

# **NPYL GIRL'S SOFTBALL RULES**

## **12 and UNDER**

Revised January 2014

The governing rules of play will be the current officially recognized Babe Ruth Softball rules with the following exceptions:

### **1. Game Time and Duration**

- A.** All weekday games will have a scheduled starting time of 6:00pm with a grace period of 10 minutes for any team-related delay. For delays not attributable to either team, the appropriate action to be taken will be determined by the League Director or his assistant. All games under the lights will have a scheduled starting time of 8:00pm.
- B.** All Saturday games will be played as stated above except for the regular season scheduled starting time which shall be no earlier than 9:00am with succeeding games starting at every 2 hour intervals.
- C.** Duration of games will be:
  - 1)** Completion of regulation game
  - 2)** Termination of game by the umpire
  - 3)** Completion of inning in progress when one hour and forty-five minutes of playing time limit has expired. If a tie exists before the time limit has expired, the game will continue using the Softball, formerly known as the International Tie Breaker Rule. If still tied at end of time limit, the game will be scored a tie. No ties during tournament play or playoff game.

### **2. Re-entry Rules**

In 8 under League, 10 under and 12 under, a player who, in the umpire's judgment cannot continue due to illness or injury, may sit out until ready to resume play. In 14 under and 16 under, an injured defensive player may be replaced by a player currently not playing defense with no penalty for the injured player's failure to bat. The batting order will remain unchanged throughout the game. Pitching rules will have precedence over injured player rules.

### **3. Call-up Rules**

- A.** Division Director will compile a list of eligible players.
- B.** The list will be composed of the oldest girls in each division.
- C.** 8 under League will be a lateral call up. 10 under, 12 under, 14 under and 18 under must only call up players from the Division immediately below

first. (Example: 14 under uses player(s) from 12 under). Lateral call-ups are also allowed, as a last resort.

- D. A team will be eligible for call-ups when the number of players is below 9. The team may be brought up to a maximum of 10 players.
- E. In order to receive call-up players, a Coach or his representative must call the Division Director or Softball Director, in that order, in advance.
- F. If a call-up situation arises at game time, the Division Director, the Softball Director, or the Officer of the Day, in that order, will try to find a call-up player at the field. If this is not possible, the team will play with the number of players it has unless they decide to forfeit. Coaches are not permitted to find their own call-up players.
- G. An automatic out will be recorded for each batting position when the offensive team is batting less than 9 batters in the line-up.
- H. All call-up players will play in the outfield only in all Divisions.
- I. All players “called up” must play a minimum of one complete inning. If more than one player is “called up” by a given team for a single game, each must have equal playing time.
- J. If a regular player arrives late, she will be entered into the game at the next half inning.
- K. A call-up player must be placed at the end of the batting order.
- L. First failure to adhere to these rules will constitute a forfeit. Second failure will constitute a forfeit and suspension of next scheduled game.

#### **4. League Divisions**

League Divisions will be established according to the following age and ability guidelines:

##### Division Age

8 under League 7 – 8

10 under League 9 – 10

12 under League 11 – 12

14 under League 13 – 14

18 under League 15 – 18

A girls “league age” will be determined by her age on December 31st of the calendar year preceding the current league year (BRS Rule 0.02 Part 2).

Players will be allowed to move up or down a division due to extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the Director of Softball.

## **5. Intra-Divisional Tournament**

- A.** If time permits, a double elimination tournament will be played following the regular season. In the event of time or weather delay this tournament may be changed to a single elimination tournament or be cancelled at the discretion of the League Director and the Director of Softball. Regular season rules will be in effect.
- B.** All teams within a Division will participate.

## **6. Playing Rules and Points of Emphasis for All Divisions**

- A.** Helmets must remain on until the player reaches their dugout. If a player removes her helmet before reaching her dugout, a team warning will be given and the next infraction will be a team out.
- B.** Offensive players, including the on-deck batter, or players acting as coaches in the coach's box, must properly wear double ear flap batting helmets WITH faceguards.
- C.** Babe Ruth Softball prohibits the use of all tobacco products including smokeless tobacco for both local league and tournament competition. (BRS Rule 0.02 Part 4)
- D.** Glass buttons, polished metal or any exposed jewelry of any kind shall not be used. Hair barrettes are not considered jewelry and are allowed unless adjudged by the umpire to be dangerous. (BRS Rule 1.11 Part f)
- E.** During a live ball situation, when a player becomes injured, and in the umpire's judgment requires immediate attention, the umpire shall call "Dead Ball" and award any bases that would have been reached.
- F.** Contact Rule - The runner may slide, jump over the top of the defender, go around the defender—within 3 feet, or return to the previous base touched. The runner will be called safe if the base is blocked by a defender before possession of the ball.
- G.** A run legally scored cannot be nullified by subsequent action of the runner, such as but not limited to an effort to return to third base in the belief that she either had left the base before a caught fly ball or missed third base. (BRS Rule 5.06)
- H.** Coaches or other bench personnel shall not be outside the designated bench dugout area except as justified by the umpire. Bench area coaches cannot stand between the dugout and fair territory. The designated bench dugout area is defined as the area in foul territory no closer to home plate

than the entry/exit point of the dugout. The first offense is a team warning, second offense requires the team member to remain in the dugout at all times and a third offense shall result in that team member being removed from the playing field.

7. Teams will ideally consist of 12 players. The infield will consist of 6 players with 4 players assuming defensive position on the outfield grass. The batting order will consist of all team members.
8. Each player on the official team roster will play a minimum of 3 defensive innings (9 outs) unless:
  - A. A game is called by the umpire.
  - B. A player arrives late, or elects to leave early.
  - C. A player is injured or becomes ill
  - D. A player is under disciplinary action. The opposing Coach and the umpire must be notified before the start of the game.
9. In attempt to develop young pitchers:
  - A. Each team must allow a league age 11 and league age 12 player or players to pitch a minimum of one (1) inning or three (3) defensive outs in each game. This must be accomplished before the end of the fourth inning.
  - B. The opposing manager has the option of correcting a pitching violation by the end of the 4th inning. Any runs/outs that were made before the violation was corrected will stand. Once the correction is made, the game will resume as normal. There is no protest that can be filed after the conclusion of the game. If they do not correct the violation then the outcome of the game will stand. No protest will be allowed. After the completion of the 3rd inning, opposing managers will meet with the umpire. This is to notify all of each team's pitching situation from rule 9 A.
  - C. If more than 3 innings are pitched in one game, the player is not permitted to pitch in the team's next game.
10. Six innings will constitute a regulation game (BRS Rule 0.02 Part 7). Offensive half of inning will continue until three outs are made or until 8 runs are scored by the offensive team. A 10 run rule after 4 innings will be in effect.
11. Base runners may steal or advance to any base including home plate. Base runners may not leave their base until the pitched ball leaves the pitcher's hand. A runner

will be called out for leaving too soon. No warning will be given. NO PITCH will be declared if they leave the base early.

**12.** The “Dropped third strike” rule will be employed.

**13.** The “Infield fly” rule will be employed.

**14.** All defensive substitutes must be entered into the game at or before the 3rd inning as long as minimum playing time and pitching rules are not violated, free defensive substitutions are allowed.

**15.** The pitching distance from home plate is 40 feet measured from home plate point that is nearest the catcher to the front edge of the pitching rubber.