

NWYSA Softball Rules 2007 Spring Season

Rules for the 7-8 Age Group

1. All girls must be a member of the association they are playing in.
2. Eligible age: must be 8 or under as of January 1 of the season playing.
3. All games will consist of five (5) innings, or one (1) hour and 15 minute time limit, whichever comes first.
4. There is a five (5) run per inning limit, with the exception of the fifth inning, which has no limit. If the game is called for time or weather, the unlimited run inning will not pertain to the last inning unless it is the fifth inning.
5. Any game stopped due to weather after 3 complete innings (2 ½ innings if home team is ahead) will be declared an official game. If a game is stopped before it is an official game it will be replayed in its entirety.
6. A minimum of eight (8) players must be available to play a game. In the event that a team does not have enough players to start, that team will lose by forfeit. "Pick-up players" may be added to avoid forfeit, but must be players from a younger age group in the league.
7. The infield fly rule does not apply. All infield flies must be caught to make an out. All infield flies with runners on base will be live balls.
8. Game balls provided by the home team (1 new, 1 used).
9. The game ball will be a reduced injury "Incrediball / Easton 11 inch" (vinyl cover ONLY).
10. There can be no more than 5 players in the infield plus a pitcher and a catcher. This catcher is optional, but if used, must wear full catcher's gear. A coach catcher can be used to return balls, but may not make plays.
11. The player pitcher must remain within a six (6) foot radius of the pitchers mound, and behind the coach-pitcher until the ball is hit.
12. The coach pitcher may stand closer than the pitcher's mound when pitching, but not closer than the ten (10) foot arch around home plate.
13. All infielders other than the pitcher may not play defensively more than three (3) feet in front of the base lines prior to the ball being hit.
14. All remaining players on the team will be positioned in the outfield by the coach. There is no limit to the total number of girls on the field.
15. All players not in the infield will need to play behind the bases.
16. All girls present will be in the batting line-up.
17. When on defense, 2 coaches may be in the outfield – outside the foul lines.
18. Each batter will be thrown six (6) pitches by their coach
19. The batter will have three (3) swings. After the third (3rd) swing and miss the batter will be called out.
20. If the batter is hit by a pitched ball without swinging, the ball will be declared dead, and the batter not charged with that pitched ball
21. In the event the pitching coach is hit with the batted ball, the ball will be declared dead and no pitch will be charged.

22. If the last pitch is a foul ball the batter gets another pitch. As long as the player hits fouls, the player continues to hit.
23. All batters will wear a protective helmet with faceguard when batting.
24. The on-deck hitter must remain in the on-deck area and also wear a helmet.
25. All other players must remain in the dugout until it is their turn to bat.
26. Any player batting out of order will be called out if the opposing team calls an appeal. The appeal rule goes into effect after the first pitch is thrown and expires once the player arrives on base.
27. Any late players will be added to the end of the batting order.
28. No bunting is allowed. The ten (10) foot arc in front of home plate will be utilized. If a batted ball does not travel beyond the arc it will be called a foul ball. If a player bunts the ball, the batter will be returned to the plate and charged with a swing.
29. Runners can advance to the next base if more than half way through the base line when the ball reaches the pitchers circle on an infield play or when the ball passes the baseline coming in from the outfield.
30. There is no leading off bases. A base runner cannot leave the base until the ball is hit. The umpire will call out any base runner leaving early.
31. An overthrow will be declared if the ball is thrown over any baseline fence. One base will be awarded to each base runner at the umpire's discretion.
32. Any overthrow that remains on the playing field side of the baseline fence will be considered in play. Runners have the option of 1 and only 1 additional base. Time will be called when the ball is retrieved and thrown into the infield. Note that the runner is at risk and can be thrown out, but in no event can advance beyond 1 base during a play where an overthrow occurs.
33. Time will be called on a ball hit in the infield when the ball is thrown to the pitcher. Note that the pitcher does not need to catch the ball. Time will be called when the ball gets to the circle around the pitchers mound.
34. All base running appeals (runners failing to touch a base) will be made by the defensive team by throwing the ball to the appropriate infielder who will then tag the base. The umpire will have the final decision on whether or not a base was missed.
35. Base coaches are not allowed to touch the players when they are on the bases. (No pushing players toward the next base on pulling them back)
36. There should be a twelve (12) foot diameter circle around the 35 foot pitching rubber
37. There should be a 10-foot arc area in front of home plate.
38. Any player taken out of a game due to injury may be reinserted into the lineup only if she has NOT been skipped in the batting order. If she must miss her at-bat due to injury, she cannot return to the game and must sit out the remainder. No out will be charged for an injured player being removed from the lineup.