



1ST / 2ND GRADE SOFTBALL RULES

Rules governing play will be the National Federation of State High School Associations rules with the following additions, exceptions, changes:

1. The game will be 6 innings or 1 hour, whichever comes first. No new innings will begin after 50 minutes.
2. The pitching distance will be 30 feet. (Approx.) The bases will be 60' apart.
3. **We will us an 11" R.I.F. softball.**
4. Starting defensive line up will consist of ten (10) players. The tenth player is an outfielder. Outfielders must be on the grass not in the infield. Starting offensive line up will consist of all players present, each batting in the same rotation throughout the game. If a player arrives late, put them at the end of the batting order. A team may play with a minimum of 7 players.
5. No unregistered players can be brought in to play. **ONLY PLAYERS WHO ARE REGISTERED MAY PLAY IN GAMES AND PRACTICES. ANY UNREGISTERED PLAYERS OR PLAYERS PLAYING ON MULTIPLE TEAMS/ NOT THEIR ASSIGNED TEAM DURING A GAME WILL LEAD TO THE TEAM HAVING TO FORFEIT ANY GAME(S) THEY HAVE PLAYED IN.** When a team, which has less than 10 players, gets to the last batter present on the roster, they shall go back to the start of the lineup until they have batted 10 players.
6. All pitching will be done by the coach or designated parent. Each batter will receive 5 pitches. A tee will be brought out if there is no hit after 5 pitches.
7. If a batted ball hits the coach (pitching) before being touched by a defensive player, the play will be called dead, and a new pitch will be awarded. If a batted ball hits the staff member before being touched by a defensive player, the play will be called dead, and the batter will be awarded 1st base. Any runner on base will be allowed to advance one base if they are forced. A ball thrown in from the outfield or around the infield that hits the pitcher or supervisor is in play and the defensive players must continue to make a play.
8. All players must remain in the dugout that are not playing defense, batting, on deck, or are base runners. This is to protect players from foul balls and other unforeseen circumstances.
9. The infield fly rule is not in effect.
10. Bunting is not permitted. Batters must take a full swing.
11. A team on offense shall have three (3) outs or go through the entire line-up, whichever comes first.
12. When the last batter comes up it is considered a 2 out situation. In this situation, the defensive team needs to force out one of the runners at a base that they are headed towards. All runners must advance until the out is recorded.
13. Stealing or leading off a base will not be allowed. The runner must wait until the ball is hit before leaving the base.
14. Catchers must wear the complete catcher's gear including helmet, mask, throat protector, chest protector, and leg guards. Batters and base runners must always have a batting helmet on.
15. **Chatter** must not be directed at the opposing players. Examples not allowed: "Hey Batter, Batter Swing!", or any cheers that degrade the opposing players. We would request that spectators be just as courteous.
16. Players, managers, coaches, or spectators may be removed from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct. Games could be called when refused to leave.



17. **No official score or win / loss records will be kept.** The emphasis will be on participation, learning softball skills, and team and individual sportsmanship.
18. A player is not automatically out for throwing the bat. Please teach the girls not to throw the bat. Only softball bats of no more than 2 1/4" barrel will be allowed.
19. **Home team will use the third base line dugout. (listed first on the schedule)**
20. We will be observing the "one base on an overthrow with chance of being put out" rule. (An overthrow is a ball beyond the reach of the baseman.)
21. Coaches cannot assist any base runner. Coaches, please stay in the coach's box.

Sportsmanship points will be awarded every game based on the behavior of parents, spectators, players, and coaches. Please inform your parents and players about this before your first game. You must maintain a 3-point average (5 points possible) to be eligible to continue playing. Please encourage parents and players to be good sports. Please do not use noise making devices. (Cowbells, air horns, etc.)

We would like all our youth sports league games and practices to have a Drug-Free Environment. Managers, coaches, and parents are not allowed to use tobacco of any kind during games or practices. Violators will be asked to leave the park immediately.

Coaching Tips: What players should learn in their first year of softball.

(These are just some pointers to better help coaches teach kids during games. Keep in mind, some kids may be more advanced than others at different skills).

- Understand basic rules of softball (i.e., out vs. safe, runs, fair vs. foul ball, etc.)
- Know each position (i.e., first basemen, second basemen, shortstop, third basemen, pitcher, catcher, outfield)
- Know/ have an idea of what a force out is: A force out (aka force play) is made when a baserunner is forced to leave his base when the batter becomes a baserunner himself, and a fielder successfully tags the next base before the runner can reach it).
- Strengthen throwing mechanics
- Batting grip: right-handed, right hand should be on top, left-handed, left hand should be on top. Knuckles lined up (knuckles they would knock on a door with).
- Basic batting stance: feet, knees, hands, load, toe, swing! *If you have them do this 5-10 times before a game or practice in a group together and have them repeat after you and follow your example.
- Understand and be able to get in a "ready position."
- Field a ball using the alligator technique
- Baserunning: which direction to run, when to run through a base or slide/ stop on a base
 - Can only run through first base after a hit; second and third, a runner must stop on the base or slide, when running home runners can run through or slide.