

## **ROOKIE DIVISION SOFTBALL RULES Ages 7 & 8 (Amended Jan 2015)**

- 1 All teams will use an 11 inch “soft” softball all year.
- 2 The home team supplies the game ball and batting tee.
- 3 First and third bases will be a distance of 50 feet and the pitching rubber a distance of 35 feet; Distances are measured from the rear tip of home plate to the front edge of the base/rubber. The infield and outfield should be moved in accordingly.
- 4 The length of the game will be 6 innings with no top inning starting after 1 hour and fifteen minutes after SCHEDULED game time. A minimum of 3 innings if the game is called.
- 5 The change of sides of the innings will be determined by 3 outs or 5 runs scored, whichever comes first.
- 6 There will be a continuous batting order.
- 7 All players will be allowed to be substituted freely.
- 8 Each player must play a minimum of two innings.
- 9 No limit to the number of players on the field, HOWEVER, all extra players MUST be in the outfield (6 infield including catcher).
- 10 Pitcher and 1st base will be equipped with helmets with faceguards (league optional).
- 11 Helmets are to be worn by all batters and base runners. Game will be stopped until rule is followed.
- 12 No on deck batters are allowed to swing the bat. On deck batters should not have a bat in their hands.
- 13 Throwing of the bat by the batter will not be allowed. ONE (1) warning per team and then the batter will be out; the base runner will not advance.
- 14 All year the coach can pitch to the player. Batter being pitched to by their coach is allowed 7 pitches. If she doesn't hit the ball she goes back to the tee. No more than 7 pitched per batter.
- 15 Hitting off the tee or off a coach/pitcher to have a hit, the batter must hit the ball and the ball must travel in a forward motion. If the coach sees or hears the bat hit the tee, it is a dead ball and no hit.
- 16 Only one extra base is allowed on an overthrow (EXCEPT AT FIRST BASE) to any area in play or out of play. Once the ball is thrown back to the infield from the outfield no advancement can be made. On an overthrow at first base, the batter/base runner cannot advance; other base runners advance one base at their own risk.
- 17 If the ball is hit into the outfield, player can advance to additional bases at her own risk.
- 18 No Homeruns on continuous overthrows.
- 19 One coach must be stationed behind the catcher during the game.
- 20 A coach should be stationed beyond the infielders in order to provide instruction to all defensive players.
- 21 No jewelry allowed. New piercings must be covered with tape or a bandage.
- 22 The coaches should set the example Good Sportsmanship for the players and the fans attending the game. If the fans begin to show unsportsmanlike conduct, the coach or coaches together should discuss and settle any problems.
- 23 Both league boards will address any problems at a game with a coach, player, parent or spectator. In the case of a problem between two teams within the same league, the problem will be addressed at once
- 24 **NO SMOKING WITHIN THE VICINITY OF THE FIELD. THIS INCLUDES COACHES AND SPECTATORS!**