

**MANSFIELD-NORTON-SOUTH ATTLEBORO GIRLS RECREATION
INTER-TOWN GAME RULES
2026 SOFTBALL
8U (Minor Division)**

Ball- 11 inch yellow safety ball ("Softie")

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 6th 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.
- ***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 1st/3rd 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.