



# 2026 Senior Girls Softball League Rules

## **GRADE/AGE ELIGIBILITY**

Intermediate Girls Softball – All players must be 13 or 14 years of age. No players who are age 15 as of May 1, 2026 will be allowed to participate. No High School players

## **LEAGUE FEES BY DIVISION**

Intermediate Girls Softball – \$250 per team, payable to Oregon Park District, ATTN Softball Fees, PO Box 237, Oregon, IL 61061.

## **RULES OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS, FANS, & COACHES**

1. Any player, fan, or coach who swears will get one warning by the umpire. After the 1 warning they will be asked to leave the ball diamond by the umpire (extreme vulgarity will result in an immediate expulsion). The game will not continue until that person leaves the ball diamond.
2. There shall be NO TOBACCO USE OR ALCOHOL USE during any games by any player, fan, or coach in the immediate area of the ball diamond. The game will not continue until that person leaves the ball diamond.
3. If a player or coach is asked to leave a ball diamond, the head coach will be suspended the next scheduled game.
4. All parents and coaches shall read & sign a Code of Conduct prior to 1<sup>st</sup> game scheduled – signatures are to be kept on hand by the head coaches. (Attachment )

## **INJURY/BLEEDING**

Any player or coach who is bleeding or who has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. If medical care or treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual would not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is the umpires' judgment. The reentry rule would apply to players. If there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform it must be changed before that individual participates again.

## **PROTESTS**

1. There shall be no protests. Misinterpretations of the rules shall be settled between coaches and the umpires. It is encouraged to have the rules with you at all times.
2. EXCEPTION: Roster questions. Please allow 48 hours for the coordinators to discuss.

## **NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

1. Teams can play with as few as 9 players, with no automatic out. A team can put 8 players on the field and in the batting order, but if 10 players are available, they must all play. No automatic out will be assessed until a team drops below 9 players. The 9<sup>th</sup> spot in the batting order will be assessed an automatic out.
2. If a team has less than 8 players the game must be forfeited.

- a. The league does recommend playing the game and sharing players amongst the two teams, but the game will be considered a forfeit.
3. Teams will play with 10 players on defense and have the option to use all players in the batting order. A team must submit their batting order prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> inning of each game and determine if they intend to bat their entire team. If a team begins a game batting their entire team, they must also finish the game batting the entire team.

## UMPIRES

1. The home team will schedule umpires prior to each scheduled game. Home team is also responsible for payment of scheduled umpires.
2. Must have at least 2 umpires.
  - a. Plate umpire is required to be patched. 2<sup>nd</sup> Umpire can be 16 years of age or older and unpatched.

## SCHEDULES AND REPORTING SCORES

1. Schedules can be found at [www.oregonpark.org](http://www.oregonpark.org) or [www.rockriversports.org](http://www.rockriversports.org)
2. Please to report scores to [lesley@oregonpark.org](mailto:lesley@oregonpark.org) as soon as possible.

## GENERAL PLAYING RULES

IHSA rules will apply to all play except for the following:

1. Pitching distance is 43 feet measured from the back of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber. Bases are 60 feet.
2. A pitcher may only pitch a max of 4 innings per game. One pitch or more in an inning counts as a full inning pitched. Any pitcher taken out may not return as a pitcher in the same inning she was removed. A pitcher may return as a pitcher in a different inning as long as they abide by the 4 inning max pitch rule.
3. No intentional walks.
4. Crow hopping is not allowed. Per new IHSA Rules, leaping is allowed
5. Player on base cannot leave the base until the ball is out of the pitcher's hand. If she leaves too soon, she is to be called out and the pitch does not count.
6. If a batted ball hits the plate and goes fair it is a fair ball.
7. Each runner, including the batter, is awarded one base if a fielder loses possession of the ball and the ball enters dead ball (out of bounds) area. If a fielder loses possession of the ball and the ball remains in the live ball territory, a runner including the batter, can advance to any base.
8. The batter can run on a dropped third strike.
9. Innings per game will be 7.
10. If a game is called due to rain or darkness before 4 complete innings have been played (3 ½ if the home team is winning), the game will be rescheduled if possible and will be played in its entirety.
11. Rainouts must be called by 4:00pm for a 5:30 start, or by 4:30 for later start times. The home team is responsible for contacting the visiting league coordinator. Each team is then responsible for following their set league instructions for rainouts.
12. 10 run rule is in effect after 4 ½ innings, 15 run rule after 3 ½ innings.
13. Any starter may be withdrawn from the game and re-entered once, provided such player occupies the same batting order position whenever in the lineup. A sub who is withdrawn may not re-enter. Courtesy runners may be used for the pitcher and catcher with someone that is not in the game.
14. Prior to starting the delivery (pitch), the pitcher shall take a position with: (1) the pivot foot on or partially on the top surface of the pitching rubber; (2) the non-pivot foot in contact with or behind the

pitching rubber. Both feet must be on the ground within or partially within the 24" length of the pitching rubber. (pictorial photo available in the IHSA rulebook)

15. The runner is out when the runner does not legally slide and causes illegal contact or illegally alters the actions of the fielder in the immediate act of making a play on her.
16. No new inning will start after 1 hour and 45 minutes of play.
17. If the game is still tied after 6 innings an extra inning may only be played if time limit has not been met. If the game is at the time limit, it will end in a tie, unless a tournament game. See tournament section for tournament rule.
18. Teams must field 4 outfielders when playing with 10 players. Outfielder must play in the outfield grass or designated area.
19. Each player without discipline problems is entitled to 2 innings per game.
20. 7 runs per inning will end the inning for the batting team. This rule applies until the last inning where fielding team must record 3 outs to end the inning. The umpire must call last inning at the top of it, if it is not the 7<sup>th</sup> inning.

### **TEAM ROSTER**

1. Rosters are to be filed with the Oregon Park District 48 hours BEFORE the season begins.
2. A roster change must be reported to the Oregon Park District no later than 48 hours prior to the starting time of the first game they are to play in. (THE RULE IS ONLY FOR PLAYERS MOVING INTO THE COMMUNITY.)
3. Any team which plays a game with a player whose name is not on the roster submitted to the Oregon Park District will forfeit said ball game.
4. Coaches will notify the Oregon Park District of any players that quit no later than 1 week after occurrence.
5. Only rostered players may play in games. You may pull up 3 younger players and add them to your roster. This must be done when rosters are submitted at the beginning of the season. No player may be rostered on 2 teams in the same age division. These players should only be utilized in the event of struggling for enough players to field a team, not as a regular occurrence. Playing these players should not affect the playing time of regularly rostered players. If it determined that an organization is not following this rule, they may face penalties up to and including being ineligible to participate the following year.

### **REGULAR SEASON GAMES**

1. The home team's scorekeeper is the official scorekeeper.
2. All league games will be played on the home field or may be played on another field with the consent of both managers involved, per schedule, with the exception of rained out or postponed games.
3. Each team shall play a season's schedule of games. Games which are rained out or postponed for any reason must be rescheduled by the home team (within two weeks is preferable). Any regular season games not played before the tournament seeding date shall result in a forfeit.
4. All scheduled regular season game dates are final as of June 1. No rescheduling, except for weather-related, will be done after June 1.
5. If opposing coaches/coordinators agree, Sunday afternoon games may be played.
6. The home team shall furnish 2 new balls per game.
7. The ground rules regarding home fields shall be respected. Coaches and officials for the game shall meet before the game and all ground rules shall be clearly and carefully explained.
8. Tournament seeding is determined by winning percentage then by head to head play.

## TOURNAMENT

1. The home team's scorekeeper is the official scorekeeper.
2. Any game called before its completion (weather, darkness, mechanical failure, etc.) will be a suspended game regardless of the inning. When continued from the point of interruption, lineup and batting order will be the same. If there is a player not present from when the game was suspended and all substitutes have been used the missing player shall be treated as an injured player.
3. Higher seed will be home team throughout tournament.
4. The home team shall furnish 2 new game balls.
5. All mercy run rules are still in effect. (15 after 3 ½, 10 after 4 ½)
6. Per inning run rules may apply, EXCEPT for the final inning of a time limited game for both teams (allows teams to stage a comeback).
7. Time limit applies to all games except for Championship Game.
8. No ties in tournament play - An International Tie Breaker will be implemented for any Tournament Game ending in a tie at the end of time limit or regulation play. International Tie Breaker rules are as follows: At the beginning of each team's at-bat the last batter from the previous inning is placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> base with zero outs. It is not a sudden death. Each team has an opportunity to bat each inning. The game ends when one team is ahead at the end of an inning.
9. Weather conditions or tournament questions should be directed to the community coordinator responsible for hosting the tournament.

## EQUIPMENT

1. Catchers must wear a hard helmet, throat guard, chest protector, and shin guards (using a batting helmet while warming up the pitcher is not allowed).
2. ALL players must wear a helmet while on deck, while batting, and while on base.
3. Face masks are required on all batting helmets.
4. All in-fielders must wear a face mask but it is strongly encouraged that all defensive players wear masks
5. No steal cleats.
6. All bats must be ASA certified with an official stamp.
7. No jewelry is allowed to be worn during the game by players. (sunglasses are acceptable...no necklaces...no necklaces...no bracelets...no nose rings....no earrings).
8. Each community involved within the league shall make sure that their fields are safe and ready for play. The Oregon Park District assumes no responsibility for unsafe playing conditions in other towns.

# ATTACHMENT

## Parent's Code of Ethics/Conduct

Helping parents to be aware of their roles and responsibilities and offers ways they can make the youth sports experience more enjoyable and positive is a goal of the Rock River youth baseball and softball league.

### Responsibilities and Expectations

For a program to be truly successful, it takes the cooperation of everyone involved: players, coaches, officials, staff, spectators and especially parents. Parents have the following responsibilities and expectations when participating in any Rock River sponsored athletic program:

**1. Parents have a responsibility to their children.**

To make sure that your child gets the most out of his or her playing experience, parents should show their unwavering support, including positive reinforcement of your child's performance and effort. This is essential, especially at an early age, to ensure their healthy development. Parents should also be positive role models, including, but not limited to, always showing proper sportsmanship and refraining from negativity of any kind.

**2. Parents have a responsibility to the coaches.**

Coaches volunteer their personal time to spend it with your child. They need you to be supportive of their decisions and not undermine their efforts. If you don't agree with a coach, you are expected to tell that coach, but make certain it is done at the right time and place, in a non-argumentative manner and not in front of the children. Parents are also expected to drop off and pick up their children on time for games and practice, and it is highly encouraged for parents to stay and participate to maintain control of the group and to assist the coach as needed.

**3. Parents have a responsibility to the league.**

Staff cannot be at games and practices for all teams. Therefore, to maintain the positive nature of these programs, it is essential for parents/spectators to report any abusive behavior or any other situation that needs to be addressed to staff. This is the only way that these programs can achieve their intended goals.

**4. Parents/Spectators have a responsibility to other parents.**

Personal gain and satisfaction should not be derived from a child's performance. Competition and taunting between parents is never acceptable, and no parent/spectator should ever feel embarrassed or disappointed by their team or child's performance. Good plays should always be cheered, and disappointments should always be consoled, no matter whose team it affects.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports programs by following the expectations identified above.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

League \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_