

# **NPYL GIRL'S SOFTBALL RULES**

## **10 and UNDER**

REVISED JANUARY 2015

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 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 9 or fewer. 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.
  - A. All players will play at least one defensive inning in the infield, which must be completed before the end of the fourth inning. The catcher's position will be considered an infield position. No player may sit more than 1 inning in a single game.
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. 10U League will use an 11-inch softball throughout the regular season and post-season tournament.
10. There will be a maximum of four adults in the dugout.
11. Pitching:
  - A. Each team must allow a league age 9 and league age 10 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 the manager does 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 11 A.

- C. If a Pitcher pitches over 3 innings in one game, she will not be eligible to pitch in the team's next game.
- D. Pitching will be modified per the following guidelines in 11E. This will apply to the first 6 scheduled games for each team. In the event any of these games are moved to a later date, it will still play under those guidelines. Each team will play no more, or less, than 6 games following the guidelines in 11E.
- E. After each occurrence, after the third inning, of a pitcher walking two consecutive hitters in the same inning, a coach must deliver two legal pitches to the next hitter if she reaches ball four (i.e. first two hitters are walked, if the next (3<sup>rd</sup>) hitter reaches ball four then the coach will come in to deliver the two legal pitches). If the next (3<sup>rd</sup>) hitter does not reach ball four (i.e. puts ball in play, strikes out, hit by pitch), the coach will not enter the game to deliver two legal pitches and the 'two consecutive hitter' stipulation resets. If the coach enters the game to deliver two legal pitches, the player pitcher will assume a defensive position within the 16' circle. A fouled last pitch will result in additional pitches thrown until the ball is either put in play or the two pitch maximum is satisfied. If a hitter does not attempt a swing at the first coach pitch, the pitch counts as one of the two maximum pitches. A hitter who does not swing at the last coach pitch will be called out. If a coach pitched ball hits a hitter on the first pitch then the coach has one pitch remaining, first base will not be awarded. If a coach hits a hitter on the second (last) coach pitch then the hitter is out. Once the two legal pitches have been thrown (or more if foul balls arise), the coach will return to the dugout and the player pitcher will resume pitching to the next hitter. At this point, the 'two consecutive hitter' stipulation would also reset. Coaches will never pitch to consecutive hitters. Incidental contact by the coach on a batted ball will be treated as if the ball has struck an umpire. Intentional contact by the coach on a batted ball is a dead ball, the hitter is out, and all runners will return to their previous base. Once the ball is put in play the coach must exit the field to foul territory and is not permitted to contact any players or the ball. If the coach does not adhere to this policy, interference may be called. Incidental, or intentional, contact is at umpire's discretion. \*\*Intent of rule is to increase the amount of balls put into play and reduce the amount of run production solely off of inexperienced pitching (i.e. walks and wild pitches).
- F. There will be no coach pitch in the post season tournament.

12. Stealing – A base runner may not leave her base until the pitched ball has crossed home plate. Each team will receive one warning per game before the runner is called out for leaving the base early. NO PITCH will be declared if they leave the base early. A runner cannot steal any base while a coach pitch is being thrown per 11D or 11E.
13. Dropped third strike and infield fly rules will not be employed
14. The distance from home plate to the pitcher's plate will be 35 feet measured from home plate point that is nearest the catcher to the front edge of the pitching rubber.
15. The offensive half of the inning will continue until 3 outs are made, or until 5 runs are scored.
16. Six innings will constitute a regulation game. A 10-run rule after 4 innings will be in effect. Four innings will constitute an official game if shortened by time limit, weather, darkness, or called by the umpire.
17. There will be allowed 2 charged conferences per inning to the pitcher. A pitching change must be made on the second visit in that inning to the same pitcher.
18. At the conclusion of every game, both coaches will communicate the pitchers of record to the Division Director.
19. The "Look Back" rule will be in effect when the ball is live for all runners and the pitcher has possession and control of the ball within the pitcher's circle. The pitcher is considered to be in the pitcher's circle when both feet are on or within the lines. A runner who rounds the base toward the next base may stop, but then must immediately without stopping return to the last base touched or attempt to advance non-stop to the next base. If the runner does not move non-stop back to the last base touched or non-stop toward the next base, then the ball is dead and the runner is out. If two or more runners are off their bases when one is called out, the ball is dead and the other runners are returned to the last base touched. Only one runner may be called out. The runner will not be declared out if a play is made on the runner or the pitcher is "in the act" of making a play on the runner (a fake throw is considered a play) (BRS Rule 7.13)
20. A pitcher is ineligible to pitch the remainder of the inning when she has hit 2 batters in that inning. She is however eligible to pitch starting in the next inning provided that other pitching rules are followed. Also, a pitcher becomes ineligible to pitch the remainder of the game when she has hit 3 batters in the game. When the pitcher becomes ineligible to pitch, she may play any other position.

- 21.** At the beginning of each half inning, or when a pitcher relieves another, not more than one minute may be used to deliver not more than five pitches. Also, a pitcher returning to pitch in the same inning will not receive warm-up pitches.