***Oak Lawn Baseball & Softball***

***Munchkin Girls Softball Rules***

The Game

1. Games will last 6 innings or 90 minutes – whichever occurs first.
2. A defensive team will consist of a maximum of 9 players: pitcher, first base, second base, third base, shortstop, shortcenter (behind second base), and 3 outfielders.
	1. Outfielders must stand on the grass.
	2. All players must play at least two (2) innings at an infield position (pitcher included).
3. A continuous batting order of up to a maximum of 6 batters per inning or 3 outs – whichever occurs first. Managers are required to rotate the batting order each game.
4. When a ball is hit into play, the baserunner(s) may not advance past one base for a ball hit in the infield and two bases to a ball hit onto the outfield grass.
	1. The baserunner(s) advance at their own risk and still may be played on once the ball is picked up by a defensive player.
5. Baserunners are not allowed to advance on overthrows/out of play balls.
6. The infield fly rule will **NOT** be in effect.
7. No leadoffs - baserunner(s) may not leave the base until the ball has been struck by the batter.
8. No stealing.
9. A baserunner hit by a batted ball will be out so long as a defensive player has not touched the ball first.
10. **NO** dropped third strike.
11. No looking strike outs during coach pitch.
12. Any player not in the field for the defensive half of an inning will be required to work with a coach and/or manager in an area out of play on skills. The goal is to have all girls actively participating in the game at all times.

Coach Pitch

1. Coaches will pitch the until the VPs give the ok for players to pitch. This gives the players more of a chance to see good pitches, make good contact with the ball, and be more engaged with the game.
	1. The goal is to put the ball in play.
2. **Coaches will be required to complete a full windmill arm rotation and throw the ball with little to no arc.**
	1. The ball should be thrown with enough speed that the batter can hit it on as straight a line as possible.
	2. The coach must pitch within one foot of the pitching rubber.
3. 5 pitches per player before a tee has to be brought out – no exceptions (unless the 5th pitch is fouled off).
4. No balls and strikes will be counted until told to do so by the VPs.

Player Pitch

1. Player pitch may occur after the half of the game portion of the season.
2. A manager/coach pitching technique clinic will be held to ensure that all manager and coaches know the proper technique for pitching.
3. The pitcher must start with both feet on the rubber. One step may be taken toward the plate during the pitch.
	1. No backward step may be taken.
	2. See additional handout for more information on proper pitching technique.
4. Pitchers may only pitch 2 innings per game; a pitch thrown constitutes an inning pitched.
5. If a pitcher throws four balls to a batter, the batter is not awarded first base; the batting team’s coach will pitch to the batter until the ball is put in play or the batter strikes out.
	1. Strikes recorded prior to ball four being thrown remain when the coach comes in to pitch.
6. After 3 batters are “walked” in any 1 inning, the batting team’s coach will pitch for the remainder of the inning following the coach pitch rules.
	1. The pitcher has to remain within 3 feet of the pitching rubber.
	2. A ball striking the coach pitching is considered in play.
7. A batter hit by a pitch shall be treated as a “ball” and the batting team’s coach will pitch for the remainder of the at-bat.

Practices

1. There will be no scheduled practices.
2. The season will consist of 20 dates consisting of a combined practice and game.
	1. The first half hour will be dedicated to team practice.
	2. The remainder of time will be devoted to the game as set forth in the first section above.

Safety Rules

1. Temperature at the start of the game or practice must be a minimum of 50 degrees.
	1. If it is close, play a 4-inning game.
2. Batting helmets must be outfitted with a facemask.
3. Players are encouraged to wear a defensive fielding mask, but it is not required.
4. A base runner MUST AVOID CONTACT OR SLIDE IF THE DEFENSIVE PLAYER HAS THE BALL OR IS IN A POSITION TO MAKE A PLAY ON THE RUNNER.
5. An injury to a player will cause an immediate time out. Play is dead regardless of where the ball is. No one may advance beyond the base that they were going to at the time the play is called dead.
6. Only whiffle balls may be used for pre-game batting practice unless using a batting cage at SAC or Kolb.

The Playing Field

1. VPs will determine if the playing field is suitable for play.
	1. If a game is rained-out, the VP will provide a new day and time for the game to be played.
2. Distance between bases is 50 feet.
3. Distance from the front of the pitching rubber to the back tip of home plate is 30 feet.
4. The home team is responsible for setting up the field no later than 15 minutes before the schedule game time. The visiting team is responsible for picking up and securing in the field box the bases and pitching rubber.
5. The home team will take the third base dugout and supply a new ball as the game ball.

Other

1. Game scores and standings will NOT be recorded. This is a developmental league.
2. All games must start at their designated time.
3. A new inning may not start 1 hour and 15 minutes from the starting time as recorded by the home team manager. Confirmation must be made prior to the start of the inning by both managers that the time limit will be in effect.
4. All games must be played as scheduled.
5. Three coaches, in addition to a manager, will be permitted per team.
6. Coaches will serve as umpires during games.
7. The defensive team will be allowed to place 2 coaches in the field to help direct the players as to where a play should be made.
	1. Field coaches may provide verbal instructions and are NOT allowed to touch the ball or physically contact the players during a play.
	2. Field coaches must be in the outfield grass during pitches.
8. All players must wear their Oak Lawn Girls’ Softball uniform of a team jerseys, black pants (black shorts may be worn in hot weather), socks, and hat (unless a defensive face mask is worn).
9. All girls present must be in the batting order.
10. Each girl **MUST** play a minimum of 3 innings in the field.
	1. The first violation of the minimum play rule will result in suspension of the manager for the next scheduled game.
	2. The second violation may result in dismissal of the manager, decided by the executive board.

***Please bring any additional questions/concerns to your league VPs.***