**COMBINED CITIES RECREATION**

**GIRLS FAST PITCH SOFTBALL**

**SUMMER 2021 BYLAWS**

**7/9 TH GRADES**

PLAY WILL BE GOVERNED BY THE OFFICIAL NFHS SOFTBALL RULE BOOK WITH THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS:

**I. GAME FORMAT**

 1. Games consist of 6 innings or 1 hour and 5 minutes. No new innings can begin after 60 minutes.

 2. Games ending while tied will remain tied and count as a win for both teams, during regular season play. Tournament games that end in a tie will play additional innings to determine a winner.

 3. An inning or half-inning ends when a team scores 7 or more runs regardless of the number of outs. All runs will count until the completion of the play in which the seventh run is scored.

 4. First team listed is home team.

 5. Pitching rubber will be set at 40 feet.

 6. Pitch height will not be strictly enforced.

 7. A **starting pitcher** once removed as a pitcher, may re-enter only once as a pitcher, but may continue to play any other position.

 8. Bases are set at 60 feet.

 9. Catchers must wear a face mask with helmet, chest protector and shin guards. Batters and base runners will be required to wear batting helmets.

10. No metal cleats will be allowed on the field.

**II. PLAYERS**

 1. Any team unable to take the field at the scheduled time will forfeit the game; forfeited games will be played for fun. A complete team consists of 9 players; however, teams may play with a minimum of 6 players and take automatic outs for team members not present. The coach or team manger may designate, prior to the game, where those automatic outs will fall in the line-up. Players arriving late may be slotted into the automatic out positions

 2 FREE SUBSTITUTION IS PERMITTED. EXCEPTION: Players must play the entire inning defensively, unless injured.

 3. All players must play a minimum of 2 innings defensively provided they were notified of and attended at least ½ one half of the team's practices. No player will sit out two innings consecutively.

 4. Batting order consists of all team players present, each batting in the same rotation throughout the game.

 5. All players must remain in the dugout who are not playing defense, batting, on deck, or base running.

**III. BASE RUNNERS**

 1. All base runners must tag up and may not leave the base until the ball leaves the pitcher’s hand. Penalty: base runner may be declared out.

 2. Base runner must attempt to avoid contact with the catcher by sliding into home plate when ever there is a play at home (as determined by the official). Penalty: base runner may be declared out and may be ejected if the contact is deemed intentional by the umpire.

**IV. COACHES**

1. One adult coach is permitted in each coach’s box. All other coaches must remain in the dugout.
2. Conferences: Defensive Conference – Each team, when on defense, may be granted not more than two charged conferences during a six-inning game, without penalty, to permit coaches or their non-playing representatives to confer with a defensive player or players. In an extra inning game, each team shall be permitted one charged conference each inning while on defense without penalty. The number of charged conferences permitted is not cumulative. A request for time for this purpose shall be made by a coach, player substitute or an attendant. Time granted for an obviously incapacitated player shall not constitute a charged conference. Prior to accumulating two charged conferences in six innings or less, a conference is not charged if the pitcher is removed as pitcher. **PENALTY:** After two charged conferences in a six-inning game, or for any charged conference in excess of one in each extra inning, the pitcher shall be removed as pitcher for the duration of the game.

**V. RESCHEDULING**

 1. Conditions permitting, all games will be played when scheduled. Rescheduling is not allowed, unless determined necessary by the recreation department.

**VI. SCOREKEEPER**

 1. The home team is responsible for the official scorekeeper and score book, however; both teams must provide a scorekeeper and match score books after each inning. Discrepancies between the home and visiting team score books must be reconciled prior to the completion of the inning; otherwise the home team score book will be considered correct.

 2. All line-ups must be submitted to the scorekeeper(s) at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled game time.

**VIII** **PROTESTS**

 1. A. Any violation or misinterpretation of a rule (not judgment calls) must be brought to the attention of the umpire BEFORE THE NEXT PITCH.

 B. If the umpire cannot solve the problem the Site Supervisor should be found to make a final ruling on the play in question.

 C. Any player, coach or spectator ejected from a game must schedule an appointment with the Recreation Director, or program coordinator within 24 hours of the game in order to be reinstated in the program. An ejection will result in that individual not participating in the game following the ejection and may face expulsion from the league.

**VII. SPORTSMANSHIP PHILOSOPHY**

 A. The City Recreation Departments are dedicated to providing quality recreational sports programs in a spirit of sportsmanship and fellowship for all of our families, friends and neighbors. It is expected that all players, coaches, parents, and spectators will strongly adhere to all rules of play and etiquette involving the program.