the field when a ball is hit into play and try not to interfere with a ball.

1. Coach must make an attempt to move out of play.
2. Coach will give 4 pitches to the batter.

D. There will be a 15-foot arc in front of home plate extending from the first base line to third base line. A hit ball that does not pass this line is considered a foul ball.

E. The catcher must remain in a defensive position until the ball is hit.

F. No base stealing is allowed. All base runners are to remain on the bases until the ball is hit. If a runner is off the base when the ball is hit, the ball is dead, the runner returns to the base and the batter bats again.

G. All at-bats will start out as coach pitch. If the ball has not been hit by the fourth coach pitch, the batter will use the batting tee to put the ball into play. Batters that foul off the fourth coach pitch will be awarded an additional pitch, until the ball is put in play or the batter swings and Miss Players may advance one or more bases if the ball is hit off the coach. If a player fails and hits the ball off T matter and runners on base can only advance one base at a time (this applies for the first half of the season).

An offense base coach will be permitted at 1st and 3rd base. The base coach must remain out of the field of play at all times. You will have the offensive team pitch to

their own team.

A runner will be awarded one (1) base on an overthrow to first base.

H. On a hit ball, base runners are stopped when the ball has broken the plane of the pitching circle.The play is immediately declared dead once the ball breaks the vertical plane of the circle boundary (as if a holographic wall extended upward from the outer edge of the chalk

line.) If base runners have already passed the halfway line to the next base, they can advance to that base.

1. Once the play is declared dead, it cannot become live again until the umpire officially puts the ball back into play. (2025)
2. When the ball is hit by the batter, a defenseman may continue to make a play even if the ball enters the pitcher's circle, provided that the action is part of the continuous defensive play. (2025)

I. The team taking the field will place all players in defensive positions: six (6) in the infield including the pitcher and catcher, and the remaining players in the outfield.

Outfielders must be standing 10 feet behind the baseline at the beginning of each play.

1. The pitcher position must be rotated every other inning. (2026)

J. A maximum of two adults will be allowed on the field during the season to help guide the players making defensive plays. They are not allowed to touch the ball or interfere with the play. Coaches MUST remain behind the outfielder.

K. An additional defensive Coach will stand behind the Catcher. Player will only throw back to the pitcher on balls that the catcher caught/stopped. Balls missed by the catcher and thrown back to the pitcher to keep the game moving quicker.

L. Batting:

<u>Second half of the season:</u>

A Coach will give 4 pitches to the batter.

She will be called out as a strikeout, unless the 4th pitch is hit into foul territory. If the 4th pitch is fouled, the batter will receive 1 additional pitch to put the ball in play If the batter fails to place the ball into play after the 4th pitch, she will be out No walks allowed. No Tee allowed

M. Umpire/Coaches will determine if an overthrown ball has gone out of play. Upon determining that a ball is out of play, base runners that have already passed the halfway line to the next base can advance to that base.

N No penalty for sliding.

O. The Infield Fly rule will not be in effect.

P. No dropped third strike

Q. No Walks

R. Home plate is closed

S. When using the tee during an at-bat, the tee must be placed on (not in front of) the plate.

T. Scoring: A team may MAX score:

a) 6U- three runs per inning (2022)

U.Catch Up Rule - The team with the lesser score in any inning if behind by:

a) 6U- three runs (2022)

XIII. 8u Rules for League Play

A. BASE, PITCHING & FIELD DISTANCES

1) Pitching distance shall be 30 feet; bases shall be 60 feet. (2006)

2) Outfield is considered 10 feet behind the baseline. Outfielders must be on the outfield grass when the ball is pitched. Outfield is defined as at least 10 feet behind the base path.

a) North and South Field- grass area is the designated outfield b) WestField is 10 ft behind the base path

B. COACHING

1) One adult coach will be allowed in the outfield to verbally assist players while the team is playing defense. This Coach must always remain in the outfield.

2) At no time can the outfield coach, due to their position in the field, draw the attention to a play or influence the umpire in any manner. (2001)

3) An adult woman must be present at all team functions, practices, and games.

C. PITCHING

1) A pitcher will pitch no more than three innings in any one game, two innings consecutively. Complete or incomplete. (1999)

2) There will be a coach pitch for the first round of scheduled play. After the first round, the coach pitch option will be assessed by managers and Board members to determine if it will continue for the remainder of the season. (2008)

a) after the pitcher gives up 2 walks or the combination of walks and hit by pitch, then the coach pitch will be implemented for each inning.

b) Coach pitch will only consist of 1 pitch

c.) The coach must attempt to move out of play during a coach pitch. (2025)

d.) If a coach is hit by the ball during a coach pitch, there will be no penalty as long as there was an attempt to move out of play. (2025)

e.)The pitcher will stand within the pitching circle.

f.) Coach pitch must pitch in the pitching circle. One foot or both feet must be on the rubber. If you choose to use one foot on the rubber, then the other foot must be behind the rubber when starting to pitch the ball. No foot can be in front of the rubber when starting to pitch.(2026)

3) Walks are allowed. The count will finish with one pitch after 2 walks or combination of walks and hit by pitch. If determined by the managers and board, there could be no coach pitch for the remainder of the season after the first round (2022)

4) A double is the most a batter can have from the coach pitch, no triple or home run. (2017)
a. All runners and batter may get at most 2 bases on a coach pitch.(2025)

5) One pitched ball in an inning constitutes a full inning pitched for the record of the pitcher.

6) A runner may leave the base after the pitcher has released the ball.
(Except during coach pitch) (2010)

7) Hit by Pitch from a pitcher (not from coach pitch)
a.) A batter that is hit by pitch by a direct hit or deflection off the floor will automatically get 1st base. (2025)

D. RUNNERS

1) STEALING: Runners can steal only one base per batter. There will be no double stealing. Home plate will remain closed. If a base overthrow occurs during an attempted steal, the runners cannot advance an additional base. The Upland Hilltoppers Board must approve this rule prior to any tournament play.
(2005)

2) Any runner may be picked off a base during a lead off. If there is an attempted to pick off a runner, the fielder receiving the ball only has to tag the base. In the event of an overthrow, the runner may advance one base after returning to the base and tagging up. Exception: Home is closed.

3) No base runner may score from third on a passed ball by the catcher.
(Home plate is closed.)

4) No runner may advance a base on an overthrow from the catcher to the pitcher.

5) No runner may advance more than one base on an overthrow on the original play. Example: on a play to 1st, if the 1st baseman misses the ball, the runner only advances to 2nd base.

a. Only 1 maximum base will be awarded on an overthrow. (2025)

6) Runs Allowed per Inning Rule per division/the Catch-up rule.

Runs/Batting –

1) A team may score:

a) 8U- three runs per inning (2022)

2.)Catch Up Rule - The team with the lesser score in any inning if behind by:

a) 8U- three runs (2022)

7) During live play, the ball will be considered dead once the ball is in the possession of the pitcher and the pitcher is in the pitcher's circle. Any runners may advance to the next base only if they are over halfway to the next base when the ball is in the pitcher's possession in the vicinity of the pitcher's circle.

(2010)

8) The infield fly rule does not apply.

9) The dropped third strike does not apply. No runner may advance to first base on a third strike not held by the catcher.

10) Catchers can only be changed between innings or due to injury.

E. TIME

1) No new inning shall start after one hour and 15 minutes from the start of the game. Game will drop dead at 1 hour 25 minutes (PENDING SEASON*)

2) When a game is called for reasons other than the time limit, three complete innings will constitute a legal game. (1999)

3) All other rules used by the League shall apply with the exception of the above revisions.

XIV. 10-14u Rules for League Play

A. PLAYERS

1) 9 players can take the field, 3 players must be outfield. All outfielders must be the same arch (no rover). The ball has to be batted before the outfield can come to the dirt. (2017) Outfield players must start 10 feet behind the baseline.

B. PITCHING

1) If a pitcher makes one pitch to a batter during an inning, it will be considered an inning pitched. A pitcher removed from the mound may return to the mound. If a pitcher pitches more than the maximum innings, at the time the umpire is notified an illegal pitch is declared.

2) In 10U, the pitcher will pitch no more than three innings in any one game, two innings consecutive, complete or incomplete. (2010).

3) In 14U and 12U, there will be no pitching restrictions for the season.
12U pitching restrictions will be determined by the board each year.(2010)

4) Any pitching change must be given to plate Umpire, who must notify the Scorekeeper.

5) Pitching Distances
a) IOU ……...35 feet
b) 12U ……...40 feet (ASA 2001)
c) 14U ……...43 feet

C. CATCHERS

1) The clock will be stopped for a change of catcher in the last five minutes of the game, (even if the catcher change started prior to the 5-minute mark).
(2001)

D. RUNNERS - (IOU ONLY)

1) A base runner may leave the base as soon as the ball leaves the pitchers' hand.

2) Base runners may advance in this manner a maximum of one base at a time. (2009)

3) Home is open. (2009)

4) Runners may advance one base per pitch per player. (2009)

a. No advancement on an overthrow from catcher

5) Dropped third strike is in effect. (2009)

6) There will be a maximum of four runs per inning (excepting the catch-up rule). (2009)

7. No continuation play

E. INFIELD FLY RULE - A fair fly ball, which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when first and second bases or first, second and third bases are occupied and there are less than two outs. The infield fly is ruled when the ball reaches its highest point based on the position of the closest infielder regardless of who makes the play. The umpire shall immediately declare "infield fly". The ball is live and runners may advance at their own risk. The runners can tag up and advance once the batted ball is touched the same as any fly ball. The intent of this rule is to prevent double plays.

1) A substitute runner can be used for an on-base catcher to allow the catcher to prepare for the next inning of play. This may occur only when there are 2 outs in the inning. The substitute runner should be the player who incurred the last out during the current inning. Managers can choose not to substitute a runner for their catcher; however, the game will not be delayed allowing a catcher to put on their equipment.

2. Umpires will enforce the 5 pitch / 1 minute rule between innings.

F. 12U and 14U ONLY

1) Continuation Play is in effect

2. **Catch Up Rule** - The team with the lesser score in any inning if behind by:

a) 10U- four runs (2022)

b) 12U- four runs (2012)

c) 14U- five runs (2022)

G. **Runs/Batting –**

1) A team may score:

a) 10U- four runs per inning (2022)

b) 12U- four runs per inning (2012)

c) 14U- five runs per inning. (2022)

XV. END OF THE SEASON TOURNAMENT RULES:

END OF THE SEASON TOURNAMENT (2022)

Tournament draw will be a random draw prior to the start of the tournament. All managers or a team representative are invited to the draw.

A. Top of the bracket will occupy the first base dugout.

B. Coin flip at plate will determine home/visitor.

C. In the event of a tie, tie breaker will be in effect. All rules will be reset including the pitching.

D. During a tie breaker ONLY: -no max run rule/ completely open.

E. Upland Hilltopper rules (run rule/ catch up rule, etc.) are still in effect for all divisions except when a tie breaker is in effect.

F. Fall Tournament- Single Elimination Tournament

1. Championship game 1: Home team will be determined by a coin flip

G. Spring Tournament- Double Elimination Tournament

1. Championship game 1: Home team will be determined by the team who is in the winners bracket.
2. If a championship game 2 is enforced, then the home team will be granted to the visiting team from championship game 1.