# HAMILTON GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION T-BALL (4-5-6) LEAGUE RULES

**2020**

**Objective**

## To introduce the basic rules of the game, foster good sportsmanship and acknowledge individual accomplishments, yet stress teamwork. For the league to remain strong, we must supply a good core of well-skilled and confident girls that are ready to progress to the next level. To achieve this objective, we need to remember at all times that this is an instructional league. Our emphasis is on having FUN while playing and learning the basic skills of softball.

**Divisional Goals:**

1. **Player has a basic understanding of general format of game and basic playing rules of the game.**

Each player shall be introduced to the ball-strike count and understand the result of each at bat. Each player shall be introduced to and understand innings, outs and game score during game play. Each player shall be introduced to the field location of all playing positions.

Each player shall be introduced to on-field decisions as to the play of the game.

*\*Each player will have experienced game time in all infield and outfield playing positions.*

1. **Player has a basic understanding of the proper throwing and catching mechanics** Each player shall be introduced to and understand proper throwing and catching mechanics. Each player shall be introduced to and understand throwing and catching during game play.

## Player has a basic understanding of proper batting mechanics.

Each player shall be introduced to and understand the proper batting stance and batting mechanics. Each player shall be introduced to coach pitch during game play.

Each player shall be introduced to and understand bunting mechanics.

## Player has a basic understanding of proper fielding techniques.

Each player shall be introduced to the proper mechanics of fielding decisions (pop-up, fly, grounder, line drive) and utilize during game play.

Each player shall be introduced to and understand roles of fielding positions, including but not limited to base coverage, back-ups and cut-offs.

## Player has a basic understanding of base running techniques.

Each player shall be introduced to and understand proper base running form and mechanics. Each player shall be introduced to and understand base coaching instructions during game play.

Each player shall be introduced to proper sliding mechanics and use during game playas necessary.

1. ***GRADUATE PLAYERS***

*Each graduate shall be accurate and master proper throwing mechanics during game play.*

*Each graduate shall be able* to *make in-game fielding decisions and show proper mechanic usage in all fielding options.*

*Each graduate shall show consistency in batting mechanics and exhibit during game play. Each graduate shall show consistency in hitting coach pitches during game play.*

*Each graduate shall have a basic knowledge of bunting mechanics and have utilized in game play.*

*Each graduate shall employ proper base running techniques including sliding and exhibit during game play*

# Game Management

1. All coaches are responsible for their actions, along with their coaches, parents and players actions during the game.
2. Game will be four innings and should not be longer than one and a half hours and no shorter than 55 minutes. In the Spring, when playing two games a week, one of the games will be 15 minutes of pre-game skill drills and one hour 15 minutes of game play. The day will be determined by the Tball league agent.
3. Managers must keep the game moving so that the girls do not lose their focus.
4. All attending players will play in each game.
5. The home team will supply five balls for each game.
6. Tees are provided in the storage garage.
7. Coaches on the field when on defense: right side, left side, catcher. Coaches must always be attentive to the game and keep talking to other coaches to a minimum on the field.
8. Coaches on the field when batting: pitching coach, first base, third base
9. Players should play an equal amount of innings defensively, preferably alternating players. Managers may choose to play all of the players in the field every inning, but all "extra" girls must play in the outfield. No more than 12 players can be on the field.
10. When the ball gets put into play by the batter, if the play is made in the field and the batter/base runner is called out, the batter/base runner will then return to the bench. They do not automatically get the base.
11. The first and third base coaches are responsible for calling all outs/safe plays in the field. Any close plays will go to the batter/base runner and the player will be awarded the base.
12. No stealing or leads are permitted.
13. Sliding should be encouraged where possible.
14. Deliberate colliding with a fielder will result in the runner being called out. At the same time, fielders are not to block the base path unless they are fielding a ball.

At the completion of each game, the ENTIRE infield (fair and foul) shall be both raked and dragged and all league equipment (rakes, drag mats, liners, bases, pitching mounds and batting tee) shall be returned to their proper storage areas in HGSA garages.

# Batting

1. Each team shall bat seven players per half inning. Bench coaches will have batters ready and sitting on the bench in batting order.
2. Batter/base runners can advance one base at a time. (Teach proper baserunning mechanics.)
3. All players will bat in consecutive order whether playing in the field or not.
4. Each batter gets up to five balls pitched to them by a coach. After the fifth ball is not hit, a tee is brought out for the girl to use.
5. When the seventh batter comes to bat, it must be announced. The last batter and all base runners will run around and touch every base. The ball will then be thrown home and the catcher will tag each base runner out. (Teach the catcher how to hold the. ball in her glove with two hands and where to stand in front of the plate when making the tag)
6. All batters, on deck batters and base runners will wear helmets with facemasks and chinstraps at all times. Chinstraps must be fastened!
7. Bunting is permitted is permitted at any time. The art of bunting may be taught on an individual basis when the manager.

# Pitching

1. The child pitcher should stand at the pitchers mount, (35 feet away from home plate) slight to the left or right of the pitching coach. A facemask must be worn by the pitcher at all times!
2. The coach will pitch from about 25 to 30 feet away from home plate. Do not stand on the pitching mound and try to pitch to your batters.
3. To start play, a coach will pitch 5 balls to the batter. If the batter doesn't hit the pitched balls, another coach (the catcher coach) will place a tee on home plate for the batter to hit.
4. Pitches should be arc free and flat.
5. After a defensive play is made, the ball should be thrown to the pitcher to end play. The pitcher should then give the ball to the pitching coach.

# Fielding

1. Girls should hustle on and off the field. No more than 3 minutes between each half inning.
2. Every girl may play the field. Any "extra" girls must be placed in the outfield. Up to five players can be in the outfield.
3. Outfielders should be placed on the grass. They should not be fielding balls in the infield or playing bases for force outs. They should be taught to back up the play including infield throws to first base.
4. Face masks must be worn by all players at all times in the field.
5. Players cannot play the same position twice during a game. Move your players around each inning and give everyone a chance to play every position.

# Game Days/Times

1. T-Ball games are played on a weeknight(s) at 6 PM during the fall and spring, and on Saturdays during the spring at 10:45 AM, 12:30 PM and 1 PM . Spring make up games will be scheduled for Wednesday evenings or Sunday afternoons as needed. Fall ball make up games will be scheduled by the Fall ball league agent if needed.
2. T-Ball games will be played at the HGSA Complex using both the HGSA Minor Field and the HGSA Major Field.