**OAK LAWN GIRLS SOFTBALL**

**PIXIE DIVISION RULES**

**SAFETY RULES**

* Temperature at the start of the game or during practice must be a minimum of 50 degrees. If it is close to this temperature, a shortened 4 inning game can be played.
* Batting helmets must be outfitted with a facemask.
* All players must wear a defensive face mask while playing any position in the field.
* Any player warming up a pitcher must wear a catcher’s helmet.
* A player throwing a bat, intentionally or unintentionally, may be declared out at the umpire’s discretion. The first occurrence of unintentional bat throwing will result in a warning to both teams.
* 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 that they were going at the time the umpire declares the play dead.

**THE PLAYING FIELD**

* The league will determine if the playing field is suitable for play.
* Distance between bases is 50 feet.
* Distance from front of pitching rubber to the back tip of home plate is 30 feet.
* 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 prior to game time.
* The home team is responsible 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 the game time NEITHER team will be allowed infield practice. The visiting team is responsible for picking up and securing in the field box the bases and pitching rubber.
* The home team will take the third base side of the field and supply a new ball as the game ball.

**THE GAME**

* All games must start on time.
* During the regular season, no new inning may not start 1 hour 30 minutes from the starting time as recorded by the home team manager. Confirmation must be made prior to the inning started by both managers that the time limit will be in effect.
* 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 circumstances games may be rescheduled only with the approval of the VPs and the two managers involved.
* 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.
* VPs will reschedule all postponed games.
* Three coaches, in addition to a manager, will be permitted per team. Coaches will serve as umpires in regular season games.
* Umpires will be provided for playoff games.
* The umpire will expel from the game or park, if necessary, any manager, coach, player or spectator whose conduct does not conform to acceptable behavior.
* A regulation game in the Pixie Division will consist of 6 innings. Shortened games will be considered complete if 3 ½ innings have been completed and the home team is ahead. 4 innings must be complete if the visiting team is ahead when the game is called. The final score will revert back to the last full inning played.
* Each half inning will be considered complete after 3 outs or 5 runs have scored. All runs that score after the 5th run will not be counted.
* There will be a maximum 6 warm up pitches between innings.
* With 2 outs and the pitcher or catcher on base, a courtesy runner will be allowed to expedite play. The runner shall be the player who was the last batted out.
* The infield fly rule will NOT be in effect. There is no base stealing or lead offs.
* The base runner may leave when the ball leaves the pitcher’s hand.
* A base runner hit by a batted ball will be out.
* There is NO dropped third strike.
* The strike zone will be a pitched ball over home plate located between the bottom of the batter’s knee to her shoulder.
* The defensive team will be allowed to place 1 coach in the field to help direct the players as to where a play should be made during the first half regular season. During the second half of the season and during playoffs, no coaches will be allowed on the field.
* Field coaches may provide verbal instruction and are NOT allowed to touch the ball or physically contact players.
* The defensive team’s field coach must be in the outfield, defined as the grass, during pitches.
* If a batter bats out of turn, the first time will be a warning and the correct batter can finish the at bat with the count that the batter had. Any time after there will be an out, and the next batter will be up.
* Baserunner(s) advancement on a ball hit into the field of play:
	+ When a ball is hit to the infield/outfield either on the ground or in the air, the baserunner(s) may not advance past the base they are going to at the time the ball is controlled by a defensive player within the infield diamond.
	+ The baserunner(s) advance at their own risk and still may be played on once the ball is picked up by a defensive player within the infield diamond.
* Baserunners are permitted to take an extra base if the ball is still in play due to an overthrow. With no fencing, the fence line will be considered the out of play boundary and the ball will be ruled dead. With fencing, the ball will be considered in play and runners may advance at their own risk until the ball is inside the infield diamond.
	+ On balls that leave the playing field (into a dugout or past the fence line), runners will be automatically awarded 1 base on a throw from the infield and 2 bases on a throw from the outfield.
* The 5 run rule will not be in effect in the last inning in which both coaches will confirm the last inning. The defensive team must record 3 outs.
* A game tied after 6 innings in regular season may be finished by extra innings where it will be coach pitch only.

**PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

* A defensive team shall consist of 10 players: 3 outfielders, shortcenter, pitcher, catcher, 1st base, 2nd base, shortstop, 3rd base.
* All players must wear their Oak Lawn Girls’ Softball uniform of their jersey, black pants (black shorts may be worn in hot weather), socks, and hat (if not wearing a defensive face mask).
* All girls present must be in the batting order.
* Each girl MUST play a minimum of 3 innings in the field.
* The first violation of the minimum play rule will result in suspension of the manager for the next scheduled game. A second violation may result in forfeiture of game(s) in which violation occurred and/or dismissal of the manager, decided by the Executive Board.

**PITCHING**

* Pitchers may only pitch 2 innings per game; a pitch thrown constitutes an inning pitched and include pitches thrown during warm ups.
* 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 she puts the ball in play or strikes out. The strikes recorded prior to ball four being thrown remain when the coach comes in to pitch.
* A ball striking the coach pitcher is considered in play. The coach pitcher must avoid hindering play.
* A batter hit by pitch shall be treated as a “ball” and then coach will then come out to finish the at-bat. Three (3) hit batters in any inning will be coach pitch for remaining. If the ball bounces first, it will be considered a ball and does not count against a pitcher’s hit batsman.
* Coach pitch will only occur following a walk, a hit batsman, or during extra innings. The manager or designated coach must pitch with one foot on the rubber. The fielding pitcher must start in the “circle” within 3 feet of the pitching rubber.
* Any pitcher may be reinserted to pitch without restriction provided she has not exceeded the 2 innings pitched cap.
* The ball must be presented for a count of at least one but not more than five before the pitch is delivered. The pitch must be delivered underhand using a windmill motion. The pitcher must start with both feet touching the rubber. One step may be taken toward the plate during the pitch. One foot must be in contact with the rubber at the release of the ball.

**PLAYOFFS**

* All teams will qualify for a playoff tournament at the end of the season.
* Records will be kept during the regular season and used to seed teams in the playoff tournament.

**OTHER**

* ASA rules apply for any situations or circumstances not covered above.