

MAJOR LEAGUE/SENIOR LEAGUE GIRL'S SOFTBALL GENERAL RULES

★ *Indicates changes made for 2009*

General Playing Rules

1. ONLY players and *certified coaches* are allowed on the field area. All spectators are to be in the bleacher area. It is the responsibility of the parent to control any other children they have with them and to keep them away from player's benches, dugouts, and playing areas. The umpire will have the right to stop the game and if necessary call the game should this not be followed.
2. Only girls are allowed to play. This is a girl's league only.
- ★ 3. Games will be 7 innings; no inning starts after 7:45pm (unless field is under lights) *Clarification* - No **new** inning can start after 7:45pm (9:45pm for games under lights). The "last inning" should be determined by the umpire & coaches of both teams before an inning is started. At that time a joint decision can be made stating that this is going to be the last inning.
4. There will be no more than 6 runs allowed in any half-inning up until the last inning which will allow unlimited runs. *Clarification* - Once the "last inning" is determined, the unlimited rule then goes into effect.
5. Sliding is allowed and encouraged. There will be no penalty for not sliding. For safety reasons, to avoid collisions, sliding is encouraged.
6. There is no head first sliding allowed.
7. There is no slap hitting allowed.
8. When pitching, the pitcher must have both feet on the pitching rubber.
- ★ 9. All girls on the bench shall bat. For example, if you have 13 girls present, all 13 girls will be put on your batting order sheet and all 13 girls will bat. All girls must play at least 3 innings in the field that is 6 or more innings.
10. If a catcher is a base runner and there are two outs, a courtesy runner may be used for the catcher to speed up play. This courtesy runner must be the player last out and must be substituted before the first pitch is thrown to the next batter.
11. A player making a deliberate attempt to run into a fielder will be called out. If the incident is determined to be flagrant, the player will be ejected from the game.
12. If a player permanently leaves the game before the conclusion, just cross her name out of the batting order. *An out will not be recorded when the vacant spot comes up in the batting order provided the opposing team has been notified prior to the first pitch of the following batter.* In the event that this lost player brings the number of remaining team members below eight, a forfeit will be called.
13. There will be one (1) base on an overthrow if the ball is thrown out of bounds (which is anything outside fair territory) . On an overthrow where the ball stays in fair territory, the runner can advance as far as she dares. *Finalize* with the umpire before the game begins.

14. Play ends when the pitcher has possession of the ball in the "pitching circle". A runner who violates this must go back to the prior base.
15. No infield fly rule is in effect in the Major league division. A girl is allowed to tag up on a fly ball, whether it is in the infield or outfield.
16. Defensive players may not stand in the baseline and interfere with base runners.
17. There is no leading. A base runner may not leave the base until the ball has crossed the plate.
- ★ 18. Pitchers can pitch a maximum of 3 consecutive innings per game, and cannot return once a new pitcher has started.
~~unless it goes into a 7th inning. If the game reaches a 7th inning, a pitcher is then allowed to pitch four (4) innings.~~
~~Note - A pitcher can return to the 7th inning after having pitched earlier in a game.~~
19. The ball to be used in the Major league and Senior divisions is a twelve (12) inch softball. *Clarification* - The ball color can be white or yellow.
- ★ 20. For Majors, the pitching rubber will be 35 feet from home plate. There will be a 16 foot circle around the pitching rubber. The bases will be 60 feet apart.
Note - The Majors will be encouraged to pitch from 40 if possible.
 For Seniors, the pitching rubber will be 40 feet from home plate.
21. Pitchers will deliver the ball in accordance with fast pitch regulations. No balks will be called, however pitchers will be reminded to maintain a consistent pitching motion.
22. No batter shall throw the bat. After 1 (one) warning the batter will be called out by the umpire.
23. A ball hit on the ground and rolling foul, then fair, is considered in play if no one has touched it. A ball hit in the air foul remains foul and can not roll back into play.
24. Continuous Motion For A Walked Batter: A player who is awarded first base on balls should move down the first base line and touch first base. After touching first base she can immediately return to the base without liability of being put out if there's no feint or attempt to advance to second. She may also round first base and go directly to second base without stopping. A batter-runner who rounds first base toward second may stop, but then must immediately return to first or attempt non-stop to second. Play ends when the pitcher has possession of the ball in the "pitching circle".
25. A base runner who is hit by a batted ball or makes contact with a batted ball is automatically out.
26. All players should wear their uniforms (pants, shirt and hat if provided). Any girl not having a full uniform will not be permitted to participate in that game. Full helmets must be worn by the batter, catcher and all base runners. Teams will share equipment, if necessary.
27. Any girl, coach or manager who acts in an unsportsmanlike manner or uses profanity, in the judgment of the umpire will be ejected from the game. Also, any fan who is unsportsmanlike, will be asked to leave the stands before play is allowed to continue.
28. The official score will be kept by the home team. The score must be checked by the visiting team between innings.

- ★29. Eight (8) girls are needed to start a game.
For Majors, no more than ten (10) will play at one time (defensively).
For Seniors, no more than nine (9) will play at one time (defensively).
Game time is 6:00pm unless otherwise stated. Forfeiture of games will occur at 6:15pm if a team does not have the minimum number of players present (8).
- 30. Any team not having ten (10) roster players may use a member of a sub-league (Gidget team). There is no limit as to the number of girls brought up provided all members of the rostered team were contacted first. Call-ups must bat last in the lineup and cannot pitch. Sub-league players must play a minimum of 2 innings in the field. In the event that the sub-league player is not actually needed, the rostered team players must play first. You may also call players from other Major league Division teams, except for pitchers.
- 31. No manager or coach will be allowed to umpire a game for the League in the same division which he or she is involved with.
- 32. During the Major league division season the following skills will be introduced:
Bunting, stealing, running on 3rd strike.

Field Rules

- 33. Team coaches will meet with the umpire before the start of the game to go over the rules. Coaches may opt to forego bunting and stealing, but must agree prior to the start of the game.
- 34. The umpire is in full control of the game. No harassing of the umpire by parents, coaches, managers or players will be tolerated.
- 35. The call of the umpire shall stand. If the umpire showed lack of knowledge of rules, managers will talk to the umpire in a discrete manner at the end of the inning.
- 36. No jewelry may be worn during practice or games.
- 37. Players should not eat or chew gum while participating in practices or games.
- 38. The team managers will reschedule rainouts of games if/when possible.

Additional Rules

- 1. There will be "NO SMOKING" on the playing field boundaries, including the team bench area and the stands.
- 2. Each township has a Code of Conduct requiring that fans shall not harass umpires, coaches or players. Belligerent fans will be asked to leave the playing field boundaries, or risk forfeiting the game.
- ★ 3. For Majors, at least one parent or Guardian must remain at the game at all times.

★ PITCHING RULES (to be loosely enforced)

- ★ 1. The most primary rule is to start with 2 feet on the rubber and then to use any form of Windmill. All of the remaining pitching rules should be loosely enforced.
- 2. The ball must be delivered in an underhanded motion with the ball below the hip and the wrist no further from the body than the elbow.

3. The ball must be in the gloved hand or pitching hand, the two hands are apart and in front of the pitcher for a full second. Then the hands must be brought together, then separated (only once) as the motion begins.
4. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitching plate at all times prior to ball release. The pivot foot is permitted to be dragged off the plate along the ground. What is not permitted anywhere is a "crow hop" in which the pivot foot leaves the plate, does not drag on the ground, and then replants at a new point of impetus before the ball is released. Obtaining a second point of impetus is always prohibited.
5. The forward step of the pitcher must result in the forward foot landing within the column created by the 24 inches of the pitcher's plate between the plate and the batter.
6. The forward step must also be within the eight foot radius of the pitching circle.
7. Two full revolutions of the pitching arm is prohibited. A pitcher cannot deliver the ball with a windmill motion after which she continues to rotate her arm in another full circle. Nor can she deliver the pitch after having made two full circles. In other words, wherever the pitcher's arm begins the forward motion, whether that is for windmill, slingshot, or another type of delivery, it cannot pass that point twice.

SENIOR GIRL'S ADDITIONAL RULES

1. Sliding is required on any close plays at home by the plate. Umpires may call players out who do not slide into home in this instance.
- ★ 2. Seniors can steal home once per inning.
- ★ 3. Pitchers can pitch a maximum of 3 consecutive innings per game, and cannot return once a new pitcher has started.

The recreation department will determine if the playing fields are OK to play on in the event of inclement weather.

Call into the following telephone #'s for Rainout messages:

East Brunswick	732-432-9308
Highland Park	732-819-0052
Milltown	732-220-1755 or http://www.leaguelineup.com/ml
New Brunswick	732-249-9200
North Brunswick	http://www.nbbsa.net
South River	732-254-4412
Spotswood	http://www.spotswoodboro.com/recreation.html