

## **ROOKIE DIVISION PLAYING RULES**

The Rookie division provides basic instruction for girls 7 to 8 years of age. All girls play in every game (1/2 the game time to be played that day), regardless of ability; and all girls remain in the batting order throughout the entire game. The rules of play are those of ASA with exceptions noted below. Playtime is measured by minutes, not innings. (Example: Your division has a time limit of 1 hour 10 minutes, so each player must play at least 35 minutes). This year 11 players were placed on each team. If all 11 players are in attendance please play each of them defensively with 5 in the outfield, and of course put all 11 in the batting order.

### **Base Running**

- Stealing is not permitted
- Sliding is allowed
- Runners will be allowed to lead off with the pitch.

### **Batting**

- All girls present will bat in a continuous batting order, whether they are in the game or not.
- 5-Run Rule. A 5-run rule will be in effect to keep games competitive and moving. Under this rule, no more than 5 runs will be counted towards a team's score in any inning. The play upon which the 5<sup>th</sup> run scores will be allowed to proceed to completion, but no runs scoring after the 5<sup>th</sup> will be counted. The scorekeeper will notify the umpire at the completion of the play that 5 runs have scored.
- Throwing the bat will result in an out after one warning by the umpire. There will be a limit of one warning per girl during the game. This warning will be noted in the scorebook.
- Carrying the bat will not result in being called out.
- There is no infield fly rule in the Rookie division.

### **Dead Ball**

- Play is dead when the ball is in the possession of the pitcher in the eight foot circle.
- Runners will be given only one base on a ball that goes out of play.
- No dropped third strike.

### **Field Specifications**

- The pitching distance will be 30 feet.
- The distance between the bases will be 50 feet.

### **Game Time Limits**

- Games will be 6 innings or 1 hour and 10 minutes long whichever occurs first, with no new inning beginning after the time limit. A game tied after 6 innings or the time limit will be recorded as a tied game. No extra innings will be played.

### **Pitching**

- 10" Soft Touch ball used.
- No girl may pitch more than 3 innings per game.
- The pitcher should have both feet in contact with the pitching rubber before beginning delivery.

- No illegal pitch calls can be made by the umpire. The umpire may remind the pitcher to put both feet in contact with the pitching rubber before beginning delivery.
- Pitchers will not be limited in changing delivery styles.
- After the player throws 4 balls, a coach or manager from the batter's team will pitch any remaining strikes. For example, if the count is 4 balls and 1 strike, the coach/manager will throw a maximum of 2 pitches. If the count is 4 balls and 2 strikes, the coach/manager will throw a maximum of 1 pitch. Every ball thrown by the coach/manager will be a strike, regardless of where the ball is thrown. Rules for foul balls will remain unchanged from normal play.
- The coach/manager must stand completely within the pitching circle and preferably pitch from the rubber.
- In the event the batted ball strikes the adult pitcher, the ball is dead and all base runners return to their original positions. It will be declared "no pitch".
- The Rookie pitcher must have both feet inside the pitching circle when the coach/manager is pitching.
- The batting tee will not be used.

### **Outs**

Three outs or the 5-run rule will retire the side.

### **Protest/Forfeits**

- No protests – League Representative and Umpire Chief will make decision on the spot.

### **Substitutions**

- Unlimited substitutions are allowed, including pitchers.

### **Umpires**

A paid umpire will be behind the plate and on the bases.

### **Coaching**

During the first half of the season, a maximum of two defensive coaches may be on the field at one time. These coaches are required to be positioned in the outfield and may not enter the infield during live play. No defensive coaches allowed on the playing field the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the season.

### **Walks**

There will be no walks in the Rookie division.

### **Fielding**

All outfielders shall remain at least 10 feet behind the baseline. There will be no drop third strike rule. The infield fly rule will not be enforced.