

GIRLS FASTPITCH SOFTBALL RULES

ROCKY RIVER RECREATION DEPARTMENT

FAIRVIEW PARK RECREATION DEPARTMENT

NORTH OLMSTED RECREATION DEPARTMENT

NORTH RIDGEVILLE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Statement of Policy: All Recreation Fast Pitch Softball Programs will follow “The National Federation of High School Associations” rules, except for the following specific rules listed below. The Girls Softball Programs are run for the enjoyment and development of the participants. Emphasis shall be placed on participation and skill development. Winning (although a beneficial experience) is not the primary objective of this program.

Participation

1. A minimum of 8 dressed players are required to start a game.
2. You may bring a girl up from a younger league (that is registered on a rec team) if you have less than 8 girls available to play.
3. Everyone bats each game in a continuous batting order.
4. If a team loses a player during the game, their spot in the batting order is skipped over and the team will not be charged an out.
5. Batting order will be maintained even though field positions change.
6. A player cannot sit on the bench for more than two (2) innings in a row.
7. Softballs: 11 inch for Junior and 12 inch for Intermediate and Senior league.

Fielding

1. Coaches may field up to 10 players in the field but no more than 6 players can play in the infield (including Pitcher and Catcher)
2. Outfielders cannot play on the infield dirt and cannot cover infield bases for putouts
3. No coaches are permitted in the field of play, only in the coach's boxes along the 1st and 3rd bases while their team is batting
4. Coaches are encouraged to try everyone at every position throughout the season
5. All infielders must play behind the path of the base runners.
6. Infield Fly rule is not in effect for Junior League but is in effect for Intermediate and Senior League

Field Rules

- Junior League (10u): Pitching Distance is 30 Feet / Base Path Distance is 60 Feet
Intermediate League (13u): Pitching Distance is 35 Feet / Base Path Distance is 60 Feet
Senior League (18u): Pitching Distance is 43 Feet / Base Path Distance is 60 Feet
1. Field of play shall be determined and defined prior to game by umpire

Game Time Limits

- Junior League (10u): 6 Innings Max or 1 Hour and 30 Minutes (last inning cannot be called with less than 75 mins played)
Intermediate League (13u): 6 Innings Max or 1 Hour and 40 Minutes (last inning cannot be called with less than 85 mins played)
Senior League (18u): 7 Innings Max or 2 Hour (last inning cannot be called with less than 105 mins played)
1. There will be a 5-minute grace period for the first game of the day only
 2. An inning that is in play is allowed to continue until it ends
 3. If the top of inning has started both halves of inning must be completed unless the home team is winning
 4. There will be no time limit for the end of the season tournament championship games.
 5. Umpire will determine and notify teams when the last inning is beginning.
 6. In the event of rain or darkness, an official game is 3 ½ innings if home team is ahead; 4 innings if home team is trailing.
 7. If a game reaches time limit but does not complete 4 full innings (or 3 ½ if home team is winning) it will still be considered an official game.

Run Limit

1. 5 run limit per inning except in the last inning of the game as declared by the field umpire
2. Mercy Rule: 10 Runs after 5 complete innings if the visiting team is winning and 4.5 innings if the home team is winning

Base Running

1. Stealing is not allowed for the junior league but is allowed for the Intermediate league after ball passes home plate.
2. A runner can only advance to home if forced in by a walk or on a batted ball in play in Junior and Intermediate Leagues.
3. A runner cannot advance home on wild pitches, passed ball, and/or dropped 3rd strikes in Junior and Intermediate Leagues
4. Batter in Junior league cannot advance on dropped 3rd strike. Intermediate league can advance on dropped 3rd strike
5. There are no leadoffs in Junior or Intermediate League.

6. If a runner leaves the base before the ball crosses the plate or is put in play in Junior & Intermediate, she will be called out by the umpire.
7. Sliding into bases is allowed, but not mandatory
8. All sliding must be done feet first
9. Any player who slides headfirst will be an automatic "Out." Unless diving back to a base
10. If the runner does not wish to slide, she may still attempt to reach base, however if the base runner makes "Malicious Contact" (intentional excessive force and/or intent to injure the defensive player) with the defensive player, the result will be an automatic "Out" and possibly ejection. If the contact is incidental, then no penalty will be given. This is a judgment call by the umpire and cannot be protested
11. If a ball remains in field of play, runner may advance at own risk
12. Ball out of play the runner will be allowed to advance 1 base
13. Runner struck by ball in the base path is automatically out
14. No bunting allowed in Junior & Intermediate; batter must take full swing.
15. All players must be in a Recreation department issued uniform
16. No metal cleats allowed. Flat athletic shoes or rubber cleats only
17. Team visor must be worn
18. All jewelry must be removed before start of game.
19. Catcher must wear mask and full catcher's equipment.

Pitching rule

1. The pitcher must release pitch with her foot on the rubber
2. No more than 4 innings per game and not more than 10 innings pitched per week
3. A week runs from Monday through Saturday and includes a maximum of 3 games
4. An inning pitched is defined as a player who pitches 1 pitch to 1 batter
5. NO Intentional walks allowed
6. All pitches must be thrown at a FLAT trajectory (From eyes to knees)

Other Issues

1. With an emphasis placed on skill development, we would like to teach the players to be aware of defensive situations
2. The defensive player will try to make a play on a base runner to achieve an out
3. Injuries shall be reported to umpire before the game or at time they occur. Umpire will then report to opposing coach
4. Report to field if games have not been cancelled on weather lines. Umpire will determine game status.
5. Good sportsmanship and adult attitudes must prevail no matter what level of competition.
6. Players shall not heckle opposing players; manager shall encourage fans to behave in a sportsmanlike manner
7. Managers may not argue with umpires: THERE ARE NO PROTESTS.
8. Tobacco products, including vaping products, are prohibited on the field of play, in the dugouts and the immediate area before, during, and after games.

Rain Outs

ROCKY RIVER FIELDS: After 4:30pm call the weather line (440-895-2599 Press Option #1 for today's events) to check on status

FAIRVIEW PARK FIELDS: After 4:30pm call the weather line (216-670-0660) to check on status

NORTH OLMSTED FIELDS: After 4:30pm visit www.teamsideline.com/northolmsted

NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIELDS: After 4:30 call the weather line (440-210-6226) to check on status

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