



Carmel Dads' Club

Softball Handbook

2025

Softball Handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to provide parents with a single source of all information regarding the Carmel Dads' Club Softball Program. The General Commissioners and the Steering Committee update this handbook on an annual basis prior to each season. Suggestions and further recommendations are always welcome as we try to ensure that our league cultivates an environment that allows for teaching the fundamentals of the game, while providing the right balance between competition and fun.

The Dad's club offers and sanctions a few different softball programs, designed to meet the needs of a variety of skill and interest levels.

- **Rec League:** Primarily focused on introducing the game and providing a fun environment for learning the basics and rules. This handbook is focused on the general rec league.
- **Travel Team:** The Carmel Pups travel softball team is a "full year" team. Tryouts are held in August each year. Based on interest, Carmel Dad's Club will offer an 8U, 10U and 12U travel team each season.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a single location for each coach, commissioner, league official and parent to fully understand the program your child is participating in. We highly recommend that you take the time to read through the handbook as well as the full set of rules and, as always, feel free to contact commissioners, coaches or Dad's Club staff with any questions, comments or suggestions.

Let us welcome you to the Softball program of Carmel Dads' Club and thank you in advance for your interest and participation. The success of this league, as well as others throughout the Carmel Dads' Club is largely dependent on the strength of its volunteers. We encourage you all to participate.

General Information

LEAGUES

Carmel Dad's Club team assignment is based on current grade (not age or skill based). The skill range of players in all grades range from beginner to advanced and everything in between. Rules start at basic for 6U and advance by age group.

6U (T-Ball)

This league is generally for girls in pre-kindergarten or kindergarten. This is an instructional league designed to lay the foundation for players to progress to higher levels. Focus should be on fundamentals—throwing and hitting with proper mechanics as well as starting to learn the basics of catching. Game play concepts should be introduced as well. Teams will consist of only 8 -10 players, to give each young player as much quality instruction as possible.

8U

This league is generally for girls in first or second grade. This league will usually place 9-11 players on each team. The goal of the league is to give each girl as much playing time and quality instruction as possible. This is a coach pitch league introducing pitchers and catchers.

10U

Girls begin to fast pitch in this league. Pitching distance is 35 feet. A year-end tournament will take place in this league. Competitive play is encouraged in this league.

12U

This league is generally for girls in fifth or sixth grade and possibly seventh grade if the girl is still 12 years old as of January 1, 2021. For Spring 2021 Softball, the league allows girls entering seventh grade. Girls will fast pitch from a distance of 40 feet. A year-end tournament will take place in this league. Competitive play is encouraged in this league.

Athletic Awards & Recognition

Carmel Dads' Club does not provide any form of team or individual awards for participating in our softball program. Any such awards will be done at the discretion and expense of the individual teams and their coaches and parents.

The Dads' Club also does not require the coach to have a team party or recognition event during or at the conclusion of the season. This too is done at the discretion and expense of the individual teams and parents.

We do ask that you keep everyone's financial situation in mind when making these decisions.

Picture Day

Each season Carmel Dads' Club arranges a picture day, usually within the first couple weeks of the season. We encourage everyone to participate in the team photographs. Individual packages are offered as well, however there is no obligation to purchase them. The choice is yours!

General League and Facility Overview

As any other organization of this size, we must have rules, requirements and regulations that govern our program. Please become familiar with these, and if you have any questions or comments, please contact the Commissioners.

Currently, sport fees account for less than 50% of our program cost. Concession revenues help pay the utility and maintenance cost of our program. As a parent of a girl playing in the Recreational League Softball Program you are expected to comply with the current CDC rules on concessions. Please visit the CDC website for current requirements.

1. The Cherry Tree "Quad" softball facility ranks among the best in the state. The Dads' Club is privileged to be able to use this beautiful park for its softball program. It is very important for use of the facility in the future that proper respect for the facility be displayed by the athletes, parents and other visitors at all times. Please assure that the dugouts, fields, spectator areas, restrooms, etc. are left the way that they were found and that all trash is removed and properly discarded.
2. The ongoing maintenance of our facilities is an enormous task. We cannot afford a paid staff for this work and therefore must solicit volunteers. The Dads' Club programs were built and continue to succeed due to the efforts of many volunteers. We ask all parents and players to pick up the trash after every softball event. When every parent and player does his or her part, the tasks are simple & expedient. When only a handful help out it becomes very difficult and time consuming to maintain our excellent facilities. We again ask for your assistance in this matter, and please make sure your children respect the properties as well.
3. A very important ingredient to the success of our program is safety. When your other children attend the games, please make sure they are supervised. **Team members only are allowed in the bench and dugout area during games. In addition, NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED AT THE SOFTBALL FACILITY or FIELDS. Please make arrangements to have your dog(s) taken care of away from the facility; otherwise, you will be asked to leave with your dog.**
4. A program of this size makes it impossible to notify everyone about postponed games due to inclement weather. When in doubt call the CDC office & listen to the softball weather line. (846-1663, then follow routing instructions for Softball and Cherry Tree) Coaches have the discretion of calling off practices; however, the Commissioner on Duty can only call off games. Your child's safety will be our first concern when postponing games. **No teams should be on the field when lightning is seen. See CDC Weather related Guidelines on following page.**
5. Carmel Dads' Club will provide, with assistance from the sponsors, a softball jersey, and softball socks. Children will be asked to have their own white baseball pants (no shorts) and glove. All players must wear a protective mouth guard during the game. Otherwise, the umpire(s) will have the girl removed from the field until she is using a mouth guard. Softball cleats are optional, but if chosen they cannot be metal. The Dads' Club furnishes each team with bats.
6. Carmel Dads' Club supplies the necessary softballs for both practice and games. A team equipment bag will also be provided that will consist of batting helmets, a batting tee for age appropriate leagues, and a set of full catcher gear. The T-Ball league will not have catcher gear, however, will have the necessary batting tee. The coach is responsible for all equipment that will be handed out. This equipment is to be used for practice and games only. When a piece of equipment needs repairs, it is the coach's responsibility to turn it in to the league commissioner.

WEATHER:

LIGHTNING

Education is the single most important means to achieve lightning safety. A lightning safety program will be implemented at each facility as follows:

Facility Coordinators, Team Managers, Commissioners, and Coaches are responsible for monitoring the weather for Thunderstorm Watches and WARNINGS.

Suspension and resumption of athletic activities should be planned in advance. Understanding of SAFE shelters is essential. SAFE evacuation sites include:

- a. Full enclosed metal vehicles with windows up.
- b. Substantial buildings.
- c. The low ground. Seek cover in clumps of bushes.

UNSAFE SHELTER AREAS include all outdoor metal objects like flag poles, fences and gates, high mast light poles, metal bleachers, golf cars, machinery, etc. AVOID trees. AVOID water. AVOID open fields. AVOID the high ground.

Lightning's distance from you are easy to calculate: If you hear thunder, it and the associated lightning are within auditory range... about 6-8 miles. A good lightning safety motto is: "If you can see it (lightning), flee it; if you can hear it (thunder), clear it."

WAIT A MINIMUM OF 30 MINUTES FROM THE LAST OBSERVED LIGHTNING OR THUNDER BEFORE RESUMING ACTIVITIES.

Note: People who have been struck by lightning do not carry an electrical charge and are safe to handle. Apply first aid immediately if you are qualified to do so. Get emergency help immediately.

Facility Coordinators, Team Managers, Commissioners, and Coaches are responsible for enforcement of this policy.

SEVERE WEATHER

WATCHES

Tornado Watch: Conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes in and close to the watch area.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch: Development of severe thunderstorms in and close to the watch area. Watches are usually in effect for several hours, with 6 hours being the most common.

Facility Coordinators, Commissioners, and Coaches should be alert for the possibility of severe weather and have a plan of action in case a storm threatens.

WARNINGS

Tornado Warning: Tornado is indicated by radar or sighted by storm spotters.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning: Issued when a thunderstorm produces hail $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch or larger in diameter and/or winds which equal or exceed 58 mph.

WARNING issued by the National Weather Service, this means that a tornado or severe thunderstorm has been detected by radar or observed by trained storm spotters or public officials. These warnings are for short-fuse events that only last an hour or longer.

Facility coordinators, Commissioners, and Coaches should immediately clear the fields and have spectators, players, and officials move to the parking lot or point of safety depending on conditions. **No games or practices will begin with a "STORM WARNING" in effect.**

TORNADO SIRENS

In the event tornado sirens are sounded, seek immediate shelter. If no shelter is available leave the facility immediately. All play will be suspended.

GUIDELINES FOR ALL CARMEL DADS' CLUB COACHES

The Carmel Dads' club believes that to have a successful program the coaches must:

- Treat each player fairly and impartially. Placing your daughter ahead of the team will cause you problems and contribute to bad feelings among other players and parents. Equally important is the reverse scenario where you require more of your child than that of other players.
- The mission of our program is to provide recreational softball for all who wish to participate. You should never overemphasize winning as your team's goal. It is the coach's responsibilities that this attitude is throughout his or her team. Remember these are just children learning a game.
- **Under NO circumstances will any coach ever verbally or physically abuse a player.** Any coach who attempts to embarrass a player or in any way abuses a player will be IMMEDIATELY removed from their role as a coach. Any persons who do not share this belief or do not control their emotions and intensity level should not serve as coach.
- The coach will take responsibility of safeguarding our equipment and facilities. You will be fully informed of the rules and the safety procedures and will help enforce the adherence to these rules. Your team equipment will only be used for CDC games or practices. The equipment shall never be loaned or used without proper adult supervision. Lost or willfully damaged equipment will be the coach's responsibility.
- Two adults over the age of 18 **must** be present at every Dads' Club event. If two adults are not available, then the event must be postponed.
- Each head coach, assistant coach and league commissioner must submit and pass a background check before they will be allowed to participate as a coach or commissioner. CDC pays for the background check.
- **Safety always comes first and shall override any other rule or regulations of the league.**

LEAGUE FUNDING

In all Carmel Dads' Club sports programs there are numerous costs associated with conducting the programs. The costs of our program are many and varied, and like many other expenses they continue to rise. Due to sponsors and concessions revenue, we have been able offer our sports programs with only two fee increases in the past 14 years. To help better understand some of the expenses that we face each year, please consider these:

Accident Insurance	Vandalism repairs
Liability Insurance	Developing new fields
Softballs	Trash service
Batting helmets	Electric bills
Catcher's equipment	Plumbing repairs
Batting tees	Topsoil
Scorebooks	Fencing & Repairs
Bases	First aid supplies
Playing surface materials	Mowers, hand tools, etc.

Equipment bags
Uniforms
Background Checks

Field paint & equipment
Grass Seed & Fertilizer

Clearly the expenses to run a program can be excessive. We could not conduct this type of program and keep the fee structure from increasing without the tremendous volunteer support we need and receive each season. With the continued help of all the volunteers we strive to hold down the cost. **However, if the volunteer support does not continue and grow as the program grows it will be very difficult to maintain the level of service.**

Finally, we do not reject any players who are economically unable to pay our fees. Each year we award scholarships to children so that they may play any sport. These costs are absorbed from our program budget. If you feel you need this confidential assistance, please contact the CDC Office.

TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

6U (T-Ball) and 8U

We will try to limit the number of children on each team, so each girl receives more batting and fielding chances. Once the coaches and sponsors are selected, the league and house league commissioner puts teams together. Requests will be reviewed but not guaranteed. The league commissioner will review honoring of special requests when dealing with child safety or development.

The honoring of all other requests will be reviewed and are accommodated, IF POSSIBLE. Many of our enrollment forms have a special request. The House League Commissioner has the final decision on all special requests.

10U and 12U

Teams are assembled by the league and House League commissioner based on the ratings of the previous year and/or the pre-season evaluations if available with an effort to balance out the teams as best we can. Late registrants to the league will not have to be evaluated; their assignment will be done at random. **We will make every attempt to accommodate special requests but cannot guarantee requests. The fall league will NOT have evaluations.**

GAMES

Games will primarily be held at the Cherry Tree Softball complex. While school is still in session, most games will be on Saturdays, with some on Sundays. Upon completion of the school year, there could be a mid-week game as well as a Saturday game. In the fall games will primarily be on Saturdays with some Sundays depending upon scheduling availability.

PLAYER, COACH AND FAN CONDUCT

Players, coaches, and fans are expected to conduct themselves in the spirit of good sportsmanship at all times. After an optional initial warning, players and coaches may be ejected from the game and/or park if unacceptable conduct continues. Fans may be ejected from the park after a warning for unacceptable behavior. All incidences of ejection or misconduct should be reported to the league and general commissioner as soon as possible.

CLEANUP

Teams are to remove their litter from the dugout after the game. The Visiting Team head coach is responsible for ensuring that the field is left in good order. Please keep the park clean and free of litter.

FIRST AID KIT

The First Aid Kit is kept at the Concession Stand. In case of injury, a coach, commissioner, or parent should come to the Concession Stand and ask for the First Aid Kit to treat any injuries. An AED is on site in the Concession Stand.

SAFETY

Safety always comes first and shall override any other rule or regulation of the league.

CHERRY TREE PARK RULES

No Profanity
No Alcoholic Beverages
No Illegal Drugs
No Smoking

No Pets
No Skateboards
No Firearms or Weapons
No Food in Dugout

6U Rules

The 6U (T-Ball) league is generally for children in kindergarten or pre-kindergarten. The intention of this league is to promote the learning of softball and the basic skills while providing the participant with an organized, fun experience.

No league standing or official scores will be kept. Winning is not emphasized.

1. Each team will have one scheduled practice and one game each week (generally on Saturday).
2. Games will consist of a maximum of 4 innings or a 60 minute time frame. No new inning may start after the time limit has been reached.
3. Every player will play the field and bat in every inning. Fielders in excess of regulation infield will play in the outfield. Coaches are required to rotate infielders and outfielders each inning so that during the course of the season each child should play an equal amount of time in the infield and outfield. Safety factors should be considered as well when positioning players.
 - o For safety purposes it is advised that pitchers helpers and first baseman wear a helmet
4. Each player will be thrown **six** pitches and if the ball hasn't been hit, the tee then will be used. **Due to time limits, this rule HAS to be followed.** Once every batter has batted and run the bases (last batter runs all the bases), the inning is over.
5. If the child is thrown out at any base, they must leave the base immediately.
6. The runners may advance one base at a time if the ball is hit in the infield.
 - o THERE IS NO ADVANCEMENTS ON AN OVERTHROW.
 - o If the ball is hit to the outfield the runners may advance until the ball is thrown to the pitcher's circle. A line will clearly mark the halfway line between bases. If the child is past the half-way line, they will be allowed to proceed to the base they are going. This will be a judgment call from the head coaches. (Since there is no score kept, and everyone gets to bat, there shouldn't be a need for excessive running.)
7. The coach will pitch underhand. The key at this age is to have the player hit the ball and build confidence. The pitcher will be able to assist the runners and batters when necessary. It is important to properly position the pitcher's helper(s). The pitcher helper(s) should be positioned to either side of the pitcher but slightly behind an imaginary line drawn through the pitching rubber. A pitcher helper(s) should never be positioned in front of this line or in front of the Pitcher. The Pitchers helper is to wear a helmet with facemask and a mouth guard or a facemask. ALL PLAYERS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TO WEAR FACE MASKS IN THE INFIELD!
8. Rainouts involving practices will not be rescheduled. The league commissioner will reschedule rainouts of games when possible.
9. All players must wear long white baseball pants. CDC will provide the socks, visors, and jerseys.
10. Uniforms must be worn properly when on the field.
11. A maximum of 2 defensive coaches may be in the field to verbally instruct the defensive players.
12. Players should only take warm up swings in the on deck circle. It is encouraged to have a team parent keep the players in the correct batting order while they are on the bench.
13. **Player safety needs to be emphasized at all times.**

8U Rules

Play shall be governed by the ASA Rule Book except as provided by these rules:

1. Games will be a maximum of 75 minutes in length. A new inning will not be started after the game reaches the 60 minute mark.
2. It is mandatory that players rotate between the infield and outfield to ensure equal or nearly equal playing time in each position. **A coach may waive this guideline if he/she determines a player may be at risk by playing her at a particular infield position.**
3. The defensive team may have two (2) coaches in the outfield who may verbally instruct, but not physically assist in defensive play.
4. Players must wear either a mouth guard OR facemask if they are playing in the infield.
5. The offensive team should supply an adult catcher who will back up the girl catcher and help return balls back to the pitcher. Adults should stay back towards the backstop so they will not be hit by ball or bat.
6. Game scores will be kept. However, emphasis in this league will be on instruction, not winning or losing, therefore league standings will **NOT** be kept. There will not be a yearend tourney.

PITCHING (Coach pitch/Kids pitch Expected)

7. During each plate appearance, a coach will pitch to the batters a maximum of 7 pitches.
 - The home plate umpire will call balls and strikes, but these DO NOT COUNT.
 - The pitcher's helper must be positioned behind the pitching rubber when the coach pitches
 - If the coach has a player who wants to try pitching, a player may pitch the first 2 pitches of an at-bat and the coach pitches the last 4 pitches. The player may pitch 2 innings in a game and throwing one pitch constitutes one inning pitched. COACHES SHOULD ENCOURAGE PLAYERS ON THEIR TEAM TO START PITCHING.

BATTING

8. An umpire will call balls and strikes but there will be **no walks**.
 - The batter will be out after 3 strikes (swings and misses or foul balls), but cannot be called out on a foul ball
 - The batter will be out after the 7th pitch unless they hit a foul ball—they will then get another 7th pitch
 - Standard softball rules apply—the team at bat is allowed 3 outs, however, an inning can end in 2 ways
 - 3 outs
 - All players have batted/5 runs have been scored
 - Players that are called out must leave the playing field and return to the bench
 - The player on deck at the end of the inning will bat first in the next inning

BASERUNNING

9. Bases will be set at 55 feet
 - Base runners may not leave the base before the ball is hit. (No stealing)
 - Base runners may advance one based on the first overthrow if she can do so safely. The player will maintain their current base on all subsequent overthrows.
 - When the adult pitcher or pitcher TAKES POSSESSION OF THE BALL within the pitchers circle, play will be called dead immediately and runners will not be allowed

to advance to the next base unless they have already crossed the midway point. If a player hits a ball cleanly to the outfield, they may take more than one base.

- Coaches are encouraged to teach teams to return ball to player pitcher to stop advancement of runners

DEFENSIVE POSITIONS

10. All players of a team will play when the defense is on the field. Only six defensive players are allowed on the infield portion of the playing field. These positions are 1st base, 2nd base, shortstop, 3rd base, pitcher's helper and catcher. All other players on the defensive team will play in the outfield (feet on the grass).

BATTING ORDER

11. The batting order must be established before the start of the game and may not be changed.
- Coaches must rotate player-batting order each game to enable each player the opportunity to be leadoff batter during the season and to make sure at-bats are equal across the season
 - Players must only take warm up swings in the on deck circle.
 - Only one player should be in the on deck circle at a time
 - It is encouraged to have a team parent keep the players in the correct batting order while they are on the bench.
 - **Player safety needs to be emphasized at all times.**
 - All Players must be seated on the bench unless they are in the on deck circle.

10U Rules

Play shall be governed by the ASA Rule Book except as provided by these rules:

1. A game will be 6 innings or 90 minute maximum time limit. A new inning will not be started after 75 minutes.
 - If a game is tied and the time limit is not up, an extra inning may be started
 - If a game is tied and the time limit is up and the home team has had last at bat, the game will remain a tie
 - If the time limit ends and the home does not get their final at bat, the score at the end of the previous inning will be the final score
 - During the year tournament, innings will be finished if time limit expires
2. The defensive team may have two (2) coaches in the outfield who may verbally instruct, but not physically assist in defensive play.
3. Players must wear a mouth guard OR a face mask if they are playing in the infield.
4. A year-end tournament will take place in this league.
5. There will be one umpire in the field along with the home plate umpire at each game.
6. All games will be scored with the home team keeping the official scorebook. It is the home team coach's responsibility to turn in the official score to the league commissioner. A year-end tournament will take place in this league in the spring. In the fall there is no tournament.
 - The Home team scorekeeper is the official scorekeeper.

PITCHING

1. The umpire will call balls and strikes. It will be a large and liberal strike zone. There are no walks.
2. The batter will NOT be awarded first base on a HPB (hit by pitch)—the pitch will count as a ball.
3. A pitcher is allowed to have one foot off the rubber prior to the wind-up and move forward when delivering the ball per ASA pitching rules.
4. Pitching distance will be thirty-five (35) feet.
5. A maximum of five warm up pitches will be allowed at the start of each inning. If a pitching change is made in the middle of an inning a maximum of 7 warm up pitches will be allowed.
6. The player pitcher will get 4 pitches and the count will then carry over to the coach pitcher
 - a. The coach pitcher will throw 4 pitches, after which the player will be out unless they foul tip the 4th pitch. Players should be encouraged to hit player pitches!

BATTING

1. Batters may not advance to 1st base on a dropped third strike.
2. Infield Fly Rule is not enforced.
3. Bunting is allowed.
4. Stealing is NOT allowed.
5. A 4 run rule will be in effect during the regular season. If a team scores 4 runs before recording 3 outs in any inning, then the inning shall end.
 - The game cannot end because a team will not be able to make up the run deficit during their "at bats". For example, if the visiting team is behind by 5 runs at the 75 minute mark of the game, they must take their "at bats" even though they cannot make up their deficit during their half of the inning.
 - The run rule will not apply in the tournament and the games will go to standard 3 out innings.
6. Overthrows:

- Within the fenced areas (in play): Considered live balls and the runners may advance ONE BASE. The defensive team may attempt to get the runners out.
- Over the fence/in dugout (out of play): The batter and all runners will be awarded ONE bases from the time of the overthrow. “
- Ball is dead when the pitcher TAKES POSSESSION OF THE BALL within the circle. The play will be called dead immediately and runners will not be allowed to advance to the next base unless they have already crossed the midway point at the judgment of the umpire.

BATTING ORDER

1. The batting order must be submitted before the start of the game and may not be changed.
2. All players will be part of the batting order.
3. Players must only take warm up swings in the on deck circle.
4. It is encouraged to have a team parent keep the players in the correct batting order while they are on the bench.
5. Player **safety needs to be emphasized at all times.**

DEFENSIVE POSITIONS

1. A maximum of 5 players on the defensive team will play in the outfield grass with a maximum of 11 defensive players.
 - Player Rotation: It is mandatory that each player will play in the infield at least once in the first three innings.
 - A player may not play a position more than 2 consecutive innings (except for the pitcher). They may, however, rotate back to that position. **A coach may waive this guideline if he/she determines a player may be at risk (safety) by playing her at a particular infield position.**

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. An inning shall be completed once started, unless the game is officially called by the umpire (darkness, rain, etc.). No new inning may be started after the 75-minute mark.
2. If the score is tied after six innings or after the time limit expires, extra innings will be played, using the international tie break rule, until the game is won.
 - Starting in the 7th inning, the offensive team will begin the inning with a runner on 2nd base
3. The 4 run rule is still in effect.

12U Rules

Play shall be governed by the ASA Rule Book except as provided by these rules:

1. A game will be 6 innings or 90 minute maximum time limit. A new inning will not be started after 75 minutes.
 - The game clock will start with the first warm up pitch of the first inning. The umpire is responsible for timing the game. Stalling tactics will not be allowed. The first time an umpire determines a team is stalling, a warning will be issued to the coach. If the team continues to stall, the umpire will “stop the clock” until its determined that the stalling has subsided.
 - If a game is tied and the time limit is not up, an extra inning may be started
 - If a game is tied and the time limit is up and the home team has had last at bat, the game will remain a tie
 - If the time limit ends and the home does not get their final at bat, the score at the end of the previous inning will be the final score
 - During the year end tournament, innings will be finished if time limit expires
 - A game will be considered complete under either of the following conditions. This can occur when a game is rained out or stopped due to darkness at the discretion of the umpire:
 - 3 full innings have been completed or 2 ½ innings have been completed and the home team is ahead
 - A game continues for one hour from first warm up pitch even if the allotted number of innings has not been completed
 - A year-end tournament will take place in this league in the spring—see tournament rules below.
 - There will be one umpire in the field along with the home plate umpire at each game.
 - Players must wear a mouth guard OR a facemask if they are playing in the infield.
 - All games will be scored with the home team keeping the official scorebook. It is the home team coach’s responsibility to turn in the official score to the league commissioner. A year-end tournament will take place in this league.
 - The Home team scorekeeper is the official scorekeeper.

PITCHING

2. Pitching distance is 40 feet.
3. If a team is ahead by 5 or more runs after the completion of the second inning pitched by any pitcher for the team in the lead, that pitcher must be replaced. That pitcher may come back into the game to pitch later in the game only if the lead is below 4 runs.
4. A pitcher must have both feet on the rubber prior to her wind-up and move forward when delivering the ball per ASA rules (no step back). If the pitcher steps back in her delivery, she will receive one warning. After the second and each subsequent step back, a ball will be called.
5. A maximum of 5 warm up pitches will be allowed at the start of each inning. If a pitching change is made in the middle of an inning a maximum of 7 warm up pitches will be allowed.
6. Strike outs and walks will count for each batter. Coaches will not pitch in this league.
7. An umpire will call strikes and balls. Strikes will be called liberally. If the batter is struck by a pitch (so long as she is not swinging and makes some effort to avoid the pitch), she shall be sent to 1st base and all forced runners will advance.

BATTING

8. A 4 run rule per inning will be followed during the regular season. If a team scores 4 runs in an inning before recording 3 outs, then the inning shall end.

- The game cannot end because a team will not be able to make up the run deficit during their “at bats”. For instance, if the visiting team is behind by 5 runs at the 75 minute mark of the game, they must take their “at bats” even though they cannot make up the deficit during their half of the inning.
 - The run rule will not apply in the playoffs and the games will go to standard 3 out innings.
9. Base runners may lead off once the ball leaves the pitcher's hand, and may begin advancing bases once the ball is hit by the batter or steal base(s) on a passed ball / wild pitch.
- After leading off, base runners must return to their original base on a foul ball, or if the batter does not make contact and the ball does not get by the catcher.
9. **Stealing is allowed. A runner may lead off after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.**
- Stealing is NOT limited to only one base
 - **No stealing of home (including passed balls)**
10. Once the pitcher takes possession of the ball within the designated circle, all runners must stop advancement upon reaching the base that they have already committed to, unless the pitcher makes a play at the runner. (Defined as making a throw or lifting her arm above the shoulder to fake a throw.) There are no “hash” marks between bases.
11. The infield fly rule is in effect.
12. The dropped third strike rule is NOT in effect.
13. Bunting and slapping are allowed.

BATTING ORDER

14. The batting order must be submitted before the start of the game and may not be changed.
15. Every girl on the roster that is present will be entered in the batting order.
16. Players must only take warm up swings in the on-deck circle.

DEFENSIVE POSITIONS

17. A maximum of ten (10) defensive players may play in the field at one time. Only six (6) defensive players are allowed on the infield portion of the playing field. These positions are 1st base, 2nd base, shortstop, 3rd base, catcher, and pitcher. The remaining four players on the defensive team will play in the outfield.

TOURNAMENT RULES

18. During the tournament, an inning shall be completed once started, unless the game is officially called by the umpire (darkness, rain, etc.). No new inning may be started after the 75-minute mark.
19. During tournament play, if the score is tied after six innings or after the time limit expires, extra innings will be played, using the international tie break rule, until the game is won.
- Starting in the 7th inning, the offensive team will begin the inning with a runner on 2nd base
20. During tournament play, the 4 run rule is still in effect.