

WINFIELD GIRLS SOFTBALL IN-HOUSE LEAGUE RULES

2nd to 4th Grade Level

Revised 03/15/09 SB

League Statement: This league is 100% machine fast pitch softball without player pitching. Emphasis is placed on developing the fundamentals of the game to include throwing, catching, fielding, batting, rules, regulations, & sportsmanship. Parents should be encouraged to seek and develop players that have and show the desire to pitch in the next level through resources offered by the WYSO. The principles of this organization are to have fun while teaching safely without forgetting that "It's all about the Girls."

1. LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE: The League Representative shall be either appointed by the In-House Coordinator or elected by the league coaches. The League Representative shall be named prior to the start of the season. The duties and responsibilities of the League Representative are as follows:

- A) Assist the In-House Coordinator in the administration of the league
- B) Establish a schedule for regular season games
- C) Communicate with the league coaches on league and program matters
- D) Determine weather cancellations or designate that duty to the coaches
- E) Revise and update Rules and Regulations
- F) Resolve any disputes, which may arise during the season
- G) Represent the League on the Discipline and Adverse Action Committee.
- H) Handle administrative duties as necessary to provide an efficient and effective program.

2. AGE QUALIFICATIONS: The minimum age qualifications for all participants are as follows:

- A) Players in grades 2-4 at the time of registration are eligible to play. At the approval of the coaches, League Representative and Commissioner, younger players may be allowed to play at this level. All players are eligible to also play on Travel Teams.
- B) Coaches must be a minimum of 21 years of age and have agreed to a mandatory background check as required by the Carroll County Parks and Recreation Department.

3. COACHES:

- A) Teams are not limited to the number of coaches they can have.
- B) Coaches are permitted to occupy first and third base coaches' boxes as well as the pitchers mound when their team is at bat.
- C) In the event of injury, all restrictions regarding coaches on the field are waived.
- C) Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their team and parents ensure good sportsmanship and positive encouragement are displayed at all times. Failure of the coaches to maintain a positive environment and good conduct will result in the game ending and a forfeiture being awarded the other team.

- E) Coaches should be knowledgeable of approved USSA rules for fast pitch softball. It is recommended that all coaches obtain a current copy of USSA rules and regulations for fast pitch softball.

4. LEAGUE SCHEDULE:

- A) Games will be scheduled during the months of May and June. Games will be scheduled for both weeknights and Saturdays. If agreed upon by coaches, a night game under artificial lighting may be played if scheduling permits. Night games shall be played only on Friday or Saturday nights.
- B) If necessary and agreeable to both coaches, make up games may be combined with regularly scheduled games to form a doubleheader. In the event a doubleheader is played, the first game will be a 4-inning game and the second game will be played to completion with a minimum of 4 innings being played. If the visiting team is ahead by eleven (11) or more runs after the top of the 4th inning, then the game will be considered complete. A break of no more than 10 minutes will be allowed between both games of the doubleheader.

5. LEAGUE AWARDS:

- A) Trophies will be awarded to each player at the Awards Ceremony to be held at the conclusion of the season.

6. FIELD SETUP:

- A) 60-foot base lines will be used with Hollywood style bases, when possible.
- B) Home team coaches shall be responsible for setting up the field prior to the start of the game. Setup is to include chalk lining of the baselines, pitchers circle, and batters boxes, as well as the setting up of the pitching machine and placement of bases at their correct location.
- C) To ensure a safe playing surface, prior to the start of the game an inspection of the field by all coaches shall be conducted.

7. EQUIPMENT:

- A) Pitching machines will be used for all games. The delivery speed of the machine shall be mutually agreed upon by team coaches prior to the start of all games. The minimum delivery speed setting shall be thirty-four (34), but may be increased throughout the season based on the skill level of players only as agreed upon mutually by both head coaches.
- B) League approved eleven-inch (11") pitching machine and machine softballs shall be used for all games. The official USSSA approved restricted flight yellow eleven-inch (11") softball shall be used for all practice fielding.
- C) Each player on a team must wear a shirt of the same color. Players not wearing a matching shirt may not play unless mutually agreed upon by both coaches.
- D) A catcher's helmet, mask, and approved body protection must be worn by all catchers.
- E) All batters and base runners must wear approved helmets equipped with full face safety cages.
- F) It is recommended that all fielders wear a visor style cap that matches with

- the team jersey.
- G) Athletic style and/or running shoes must be worn by all players. Other styles of shoes to include metal cleats are prohibited.
 - H) Players should remove all jewelry, including earrings prior to any practice or game.

8. GAMES:

- A) Games, lineups and score keeping shall be recorded and maintained by team coaches in an USSSA approved scorebook. League standings will not be neither recorded nor maintained.
- B) The number of games scheduled may vary and will be determined by a vote of the league coaches. Every attempt will be made to provide a balanced schedule.
- C) The official starting time for games scheduled on weeknights shall be 6:00 PM, with a forfeit time extension of 15 minutes. Games played on Saturdays shall start no earlier than 9:00 AM. Actual game time on Saturday games will be determined by field availability and mutual agreement of the coaches and shall be noted on the league game schedule
- D) Games will be played under approved USSSA rules for fast pitch softball except modified herein. Games will be six (6) innings long. An official game will require completion of 4 innings. It is recommended that a new inning not begin after 7:45 PM. Every effort is to be made to play an official game. Games not reaching 4 complete innings will be considered suspended and will need to be continued at a later date and time mutually agreed upon by both coaches
- E) A minimum of eight (8) players must be fielded to play a game and avoid a forfeit. A maximum of ten (10) players may be positioned in the field. In the event a team has only eight players, and then one outfield position shall be eliminated.
- F) Players must play within assigned positions. Infield players may move in a maximum of five (5) feet for weaker hitters. Outfielders must be positioned in the outfield grass and may not be positioned on the infield dirt area.
- G) All players should play a minimum of three (3) innings in the field.
- H) A strike will be called when the pitch crosses directly over home plate and between the shoulders and knees of the batter.
- I) A 1/2 inning will be considered over after three (3) outs or five (5) runs have scored. The five (5)-run rule is not in effect during the last inning of play.
- J) Every player on each team will bat in order, even those not positioned in the field.
- K) The batter is out after three (3) strikes. A foul ball is a strike except after two strikes.
- L) A walk will not be awarded to the batter after four balls thrown.
- M) The batter will be called out after one (1) warning for throwing the bat. Any batter deliberately throwing a bat resulting in an injury to another player or in an uncontrolled and unsportsmanlike manner will be called out and ejected from the game.
- N) Overthrows; There will be one (1) base allowed on an over throw. Only one (1) overthrow per play is permitted and must be equally applied.
- O) All players not actively playing in the field must be sitting on the bench. Only

- the player at bat and the on-deck batter are permitted to be off the bench.
- P) Bunting and base stealing is prohibited however sliding is encouraged.
 - Q) When a ball is hit into the outfield, the runner may advance as the play permits. Once the ball is thrown back into the infield, and is in the immediate area of a fielder and or retrieved by a fielder, the play shall stop and runners will either advance or retreat to the closest base available depending on their field position. If a runner is between bases but is less than halfway, she shall retreat to the previous base. If a runner is more than halfway, she shall advance to the next base if not occupied.
 - R) This level will continue to use the chalked safety circle around pitching machine. The coach/pitcher will make every effort to keep girls out of the circle while pursuing a ball in play by placing their body between the players and the machine.
 - S) If a batted ball hits anything inside the circle including the machine and/or coach or fails to roll out of the circle the play is dead and a new count shall be awarded to the batter.
 - T) Balls hit to and played by the pitcher must be thrown to the appropriate base. The pitcher is not permitted to "run down" the runner at any base.
 - U) In order to continue teaching proper batting technique, coaches shall pitch to their own team when batting.
 - V) Fielders may not block any base by standing directly on or in front of base and/or runner. If blocking interference is called, the runner shall be awarded the base automatically.
 - W) Pitchers (players) may not position themselves in front of the pitching machine until the ball is placed into play by the batter. Pitchers may position themselves off to either side, but not in front of as directed.

9. UMPIRES:

- A) Both team coaches are responsible for reviewing and agreeing on all rules with each other prior to the start of the game. If at any time there is an uncertainty about a specific rule and its application to the game in progress, coaches will suspend play and discuss the correct interpretation to be implemented in a mature and professional manner away from all players.
- B) It should be mutually agreed that from herein, all coaches present on both teams shall umpire the game without prejudice. The coach closest to the play shall determine the call. Coaches should discuss narrow escapes, but the final ruling should go to the coach closest to the play.

10. GAME CONDUCT:

- A) Good sportsmanship is to be exhibited by coaches, score keepers, players and spectators at all times. The general philosophy of cheering is to encourage a team and player and not to demean or harass the opposing team or player.

- B) Tobacco Products of any kind and alcohol are not permitted on the playing field or bench areas at any time, as per Carroll County Department of Recreation and Parks.

- C) Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players and spectators as prescribed in the Discipline and Adverse Action Policy (DAAP). Failure to maintain proper control at any time may result in forfeiture of the game.
- D) Coaches are responsible for providing the proper encouragement and teaching of their players with the goal being to develop the skills of all players and provide a positive and enjoyable experience for their team members.

11. WYSO WEATHER POLICY: In the event of inclement weather, the In-House Coordinator, League Representative, or Team Coaches may determine if the field is in suitable condition for safe play. (At this level, the In-House Coordinator and League Representative have delegated it to the individual coaches to decide.)

If during a game or practice, lightning occurs in the immediate area, play will be suspended for a period of 15 minutes with all persons leaving the playing field. If, at the end of this waiting period lightning is still present, the game or practice will be cancelled regardless of whether it is raining or not.

In the event of a cancelled practice or game, it is the responsibility of the affected coaches to reschedule accordingly with the Field Coordinator.

12. Tournaments:

- An end of year tournament may be scheduled dependent of the number of games played (including make up games) leading into the last Saturday of the season. A)
- Two (2) games to be played. B)
- Game is determined by a random draw. 1st
- ^d Game Winner vs. Winner & Loser vs. Loser 2ⁿ

13. RULE CHANGES:

- A) Any rule change requests during the season must be submitted to the League Representative with approved by a majority of league coaches.
- B) Approved rule changes may be implemented at any time during the course of the season.