

Southtowns Girls Softball League

7-9 Rules of Play

Age as of 1/1/2021

Revised 4/25/22

*****NSA RULES ARE IN EFFECT WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING*****

GAME REGULATIONS:

Players must register with a participating association. Teams should be assembled with parity in mind.

- Games will be played twice a week on weeknights and will start at 6:15pm SHARP. Coaches are responsible for having their team ready to **begin** @ 6:15pm.
- A regulation game will consist of 5 innings. If the score is tied at the end of five innings, extra innings may be played provided no new inning starts after 8:15pm, *regardless of start time*. If the game is tied after the 8:15pm curfew, the game will go in the books as a tie.
- A legal game consists of 4 innings. If the home team is ahead, 3 ½ innings shall constitute a game. If rain forces the curtailment of a game after 4 innings have been played the score reverts to the last completed inning. Games will be called by the umpire at the first sign of thunder or lightning.
- Every girl who arrives by the start of the second inning must play at least three defensive innings and must bat at least once in a five-inning game.

EQUIPMENT:

- Host association will provide bases and game balls. The ball will be 11-inch soft compression softballs.
- DIAMOND DIMENSIONS: Pitching distance shall be 32 feet and base paths 60 feet.
- BATTING HELMETS: All batters and base runners must wear helmets w/ facemasks.
- FACEMASKS: Pitchers are required to wear a facemask during the game. All other infield players are strongly urged to wear them, however it is not mandatory.
- UMPIRES: Host association must provide and pay for the umpires. Associations are also responsible for training their umpires as well.

RULES OF PLAY:

- Fast pitch with 10 defensive players. A team must start a game at 6:15pm sharp if they have 8 players present. Teams with less than 8 players will be granted a 10 minute grace period. If however, they still cannot field at least 8 players after the grace period, they will forfeit the game.
- All present players shall be in the batting order at all times.
- MAX # OF BATTERS PER INNING/AT BAT**: The offensive team can bat no more than 12 players in an inning. When the twelfth player completes her at bat, the inning is over.
- Free substitution at all defensive positions.
- Defense **may not** station more than 6 players in the infield (including pitcher & catcher.)
- Bunting is **not** allowed.
- **No stealing is allowed**. A player may not leave the base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. Players leaving early or taking more than 8-foot leadoffs will be called out by the umpire and a dead ball will be called.
- Sliding is allowed but feet first only. Avoidable collisions will result in the runner being called out on the first offense. If it happens a second time by the same runner, the runner will be ejected from the game.
- No advancing on overthrows to any base.
- No infield fly rule.
- No balks will be called.
- NO WALKS
- Umpires will automatically call base runners out for missed bases. No appeal plays.

MERCY RULE:

- If a team is leading by 12 runs or more at the end of 4 innings of play (or 3½ if they are the home team), the game will end; OR 10 or more runs at the end of 5 innings (or 4 ½ if the leading team is the home team).

DEAD BALL RULE:

-IF A COACH IS HIT DURING COACH PITCH IT IS CONSIDERED A DEAD BALL

- Runners shall advance only on a hit ball. Runners shall stop advancing when the ball is returned to the infield. The infield is considered inside the base paths. The ball does not have to be in possession of a player

PITCHING RULES:

*****The following rules apply for the entire season*****

Innings 1 and 2 ...Girls will pitch. If after 6 pitches, the batter has not made an out or bats the ball in play, the coach will relieve the pitcher and pitch to the batter until she makes an out or bats the ball in play. The coach must pitch from the pitcher's rubber.

Innings 3, 4, 5 ...Coach pitch only. Coaches pitch from the rubber and pitch to batters until they make an out or bat the ball in play. The coach must pitch from the pitcher's rubber.

-A player can only pitch 2 innings per game and 3 innings per week... One pitch or more in an inning counts as an inning pitched.

-**NO HIT BY PITCH**. However, during player pitch innings, if the pitcher hits the batter with the pitch, the coach will finish pitching to the batter for that plate appearance. The pitcher may then resume pitching to the next batter

COACHES/UMPIRES:

-Benches and all playing areas will be kept in good order and clear of all persons except players, coaches, scorers and on bat person.

- Good sportsmanship should be displayed at all times. Only the head coach may speak with the umpire during the game.

CALL UP PLAYER RULE:

If a coach secures a player or players to be called up for a game, the following requirements should be followed:

-Coaches should use the roster given to them at Uniform Distribution, and they are permitted to contact families of **6 year olds** from your organization.

-Call up players must play defense in the outfield ONLY!

-Call up players must bat in the last spot(s) in the batting order.

-If a call up player unexpectedly gives a team more than the minimum amount of players needed, DO NOT send the player home. In this case, the called up player will play less innings in the field than all roster players, and follow the rules above.

Rainouts / rescheduling games:

The home team's coach of a rained out game must ...

- a. Find a date that work for both teams.
- b. Confirm diamond availability w/ his or her league director.
- c. Reschedule within 14 days of cancellation.
- d. Inform Jacie Gavin once the game is officially rescheduled.
- e.

THUNDER & LIGHTNING POLICY:

*HJBSL follows the NYSPHSAA policy on thunder and lightning... Thunder and lightning necessitates that contests be suspended. The occurrence of thunder and/or lightning is not subject to interpretation or discussion - thunder is thunder, lightning is lightning.

*When thunder is heard and/or when lightning is seen, the following procedures should be adhered to by the Field Supervisor OR the Head Umpire (in the absence of a Field Supervisor).

a) Suspend play and direct participants to go to shelter, a building normally occupied by the public or if a building is unavailable, participants should go inside a vehicle with a solid metal top (e.g. bus, van, car).

b) Do not permit people to stand under or near a tree; and have all stay away from poles, antennas, towers and underground watering systems.

c) After thunder and/or lightning have left the area, and wait 30 minutes after the last boom is heard or strike is seen before resuming play or competition.

Disciplinary Action: As the agency which administers this league, The Village of Hamburg Recreation Dept. reserves the right to conduct investigations and hand out disciplinary actions if it sees fit. League administrator is Jacie Gavin (312-7461)