

2024 KAN WILL GIRLS SOFTBALL
8U - DIVISION RULES

- 1) Player cannot have turned 9 before December 31, 2023; must be born in 2015 or 2016.**
- 2) Team rosters must be submitted at the Spring Scheduling meeting & include the name and birthdate of players, and coaches' name, phone numbers, and email address. Any roster changes after this meeting must be approved by the Kan-Will Board.
- 3) The head coach is responsible for the conduct of anyone associated with their team. All coaches and players are expected to demonstrate respect on the field and encourage parents to do the same. No deliberate or malicious contact by any player or coach will be tolerated.
- 4) The scorebook keeper is required to keep an accurate account of each game. The home team scorebook is the official record of the game and the scorebook keeper must immediately verify the final score with the visiting team's scorebook keeper.
- 5) All games will start promptly at the scheduled time. A minimum of 8 league rostered players must be present to play a game. Any team which is not ready to play within ten (10) minutes after starting time, shall forfeit the game. The only exception to this is to allow for the completion of a game already in progress. The violating team shall pay for the umpires.
- 6) **WEATHER:** A game will be considered complete after 3.5 innings. If a game has not reached 3.5 innings, it may be "suspended" after coaches meet and agree on remaining game time and situation of game. All rescheduled games must be played prior to the end of the regular season. An attempt must be made to reschedule. A makeup game is required if it will cause either team to complete less than 12 games before the end of the season.
- 7) **GAME LENGTH AND TIME LIMIT:** Play five (5) innings or 75 minute time limit, whichever comes first. No new inning will begin after the time limit has expired, unless the game is tied. Head umpire will keep official time. The new inning starts following the 3rd out of the previous inning. A tie game should be continued (using the international tie breaker) upon agreement of both head coaches, pending weather/lighting.
- 8) When on offense, only two coaches are allowed on the field in foul territory as 1st & 3rd base coaches. On defense, 2 coaches are allowed on the field. Coaches may not interfere with the ball or player at any time. Other coaches may be in the doorway of the dugout.
- 9) An 11" yellow optic softball will be used. Base distance will be 50 feet. An orange safety-base shall be required at 1st Base. All balls must be leather coated following IHSA rules. The pitching rubber will be placed at 30 feet. The Pitcher **MUST HAVE** one foot touching the rubber to begin a pitch.
- 10) No jewelry, except medical I.D. bracelets are to be worn during the game. Band-aids/tape may be worn over earrings, if unable to remove.
- 11) A thrown bat will result in a warning to the player and team on the first occurrence and an out on any subsequent occurrences by the same player.
- 12) Runners are allowed to steal one base per batter.** Runners can lead off once the ball crosses the plate.

- 13) Runners cannot advance on an overthrow.
- 14) **In the event of a tie, the International Tie Breaker rule will apply:** Each team starts the inning with no outs and a base runner on second base, that was the player who completed the last official at bat from the previous inning. Each subsequent inning will start the same until a winner has been determined.
- 15) All players present must play a defensive position at least TWO INNINGS.
- 16) The pitcher will be the responsible player to secure the ball for pitcher control in the pitcher circle to consider the play dead. The play is “dead” once the pitcher has control of the ball in the pitcher’s circle. Advancing runners must be half way in order to acquire the next base, at umpire discretion.
- 17) A pitcher can pitch no more than 3 total innings per game with no more than two consecutive innings. A partial inning will be counted as a full inning.
- 18) Substitute players must be called up from a lower level. NO players from another 8u team may be used as a call-up. **Use of an ineligible player will result in a game forfeit.**
- 19) Coach pitch will apply after the 4th ball is thrown. Coaches shall pitch from the pitcher’s mound, while the pitcher is positioned with (1) foot in the pitcher’s circle. When coach pitch is initiated, the strike count will remain the same and the balls will reset to zero. The coach will throw a maximum of 5 pitches, unless the final pitch is a foul ball, in which case they will continue their at bat until a fair ball or strike out occurs. If a batter accumulates 4 balls during coach pitch it will be counted as a strikeout. No advancement for a hit batter during coach pitch. Umpires will call strikes/balls. **After the 6th walk of the inning, coach pitch will continue until the end of inning.**
- 20) A Continuous Batting Order must be prepared and exchanged with the opposing team prior to the game. It is the responsibility of the head coach to confirm the line up is correct before exchange. Any discrepancy to the batting order will be counted as an out.
- 21) A player must be present in at least 75 % of league games in order to be eligible to participate in the end of year Kan-Will tournament.
- 22) **No bunting or slap hitting allowed.**
- 23) **No infield fly rule.**
- 24) No advancement of first base will be given to a batter hit by a ball after bouncing off the ground. Coach pitch will be given if the batter is hit by a direct pitch. If a batter is injured after getting hit by a pitch, they may return to the dugout and the next batter will begin their at-bat with no penalty (out) applied.
- 25) If a pitcher hits three batters during an inning, the pitcher shall be pulled from that position. **She cannot return as the pitcher until she has sat out for one complete inning or three outs.** If the pitcher hits one more batter during the game, the pitcher will be pulled and cannot pitch again in that game.

- 26)** Offensive players must wear a helmet and facemask while on the playing field including the on-deck hitter, hitter in the batter's box, or any base runner. If a player intentionally removes their helmet during play and/or before reaching their dugout, the umpire will issue a warning. The second occurrence will result in an out. Helmets may be removed if time has been called by the umpire.
- 27)** All defensive infield players must wear a face mask. Face masks are optional for outfield positions.
- 28)** There is a 5 run limit per inning for each offensive team. Additional runners on base can score until the play is completed by out or the ball is returned to the pitcher in the circle. If the game reaches the 5th inning, there is NO LIMIT to the number of runs that can be scored.
- 29)** Regardless of the amount of time remaining, if either team is ahead by 15 runs after 3.5 innings the game will be declared over, after conferring with each team to verify the score.
- 30)** A courtesy runner is allowed for the pitcher and catcher and must be the previous out. This is highly recommended to help maintain the pace of the game.
- 31)** In order to demonstrate sportsmanlike conduct, defensive players may not chant/yell at the batter once the ball has been released from the pitcher's hand.
- 32)** Rules are subject to change by the Kan-Will Board. The division representative will present requested rule changes to the Board for approval before the rule(s) can be enforced. The division representative will notify all head coaches of the Board's decision.