



## Easton Girls' Softball League

### Senior Division Rules

#### Section A: General Rules

1. Games start at 6:00 p.m. (the umpire will call coaches to home plate at 5:50 to review rules section C rule 1) and ASA rules will be followed unless noted in this rule sheet.
2. No inning can start after 7:45 p.m.
3. An inning consists of 3 outs per team or 4 runs. If the last inning is declared, then the 4-run rule is waived. Both coaches and the umpire must agree that they are entering the last inning.
4. The goal is to get 4-6 innings in so work to keep play moving.
5. All players must wear helmets while on deck, at bat, base coaching, and while running bases. A catcher's facemask / helmet must be worn while warming up a pitcher.
6. The *Infield Fly Rule* will be in effect and will be called by the Umpire's discretion while the ball is mid-air. (runners on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> or bases loaded with less than 2 outs)

#### Section B: Team Make Up

1. A team can play with up to 9 players: 6 infielders, and 3 outfielders; and offense as described in Section F, Item 4.
2. Teams that are unable to start the game with a minimum of 8 players will be deemed as having an 'incomplete roster' and the opposing team will give the last player of their batting order to the 'incomplete' team until an 8-player roster is met.
3. All outfielders must be positioned behind the baseline and at least at the start of the outfield grass.

#### Section C: Coaching Responsibilities

1. Prior to game, review ground rules, and Senior Division rules with umpire.
2. Base coaches cannot touch the base runners during play for any reason. Base coaches touching the base runners during play will result in the runner being called out.
3. No player should sit more than one inning before every other player on the team has sat an inning. Every player should have the opportunity to play 40% of the game in the infield. Safety being a primary concern, coaches may with parent and league permission waive the infield rule. Our Goal is to teach all the girls and provide as much opportunity to learn as possible.

#### Section D: Field of Play

1. Pitcher's plate, 43 feet from the point on the rear of home plate. 6th graders are allowed to step up to 40 feet if desired.
2. Distance between the bases is 60 feet.

#### Section E: Pitching

1. Pitcher must start with 2 feet on the rubber and not "hop" off the mound with her drive foot.

The ball must be delivered underhand in a modified delivery (no high arc pitching) else the umpire will determine a no pitch.

2. The pitcher will be changed if the coach calls time out twice in 1 inning, whether it is to confer with the pitcher or not. The pitcher must leave the mound on the coach's second time/trip out. Once the pitcher is replaced she may not return to pitch in that inning. If the umpire calls a time, due to an injury etc., a timeout would not be charged against the pitcher/coach/team.
3. A girl may pitch no more than 3 innings per game (a pitcher may re-enter a game after being removed in the following inning). An inning is counted even if only 1 pitch was thrown.
4. All coaches must keep accurate records in scorebooks of the above.
5. All pitchers, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base must wear masks.
6. Balls shall be ASA-approved Optic Yellow 12" softballs having a COR 0.44 or less.

## **Section F: Batting**

1. A batter must make every effort to avoid being hit by a pitched ball in order to be walked to 1<sup>st</sup> base.
2. If a batter steps out of the batter's box, or steps onto the plate and hits the ball, she is out.
3. Interference- If in the opinion of the umpire a base runner interferes with a fielder in the process of fielding a ball, the runner is out. If a fielder, who is not in the process of catching a ball, interferes with a base runner that is trying to reach a base, the runner is awarded the base. The batter must get out of the way of a runner stealing home.
4. Batting order will consist of all the girls and bat in that order whether they were on the field or not. The batting order does not change during a game. Batting out of order results in the batter being called out and a continuous batting order will be used.
5. The players must use official ASA softball bats and will have an ASA performance label affixed to the bat (e.g., "ASA 2004").
6. Strike zone is the space over any part of home plate between the batter's (forward) armpit and the top of her knees when she assumes her natural batting stance and the umpire must call a ball or strike based on the pre-pitch stance. Any part of the ball passing through the strike zone in flight shall be considered a strike; the umpire shall determine the batter's strike zone according to the batter's usual stance.
7. No thrown bats or player is called out at the discretion of the umpire.
8. Slap Bunting is allowed. Slash-bunting is NOT allowed.
9. Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike rule is in effect in the Senior Division.
10. A batter does not need to move out of the batter's box (unless there is a play at home plate). If the batter moves out of the box and interferes with a fielder, the runner is declared out.

## **Section F. Base Running**

1. The base runner may leave the base on the release of the ball from the pitcher's hand.
2. When a play is being made on a base runner during a close play, players must slide or avoid contact. All sliding rule decisions are at the discretion of the umpire.
3. Continuous walk is allowed (same pace rounding the bag must be continued to the next bag).
4. Stealing home plate is only allowed on a passed ball or if ball is thrown to 2<sup>nd</sup> on a continuous walk.

## **Section G: Overthrows**

1. The ball will remain alive and play continues if any overthrown ball stays within the field of play.
2. A ball will be called dead by the umpire and runners advance one (1) base if an overthrown ball goes outside of the field of play (including beyond the imaginary line extending from the dugout fence towards the outfield and parallel to the foul line).

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