BHBL Recreational Girls Softball Guidelines - Revised 6/8/2023



MINOR DIVISION

<u>OFFENSE</u>

- 1) The batting order will consist of all girls in attendance for that night's game.
- 2) There is no infield fly rule or dropped third strike in this division.
- 3) All girls throwing the bat will be warned after the first offense, and at the second offense they will be called out. No exceptions.
- 4) Girls will be allowed to steal any base except home. They are allowed to leave the base at the pitcher's release.
- 5) There will be only one base allowed per overthrow: Play will be stopped and girls advancing further will be returned to base.
- 6) There will be a four run limit on all innings.

<u>DEFENSE</u>

- 1) An 11" softball will be used for all games. The distance from the mound to home will be 35 feet. All girls must start at the mound.
- 2) The defense will consist of a maximum of ten players in the following format:
 - a) one girl only at each of the infield positions, including pitcher and catcher
 - b) Four outfielders who must remain on the outfield grass.
- 3) Full catcher's gear is mandatory for all girls playing the catcher's position.
- 4) During the coach/pitch, the pitcher will remain in the pitcher's circle to field. If the coach is contacted by the ball, play will be stopped and all runners will be awarded one base.

PITCHING

- 1) The fielding team's coach will stand behind the pitcher and call balls and strikes for all batters. The strike zone will be from the shoulders to the knees.
- 2) The batting team's coach will step in to the finish the inning once there are three walks, total in an inning.
- 3) All batters receiving three strikes, called or swinging, will be out regardless of whether a player or a coach is pitching. No batters will be waked by a coach pitcher.

GENERAL RULES

- 1) At the first sign of visible lightning or sound of thunder, all play must be suspended for a period of thirty minutes. Fields and dugouts MUST be vacated. There are no exceptions.
- 2) No jewelry will be worn on field. All hair past shoulder length must be tied back.
- 3) Scorekeeping in this division is discouraged. Emphasis should be placed on good sportsmanship and proper game play at this level.
- 4) No new inning should be started after one hour and twenty minutes.
- 5) Coaches (limit of 2) are encouraged to be on the field at all times to instruct the girls.
- 6) The girls and coaches will line up at home plate to shake hands after the game. Both teams are responsible for cleaning/picking up.
- 7) Fielding masks are strongly recommended for all players.
- 8) Players are required to wear long pants or softball pants during games.