

# WOODSTOCK GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION RULES 2010

## Instructional Division Objectives:

The purpose of the Instructional Division is to educate 6, 7 and 8 year old girls in the fundamentals of softball. Emphasis should be placed on playing all positions and equal playing time. The girls will also be taught basic pitching techniques and will be introduced to sliding and to the 3 out per inning concept. Basic fielding, throwing and batting skills will also be emphasized.

All play will be governed by the rules of the Amateur Softball Association (ASA). Please note the following exceptions and additional guidelines:

### **A. Exceptions**

1. A maximum of 5 innings will be played per game.
2. Score is not kept. Therefore, we do not keep standings and there are no forfeits.
3. No girl may sit for more than one inning per five innings.
4. Ten defensive players can be played on the field at one time. The tenth player should play the short center position, which shall start just in front of second base.
5. There must be a minimum of six girls present to field a team. If you do not have at least six girls show up for a game it may be possible to "borrow" a player from the other team for defensive purposes. Some games will not be rescheduled if missed due to weather or any other reason. But if you know at least 7 days in advance that you will not have the required 6 players, you may reschedule that game by contacting the other manager, the umpire coordinator AND the scheduling coordinator. All reschedule requests are bound by field availability.
6. Infielders must play within 5 feet of the base paths. Outfielders can play on the dirt but must be just in front of the grass.. This is to ensure that the girls learn proper location for fielding positions.
7. To encourage the development of pitchers in the league, girls can only pitch a maximum of three innings per game. A girl may re-enter from the bench to come back to pitch unless it is her inning to sit out. One pitch thrown in an inning is equal to 1 inning pitched. Starting pitcher may return to pitch if she has not already pitched three innings.
8. Pitchers may pitch to a batter until a ball 4 count is reached. At this point, the coach shall pitch to the batter. We are trying to develop pitching, but we also need to develop hitting. There are NO WALKS in the Instructional division. If a hitter strikes out, it is recorded as an out and the next batter shall hit.
9. If a pitcher is especially wild and continues to hit batters, the coaches and umpire (if present) must make a determination whether to remove her. It may be in the best interest of safety to remove a pitcher in these circumstances.
10. No dropped third strike or infield fly rule.

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11. All players bat in the line up regardless of whether they are playing the field. There will be three outs per team, per inning.
12. The first time a batter throws a bat, she will be warned. The second time (in the same game) the batter is an out.
13. Any player removed from the batting order due to injury or uncontrollable circumstance will NOT be an out.
14. No intentional bunting. An intentional bunt will be called a strike.
15. Lead offs (2 to 3 steps) are allowed only after the ball crosses the plate.
16. No stealing.
17. In the case of an overthrow by an infielder making a play, all runners may advance one base on the first overthrow only.
18. Each player must play one inning per game in an infield position, defined as Pitcher, Catcher, 1<sup>st</sup> Base, 2<sup>nd</sup> Base, 3<sup>rd</sup> Base, Shortstop.

## B. Guidelines

1. Players must be 6, 7 or 8 years of age by January 1<sup>st</sup>. Exceptions must be approved by the board.
2. Home team takes the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout; Visitors take the 1<sup>st</sup> base dugout.
3. Home team supplies and retains the game ball.
4. On-field warm up will be as follows:
  - Visitors 5:35-5:45pm
  - Home 5:45-5:55pm
  - Prep time 5:55-6:00pm
5. Game time is 6:00pm. No inning shall start after 1 hour and 45 minutes. A new inning begins immediately after the final out of the previous inning.
6. There must always be an adult female at all practices, games or any Woodstock Girls Softball event.
7. Protests must be in writing and handed to the division representative within 48 hours of the protested game. See reference below regarding protest procedure.

## References

1. Arguing: *ASA Rule 4-8-B*. Umpire calls may only be questioned on rule interpretation. Judgment calls (i.e. balls and strikes) are not arguable.
2. Protests: *ASA Rule 9 - Protests*. Protests must be in writing and handed to the division representative within 48 hours of the protested game.
3. Pitching: *ASA Rule 6 - Pitching Regulations (Fast Pitch)*. See also, *ASA Points of Emphasis #40*.
4. Look-Back Rule: *ASA Rule 8-7-T*. See also, *ASA Points of Emphasis #34*.
5. Jewelry: *ASA Rule 3-6-F*.
6. Sliding: *ASA Rule 8-7-Q*. See also, *Points of Emphasis #14*. Failure to slide could be deemed interference.