

18 UNDER FP

GREATER PITTSBURGH GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE FAST PITCH PLAYING RULES

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All rules not covered herein shall revert to the current ASA Rules for games officiated by ASA Umpires, and NSA Rules for Games officiated by NSA Umpires. Players cannot play down in an age bracket. Player's age is as of December 31st.

SECTION 1: GAME

- A. **GAME LENGTHS:** Games are 7 innings. The game is an official game and the ten (10) run rule will be in effect after 5 full innings or 4 ½ if the home team is leading, an unofficial game is replayed entirely. If the last completed inning of play ended with a tie score, the game will be recorded as a tie.
- B. **RUNS PER INNING:** NOT APPLICABLE
- C. **TIE GAME:** If tied after 7 complete innings, the game will continue under the INTERNATIONAL TIE BREAKER RULE.
- D. **LINEUP:** A minimum of eight (8) players is required to start and finish a game. In the event that one team does not have the required number of players to start a scheduled game, the teams will share players and the game may be played. The intent is to play the game. The game would be officially scored as a "GAME PLAYED FORFEIT WIN" for the team who supplied the players. If neither team has a minimum of eight (8) players, no official game will be played and neither team will be awarded game points. The home team will be responsible to pay a full umpire fee if the umpires were not properly notified of the cancellation.
- E. **WEATHER /FIELD CONDITIONS:** Prior to the start of the game, all judgments regarding weather and field conditions are the responsibility of the Home Team Manager. After the game has started, all judgments regarding weather and field conditions are the responsibility of the umpires. In no event shall a game continue if there is lightning sighted or thunder heard. The umpires will determine if a game is to be stopped for rain conditions. If the game is stopped, both team managers and the umpires will consult regarding continuation of the game. The umpires will have the final decision regarding continuation of play.
- F. **PLAYING FIELD:** BASES 60', PITCHING DISTANCE 40' (SEE RULE 3B), 3' RUNNING LANE at 1st base, DOUBLE 1st base is optional. The home team manager must consult with the umpire regarding ground rules. The umpire has the authority to change a ground rule for safety reasons.

SECTION 2: FIELDING

- A. **DEFENSE:** Each team will field NINE (9) players on defense. The current rules of play for ASA (North Division) or NSA (South Division) will apply for reentry or substitution of players.
- B. **OVERTHROWS:** NOT APPLICABLE
- C. **INFIELD FLY RULE:** The Infield Fly Rule is in effect.
- D. **DEFENSIVE CONFERENCES:** "The umpire shall advise both team managers prior to the start of the game". Managers/coaches are permitted 1 Defensive conference per inning. If a manager/coach exercises a 2nd defensive conference in the same inning, the pitcher will be removed from the pitching mound for the remainder of the game.

SECTION 3: PITCHING

- A. **INNINGS PER GAME:** There is no restriction on the number of innings a pitcher can pitch.
- B. **PITCHING DISTANCE:** The pitching distance is 40'. An eight (8') foot radius circle will be drawn from the center of the pitcher's rubber.
- C. **DELIVERY OF A PITCH:** A pitcher can start her delivery with either one (1) or two (2) feet on the rubber.

SECTION 4: BATTER / BASE RUNNER

- A. **LINEUP:** The current rules of play for ASA (North Division) or NSA (South Division) will apply for reentry or substitution of players. An EP and a DH will be permitted for both the North and South Divisions.
- B. **OFFENSIVE CONFERENCES:** "The umpire shall advise both team managers prior to the start of the game". Managers/coaches are permitted 1 Offensive conference per inning. If a manager/coach exercises 2nd Offensive conference in the same inning, the batter will be declared out.
- C. **COURTESY RUNNER:** The manager is permitted to substitute a base runner for the catcher or an injured base runner at any time regardless of the number of outs. The substituted runner will be the player who recorded the last out.
- D. **FAILURE TO TAKE A TURN AT BAT:** If a player does not take her turn at bat, "FOR WHATEVER REASON", an out will be recorded. The line-up will close and no additional outs will be recorded. The player may return and bat in the same position in the line-up, if the returning player again does not bat, an out will be recorded and the line-up will close. . If a player must leave early and the opposing coach is notified prior to the start of the game, no out will be recorded.
- E. **BALL/STRIKE COUNT:** NOT APPLICABLE
- F. **3RD STRIKE.** The 3rd strike rule DOES apply.
- G. **BASE AWARDED TO RUNNER:** Not Applicable

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SECTION 5: BASE STEALING.

- A. **BASE RUNNERS 1st or 2nd BASE:** There are no restrictions on base stealing.
- B. **BASE RUNNERS 3RD BASE:** NOT APPLICABLE
- C. **BASE AWARDED TO RUNNERS:** NOT APPLICABLE

SECTION 6: HELMET RULE. "Managers must enforce this rule for the safety of the players"

- A. **BATTER/BASERUNNER:** Each batter and base runner must wear an approved batting helmet. The helmet must be worn securely while at bat and when the batter becomes a base runner. IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT ALL PLAYERS WEAR THE HELMET WHILE RUNNING THE BASES.
- B. **PLAYER EJECTION:** Refusal to wear a helmet shall result in the player being ejected from the game. The player shall be declared out. The player shall be removed from the lineup and the batting order shall continue. The ejected player's batting position will be skipped for the remainder of the game.
- C. **PLAYER RECORDED OUT:** If while running the bases, the helmet comes off any base runner's head, or a base runner removes the helmet prior to leaving the field of play (unless time has been called and the play is declared dead), the offending base runner will be called out, play will be stopped at the first opportunity and all remaining base runners will be assigned the nearest base. THE OFFENSIVE TEAM IS NOT TO BENEFIT FROM A LOST HELMET BY A BASE RUNNER.
- D. **STOPPING OF PLAY:** If a player's helmet becomes dislodged during a slide or due to contact with a defensive player, the player will not be called out. Time will be called, and play will be stopped at the first opportunity. All base runners will be awarded the base they were closest to at the time the play is stopped. The intent of the rule is to protect the players from accident or injury from thrown balls. The rule is not intended to penalize a player for premature removal of a batting helmet. NEITHER THE OFFENSIVE OR DEFENSIVE TEAM IS TO UNFAIRLY BENEFIT OR BE UNFAIRLY PENALIZED AS A RESULT OF AN INADVERTANT LOST HELMET BY A BASE RUNNER.

SECTION 7: EQUIPMENT

- A. **SOFTBALLS:** The home team is to provide TWO (2) NEW GPGSL approved WILSON A9260BASA .47 CORK CORE 375 COMPRESSION RATIO OPTIC YELLOW WITH RAISED RED STITCH 12-inch Fast Pitch Softballs for each home game.
- B. **BATS:** Softball bats and baseball bats are officially authorized, unless they are more than 2 1/4 inches in diameter or 34 inches in length. Bats rings are not permitted.
- C. **CATCHERS EQUIPMENT:** Catchers must wear a helmet with a facemask and attached throat protector, chest protector, and shin guards.
- D. **HELMET CHIN STRAPS:** Associations are encouraged to provide chinstraps for the batting helmets.
- E. **UNIFORMS:** Team players are to wear their issued uniform and must also wear a numbered jersey. Additional appropriate clothing is permitted and encouraged during cold weather.
- F. **JEWELRY:** NO VISABLE JEWELRY IS PERMITTED. THE ONLY EXCEPTION IS MEDIC ALERT BRACELETS AND WE URGE THAT THEY BE REMOVED ALSO DURING THE GAME. TAPING OVER PIERCINGS IS NOT PERMITTED.

SECTION 8: UMPIRES AND COACHES

- A. **UMPIRE ASSIGNMENTS:** TWO (2) umpires will be assigned to a game. In the event an umpire is not available, the home team manager is responsible to appoint an adult to act as an umpire.
- B. **DISPUTES AND INQUIRIES:** All disputes and/or unusual situations that occur during a game are to be reported to your Association Representative. Your Association Representative is to file a report with the 18 Under Fast Pitch Commissioner.
- C. **UMPIRES AND COACHES:** THE UMPIRES AND COACHES ARE ADULTS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SEEING THAT THE GIRLS PLAY THE GAME FAIRLY AND SAFELY. YOU ARE PARTNERS IN THIS EFFORT, NOT ADVERSARIES.

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS OF ANY KIND ARE TO BE USED DURING THE GAME.