

Rookie Division Rules

Emphasis will be placed upon the instructional aspects of the game (sportsmanship, rules and technique). Any player using profanity or unsportsmanlike conduct will be warned by her manager, coach, or the umpire. A second time...she must be removed from the game. If this problem continues, the league director must be notified and the player may face suspension.

Babe Ruth Softball rules for fast-pitch softball will be followed, modified by the league and the following:

- Players must wear their uniforms
- Defensive team consists of 10 players.
- Minimum team size to start a game is 8 players
- Batting is round robin and includes all players
- All girls available at the beginning of the game must play 3 innings in the field.
- A half inning ends when 3 outs are made or 5 runs are scored.
- Last inning will be unlimited runs
- No new inning may start after 1 hour and 45 minutes
- Games are 6 innings long; an official game must be 4 innings. The last inning is the 6th inning unless the umpire informs the managers that the inning approaching will be the last
- Mercy rule is 12 runs after 4 innings (team ahead is winner automatically), however, even if a team is ahead by 12 or more runs after the 4th inning, continue to play up until the 1 hr. 45-minute limit (to allow extra playing time)
- No infield fly rule
- No intentional walks
- Stealing **All** bases is permitted. There is **NO** advancing on an overthrow. We are encouraging the catchers to throw down to third without worrying about overthrowing. Player must stay on base in case of overthrow, if off base can be tagged out. You **MUST SLIDE** if stealing **HOME**.
- Runners may take a lead after the ball crosses the plate, not before
- Manager/Coach may have unlimited walks to the mound (Please be respectful of time)
- If ball goes on walkway automatic triple.
- Batter may **NOT advance** on a dropped third strike
- When a pitcher has control of the ball in the circle, base runner must immediately return to the base she left, or advance to the next base

- If ball is overthrown past bleachers runners will be awarded one base.
- Bunting is legal
- Sliding is allowed and encouraged. Mandatory when stealing HOME.
- The umpire can call the runner out if she does not slide to avoid contact, i.e., play at the plate where potential for injury is great to the catcher.
- Outfielders can NOT move in to act as a 7th infielder, i.e., center fielder should not be taught to move in and make the play at 2nd base so that the 2nd baseman and shortstop can play very shallow.
- Outfielders must be positioned on outfield grass, not on infield.
- If a guest player is used (a player not on the team), that player must play the outfield and bat last.
- Face mask is **MANDATORY** for Pitcher, First Base and Third Base.
- Base distance is 60 feet
- A hit batter will consist of the ball hitting the batter in flight of the pitch. If a ball bounces on the ground and then hits the batter it will be considered a ball and batter is not awarded first base.
- Ball size 11 inches
- All girls must wear helmets with cages and chin straps
- Catching equipment must be worn by all girls when warming up pitchers
- Managers must have at least 8 players present if umpire is ready to play at game time
- Home team will be responsible for game balls (1 new and 1 used in good condition), for putting bases out prior to the game, and putting them away after the game.

PITCHING RULES

- 1 week maximum is 10 innings.
- 1 game maximum is 3 innings and must be consecutive.
- A week is defined as Monday through Sunday
- Pitching distance is 35 feet
- If a pitcher hits 4 batter in a game or 3 in an inning, that pitcher is to be removed from pitching in that game
- Pitchers must wear facemasks while pitching. One mask will be supplied per team; however, pitchers are permitted to bring their own
- *Coaches – Please encourage your players to swing! The strike zone is very large at this level, and each batter should be stepping up to the plate hoping to get a hit, not a walk*

PLEASE NOTE: These are 8, 9 and 10 year old “children”. Our goal is to learn softball and have fun. Be respectful and courteous. Good sportsmanship is taught... teach well.