

# WOODSTOCK GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

## PRETEEN DIVISION RULES

### Preteen Division Objectives:

The purpose of the Preteen Division is to continue educating 11 and 12 year old girls in the fundamentals of softball. The girls will be introduced to bunting, stealing, dropped third strike and infield fly. The girls will continue to work on sliding. Pitching instruction as well as basic fielding, throwing and batting skills will continue to be emphasized.

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

#### A. Exceptions

1. The pitching distance shall be 40 feet measured from back point of home plate to front of pitchers mound.
2. All girls must play at least three innings per game. Anyone not playing three innings in a game will start the next game.
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 7 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 scheduling coordinator, AND the umpire 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 four 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. All players bat in the line up regardless of whether they are playing the field.
9. The first time a batter throws a bat, she will be warned. The second time (in the same game) the batter is an out.
10. Any player removed from the batting order due to injury or uncontrollable circumstance will NOT be an out.
11. Lead offs (2 to 3 steps) are allowed only after the ball crosses the plate.
12. Stealing is allowed after the ball crosses the plate.

13. Only 12 runs maximum are allowed per inning, per team. This rule is waived for the last inning of the game.
14. A 15 run mercy rule is in effect after 5 innings or 4½ innings if the home team is ahead.
15. 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. 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 11 or 12 years of age by September 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. No on field warm up for second game of doubleheader.
5. Game times are 6:00pm. Doubleheader game times are 5:45pm and 8:00pm.
6. Call last inning at 1 hour 30 minutes with a maximum time limit of 2 hours. Score reverts back if inning is not completed.
7. There must always be an adult female at all practices, games or any Woodstock Girls Softball event.
8. Protests must be written and handed to the division representative within 48 hours of the protested game.
9. **NO CHANTING.**

#### C. 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.