



Franklin Girls Softball Association (FGSA) Playing Rules Intermediates Division

All play is governed by USA Rules except as noted below. In addition, certain USA Rules are noted for emphasis.

· Goal

The primary objective of the Intermediate Division is a continuation to the game of softball that builds on the basic skills and fundamentals presented at the Instructional level. With a firm emphasis on fun, coaches are encouraged to slowly introduce light competition in gameplay.

· Overview

The Intermediate League is a coach pitch, developmental league for girls in 1st and 2nd Grade. This league is where they will begin to put the basic skills of throwing, hitting, fielding & base running together, to start learning the game.

As the girls improve through the season, they will progress to games with an opposing team. At the beginning, it is important for coaches to teach and reinforce the fundamentals. There will be two 1 ½ hour meetings per week: the season begins with 2 practices per week with several skill stations set up to continue improving their basic skills. There will also be weekly games added to replace one practice, as the season progresses. The girls will learn by playing, but the practices with the skill drills will really help their game, at this age.

Teams will be randomly put together with 1st and 2nd grade girls of all skill levels being on each team. An emphasis will be placed in creation of teams by schools and friend groups if possible.

· Days and Times

Weekday practice (Mondays) at 5:30 PM EST

Weekend games (Saturdays) at 3:00 PM EST

· Dimensions

11-inch softball

30-foot pitching distance

- Structure

Season consists of weekday practices, weekday games and Saturday games.

Parent umpire with a game ball provided by the home team.

- Practice

Joint practices for all players broken out into stations focused on fundamental skill development in the areas of pitching, hitting, and fielding. A continued emphasis on fun and socialization.

Coaches have the flexibility to determine when to transition from weekday practices to games.

Division Director will work with coaches to develop a cohesive practice plan with emphasis on development of pitchers and catchers.

- Game Play

USA Softball Rules and Regulations followed. Specific league rules are as follows.

6 inning games. No new inning to start 1 hour 30 minutes after start time.

3 run limit per inning.

Game is considered complete after 3.5 innings if home team is ahead or 4 innings if visitor is ahead.

8 players to start and end a game. A 10th player may be used in the outfield.

Catcher is used. A coach from the hitting team should backup the catcher

A bucket of balls should be kept at the mound and empty bucket behind the catcher to speed up play.

11-inch Stamped ASA ball and 35 feet pitching distance.

Free substitution of players in the field

Coach Pitch for first stage of season. Player Pitch will be introduced by the league coordinator based on progression through season.

Per above decision, players may pitch with coach assistance. Coach will relieve pitcher after a maximum of 3 pitches per batter. Pitcher throws to the first four batters of the inning.

First Stage of season: Batter will get five swings. After the fifth swing the Tee will then be brought out (Coach use discretion to bring out Tee sooner if batter is not swinging)

Second Stage of season: Batter will get three swings. After the third swing the Tee will then be brought out (Coach use discretion to bring out Tee sooner if batter is not swinging)

Mercy Rule: 12 runs after 5 innings

Maximum of 1 inning per pitcher

No Walks

Continuous batting order. All non-injured players present will bat.

If a player becomes injured, they will skip their next at bat. Not an "Out."

If a player is ejected, then subsequent at bats for player ejected will be an "Out".

Players who arrive after the start of the game will be added to the end of the order.

Courtesy runner can be used for catcher or pitcher on record who is returning to that position the following inning. Courtesy runner is the player who was the last batter in the previous inning. and second to last batter of the previous inning if both pitcher and catcher are on base at the same time).

Runner may leave base after ball is hit.

No Base Stealing

No Drop Third Strike

No Slashing.

No Slap hitting and drag bunting are allowed.

Facemasks are required for all players in the field.

Base runners may advance one base on an overthrow.

· Special Playing Rules (All Divisions)

Minimum of 6 players required to start and finish a game.

Games must start once scheduled start time is reached and both teams have the minimum number of players.

All players bat – a continuous batting order will be used.

Players who arrive after the start of the game will be added to the end of the order.

Free substitution of players in the field

All players must play an equal amount of time in the field each game.

No player will be on the bench for 2 consecutive innings.

All players must play a minimum of 2 innings in the infield.

Players must slide and avoid contact. All sliding rule decisions are at the discretion of the umpire.

A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher – runner shall be the last batter making an out.