

OFFICIAL RULES

Softball

Grades 3 and 4

(*Rev.3/07)

1. Up to 10 players are allowed in the field at one time. The coach may make free substitutions.
2. The games will last approx. 1 ½ hours or 5 innings. Starting time will be 6:00pm.
3. There will be a continuous batting order. Players who arrive late should be added to the end of the batting order
4. Each player should play a minimum of 2 innings in the field.
5. All players on deck, at bat, and on the base path should wear batting helmets.
6. There will be a 5 run/inning limit or 3 outs, which ever comes first, except the last inning when there is no limit.
7. *A 15 run mercy rule is in effect after the losing team completes 4 at bats. Either coach (winning or losing) may invoke the mercy rule. Play will continue if neither coach invokes the mercy rule.*
8. ***Pitching:**
At the beginning of each game each coach must declare a minimum of three pitchers to the other coach.
First half of the season: Coaches pitch the first 3 innings. Coaches will pitch underhand. Players pitch the last 2 innings. Each pitcher may pitch a maximum of 5 innings per week.
Second half of the season: Players pitch the entire games. All other rules remain intact (see above).
9. Balls and strikes will be called. If a player pitcher gets to 4 balls on a batter a parent/coach will come in to finish that batter's at bat. **(The count on the batter will return to 0 strikes)**. Every at bat will end with a hit or a strike out. Three strikes will constitute an out. In effect, batters are not allowed to walk. This is an attempt to speed up the game and prevent multiple walks.

First half of the season: Umpire may allow player a "Mulligan" on a called third strike, "That was a good pitch, you need to swing at pitches like that".

Second half of the season: The call is the call.
10. ***Bunting** will be permitted, but only once per inning. There is no bunting if a team is ahead by 8 or more runs.
11. ***Leading** is permitted after the ball crosses the top of the plate.
12. ***Stealing 2nd base and/or home plate** are prohibited: this should include not proceeding after a wild pitch and/or passed ball. Stealing of third base is permitted twice in an inning; however, the runner may not proceed home except on a hit. There is no stealing if a team is ahead by 8 or more runs. Stealing is permitted after the ball crosses the top of home plate.
13. If there is a play at home base, encourage the girls to slide. (This is a safety measure; they are less likely to get hit with the ball or run into the catcher). COACHES NOTE: Please teach and re-teach sliding on wet grass or in a sand pit before and during the season.!
14. Base runners may advance only one base on an overthrow.
15. Base runners may continue advancing until the ball is inside the pitching area (within four feet of the rubber) and is controlled by the pitcher. Play freezes when the pitcher has control of the ball. **(Players in between bases must go to the closest base)**
16. If a batted ball hits a runner, the runner is out; if a thrown ball hits a runner, the runner is safe.
17. If a runner is put out at any base, that runner must vacate the base and have a seat on the bench.
18. The score will be kept from inning to inning.

19. Each team is allowed to have coaches on the field during the game to provide fielding instruction. The coach may not interfere with the play. This should be weaned as much as possible during the second half of the season.
20. A batter will receive one warning if she throws a bat. If she throws the bat a 2nd time during the same game she will be ejected from the game.
21. Eleven-inch flexi balls will be used at this level.
22. 35 foot pitching distance, fixed rubber is optional. The bases will be (55) feet apart.
23. A dropped 3rd strike by a catcher will count as a strike and an out.
24. No infield fly rule.
25. In the judgment of an umpire or coaches that an injury that requires immediate medical attention occurs, the ball is immediately called dead and the player is attended to. Placement of runners and batters is at the umpire's discretion.
26. If an injured player in the continuous batting order is unable to play she will be skipped in the order and the opposing team will not get an automatic out.
27. The Home Team will choose the Umpire from among the spectators. A coach may umpire if no umpire is available.
28. If the score is tied after 6 innings the game is declared a tie.
29. Batters may not advance on a dropped third strike.
30. The umpire or the coaches may determine that the field is unplayable or it is unsafe to play or continue a game. If lightening is seen the game is called immediately.
31. If rules are not specifically covered, the rules of the Amateur Softball Association of America shall govern play.

***Please encourage the wearing of mouth guards by all players.

Let's remember that this is for the kids and all decisions we make should be guided by that.

Please give your opponent as much notice as possible if you need to cancel a game.

Please use open fields to reschedule games as soon after they are canceled as possible.

Thanks for all you are doing for these kids!