

WINFIELD GIRLS SOFTBALL
IN-HOUSE LEAGUE RULES
K – 1st Grade Level
2009 SEASON

Revised 03/15/09 SB

League Statement: This level of play is extremely basic with minimal emphasis being placed on developing the fundamentals of the game that includes throwing, catching, fielding, batting, rules, regulations, & sportsmanship. At this level, the most important thing is for the girls to learn that playing softball is fun and to aspire to the next level. 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 K-1 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 any position in the field 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.
- D) 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 and practices will be scheduled for both Tuesday and Thursday evenings only.

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) 45-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 placement of bases at their correct locations.
- C) The "Visiting Team" will be responsible for post game maintenance of the field, returning the bases, and general clean up of benches and surrounding area.
- D) 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) League approved eleven-inch (11") soft "Incrediballs" are the only approved ball for use during all practices and games.
- B) 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.
- C) All batters and base runners must wear approved helmets equipped with full face safety cages.
- D) It is recommended that all fielders wear a visor style cap that matches with the team jersey.
- E) Athletic style and/or running shoes must be worn by all players. Other styles of shoes to include metal cleats are prohibited.
- F) Players should remove all jewelry, including earrings prior to any practice or game.

8. GAMES:

- A) Every effort should be made to teach players all aspects of the game properly. These good habits will inevitably carry over into the next level of play.
- B) The official starting time for games scheduled on weeknights shall be 6:00 p.m.
- C) Every player on each team will bat in order, even those not positioned in the field. A player arriving late will be added at the bottom of the batting order.
- D) Fielders may not block any base by standing directly on or in front of base and/or runner.
- E) Games are usually three innings in length.
- F) Scoring is not kept at this level, everyone is a winner...

- G) Innings should not be started after 8 p.m. in May or 8:15 p.m. in June.
- H) Other than opening day, there will be no games or practices scheduled on Saturdays.
- I) Balls and strikes are not called during the game. Catchers and pitchers are encouraged to tutor their batters.
- J) Games may be started with as few as five players per team or a number agreed upon by the opposing coaches.
- K) Only Coaches or approved Assistant Coaches will be permitted to pitch to their players.
- L) The pitcher will pitch from a “reasonable” distance from home plate. Pitchers will pitch “Windmill” style at all times. This is a fast pitch instructional league so pitches should be flat (no arc) but no necessarily fast at this level. In order to move play along and keep up the interest of the girls, each batter will be limited to 10 pitched balls per batter. Then a tee will be placed so that the batter can hit the ball.
- M) A ball thrown in the dirt or otherwise not in the strike zone will be considered a “no-pitch.”
- N) Batters must wear a batting helmet with a face guard at all times when in the batters box (this includes batting practice and practice).
- O) “On Deck” batters are not allowed in front of the fences at any time and should warm-up in a supervised area away from other players and fans.
- P) If a batter is “hit by a pitch,” the pitch will be considered a “no-pitch.”
- Q) All batters will either put the ball in play by hitting it or hit from a “tee.”
- R) No walks are or bunting is permitted.
- S) When the ball is successfully hit and put into play the defensive team should attempt to put out the base runners by a force play at the appropriate base or by tagging the base runner out. If these attempts are unsuccessful, the ball should be returned to an infielder. If the infielder is actively trying to control the ball, the ball will be considered a “dead ball.” Once a “dead ball” is called no further base advancement is allowed. All play will stop, and the umpire will determine runs scored and bases safely awarded. The defensive player at the pitcher’s position must throw the ball to the appropriate base to complete an out (a force or tag play) – pitchers should not chase the runner to get the out. The goal of this league is to teach each player every position. The defensive team should rotate positions within innings. Teams should not place their best players at the pitcher the whole game and allow them to make all of the plays.
- T) All base runners must wear a batting helmet with a face guard while on base. Base runners will attempt to advance safely. Deliberately running into a fielder in order to dislodge the ball will not be tolerated. No base runner can leave her base until the ball is hit.
- U) Base stealing is not permitted in this level.
- V) Any out of bounds overthrows are limited to one extra base as determined by the umpire.
- W) If a base runner is hit by a batted ball before it passes an infielder other than the pitcher, the runner is out.
- X) A half inning will consist of three outs. In order to speed play, innings will end after all players have had the opportunity to hit. The defensive team will have the opportunity to make a play on the last batter. After that, all base runners continue to run home.

9. UMPIRES:

- A) Coaches will umpire their own games. Two defensive coaches are allowed in the field with their team. In addition to instructing the defense, they will also act as impartial base umpires. The offensive coaches will act as pitcher and catcher with the catcher instructing his or her batter.

10. GAME CONDUCT:

- A) Good sportsmanship is to be exhibited by coaches, 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.

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.