**PETITE GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

**TEAM AND PLAYER BYLAWS**

**LEAGUE RULES**

**NOTE:**  Any manager or coach who displays unsportsmanlike conduct may be removed or suspended from his/her duties if the disciplinary committee finds the offense serious in nature.

**EXAMPLES: (this is not all encompassing)**

* Verbal or physical abuse of an umpire
* Verbal, physical or mental abuse of a player, parent, spectator or league official
* Conduct that could be considered detrimental to the welfare of the girls

**NOTE:**All managers, coaches, scorekeepers, and team persons will refrain from smoking during the games as to provide a positive role model for our players.  If you need to smoke during the game, the designated smoking area is no less than 200 feet from your bench or premises.

**NOTE:** ONLY Managers can discuss calls/rules with Umpires.

**NOTE:** No pets allowed at fields. Please communicate this to team families.

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* PETITE division teams will consist of a minimum of 11 players and a maximum of 13 players.
* Team rosters will be determined at an open draft.
* A list of all girls registered (returning and new) will be comprised and given to managers with rankings in order to draft their team.
* Draft order will be determined by random draw at the draft for fairness.
* At the time of the draft, coaches may trade players.  A player traded must be traded for a girl of equal talent. No trades allowed once Draft Meeting ends.
* No players on any team may be traded between teams without executive approval.
* New players that register after the draft will be assigned to the next team in draft order.
* No new players will be allowed once the season (first game) starts, without executive approval
* The league will not adhere to “special” requests on team placement after the draft.
* “Special” requests will be noted prior to the draft, but managers are not required to follow through with them, in order to ensure a fair draft

**SAFETY RULES**

* The temperature at the start of the game MUST be a minimum of 50 degrees.  The game will be rescheduled if it is too cold. This rule also applies to practice.
* Both managers must agree upon the fitness of the playing field before the game starts.
* The chief umpire or executive board member shall be the sole judge to when play is suspended and/or terminated during the game due to unsuitable conditions.
* All games are expected to start on time.  No new inning may start after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the starting time recorded by the home team manager.  No drop-dead rule applies. The inning started prior to the 1 hour and 45-minute mark will play to the end.
* Catchers must wear a mask and helmet, chest protector, and shin guards when warming up a pitcher and during game play.   Any other player warming up a pitcher must wear a helmet and mask.
* All players are required to wear a face mask.
* Players are allowed in the field on-deck circle.  Please use discretion.
* A batter throwing a bat, intentionally or unintentionally, shall be declared out at the umpire's discretion.
* Any player who intentionally abuses any equipment shall be removed from the game at the umpire's discretion.
* Any players removing their helmet while the ball is in play will be declared out.
* No metal spikes allowed.
* No jewelry may be worn.
* 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. The runner may be called out if contact is made with the defensive player. The umpire will have sole discretion on the call.
* 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 which they were going to at the time the umpire declares the play dead.

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

* For all games, each team is allowed an equal amount of time with a minimum of 5 minutes for infield practice prior to the game.  Both teams must be off the field 5 minutes before the game.
* The distance of the pitching mound is 35 feet measured from the point of home plate to the front edge of the rubber.
* The distance for the bases is 60 feet measured from point of home plate to the back edge of the base.
* Only bats stamped “Approved Softball” are to be used.  The umpire's decision is final.
* The umpire may remove from the game or park if necessary, any manager, coach, player or spectator whose conduct does not conform to acceptable behavior.
* All games must be played as scheduled.  Apathy, vacations, or attendance at other events ARE NOT valid reasons for rescheduling and will result in forfeiture.  In extenuating circumstance games may be rescheduled only with the approval of the division VP and the two managers involved.
* The division VP's will reschedule any games that cannot be played and/or are postponed.
* The HOME team is responsible for setting up the field no later than 15 minutes before the scheduled game time.  If the field is not set up 15 minutes prior to game time NEITHER team will be allowed infield practice.  The VISITING team is responsible for taking the field apart after the game.  If your game is the last game of the day for that field, make sure all bases and the pitching rubber are put away.  Visiting team is also responsible for ensuring that all gang boxes are locked.
* The home team will take the third base line side of the field and is responsible for providing the game ball.  The home team maintains possession of the game ball after the completion of the game for practice use.
* BOTH team managers are responsible for reporting the score to the division VPs.
* Standings will be kept for the purpose of seeding a playoff tournament held at the end of the season.  All teams will qualify.
* Managers not present at the game are responsible for the actions of their coaches.  The first violation will result in the suspension of the manager for the next scheduled game.
* Penalty for any violations in the minimum play rule will be as follows:
  + First offense
    - Verbal warning will be given.
  + Second offense
    - The team violating the rule will be penalized with a loss for the game in which the rule was violated.
* Disciplinary actions must be approved by the executive board prior to a game.
* Managers must go over ground rules with umpires BEFORE game begins.

**PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

* In the Petite Division, a fielded team shall consist of up to 10 players with the shortcenter either playing directly behind second base or as a fourth outfielder.
* A team may start the Game with 8 players. 9th Player is NOT automatic out in batting lineup. However, if a team starts with the minimum 8 players and then a player leaves or does not bat for any reason, then that player’s spot in the lineup is an automatic out.
* All players must wear their division's complete uniform: jersey, pants, and socks. Managers are responsible for having players in their uniforms with jerseys tucked in.
* Age classifications will be based on the player's age as of January 1st of the current season. The Petite division is made up of 9 and 10-year-old girls.  Younger players are allowed only with league approval.
* Each player will play a minimum of 3 defensive innings with a minimum of one full inning in the infield.  By the end of the fourth inning, all girls on the roster for the game must have played a minimum of ONE inning in the infield.  Infield positions are defined as 1st baseman, 2nd baseman, shortstop, 3rd baseman, pitcher, and catcher.
* If a player is being held out for disciplinary or health reasons, the opposing manager must be notified before the game begins.  Managers must receive approval of the Petite VPs in cases of disciplinary action involving players.

**THE GAME**

* A regulation game in the Petite division will consist of 6 innings.  Shortened games will be considered complete if 3 ½ innings have been completed and the home team is leading.  4 innings must be completed if the visiting team is ahead when the game is called. Games not reaching this will be suspended and may be rescheduled.
* At Umpires' discretion, a game can be shortened due to time limit, darkness, or other weather conditions that warrant the game to be cut short
* In the Petite division, each half inning will be considered complete after 3 outs or 5 runs are scored.  The 5 run rule will not be in effect in the last playable inning when the defensive team must record 3 outs. At Umpires discretion, and both managers agree, the last inning of a shortened game will be unlimited runs. When possible, “last” inning should be agreed prior to start of inning.
* There will a two-minute time period with a maximum of 6 warm up pitches between innings for a new pitcher and a maximum of 3 warm up pitches for a returning pitcher.
* The infield fly rule will NOT be in effect.
* There will be base stealing permitted, only one base at a time, any base can be stolen except home. THERE IS NO STEALING OF HOME PLATE.  All catchers are encouraged to make a play on runners. Overthrows are considered a dead-ball situation. If a player continues to run and is played upon, she cannot be tagged out BUT has to return to the base.

* There is no stealing allowed after a team has attained an 8 run lead.
* A lead off maybe taken after the ball has left the pitcher’s hand. A warning will be issued for the first offense and then the player(s) is out after for every infraction thereafter.
* No intentional walks.
* There will be an enlarged strike zone to encourage the girls to swing at the ball and not wait for a walk.  The strike zone will be from the bottom of knees to the shoulders.
* A safety base will be used at first base.  Half the base is white (over fair territory) and half is orange (over foul territory).  When using the double base at first base, the following rules will be enforced:
  + A batted ball hitting the white portion is declared fair and a batted ball hitting the colored portion is declared foul.
  + Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner, the defense must use the white portion. On extra base hits or balls hit to the outfield when there is no play being made at first base, the batter-runner may touch the white or colored portion.
  + The batter-runner is out when there is a play being made at first and the batter-runner touches only the white portion, providing the defense appeals prior to the batter-runner returning to first base.
* The play will be considered dead when the ball is held within the 8-foot radius of the pitching rubber.  A base runner must return to the previous base IF THEY HAVE NOT REACHED HALF WAY TO THE NEXT BASE PRIOR TO THE BALL BEING HELD IN THE CIRCLE.
* Bunting is allowed.
* With two outs and the catcher/pitcher on a base, a courtesy runner will be allowed to expedite play. The courtesy runner shall be the last batted out.
* All other A.S.A rules will apply.

**PITCHING**

In the Petite division, the following additional rules regarding pitching restrictions will apply.

* No pitcher may pitch more than 3 innings in a game and must complete each batter’s turn at bat unless injured.
  + In the playoffs only, pitchers may pitch no more 4 innings, with at least 3 of the innings having to be consecutive.
* The pitcher will be charged with an inning pitched after one pitch is thrown – even during warmups.
* Two (2) coach conference/mound visit allowed per inning. On the third conference/mound visit, pitcher must be replaced.
* Re-Entry of pitchers:
  + The starting pitcher may be reinserted as a pitcher without restriction once.
  + A pitcher who is not the starting pitcher and is removed from the mound for any reason cannot be reinserted as a pitcher.
* A batter hit by a pitch is awarded first base.
  + A batter is only awarded first base with the ball strikes the batter on the fly. A bounced ball does not count as a hit by pitch and will only count as a ball.
* A pitcher who hits two (2) batters in an inning must be removed from the mound for that inning.
* If a pitcher hits three (3) batters, she will be removed from the mound for the rest of the game.

Pitching violations may be brought to the Board of Directors for review and possible disciplinary actions which may include suspension of the manager and/or forfeiture of the game.

\*\*\* All Rules can be reevaluated and are subject to change prior to the playoffs. \*\*\*