

**MANSFIELD-NORTON-SOUTH ATTLEBORO GIRLS RECREATION  
INTER-TOWN GAME RULES  
2024 SOFTBALL  
8U (Minor Division)**

**Ball-** 11 inch yellow safety ball ("Softtee")

**Game time-** 6:00pm, with a 15 min grace period. Weekend game times may vary based on schedule. No umpires.

**Innings:**

- 6 innings max
- No new inning may start after 7:10pm.
- "Drop dead" game end is 7:30pm.
- Innings are 4 runs (Maximum 9 batters) or 3 outs, whichever comes first.

**Pitching/Batting:**

- Pitching distance of 35 feet
- Bases 60 feet apart.
- Coach-pitch with implementation of player-pitch during the season. If a coach has a player that can safely pitch to the opposing team then "player-pitch" can start in the middle of the season.
- For coach-pitch, coaches will pitch to their own teams. A total of 6 pitches will be thrown. There are no walks. If after the 6<sup>th</sup> pitch the batter has not put the ball into play, then that batter is out. The coach should let the batter know "this is the last pitch".
- For player-pitch: players will pitch 4 pitches, Coaches will then pitch 4 pitches.
- If the batter swings and misses three pitches total, the batter is out.
- No slashing (faking bunt, then hitting away), no slap hitting, NO BUNTING allowed. ●
- Continuous batting order; players who arrive after start of game should be added to the bottom of the order
- **NO DROPPED THIRD STRIKE**
- **NO HIT BY PITCH**

**Fielding:**

- A Catcher should be used with a coach behind the catcher to keep the game moving. ●
- A player should be assigned to field "Pitcher" position with Coach-pitch and must stay within the pitcher's circle until the ball is pitched.
- Total of 10 players on field: pitcher & catcher, 4 infielders in traditional positions and 4 outfielders, positioned at least 10 feet behind infielders
- Free substitution of players in the field at the start of each inning

- Teams may have less than 8 players to begin the game.
- Coaches may provide defensive coaching from on the field either behind the infield or in the outfield. Coaches must do their best to avoid contact with the ball and/or the play.
- **Norton In-Town Rule: \*\*\*All players are recommended to wear a defensive fielders mask when out on the field. Fielder's mask are REQUIRED to be worn when playing pitcher and 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> base.\*\*\***

**COACHES ARE TO PROVIDE EQUAL FIELD PLAYING TIME TO ALL PLAYERS EACH GAME**

**Baserunning:**

- Baserunners advance only 1 base per hit ball in infield; up to 2 bases for hit ball into outfield with the risk of being thrown out.
- Advancing bases on an overthrown ball is not allowed.
- **Stealing** – Players are not allowed to steal.
- **Leading** – Players are not allowed to lead
- **Tagging up** - No tagging up on a fly ball.
- No infield fly rule.
- **Slide rule** – sliding is NOT mandatory. A runner needs to avoid the fielder. If the runner makes contact with the fielder attempting to make a play the runner will be called out. Avoiding contact is completed by sliding or other means deemed acceptable.

**Teams will be responsible for using their own balls for pitching Home team will**

**supply the bases** – safety base will be used.

**Spectators** – No spectators/players are to sit directly behind home plate. No abusive action or language towards a coach, or player will be tolerated.

**Plays Stoppage** – Play will be stopped immediately with a player injury.

**STANDINGS**- Wins and losses will NOT be recorded. Scores of the games should be kept; the emphasis should be on teaching the girls the game and good sportsmanship.