



7-8 Softball Rules and Regulations

Revised 10/5/23

UNIVERSAL SOFTBALL RULES ARE IN EFFECT WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING

LEAGUE REGULATIONS

- Player age deadline: Age as of 1/1/24
- Players are permitted to play for (1) team and be listed on only (1) roster.
- Associations with multiple teams should make every effort to create parity within their organization. I.e. Distributing talent evenly throughout all teams in a particular age division.
- Each organization will pay a fee of \$50.00 per team. League fees are due by June 1st. Checks can be made out to HJBSL, and can be mailed to HJBSL, 200 Prospect Ave. Hamburg, NY 14075.
- Rosters MUST be submitted for each team, including player first and last name, and date of birth. Rosters due via email to jschmid@villagehamburg.com by June 1, 2024.
- Home organization provides and pays for umpires. Organizations are required to provide this document to their umpires.
- Home organizations must provide a safe and prepared diamond for all home games.
- All coaches through the Southtowns Softball League are beholden to the attached code of conduct/ethics for coaches.

REPORTING SCORES:

ALL COACHES need to report their scores. Please Jacie Schmid and email at jschmid@villagehamburg.com with the score of EVERY GAME that your team plays. Please report scores whether you win or lose within 24 hours of the game day/time.

GAME REGULATIONS:

- All regular season weeknight games will begin at 6:15pm, with the exception of Eden home games. **Games AT any Eden field location will begin at 6:00pm.**
- All playoff games, regardless of location, will begin at 6:00pm. (The 8:15pm curfew is still in effect for playoff games.)
- All regulation games are 5 innings.
- Extra 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.*
- Shortened games: A complete game consists of 4 complete innings...or...if the home team is leading after 3 ½ innings...or if the home team takes the lead in the bottom of the 4th inning when the game is called.
- Regular season games may end in a tie if it is shortened due to weather/darkness and will be considered a tie in league standings.
- Playoff games CANNOT end in a tie. If a playoff game ends in a tie and/or cannot continue due to weather/darkness, the league office will determine if the game will resume from the point it ended; or if the game will be played over in its entirety.
- If the game is tied after the 8:15pm curfew, the game will go in the books as a tie.

FORFEIT RULE:

If a team has at least 7 roster players available for a game, the HEAD COACH must attempt to call players up for that game to bring the team to 8, 9 or 10 players for the game. 10 players is optimal, but teams can play with 8 or 9.

Game Day Forfeits: Each team will be given a 10 minute grace period if they have 7 or less players.

- Teams can play a game with 8 players, but will take an out every time the 9th spot in the batting order comes up. Teams may play with 9 or 10 players without penalty.
- No grace period for an 8 player team, start the game and insert a 9th / 10th player (in last spot in batting order) when/if they show.

Teams with only 7 players or less cannot start the game. If they do not have 8 total players by the 10 minute grace period, they forfeit.

EQUIPMENT:

- BALL: 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.
- BAT: Maximum barrel diameter: 2¼ inches, maximum barrel length: 34 inches. The following certified bat stamps will be deemed legal: USSSA, USA, ASA & NSA

RULES OF PLAY:

- Fast pitch with 10 defensive players.
- Defense **may not** station more than 6 players in the infield (including pitcher & catcher.)
- All present players shall be in the batting order at all times.
- Every player must play at least 3 defensive innings. This rule applies to all players who arrive at or before the start of the second inning.
- Late arriving players (players who arrive after the game has started) will be inserted at the end of the batting order.
- 6 run maximum per team/per inning, with the exception of the 5th inning and extra innings. Unlimited runs in 5th/extra innings.
- Free defensive substitution.
- Infield fly rule is **not** in effect.
- NO WALKS** (See *pitching rules for further explanation*)
- No Bunting.
- No Stealing.
- Lead offs are allowed after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- Lead offs should not exceed 8ft. (discretion of the umpire)
 - Players leading off early/taking excessive lead offs of more than 8 ft. will be given one warning & will be called out for any subsequent violations.
- Base runners shall advance only on a hit ball.
- No advancing on overthrows to any base.

Advancement of Bases:

- On a hit in the **infield**: Runners may advance at their own risk until the natural conclusion of a play in the infield. (No advancing on overthrows to any base)
- On a hit to the **outfield**: Runners may advance at their own risk until the ball arrives in the infield (Infield is considered inside the crown of the infield dirt, possession not required).
- **Additionally: a chalked hash mark will be placed halfway between first base & second base, second base & third base, and third base & home plate. If a runner has not reached the hash mark at the moment the ball arrived in the infield, the umpire will call a dead ball and send that runner back to the base they previously reached
- Base runners may **not** slide head-first into any base. "Dive-backs" into bases are allowed. Head first slides will result in the runner being called out.
- Non-collision rule **is** in effect. All base runners must avoid contact with fielders. Incidental/legal contact will be left to the discretion of the umpire. *This is not a must-slide rule! Base runners violating this rule will be called out with no warning.*
- No illegal pitches. If the umpire deems an illegal pitch was made, it will be called a dead ball/no pitch.
- Umpires will automatically call base runners out for missed bases once the play comes to its natural conclusion.

PITCHING RULES:

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

Inning 1 ...Player 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 they make an out or bat the ball in play. The coach cannot be closer than 20ft. from home plate.

Innings 2, 3, 4, 5 ...Coach pitch only. A player should still be positioned as a pitcher for defensive plays, with at least one foot inside the designated pitchers circle. The coach cannot be closer than 20ft. from home plate.

-IF A COACH IS HIT DURING COACH PITCH IT IS CONSIDERED A DEAD BALL. The batter is awarded first base. Every base runner is also awarded one base.

-A player can only pitch 1 inning per game and 1 inning 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 player/pitcher may then resume pitching to the next batter.

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.

COACHES/UMPIRES:

-*Only the head coach may speak with the umpire during the game*, and those discussions must be respectful per the attached coach code of conduct/ethics.

CALL UP PLAYER RULE:

If a team will be short players, a coach can secure a player or players to be called up for a game. **The following requirements MUST be followed:**

- Coaches can only call up a 6 year old from their HOME HOUSE organization.
 - Call up players **MUST** wear their league issued uniform from the current year.
 - 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 the minimum number of defensive innings, following the rules above.

Rainouts / rescheduling games:

The head coach of the home must follow the steps below when a game is canceled...

- a. Confirm multiple dates that work for both teams.
- b. Confirm diamond availability w/ league director.
- c. Reschedule cancelled game within 48 hours. (Game must be made up prior to the end of the regular season)
- d. Inform Jacie Schmid once the game is officially rescheduled.

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: If you have a concern about something you should communicate this with the director of softball from your organizations. 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.

CODE OF ETHICS/CONDUCT FOR COACHES

I hereby pledge to live up to the following code set forth by the NAYS and the Village of Hamburg Parks and Recreation Department.

1. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of any personal desire to win.
2. I will treat each player as an individual, understanding the large range of social, emotional and physical development of children within the same age group.
3. I will provide a safe and healthy environment for all of my players.
4. I promise to review and practice basic first aid principles needed to treat injured players.
5. I will do my best to organize practices that are safe, fun and challenging for all of my players.
6. I will model and encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for players, coaches and officials at every game, practice or team event.
7. I will demand that my players and parents/ spectators demonstrate good sportsmanship and represent our team and league appropriately.
8. I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
9. I will be knowledgeable in the rules of play for each sport that I coach (including any special or local rules). I will teach these rules to my players. I will follow these rules at all times and demand that anyone involved with my team does so as well.
10. I will use coaching techniques appropriate for all of the skills that I teach and are appropriate for the age group of the players.
11. I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for children, not adults.
12. I will accept responsibility for and demand that players, parents/ spectators and other coaches from my team respect and follow the rules of all facilities that we utilize.
13. I will treat umpires, referees, opposing coaches, opposing players, league officials, and all fans with respect. I will refrain from openly and publicly criticizing the aforementioned individuals at all times.
14. I understand that I am responsible to hold my players and parents/ spectators to the same standard of respect for others detailed in #13.
15. I will use appropriate language and display appropriate behavior at all times.
16. I understand that harassment and sexual harassment is a form of discrimination. The Village of Hamburg, HJBSL and Hamburg Little Cagers has a zero-tolerance policy for any form of harassment or sexual harassment, and all volunteers are required to work in a manner that is appropriate and harassment-free.
17. I understand that the Village of Hamburg Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to conduct thorough criminal background checks of all youth sports coaches under its auspices. I will comply with and submit any/all information needed to complete said background checks.
18. I agree to accept full responsibility in the event that I, my players or my parents and spectators are in violation or breach of this code, and that this code applies to them as well.