

TINLEY PARK SOFTBALL 2016 GIRLS RULES 7-8 YEAR OLDS

1. Games are scheduled for 6 innings. In cases of rain or darkness, 3 innings constitutes a full game (2 ½ innings if the home team has more runs). No game will continue beyond 6 innings even if the game is tied. THERE ARE NO STANDINGS.

2. No new innings will begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes of play and all play will stop after 2 hours has elapsed regardless of the situation. (Examples: A game beginning at 6:00 p.m. will not begin a new inning after 7:45 p.m. and the game will be stopped at 8:00 p.m. Games starting at 8:00 p.m. will end at 10:00 p.m. with no new inning beginning after 9:45 p.m.).

3. Field dimensions for this level: baselines are 50 feet; and the distance from the pitching rubber to the apex (back point) of home plate is 30 feet.

4. The home team is responsible for setting up and taking down the field as well as ensuring all field equipment has been put back in the field lock box and the box has been properly locked. In the case of inclement weather, the home team manager is responsible for notifying the visiting team of the game postponement and rescheduling the make-up game. In addition, the home team manager must also notify the umpire coordinator of any game cancellations. The home team also provides one 11" safety softball game ball.

5. WEATHER: If lightning is sighted in the distance coaches and umpire meet immediately determine to continue or not don't just call it if lightning in distance. However, good judgment and player safety should always be considered.

6. All teams will use a continuous batting order (i.e. all players bat regardless of if they are playing in the field that inning). If a player is injured or has to miss a turn at bat, the player can re-enter the batting order in her original spot whenever she is ready to do so.

7. A player should not play the same position more than two innings in the same game. A player should not play less than 3 innings per game. Play meaning both infield and outfield positions. A coach can use unlimited and free substitution.

8. Each player must wear a complete uniform.

a. Gym shoes, softball shoes, or multi-purpose shoes must be worn. No metal cleats, dress shoes, or sandals are allowed. b. Each player must have a glove. c. Catchers must wear a helmet, mask, chest protector and throat and shin guards. No player should be allowed to warm up a pitcher at anytime without a protective mask. d. Bats must be "Official Softball" bats. e. No jewelry is allowed.

Version Final 2012 7-8 Years Page 2 4/3/2014

f. All Pitchers and First Baseman are advised to wear a face mask if one is provided.

9. ALL batters and base runners must wear a batting helmet until they cross home plate or have left the field of play when they have been called out. Should a runner's helmet fall off, she may continue

running to the next base. However, if a runner intentionally throws her helmet off, play stops immediately and all runners return to the last base touched.

10. A coach may not physically assist a runner running the bases. The umpire will warn the coach once. If this happens again, play will be declared dead and the runner will be called out.

11. The batter is to be warned by the umpire if she throws the bat. If the batter throws the bat a second time during the same game, the batter is called back to bat again and any runners must return to their original bases. A batter should be called out if the bat is thrown on every swing and delays the game. A batter will be called out if she throws the bat, and the thrown bat interferes with the defense trying to make a play.

12. An official game will be played with 8 or more players per team. If a team has less than 8 players present, the game will be rescheduled (there are no forfeits) for a later date (pending field availability). The home team manager should contact her/his League Representative to notify the league of the situation.

13. Each team will have 10 fielders: 3 outfielders; pitcher, catcher; 1st, 2nd, 3rd base, and a shortstop. There will be A SHORT CENTER fielder or 4th outfielder.

14. OUTFIELDER RULE: There will be 3-4 outfielders. The outfielders must be at least 20 feet beyond the base paths (not up with the infielders).

15. Lead offs are allowed after ball is released from pitcher or coaches hand. Leadoffs are only 2 steps off of base. Player must return back to base right away if ball is not hit. No throw downs allowed. If player leaves base early or takes more than 2 steps the umpire will warn the coach. If this happens again, play will stop, and there will be a replay. On subsequent team violations, the umpire will call the runner out. This is only for teaching purposes and should not be abused.

16. Base runners are NOT allowed to steal bases. The umpire will warn the coach once. If this happens again, play will stop, and there will be a replay. On subsequent team violations, the umpire will call the runner out.

17. There is no infield fly rule.

18. There is no dropped 3rd strike rule.

19. There is no limit on the number of foul balls hit by the batter.

20. No bunting. If a player bunts the ball the player is out and all runners return to their original bases.

21. If a pitch hits a batter, the batter will not be awarded first base.

Version Final 2012 7-8 Years Page 3 4/3/2014

22. In the case of an injured player on the field, all play stops and the runners advance to the base they were going to. The ball is dead.

23. On any ball that goes out of play runners will be allowed the base they were running to, plus 1 additional base.

a. Out of play is any ball that goes beyond the fence line. Balls thrown in foul territory are not to be considered out of play and runners may not advance. b. See rule 34: "once the outfielder begins to throw the ball back into the infield the runner may only continue to the base she is currently going to." c. Good Sportsmanship is expected of all players and coaches 24. Any runner is out when she passes a preceding runner. It does not matter if they switch back before they touch a base. As soon as the subsequent runner passes the runner in front of her she is immediately out and play continues (not a dead ball situation).

25. When a runner interferes with a fielder attempting to make a play on a ball, the runner is immediately out. When a fielder not attempting to field a ball interferes with the runner, the runner is immediately awarded the base she was headed to.

26. When a base runner is hit with a fair batted ball that has passed through an infielder other than the pitcher, the base runner is NOT out and play continues.

27. Chatter is permitted; however, no one is allowed to tell the batter to swing or make remarks toward the batter.

28. Time out may only be called by the umpire.

29. Defensive coaching shall be done from the bench area.

30. No protests are allowed.

31. There is no slaughter rule.

32. PITCHING RULES:

a. Pitch counts starts with a 1 and 0 count. (Batter starts with 1 ball and 0 strike) This is being done in an effort to help move the game along, and allow for more inning to be played. b. During the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd innings the players will pitch. If the pitcher throws four balls to a batter before the batter hits the ball or strikes out, then a coach from the batter's team will come out and pitch to the batter (the strike count does not get reset) until she gets a hit or strikes out (the umpire will call strikes when the coach is pitching, so called strike outs are possible). Pitchers are only allowed to pitch two innings per game and one pitch thrown constitutes one inning pitched. If a pitcher hits 3 batters with the ball during the inning that she is pitching, she will be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game and another pitcher will be brought in to finish the inning. A relieving pitcher will be allowed 5 warm up pitches.

Version Final 2012 7-8 Years Page 4 4/3/2014

c. During the 4th, 5th, and 6th innings the coaches of the batting team will pitch. The umpire will call balls and strikes; however, there will be no walks allowed (either because of four balls or hit by a pitch). When a coach is pitching, the player playing the pitcher's fielding position will stand on the coach's glove hand side. The coach will only touch the ball to defend himself/herself.

33. When the 7th batter comes to bat in an inning there are automatically two outs. The maximum runs per inning per team are 5.

34. On balls hit into the outfield, once the outfielder begins to throw the ball back into the infield the runner may only continue to the base she is currently going to.

a. Note any runner attempting to take an additional base will be instructed by the umpire to return to the preceding base they were advancing to.

35. On close plays at any base it is recommended that the incoming runner slide for the protection of the fielder and base runner. However, the runner will not be penalized if she does not slide.

36. These rules are in addition to A.S.A. Softball rules. Common sense should also be used when coaching this age group.

37. Good Sportsmanship is expected of all players. Blatant disregard (taunting, arguing, etc.) of Good Sportsmanship warrants immediate removal of the player for the remainder of the game. Additional penalties may be assessed against the player upon review by the Bobcats' organization.