

WOODSTOCK GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

JUNIOR DIVISION RULES

Junior Division Objectives:

The purpose of the Junior Division is to educate 9 and 10 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 6 innings will be played per game. A game called by the umpire shall be regulation if four or more complete innings have been played.
2. No girl may sit for more than one inning per six innings.
3. Ten defensive players can be played on the field at one time. The tenth player should play the short center position, which shall start a minimum of 5 feet behind second base.
4. There must be a minimum of seven girls present to field a team. If you do not have at least seven girls show up for a game you forfeit that game. IT CANNOT BE RESCHEDULED. If you know at least 7 days in advance that you will not have the required 7 players, you may reschedule that game by contacting the other manager, the umpire coordinator AND the scheduling coordinator.
5. Infielders must play within 5 feet of the base paths. Outfielders must play on the grass. This is to ensure that the girls learn proper location for fielding positions.
6. To encourage the development of pitchers in the league, girls can only pitch a maximum of three innings per game. Only the starting pitcher may be reentered into the pitching position. One pitch thrown in an inning is equal to 1 inning pitched.
7. Pitcher will be warned after two hit batters and may be removed from pitching after three hit batters, at the umpire's discretion.
8. No dropped third strike or infield fly rule.
9. All players bat in the line up regardless of whether they are playing the field. There will be three outs per team, per inning.
10. The first time a batter throws a bat, she will be warned. The second time (in the same game) the batter is an out.
11. Any player removed from the batting order due to injury or uncontrollable circumstance will NOT be an out.
12. No intentional bunting. An intentional bunt will be called a strike.
13. Lead offs (2 to 3 steps) are allowed only after the ball crosses the plate.
14. No stealing.

15. Only 7 runs maximum are allowed per inning, per team. This rule is waived for the last inning of the game.
16. A 12 run mercy rule is in effect after 4 innings or 3½ innings if the home team is ahead.
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, 1st Base, 2nd Base, 3rd Base, Shortstop. This rule applies to games with shortened innings due to the mercy rule but does not apply to games shortened by weather. Forfeiture of game will be the penalty for any team not complying. Complaints must be filed with the Divisional Representative within four hours of game completion.

B. Guidelines

1. Players must be 9 or 10 years of age by September 1st. Exceptions must be approved by the board.
2. Home team takes the 3rd base dugout; Visitors take the 1st 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. Call last inning at 1 hour 30 minutes with a maximum time limit of 2 hours. Score reverts back if inning is not completed.
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.
8. **NO CHANTING.**

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.

Good sportsmanship is expected at all times. The manager/coach is responsible for his/her players, scorekeepers, base coaches and spectators.