



Stow Y.E.S. Inc. Softball Organization and General League Rules

2023 Season

Mission Statement

Stow Y.E.S. (Youth Elite Sports) Inc. is a non-profit organization comprised of volunteers who are focused on the instruction, coaching, support, and development of all participants in the sport of softball. The design of the program is to provide a positive and meaningful experience to the girls while encouraging ongoing interest and athletic development in the sport. The volunteers, parents, players, coaches, managers, and spectators will adhere and follow the Six Pillars of Stow's Character Counts Program – Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship.

Coaching Code of Conduct & Sportsmanship

Stow Y.E.S. is organized to help provide a positive and enjoyable experience for all concerned. Players, managers, coaches, umpires and spectators must lead by example and display appropriate sportsmanship at all times. Displays of poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated and violations can result in ejection, game forfeiture, and/or a personal suspension of up to one year.

- a. Managers are responsible to control the behavior of their coaches, players and fans. No verbal abuse or harassment shall ever be directed to an umpire, opposing team, or player. Taunting or negative cheers directed at the other team shall not be tolerated.
- b. Profanity will not be tolerated by any individual in the vicinity of a playing field and will result in the automatic ejection from the game.
- c. Any and all disputes between a manager and an umpire must be dealt with in a quick, respectful, and orderly manner. A player must never be allowed to enter into any dispute with an umpire.
- d. Inappropriate physical contact will not be tolerated. Based on the degree of contact, the umpire may call the player out or eject the player from the game.
- e. The umpire, any board member, or league commissioner is empowered to eject a manager, coach, player, or spectator for unruly or unsportsmanlike conduct provided that the individual imposing the ejection is not involved in the game as a manager, coach, or parent of a player.
- f. Tobacco products are prohibited from being used by any manager, coach, umpire, or player.
- g. An automatic suspension from the program will result if any manager, coach, umpire, or player appears at a game or practice under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Coaches who do not follow the expectations described above will be disciplined in accordance with the 2023 Coaching Code of Conduct and Sportsmanship document. Please see this document for details.



Any person ejected from a game must remove themselves immediately from whatever area is stipulated **(person ejected must leave to the point where he is out of sight and hearing range of the playing field)** by the individual imposing the ejection.

Failure to comply with the ejection will result in forfeiture of the game.

Umpires must notify the appropriate League Commissioner within 24 hours in the event an individual was ejected from a game.

Player Registration and Team Assignments

1. Player registration for the spring/summer season will begin in December. Registration dates for the fall season will be announced during the summer. A late registration can be made by contacting the Vice President of Operations.

2. All players who did not play in Stow Y.E.S. the previous year must show proof of age at the time of registration.

3. For league assignments, a player's age is determined as of January 1st of the playing year.

- I League – 7 or 8 years old
- A League – 9 or 10 years old
- B League – 11 or 12 years old
- C League – 13 or 14 years old
- D League – 18 years old and younger

A player is permitted to play in a league one year ahead of her age but must be declared at the time of registration and discussed with the League Commissioner.

4. Registration fees are not refundable for any reason. **If a parent believes a refund is warranted, they may file a written appeal to the appropriate League Commissioner.**

5. Manager's applications must be approved by the Board. **Each manager must complete a Background Check form and sign a copy of the Stow YES Coaching Code of Conduct.**

6. A player returning to the same league will be automatically assigned to the team on which she played the previous year unless the parents request otherwise. If a reassignment request is made, the player is placed in the player pool. Parents have the option of requesting a certain manager and Stow Y.E.S. will do their best to accommodate that request.

7. A player may not play for more than one team in Stow Y.E.S. during the spring / summer season.

8. Stow Y.E.S. League is composed of players who are only participating in one fast pitch league. Players rostered on any travel or tournament team are prohibited from playing in the Stow Y.E.S. league. Exceptions may be made to this rule in C League only at the discretion of the C League



Commissioner. If this rule is violated, the player in question will be removed from the team and the manager will forfeit one game. If this rule is violated a second time, the manager will be removed from the team and the team will forfeit every game the illegal player played in.

Organization Rules

1. An individual may only manage one team in Stow Y.E.S.
2. The minimum age requirement to manage a team is 18 years old. The age is determined as of January 1st of the playing year.
3. Teams in Stow Y.E.S. may participate in tournaments in or outside Stow provided these tournaments do not interfere with regularly scheduled games.
4. Players become the responsibility of the manager 15 minutes before a game or practice and 15 minutes after a game or practice's completion. A manager must never leave until all the players are picked up.
5. Parents are required to complete a medical emergency form and present to the manager before the first organized practice. **Players who do not have the form may NOT participate in any Stow YES activity until the form is completed.**

League Standings and Score Reporting

1. The winning manager must report the score of the game to the League Commissioner within 48 hours after the game. If the manager fails to report the score, the winning team will be issued a loss.
2. Standings will be maintained on the Stow Y.E.S. website – www.stowsoftball.com
3. League standings will be determined by the point system.
 - For a win – two points
 - For a tie – one point
 - For a loss – zero points
4. Tie breakers for tournament seeding
 - Head to head record
 - Points scored against – reward defense
 - Coin Flip
5. Tie breaker for first place in the regular season
 - Head to head record
 - One game playoff with the winner receiving first place trophies and the loser receiving second place trophies. The site and playoff date will be determined by the League Commissioner.



Protests

1. In order for a protest to be considered, the manager must indicate his intent to file a protest at the time of a disputed ruling. All pertinent information such as inning, outs, players on base, player at bat, ball/strike count, etc., must be recorded and agreed to by both managers and the umpire at that time. A mark must be made in both scorebooks at the time of the protest and both scorebooks must be signed by the umpire. Protest forms are available at the Stow Y.E.S. website. A written protest must be submitted to the League Commissioner within 24 hours after the end of the game. The protest must include a \$50.00 deposit which will be refunded only if the protest is upheld. The Vice-President of Operations will schedule a protest hearing which must be attended by the League Commissioner, the protesting manager or his representative, and the umpire. If the protesting manager or his representative is not present within five minutes of the scheduled meeting time, the protest will be automatically denied. If it is held that the protested decision violated the rules the game will be replayed from the point of protest.
2. An umpire's judgment call cannot be protested.

League Safety Policies

1. No metal spikes or cleats are allowed. No league exceptions in the Stow Y.E.S. program.
2. If a manufacturer's specifications on a bat are not legible, a batter will not be allowed to use that bat. The same applies if a bat appears to be altered in any way. If the bat is used, the batter is out.
3. A softball bat must contain one of the following phrases stamped on it: "fastpitch softball", "NSA approved logo stamp", or "ASA approved logo stamp."
4. Catchers must wear all protective equipment supplied by Stow Y.E.S. This equipment includes headgear (face mask), chest protector, and shin guards. Any player warming up a pitcher before the start of an inning or game must wear a catcher's mask – NO EXCEPTIONS.
5. All players are required to wear batting helmets with a protective face guard which must be worn while batting and running the bases. Chinstraps must be worn as well. If the helmet does not have a protective face guard or chin strap, the player will automatically called out. If a base runner intentionally removes her helmet during play, she can be called out at the discretion of the umpire.
6. The use of a safety base at 1st is recommended. All fields in Stow will be provided with a safety base.
7. Umpires must wear protective equipment including face mask, chest protector, and shin guards.
8. All pitchers are required to wear protective face guards will pitching. Stow YES does not supply these masks.



9. Stow Y.E.S. highly encourages each player to purchase and use their own mouth guard while playing in the field.

10. Ohio's Return-to-Play Law and Certificate Training Requirements

Stow YES needs all coaches to complete an on-line training course – **Recognizing the Signs and Symptoms of a Concussion**. This requirement is an Ohio Law.

Announcement from Ohio Department of Health:

Starting April 26th, 2013, individuals are not allowed to serve as a coach or referee for a youth sports organization, whether volunteer or paid, without:

1. Successfully completing, every three years, an online training program in recognizing the signs and symptoms of concussions and head injuries by the Ohio Department of Health

-OR-

2. Holding a Pupil Activity Permit from the Ohio Department of Education

Online Training

The following course has been approved for coaches and referees. There is NO COST to take this course.

- **National Federation of State High School Associations Concussions in Sports – What you Need to Know**
- <http://www.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=38000>

Coaches must distribute a copy of the Return to Play Law to all players' parents – copies have been provided.

Tournament Fees

Each community is responsible for sharing in the costs for the end of season tournament. The fee each community pays help to defray the field costs, umpires, trophies and other awards.

Stow YES has set the fee at \$125.00 per team. This fee is due to Stow YES before the beginning of the season – May 1st.