

# Recreational and All-Star League Rulebook

## 1 MESSAGE FROM YOUR NOBLESVILLE GIRLS SOFTBALL EXECUTIVE BOARD

---

Players, Parents, and Coaches:

Noblesville Girls Softball appreciates the individual volunteers, coaches, umpires, and parents who are dedicated to working with and teaching the girls in the Noblesville Girls Softball program. Our number one goal is to provide the girls of Noblesville Girls Softball with the fundamentals of softball to learn, grow and love the game. By working together, we can help all girls achieve success by teaching them through our example the value of sportsmanship, leadership, and to help them create friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. Remember, we are all here for the girls and to be an example to each one of them.

The Noblesville Girls Softball board would like to thank you for your dedication and support for Noblesville Girls Softball.

**Jon Fuller**

**Pat Lane**

**Lauren Gross**

**Brandie Laudig**

**Jeremy Romine**

**President**

**Vice President**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

**Comptroller**

## 2 ABOUT NOBLESVILLE GIRLS SOFTBALL

---

Noblesville Girls Softball is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 charitable organization that provides young women from Noblesville and surrounding counties the opportunity to play fast-pitch softball in instructional, recreational, and competitive programs.

Noblesville Girls Softball programs are managed by a board of directors who volunteer their time to fulfill the mission of the organization, and we appreciate:

- the young women in our programs who **play hard** and **have fun**.
- the dedicated parents and volunteers who serve as coaches or otherwise donate their time and talents to support our programs.
- **local businesses and individuals who generously support Noblesville Girls Softball through donations, partnerships, and sponsorships**
- Noblesville Schools for providing facilities for our girls to play softball.

Noblesville Girls Softball provides many levels of softball programs for girls aged 4 through 16. Each level is designed to provide a higher level of competition and skill. Each is a separate program and funded accordingly, although all

are Noblesville Girls Softball programs. This book addresses the house league play and all-star league play. Please see the travel handbook for details of our travel programs. The house league is open to every girl between the ages of 4 and 16.

**Recreational League:** This is our base where girls learn the fundamentals and rules of the game beginning with instruction and becoming more competitive as the girls get older.

**All-Stars/Alliance:** Selected from the Recreational League, these girls show higher skill level and desire to advance. The All-Stars program provides recreational all-star level & class C level playing opportunities beyond the recreational league regular season.

**Millers Travel:** This is a separate program from the NGSAs Recreational League and All-Stars/Alliance. It is operated via NGSAs. This is a natural progression from the NGSAs Recreational League and All-Stars/Alliance. This program runs August-August.

- 1 Message from Your Noblesville Girls Softball Executive Board ..... 1
- 2 About Noblesville Girls Softball ..... 1
- 3 General Rules..... 4
  - 3.1 Age-Group Leagues ..... 4
  - 3.2 Park Rules ..... 5
  - 3.3 Weather..... 6
    - 3.3.1 Thunder or Lightning ..... 6
    - 3.3.2 Rain ..... 6
    - 3.3.3 Severe Weather Watches & Warnings ..... 7
    - 3.3.4 Game Cancellations/Field Conditions (due to weather): ..... 7
  - 3.4 Safety..... 7
  - 3.5 Equipment ..... 7
  - 3.6 Umpires & Coaches Behavior and Responsibilities ..... 8
  - 3.7 Team Selection Process ..... 9
  - 3.8 Policy Changes Request..... 10
- 4 Noblesville Girls Softball League Rules..... 11
  - 4.1 Appropriate Uniform ..... 11
  - 4.2 Games & Practices..... 11
  - 4.3 League Tournament ..... 11
    - 4.3.1 Awards:..... 12

5	Game Rules.....	13
5.1	Game Safety .....	13
5.1.1	Before the game starts:.....	13
5.1.2	During the game:.....	13
5.1.3	Thrown Bat .....	13
5.2	Field Rules .....	13
5.2.1	Pregame: .....	13
5.2.2	Game and Post Game.....	14
5.2.3	Field Maintenance.....	14
5.3	Playing Time .....	14
5.4	Team Line-Ups and Substitute Players.....	14
5.4.1	Team Line-Ups.....	14
5.4.2	Minimum Players:.....	15
5.4.3	Call Ups or Substitute Players .....	15
5.5	Pitching Rules .....	16
5.5.1	Warmups .....	16
5.5.2	Conferences.....	17
5.6	Sliding Rule .....	17
5.7	Interference/Obstruction.....	17
5.7.1	Obstruction (Umpire judgment call) .....	17
5.7.2	Interference (Umpire judgment call) .....	17
5.7.3	Taunting or Hesitation Rule.....	18
5.8	Courtesy Runner.....	18
5.9	6U Special Rules .....	18
5.10	8U Special Rules .....	19
5.10.1	Batter/Pitcher.....	19
5.10.2	Overthrow .....	19
5.10.3	General.....	19
5.11	10U Special Rules .....	19
5.11.1	Overthrows.....	19
5.11.2	Stealing.....	20

5.11.3	Pitching.....	20
5.12	12U, 14U, 16U/High School.....	20
6	General Rules.....	21
7	Appendix A: General Code of Conduct.....	25
8	Appendix B: Coaches Code of Conduct .....	26

### 3 GENERAL RULES

---

As with all organizations, we must have rules, requirements and regulations that govern our program. All players, parents and coaches are to become familiar with these, and if you have any questions or comments, please contact the Commissioner of the appropriate league.

#### 3.1 AGE-GROUP LEAGUES

**AGE IS DETERMINED BY THE PLAYER’S AGE AS OF JANUARY 1.**

**Example:** If a girl turned 9 on February 5th, she is eligible to play in the 8U Division. (She was 8 years old on January 1st). If a girl turned 9 on December 31st, she must move up to the 10U Division. (She was 9 years old on January 1st).

**6U:** This is an instructional league that teaches the girls the fundamentals of softball utilizing both coach’s pitch and a tee. Teams consist of 6-8 players to allow for more one-on-one instruction. Players have the option to hit off coach pitch or T with the goal to have all girls hit off coach by end of season. Players in the league must turn 4 by January 1<sup>st</sup> to be eligible to play.

**FALL BALL:** 6U is completed in one evening with 45-minutes of practice and then a 45-minute game.

**8U:** This league will usually place 9-11 players on each team. The goal of the league is to give each girl as much playing time and quality instruction as possible while introducing the girls to pitching at this level. Pitching distance is 30 feet. A double elimination tournament will take place at the end of the season.

**10U:** This league will usually place 9-12 players on each team. This league's goal is to gain additional experience in softball while fine-tuning the skills gained from previous years. Combination of coach and player pitch with pitching distance at 35 feet. A double elimination tournament will take place at the end of the season.

**12U:** This league takes part in the county leagues. This league does require travel. Pitching distance is 40 feet and the league follows the rules of the County leagues league. A double elimination tournament will take place at the end of the season.

**14U+:** This league will consist of 14U/16U players for the 2020 spring season. This league takes part in a league at Olio Fields in Fishers. This league does require travel. The pitching distance is 43 feet, and the league follows the rules of the USSSA. Tournament details TBD.

**Alliance/All-Stars:** This league will be selected from the Recreational League. These girls show higher skill level and desire to advance. The Alliance/All-Star program provides "rec plus," "rec all-star" and Alliance level playing opportunities beyond the Recreational League regular season. These teams are chosen from the 8U through 12U recreational leagues via tryouts.

\*\*Requests to either move up or down a division are strongly discouraged but may be considered. Any request must be submitted in writing to the Noblesville Girls Softball Competition Committee via the Vice President. Only requests to move up a single age group will be considered.

## 3.2 PARK RULES

The Noblesville Girls Softball fields are maintained by Noblesville Girls Softball board members and volunteers. We are privileged to be able to use these fields for our softball program. It is important that proper respect for the facility be displayed by the athletes, parents, and other visitors. This includes that the dugouts, fields, spectator areas, restrooms, etc. are left the way that they were found and that all trash is removed and properly discarded. The ongoing maintenance of our facilities is a huge task. Noblesville Girls Softball does not pay, nor can we afford paid staff for this work and therefore must solicit volunteers. We ask all parents and players to pick up the trash after every softball event. When every parent and player do his or her part, the tasks are simple & expedient.

- **No** tobacco, vape pen or e-cigarette will be permitted on Noblesville Girls Softball/NOBLESVILLE SCHOOL property at any time.
- **No** alcohol will be permitted in the park at any time.
- **Anyone under the influence of alcohol will be asked to leave the park.**
- No pets are to be on premises per Noblesville School policy. You will be asked to leave with your dog.
- **No** glass containers.
- Please place trash in provided containers.
- **No** profanity.
- Park only in designated areas and obey all posted speed limit signs.
- **No parking in the grass.**
- Unauthorized vehicles are not allowed on the fields.
- All players, coaches, parents, and spectators will always show good sportsmanship.
- **Absolutely no ball playing of any kind around any building structure.**
- No ball smaller than a softball will be allowed, unless used for team training.
- No batting on any unsupervised fields (Parent or Coach in the fenced area).
- Only whiffle balls may be hit into the fence.
- During games, only the coaches and players are allowed in the dugout or on the field.

### 3.3 WEATHER

We do our best to notify all parents, players, and coaches promptly of postponed/cancelled games. Coaches have the discretion of calling off practices; however, the Noblesville Girls Softball Board Member on Duty (BMOD) is the one who will call off games. Your child's safety is our first concern. No teams should be on the field or in the dugouts when lightning is seen, or thunder is heard. See Noblesville Girls Softball Weather Guidelines below. The safety of our players, spectators, officials, and other league personnel is paramount and the sole purpose of this policy. We expect all involved to understand and adhere to its requirements.

Please refer to one of the following sources for information on the status of the day's activities:

Website: [www.noblesvillesoftball.com](http://www.noblesvillesoftball.com)

Facebook: Noblesville Softball

Instagram: noblesvillesoftball

#### 3.3.1 Thunder or Lightning

- This rule is for all leagues and all divisions and is **NOT** optional.
- Games/practices will be stopped immediately if lightning is seen, or thunder is heard from the field. If a game/practice is being played at a multi-field complex, any one game/practice being halted shall stop all games/practices.
- You must wait 30 minutes before allowing the play to resume. If there is another clap of thunder or lightning is seen again, the clock is restarted. If the game delay exceeds one hour, the game or games are postponed, and everyone must leave the field. For practices, any additional delays after the first 30-minute session will result in the end of practice.
- Should the National Weather Service issue a Severe Thunderstorm Warning or Tornado Warning for our area, all games in progress shall be stopped and all scheduled games during the warning's duration shall be postponed.
- **Player safety is our priority. The Umpire and/or Board Member on Duty (BMOD) has the full authority to immediately delay, cancel, or suspend games as they determine necessary.**
- **After play is halted due to weather, all players, coaches, and fans should remove themselves from the fields and dugouts.**
- **Once the umpire or BMOD stops play during games or practices all activity ceases on the fields. THIS IS NOT OPTIONAL!!**

#### 3.3.2 Rain

Rain, without thunder or lightning, will be monitored by the umpires and Board Member on Duty (BMOD) as to severity and impact on the game being held. Games may continue if deemed acceptable by league officials and no safety concerns exist.

### 3.3.3 Severe Weather Watches & Warnings

Board Member on Duty (BMOD), Commissioners and Coaches should immediately clear the fields and have spectators, players, and officials move to the parking lot or point of safety depending on conditions. **No games or practices will begin with a “STORM WARNING” in effect.**

**TORNADO SIRENS:** In the event tornado sirens are sounded, seek immediate shelter. If no shelter is available leave the facility immediately. All play will be suspended.

### 3.3.4 Game Cancellations/Field Conditions (due to weather):

Rain outs will be rescheduled only if we have not met our game minimums; schedule permitting. Makeup games will be played as early as possible.

Suspended Games:

- Games will be suspended at the discretion of the BMOD and/or the Umpire in Charge.
- In the case of suspended games:
  - The umpire will tell the coaches when play is suspended.
  - Scorekeepers will record this time in the scorebook.
  - The amount of time left will be noted if play resumes.
- Coaches, scorekeepers, and umpires will meet and record on the scorebook, the count on the batter and the score.
- All incomplete games will be rescheduled and completed (schedule permitting). The game will be restarted at the point of the suspension.
- See General Rules Section for complete games.

Closed Fields: If fields are closed, there is to be NO ACTIVITY in the infield.

## 3.4 SAFETY

Safety is a number one priority for Noblesville Girls Softball. When your other children attend the games, please make sure they are supervised. **Only team members are allowed on the bench and in the dugout area during games.**

## 3.5 EQUIPMENT

Noblesville Girls Softball will provide a softball jersey. Girls are asked to provide:

- black pants
- socks
- a ball glove and
- batting helmet with faceguard.

- fielding mask.

Softball cleats and fielding masks are optional. NO METAL CLEATS except for 14U+ ONLY.

Noblesville Girls Softball supplies the necessary softballs for both practice and games. The coach is responsible for all equipment that will be handed out. This equipment is to be used for practice and games only. When a piece of equipment needs repair, it is the coach's responsibility to turn it in to the league's equipment director. **If an equipment bag is not returned at the end of the season, the coach will be charged \$50. Until all equipment is accounted for, they will not be able to coach at any level, in any capacity.**

All coaches will receive from Noblesville Girls Softball:

- Catcher's equipment: mask, helmet with throat guard, chest guard and shin guards (8u and up)
- Practice balls
- Duffel bag
- Heart Guard [ 6u, and 8u Division Only]

**Note:** All bats must be official (NSA, USSSA, ASA, Babe Ruth) softball bats. The umpires may approve or disapprove the use of any bat.

\*\*If any child does not have equipment (i.e., glove, protective gear) due to financial constraints, the family should contact an Executive Board Member for assistance.

### 3.6 UMPIRES & COACHES BEHAVIOR AND RESPONSIBILITIES

General Expectations:

- Be professional, this is for the girls, not the coaches.
- Get as many innings played as possible
- Dress respectable, no flip flops
- Head coaches are responsible for the conduct of their Asst. Coaches, players, and fans.
- Coaches are responsible for reviewing these rules and Code of Conduct with players, coaches, parents, and fans.
- Each head coach, assistant coach and league commissioner must submit and pass a background check before they will be allowed to participate as a coach or commissioner. The coach pays for the background check.
- There will be no protests or appeals.
- The home plate umpire shall oversee the game and may be assisted by a base umpire.



- Treat each player fairly and impartially. Placing your daughter ahead of the team will cause you problems and contribute to bad feelings among other players and parents. Equally important is the reverse scenario where you require more of your child than that of other players.
- Our program's mission is to provide recreational softball for all who wish to participate. You should never overemphasize winning as your team's goal. It is the coach's responsibility that this attitude is throughout his or her team. Remember these are just children learning a game.
- Under NO circumstances will any coach ever verbally or physically abuse a player. Any coach who tries to embarrass a player or abuses one will be IMMEDIATELY removed from their role as a coach. Any person who does not share this belief or does not control their emotions and intensity level should not serve as a coach.
- Participation Behavior: This rule applies to all attendees. Any person being ejected from a game must immediately leave the property. They will be automatically suspended for the next game. The suspended person may not be on park property. This one game suspension may be appealed to the executive committee of the board.
- Social Media Use Policy: While Noblesville Girls Softball supports the use of social media outlets; (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter, among others), individuals may use such media in any way they choose as long as such use does not produce any adverse consequences such as harassing, demeaning, creating a hostile environment, or harming the goodwill and reputation of the league or in the community at large.
- Doghouse Rule: Only the head coach (chief assistant if head coach is not present at game) shall have standing to discuss calls with umpire.
- If there is a question of rule applications or interpretation, it will be calmly and quietly discussed at home plate by both head coaches.
- Ump's call. Warn first. If any coach misbehaves, they are designated to dugout only and the coach must remain silent.
- If the coach breaks silence, the coach can be removed from the game.
- Safety always comes first and shall override any other rule or regulations of the league.

### 3.7 TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

Teams are assembled by the league commissioner with an effort to balance out the teams as best we can. Head Coach and Asst. Coach (1) will have their daughter(s) assigned to their team. **We will make every attempt to accommodate special requests but cannot guarantee all requests.**

The League Commissioner has the final decision on all special requests.

### 3.8 POLICY CHANGES REQUEST

A request to change a rule may be written and sent to the league commissioner. It will be considered at the following board meeting unless there are significant safety issues affecting the current season. These exceptions will be addressed by the Rules Committee of the board.

## 4 NOBLESVILLE GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

---

### 4.1 APPROPRIATE UNIFORM

- All league players must dress for the games appropriately.
- Noblesville girls Softball provides a uniform shirt. This is the uniform that should be worn for all games.
- It is recommended that each girl wear softball appropriate pants.
- While *not required*, it is *recommended* for the 10u Division and above players wear sliding shorts and a sliding pad when wearing shorts for a game.

*The use of the sliding shorts and pad reduces the risk of injury while sliding. Noblesville Girls Softball does not provide sliding shorts or pads.*

### 4.2 GAMES & PRACTICES

Each team will be assigned specific times and fields to practice on each week during preseason.

Refer to General Rules for game minimums.

Additional practice times can be scheduled via your League Commissioner; fields permitting.

Only defensive players, batter, on deck batter, umpire and base coaches allowed out of dugout and on the field.

Practices and/or make-up games can be held on Sundays

6U are permitted no more than 2 events in one calendar week. 8U and up are permitted no more than 4 events in one calendar week. Events are defined as practices and games. Double Headers scheduled by Noblesville Girls Softball are considered 1 event.

Teams can scrimmage another team prior to the season. Noblesville Girls Softball will not provide umpires for scrimmage games.

All Scheduling conflicts should be directed to the Vice President and League Commissioner.

Practice and game schedules will be posted on the Noblesville Girls Softball website.

The home team will be defined per game schedule.

Batting Cages – The batting cages near the Noblesville High School fields are still available to our teams. Contact your commissioner or Scheduler for scheduling.

### 4.3 LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

A double-elimination league tournament will be held for all divisions except 6U.

6U will not have a tournament.

8U tournament will be an in-house tournament. It will be seeded based off a blind draw.

10U and 12U will be coordinated as a county tournament. Details TBD.

14U+ tournament will be TBD.

#### 4.3.1 Awards:

First and Second place tournament trophies will be awarded in each division.

All 6U girls will receive an award recognizing their participation in the season.

## 5 GAME RULES

---

### 5.1 GAME SAFETY

#### 5.1.1 Before the game starts:

- Players must tuck in shirts.
- **Players must take off all jewelry, including pierced jewelry, watches, Fitbits, Apple Watch, or any other electronics or wrist bands.**
- Metal spikes are not permitted except for high school ONLY.

#### 5.1.2 During the game:

Noblesville Girls Softball recommends that all players in the field wear mouth guards and/or a face mask. A face mask is required for 6u, 8u, and 10u divisions.

Helmets w/face masks are mandatory for batters, base runners, and on-deck batters.  
*(Each player must provide their own batting helmet w/faceguard.)*

Pitchers and Pitchers Helpers must wear either a face mask or helmet w/face mask. 6u, and 8U must wear heart guards while on the mound. Extra face masks and heart guards are provided by the league for each team.

Anyone under 18 years old serving as Base Coach, must wear a helmet with Face Mask.

**During game play, all players and coaches must be in the Dugout.** Any girl not behind the fenced area must wear a helmet with a facemask or facemask, i.e. – **in the dugout entrance.**

Catchers will wear full gear, i.e., facemasks with throat guard, shin guards and a full chest protector.

#### 5.1.3 Thrown Bat

If a player throws her bat, the following rules apply:

First time—a warning will be given to the player and coach

Second time—The player will be automatically called out

Third time—the player will be dismissed from the game.

No lanyards for mouth guards.

### 5.2 FIELD RULES

#### 5.2.1 Pregame:

- **Games will start at their scheduled time.** The Umpire will be responsible for enforcing a prompt start. If there are any reasons not to start on time, the Board Member on Duty (BMOD) must be consulted to approve any variation on the start time. The BMOD will have the final say.
- Arrive a minimum of 30 minutes before the game.

- The visiting team warms up for 10 minutes first; starting 20 minutes before game time.
- Home team warms up for 10 minutes after visiting team.
- The home team will occupy the 3rd base line dugout.
- Umpires have game balls. One new and extra one in good condition.
- Umpire will be official timer.

#### 5.2.2 Game and Post Game

- Scorekeeper's responsibility to confirm score with each other. Fix disagreement before next pitch.
- Home team official scorebook.
- Outfielders must be on the grass when the ball crosses home plate.
- Return game balls to umpire after game.
- Coaches may not question pitches but may question a rule only.

#### 5.2.3 Field Maintenance

- Base coaches help umpires by keeping bases clean.
- **Coaches are responsible for cleaning out the dugout of all trash after each game or practice.**
- Coaches and parents are responsible for any trash on or around the field. Please keep your fields clean.
- Lining, grooming, and maintenance is the responsibility of Noblesville Girls Softball
- Please bring to the attention of the BMOD any items that need immediate remedy.

### 5.3 PLAYING TIME

- Coaches at all levels must take care to play all girls in a variety of positions and give meaningful playing time.
- Every effort should be made by coaches to see that each girl gets a rotation in the infield.
  - This is most important in the younger ages (6u – 10u Division).
  - In the 12u Division and above, there is some discretion to **develop outfielders** and prevent injury.
- **No player should sit out more than one inning defensively in a row, or more than two for the entire game.**
- Reasonable exceptions may be made (injured player, ill player, player request, etc.)

### 5.4 TEAM LINE-UPS AND SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS

#### 5.4.1 Team Line-Ups

- A batting order will be established prior to the beginning of the game and exchanged by the respective coaches/scorekeepers with all substitute players listed at the bottom of the lineup.

- All players who are present for the game should bat.
- Players who arrive late should be added to the bottom of the order, with notice given to the opposing coach.
- **8u, 10u, & 12u Divisions:** All games may be played with 10 players defensively (4 outfielders) providing each team can field the 10<sup>th</sup> player. Otherwise, both teams will play with 9 players defensively. This will be enforced by the umpire. Each outfielder's feet must be in the grass until the ball is batted.
- **16U and HS Divisions:** All games may be played with 9 players defensively
- **In an effort to speed –up the exchange between defense and offense, Coaches are expected to have a prepared line-up for the entire game.**

#### 5.4.2 Minimum Players:

- 6U, and 8U: no minimum (share players if needed to equalize).
- 10U: If either team is not able to play at least 8 players, a practice game can be played if both teams agree. An umpire does not have to be present.
- 12U and up: USSSA Rules will apply:
  - The minimum number of players for league play is 8 — start, play and finish with 8 players. If by game time a team does not have at least 8 players, a forfeit will result unless both coaches agree to extend the time limit and the BMOD allows the later start time.
  - The minimum number of players for in-house tournament play is 9 – may play with 8 (9 batting position is an automatic out). When a team is left with a vacant spot in the lineup because of only having 8 players, the opposing team may not, with two outs, intentionally or unintentionally walk the previous batter to get the "AUTOMATIC OUT" created by the vacant spot in the batting order. 7 players or less is a forfeit.

#### 5.4.3 Call Ups or Substitute Players

All substitutes must be registered league players, and on a recreation team roster. All coaches needing a call-up or substitute player must contact the league commissioner for their respective age group. The league commissioner will work with the lower league commissioner to find able, willing, and eligible players. The league commissioner or BMOD must be notified of the substitute player before the game starts. All substitutes must also be reported to the opposing coach before the game starts. If a coach has a player that wants to play up and feels that they should be eligible, they may notify their league commissioner. All substitute players are required to bat at the bottom of the lineup. Substitute players may only pitch or catch after the normal roster players have exhausted the maximum number of allowed innings played in those positions. Substitute players will only be used to fill a team up to 9 players.

- **8U:** 6U players may be brought up to play if there is a shortage of players. They can play any position but must NOT play in front of a grade division player.

- **10U:** 8U players may be brought up to play if there is a shortage of players. They can play any position but must NOT play in front of a grade division player.
- **12U:** 10U players may be brought up to play if there is a shortage of players. They can play any position but must NOT play in front of a grade division player.
- **14U:** 12U players may be brought up to play if there is a shortage of players. They can play any position but must NOT play in front of an age division player.
- **High School:** 14U players may be brought up to play if there is a shortage of players. They can play any position but must NOT play in front of a grade division player.

## 5.5 PITCHING RULES

- A pitcher will be allowed 5 warm-up pitches when the game starts with the 5<sup>th</sup> pitch to be thrown to 2<sup>nd</sup> by the catcher only. Between innings the same pitcher will be allowed 3 warm-up pitches with the 3<sup>rd</sup> pitch to be thrown down by the catcher and a max of 2 pitches to be caught by a coach. Any new pitcher will be allowed 5 pitches their first inning.
- The pitcher's windup must start with both feet in contact with the rubber, facing the batter.
- Illegal Pitches
  - **10U: Pitchers** will be given 2 warnings for illegal pitches and shown proper motion. Illegal pitches will be called after 2 warnings are given.
  - **12U and 14U:** Follow County league rules.
  - **High School:** Follow county league rules
  - **Penalty:** A ball is awarded to the batter and all base runners advance one base without liability to be put out.
- One pitch in an inning is considered an inning.
- During the game, the pitcher may not use tape or other substances on the ball, pitching hand or fingers; nor shall any player apply any foreign substance to the ball.
  - With the umpire's approval, powdered resin may be used to dry the hand.
  - At the umpire's approval, the pitcher may use a towel during inclement weather to dry their fingers and the ball. The pitcher must touch their leg after using the towel, but before grasping the ball to pitch.
- Only the starting pitcher may return to the game to pitch, providing that player completed the 1<sup>st</sup> inning.
- No stalling.

### 5.5.1 Warmups

- Pitchers must warm-up in the designated area, along each foul line, within the playing field fence.



- Spotters are required. Catchers under age 18 must have helmet w/ facemask.
- Do not warm up around spectators.

### 5.5.2 Conferences

Only one charged conference between the manager and pitcher in an inning. The second charged conference shall result in the removal of the pitcher from the pitching position for the remainder of the game. The pitcher can remain in the game in any other position excluding the pitching position for the remainder of the game. Players can call time and hold a conference. Coach may not go through catcher to pitcher.

## 5.6 SLIDING RULE

- In judgment of the umpire: If a runner attempting to reach 2nd base, 3rd base, or home plate intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of the base, she will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. There must be a play at the base.
- If a runner unintentionally runs into a defensive player with no attempt to slide, the runner will be called out for not sliding.
- If there is a close play at 2nd base, 3rd base and home plate, the runner must avoid contact if there is no slide.
- If there is no slide, **contact must be avoided** when catcher is tagging the runner.
- Runner must avoid contact with any defender
- If runner attempts a slide, there is no contact rule in place.
- No headfirst slides at any base; however, the runner can return to a base headfirst.

## 5.7 INTERFERENCE/OBSTRUCTION

### 5.7.1 Obstruction\_(Umpire judgment call)

- Is the act of a defensive team member who hinders or impedes a batter's attempt to contact a pitched ball, or who impedes the progress of a runner or batter-runner that is legally running the bases, unless the fielder is in possession of the ball or is fielding a batted ball. The act may be intentional or unintentional, physical, or verbal.
- **Fielders must stay off base if no play — stay out of runner's way.**
- If obstruction, runner advances one extra base.

### 5.7.2 Interference\_(Umpire judgment call)

When the base runner interferes with a fielder attempting to field a batted ball or intentionally interferes with a thrown ball. If this interference, in the judgment of the umpire, is an obvious attempt to prevent a double play and occurs before the base runner is put out, the immediate succeeding runner shall also be called out.

### 5.7.3 Taunting or Hesitation Rule

- Hesitation is defined as a baserunner who is legitimately off the base (in other words moving off a base after a pitch or rounding a base after a hit or walk) and who, once the pitcher has the ball in either hand in the pitcher's circle, must move directly toward the next base or the last base touched. The base runner cannot stand motionless or lean to go toward the next base and then return to the previous base while the pitcher is in the circle.

Exception is if the pitcher is making a play on the base runner which is defined as the throwing arm raised or if any forward movement of the body is made toward the baserunner. In which case the rule is no longer in play.

- If a runner taunts or hesitates, they are called out.
- Runner must advance or return to base when pitcher has control of ball in circle.

## 5.8 COURTESY RUNNER

*10U and above only.*

- The player in the batting order where the last out was recorded may replace the *current* pitcher or catcher as a courtesy runner at any time.
- The pitcher or catcher will remain in the game and the courtesy runner will retain all substitution rights (if the courtesy runner has substitution rights).
- A player can be used only once per inning as a courtesy runner.
- Coaches should encourage players to run the bases.

## 5.9 6U SPECIAL RULES

- No scores or statistics will be kept. This is an instructional league only.
- A fair ball is one that has been hit between the baselines and traveled at least 4 feet or so. If a batter knocks over the tee during the swing, the ball is ruled foul no matter how far it travels.
- Batting order is reversed every inning. The last player to bat will circle the bases until thrown out or she crosses home plate.
- Players may not advance on an overthrow.
- Defensive outs are recognized. The player thrown or tagged out will be removed from the base.
- Players should be encouraged to throw to first or any base to stop the runner. Players should not be encouraged to throw the ball into the pitcher's position.
- All players will play in the field defensively. There is no catcher's position.

- Coaches should be positioned in the field to instruct players. A coach should be positioned in the mound area.
- All players should be rotated to as many positions as possible during the game.

## 5.10 8U SPECIAL RULES

### 5.10.1 Batter/Pitcher

- The “at-bat” cannot end on a foul ball. Coach continues pitching until batter is out or reaches base.
- Coaches must start on the pitching rubber and stay in the circle.

### 5.10.2 Overthrow

**Overthrow** - any throw which sends a ball untouched past its intended recipient or target.

When a ball is hit into play, on an overthrow, the runner may continue to advance one base at a time until reaching home, including if the 1<sup>st</sup> overthrow is directed at the pitcher. Runners may not advance if a 2<sup>nd</sup> overthrow occurs (during the same play) directed at the pitcher.

### 5.10.3 General

- A base runner is entitled to continue to advance on a batted ball until the ball becomes dead. The ball is dead when:

A thrown ball reaches the pitcher within the pitcher’s circle and that player calls time out. The base runner advances only to the base to which she was heading if the base runner has crossed the hash mark (half-way) prior to the time out call. If the base runner has not crossed the hash mark, the runner must return to the previous base unless the runner is forced by the batter to second base.

- All infielders can be no closer than 3 feet in front of the base line at any time before the ball is hit. The pitcher’s helper is the only exception. She must have at least one foot in the pitcher’s circle and be even or behind the pitcher.

## 5.11 10U SPECIAL RULES

### 5.11.1 Overthrows

Runner(s) may only advance **one additional base no matter the number of overthrows**. After the runner arrives at the next base, the runner must stop at the occupied base regardless of if the defense has stopped them or if the defense has control of the ball.

Example: If the ball is overthrown at second base while the runner is attempting to advance to second base, the runner can only advance to third base.

*Note: This rule is to encourage making a play on the runner without being penalized by accidentally allowing the runners to keep running.*

### 5.11.2 Stealing

Runner(s) stealing may only advance **one additional base** on an overthrow.

*Note: This rule is to encourage catchers to attempt to throw out the runner attempting to make a steal.*

### 5.11.3 Pitching

An at-bat will start with a batter and a (player) pitcher.

The (player) pitcher will pitch until the at-bat results in one of the following: strikeout, ball in play, 4 pitched balls, or hit-by-pitch. If the batter is hit by pitch, the batter will advance to first base. However, a (player) pitch at-bat cannot end with a base on balls, and the batting team coach will come in to pitch 2 pitches to the batter. The current count does not continue. The continuing at-bat will result in either a ball in play or a strikeout. The strikeout can result from not swinging at the two pitches or swinging and missing at the two pitches. The at-bat cannot end on a foul ball unless the foul ball has been caught by the defense.

During coach pitch there will be NO STEALING.

This coach pitch scenario is in effect for:

- Regular season only. Tournament games will NOT use this rule.
- In-house rec games.
- Games including "county" teams will NOT use this rule.

*Note: The Noblesville Girls Softball Board will reevaluate this rule mid-season to help better understand its effectiveness. The board will decide to either continue with this "coach pitch" rule or revert to the previous pitching rules.*

## 5.12 12U, 14U, 16U/HIGH SCHOOL

Any rules not covered in this rulebook are deferred to USSSA rules.

## 6 GENERAL RULES

Item	6U	8U	10U	12U	14U	16U/High School
<b>Min # Games</b>	6	8	10			
<b>Game Length</b>	4 Innings or 60 min. Drop Dead	6 Innings or 60 min Drop Dead.	6 Innings or 75 min. Whichever comes first. Finish the inning	6 Innings or 90 min. Whichever comes first. Finish the inning.	7 Innings or 90 min. Whichever comes first. Finish the inning.	7 Innings or 90 min. Whichever comes first. Finish the inning.
<b>Game Ends</b>	Time Limit	5 ½ innings if home team is ahead	5 ½ innings if home team is ahead	5 ½ innings if home team is ahead	6 ½ innings if home team is ahead	6 ½ innings if home team is ahead
		<i>(Games can end in a tie)</i>	<i>(Games can end in a tie)</i>	<i>(Games can end in a tie)</i>	<i>(Games can end in a tie)</i>	<i>(Games can end in a tie)</i>
<b>Complete Game</b>	3 innings* or time limit.					4 innings* or time limit.
<i>*(In the event of weather or dark)</i>	<i>Discretion of the BMOD</i>	<i>(If inning not complete, revert to score of the previous inning)</i>				
<b>Inning</b>	Once through the line-up. <i>(All players will bat even if they are not playing in the field.)</i>	3 outs or 5 runs <i>(All players will bat even if they are not playing in the field.)</i>	3 outs or 6 runs <i>(All players will bat even if they are not playing in the field.)</i>	3 outs or 7 runs. <i>(All players will bat even if they are not playing in the field.)</i>	3 outs or 7 runs. <i>(All players will bat even if they are not playing in the field.)</i>	3 outs
<b>Run Rule per Inning</b>	N/A	5	6	7	7	No Restriction
<b>Mercy Rule</b>	N / A	N / A	N / A	USSSA Rules Apply		
<b>Infield Fly Rule</b>	Not in effect	Not in effect	In effect			
<b>Bunting</b>	Not permitted	Not permitted	Permitted			
<b>Stealing*</b>	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Permitted. *See special rules	Permitted		

*\* Stealing also applies to advancing on a wild pitch, passed ball, catcher's overthrow back to the mound, or advancing past first base on a walk.*

Item	6U	8U	10U	12U	14U	16U/High School
<b>Leading Off</b>	N/A	Upon pitched ball crossing home plate	Upon release from the pitchers' hand			
<b>Base Running</b>	Players will advance only one base on each hit.	Play will stop when the lead runner is stopped at the base they occupy.	See Special Rules <a href="#">Overthrows</a>	No Restriction		
<b>Overthrow</b>	Lead runner cannot advance home on an overthrow. They must be batted in.	See Special Rules	No Restriction <small>*See special rules</small>	No Restriction		
<b>Dropped 3rd Strike</b>	Not in effect			In effect		
<b>Pitching Limitations</b> <i>(Only starting pitcher may return to pitch. One pitch is considered an inning. No limit on substitutions.)</i>	(6) Pitches Total: Minimum Coach Pitch (2) Maximum Tee Pitch (4) Player is out if ball is not hit within the (6) total attempts.	Coach: (5) pitches per batter	<i>See Special Rule for 10U Pitching.</i>  <b>Regular season:</b> 2 innings max per game.  <b>Tournament:</b> 3 innings max per game.  No limit per week.	4 innings maximum per game.  No limit per week.	A pitcher may pitch unlimited innings/game.	See USSSA Rules
<b>Pitching Distance</b>	30' (Coach must be inside the pitching circle)	30' (Girls) 30' (Coaches)	35'	40'	43'	43'

<b>Strike Zone</b>	N/A		The space over home plate, which is between the batter's forward armpit and the top of the knees when the batter assumes a natural hitting stance.
<b>Umpires</b>	Offensive Base Coaches	Offensive Base Coaches	Home Plate
<b>Silent Coach</b>	Yes – Pitcher Defensive Coach – silent when ball is in play	Yes – Pitcher	N/A



## 7 APPENDIX A: GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT

---

1. All Noblesville Girls Softball Association parents, coaches, players, and board members must behave age-appropriately at all games, practices, and other league events.
2. Coaches are always to adhere to the Coaches Code of Conduct Policy (separate document). Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.
3. Players are always to exhibit good sportsmanship.
  - a. No player should make derogatory comments to the opposing team, players coaches or parents.
  - b. Players should support other members of their team by word and action.
  - c. Coaches are responsible for their players' conduct. Ongoing disciplinary action with a player should be reported to the commissioner or other league official by the coach.
4. A parent/spectator's role during games and other events is to support and cheer for the team and players. No parent/spectator should behave in a manner that calls negative attention to them.
  - a. Parent/spectators are not to use vulgarity during games or other events.
  - b. Alcohol is not permitted at ANY Noblesville Girls Softball game or event.
  - c. **No tobacco, vaping, or e-cigarette will be permitted on Noblesville Girls Softball/NOBLESVILLE SCHOOL PROPERTY at any time.**
  - d. Parents are not to interfere with coaches during games. Questions regarding coaching decisions should be addressed after the game, preferably after a 24-hour "cooling off" period.
  - e. Parents are not to heckle umpires or opposing team's players and/or coaches.
  - f. Noblesville Girls Softball Board Member on Duty (BMOD) or umpires have the right to eject players, coaches, parents, or spectators from games where these guidelines are not followed. Additional disciplinary action may be taken by the Noblesville Girls Softball board.
  - g. No player will be discriminated against in the Noblesville Girls Softball program based on parental actions.
5. Noblesville Girls Softball board members may be present at games as spectators, parents, umpires, coaches, or Noblesville Girls Softball board representatives.
  - a. Parents and coaches are encouraged to approach board members with questions or concerns.
  - b. Noblesville Girls Softball board members will not interfere with coaching or umpiring decisions when the game is in progress. An exception to this will be made if an umpire has a question regarding Noblesville Girls Softball rules interpretation.
  - c. Any problems or concerns noted by Noblesville Girls Softball board members during the games should be directed to the appropriate commissioner or the Noblesville Girls Softball board.
6. While Noblesville Girls Softball supports the use of social media outlets (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter, among others) individuals may use such media in any way they choose as long as such use does not produce any adverse consequences such as harassing, demeaning, creating a hostile environment or harming the goodwill and reputation of the league or in the community at large.

## 8 APPENDIX B: COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

---

1. Coaches will not discriminate against players or other participants based on race, creed, belief, nationality, disability, or parental behavior. [OBJ]
2. Coaches will place the physical and emotional well-being and safety of their players before winning.
3. Coaches will teach good sportsmanship by word and example. [OBJ]
4. Coaches will know and adhere to all rules and regulations of Noblesville Girls Softball. [OBJ]
5. Coaches will not use tobacco products in and around players during games or practice. **No tobacco, vaping or e-cigarettes will be permitted on Noblesville Girls Softball/NOBLESVILLE SCHOOL PROPERTY at any time.**
6. Coaches will not partake in alcohol or illegal substances prior to or during games and practices. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in immediate dismissal as coach. [OBJ]
7. Coaches will not use profanity or vulgarity during games or practices. [OBJ]
8. Coaches are expected to be in control of their player and parents during the game. Coaches are strongly encouraged to hold a parent meeting before the first game to review appropriate behavior and discuss the Code of Conduct.
9. Coaches will adhere to the Noblesville Girls Softball Child Protection Policy. [OBJ]
10. Coaches will behave in a way that brings credit to Noblesville Girls Softball and themselves.
11. Coaches will refrain from public criticism of fellow coaches or opponents. [OBJ]
12. Coaches will always treat umpires in a courteous manner and express any dissatisfaction with an umpire ruling calmly and quietly with the umpire. [OBJ]
13. Coaches will remember that they are a youth sports coach, and the game/program is for them, not the adults.
14. Ejection from a game by any coach will result in the following penalties: [OBJ]
  - a. 1st offense: Suspension from next game
  - b. 2nd offense: Suspension from next two games, not eligible to coach All-Star team and review by the competition committee for possible additional sanctions that may include loss of coaching duties.
15. While Noblesville Girls Softball supports the use of social media outlets; (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter, among others), individuals may use such media in any way they choose as long as such use does not

produce any adverse consequences such as harassing, demeaning, creating a hostile environment, or harming the goodwill and reputation of the league or in the community at large.