

NPYL Girl's Softball Rules

All Divisions

Rev. Mar 12th, 2011

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 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 players 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. The Director of Softball will compile a list of eligible players.
- B. The list will be composed of the oldest girls in each division.
- C. 8 under League and 10 under will be a lateral call up. 10 under may call up a 8 under player(s). 12 under, 14 under and 18 under will only call up players from the Division immediately below. (Example: 14 under uses player(s) from 12 under).
- 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 Softball Division Director (in that order) in advance.
- F. If a call-up situation arises at game time, the Softball Division Director, 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. Two innings will be the maximum allowable playing time in the field unless fewer than ten (10) of the regular team members are present. 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. Failure to adhere to these rules will constitute a forfeit.
- L. A call-up player must be placed at the end of the batting order.

4. **League Divisions**

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

<u>Division</u>	<u>Age</u>
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 proceeding 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 Board of Directors.

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 Tournament Director and the Director of Softball. Regular season rules will be in effect.
- B. All teams within a Division will participate.
- C. Tournament position will be determined by a vote at the all-star manager meeting.

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. The standard approved helmets are approved by NOCSAE and have the label on the outside edge of the helmet.
- 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. Blood Rule - A player, coach or umpire who is noticeably bleeding shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered.
- F. 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.
- G. Contact Rule - No mandatory slide 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. Defensive players prior to this year have been taught to block the base, catch the ball and make the tag. However, now it must be catch the ball, block the base and make the tag. The runner will be called safe if the base is blocked by a defender before possession of the ball. (BRS Rule 7.14)
- H. When a fair ball goes through, or by, an infielder excluding the pitcher, and touches a runner immediately back of her, or touches a runner after being deflected by an infielder, the ball is in play and the umpire shall not declare the runner out. In making such a decision the umpire must be convinced that the ball passed through, or by, the infielder and that no other infielder had the chance to make a play on the ball. (BRS Rule 5.09 Part f)

- I. When using the double base at first, the following rules should be enforced:
 - 1. Whenever a play is being made by an infielder on the batter-runner, the defense must use the white portion and the batter-runner the colored portion. The batter-runner is out when there is a play being made at first base and the batter-runner touches only the white portion.
 - 2. On any force out attempt from the foul side of first base, or an errant throw pulling the defense off the base into foul ground, the defense and the batter-runner can use either the white or colored portion.
 - 3. On extra base hits or balls hit to the outfield, the batter-runner may touch the white or colored portion. Should the batter-runner return, the runner must return to the white portion.
 - 4. On a force play by an infielder on the batter-runner, who touches only the white portion and collides with the fielder about to catch a thrown ball while on the white portion, offensive interference is ruled, the ball is dead, the batter-runner is out, and all other runners are returned to the base last occupied at the time of interference.

- J. 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)

- K. No pitcher shall attach to her glove any foreign material of a color different from the glove. The pitcher may wear her batting glove on her non-pitching hand under her pitcher's glove provided the batting glove is not white, gray, or optic yellow. (BRS Rule 1.15 Part b)

- L. It has been common practice for many years for some coaches to put one foot outside the coach's box or stand astride or otherwise be slightly outside the coaching box lines. The umpire shall strictly enforce the rule and require all coaches (on both teams) to remain in the coach's box to signal the player to slide, advance or return to a base. The penalty for violating the above rule is that the base coach shall be removed from the field but permitted in the dugout for the remainder of the game. (BRS Rule 4.05 Part b)

- M. Coaches or other bench personnel shall not be outside the designated bench dugout area except as justified by the umpire. Bench area coaches can not 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.