

Girls Fast Pitch Softball **Rules for Senior League**

Start time for all weekday games is 6:30pm

The grace period of 5 minutes will be given. Games must start by 6:35pm.

The "OHSAA Official Rules of Softball" shall primarily govern this league. Each year, with the exception of the following modifications to the existing rules, and or additions of the special new rules, which have been generated and Board approved in the interest of safety, fair play, and more even competition.

I. Pre game and post game rules:

- A. Home team duties and responsibilities (Home team listed first on schedule)
 - 1. Use of the first base dugout.
 - 2. Furnish a new game ball.
 - 3. Keep and report the official score.
 - 4. Report the official score to designated league officials within 2 days of game via e-mail or telephone.
 - 5. Home Team has field to warm up from 6:15 to 6:30.
 - 6. Home team responsible to notify visiting team coach of rain outs.

- B. Visiting team duties
 - 1. Use of third base dugout.
 - 2. Furnish a good back up ball.
 - 3. Visiting team has field to warm up from 6:00 to 6:15.

- C. Dual Responsibilities
 - 1. All players and equipment not directly involved in game must remain in dugout. A manager or coach may excuse a player, if necessary providing it does not delay the game.
 - 2. Batting orders must be exchanged prior to the start of the game.
 - 3. All teams after each game must clean up the dugout and surrounding area before leaving the fields.

II. General Rules:

- A. 12" yellow softball will be used.
- B. The defensive team will play 9 players to include 4 outfielders, which shall play at least 8 feet from any base.
- C. There is no on deck circle. Players cannot practice swing until stepping into the batters box. Teams must have at least 7 players to start game.
- D. All players must be in full uniform. (hat, shirt, and pants)
- E. No metal cleats are allowed.
- F. No player is able to wear jewelry. Newly pierced ears must be bandaged.
- G. All players present will bat in a continuous batting order. If a player shows up late, her name goes to the bottom of the batting order.
- H. There is a 3 out or 10-batter limit. When the 10th batter comes to bat, a two out situation automatically exists. The official score keeper shall notify the home plate umpire and managers of the 10th batter.
- I. The game shall consist of 7 innings or the time limit of 2 hours. No new inning will start after 2 hours.
- J. Any inning started before the time limit is up may be completed in its entirety.
- K. If a game is tied after 7 innings of play, both teams should play until a winner is determined not to exceed time limit.

- L. After (5) innings of play, if a team is up 10 runs or more the game is over.
- M. The pitching distance will be 43 feet. A pitching circle (8-foot radius) is marked off around the pitching rubber.
- N. The starting pitcher is allowed (8) warm up pitches there first inning. After the first inning the pitchers are allowed (8) warm up pitches.
- O. No leading off until the ball has been released from the pitcher. If a player leaves before the ball has been released from the pitcher the Umpire will call the runner out.
- P. Stealing is only allowed when the ball has been released from the pitcher. Stealing of Home is permitted.
- Q. A player must slide if a play is close call at the bases or home plate. Players not sliding in which two or more players will collide will be called out.
- R. On a 3rd strike called by the umpire which is not caught by the catcher, the batter becomes a runner, providing (1) first base is unoccupied or (2) first base is occupied with two (2) outs. A batter forfeits the opportunity to advance to first when she enters the dugout or any other dead ball area.
- S. The infield fly rule will apply.
- T. The offensive team is allowed a 1st and 3rd base coach.
- U. Each player must be in the game for a minimum of 6 defensive outs.
- V. There is no restriction on the speed of the pitch. The pitcher must use a windmill or slingshot motion to deliver the pitch.
- W. A "Courtesy Runner" can be used when the catcher is on base. This will keep the game going.
- X. Call-ups are expected rather than a forfeit. However, there should be a system in place to allow various girls the opportunity to "play up" rather than having the same girl constantly being called up. Call ups are not allowed to pitch.

At the discretion of the manager and the approval of the League Directors, a player may be suspended for disciplinary reasons for a game. If this occurs a second time, the Board of Directors shall review the player for possible expulsion from the league. All league officials can recommend disciplinary action to the Board for all off field violations by players, managers, coaches, etc. while at any Little League function.

**THIS IS JUST A GAME!
DON'T TAKE IT TOO SERIOUSLY!
HAVE FUN!**