

**TEANECK BASEBALL ORGANIZATION
JUNIOR GIRLS SOFTBALL RULES
2023**

National Federation of State High School Association Softball Rules will be followed in all games with the exception of the following TBO league rules:

1. Spirit of Junior Girls

The spirit of the Junior Girls Division is to have the girls learn the game, while having fun in a relaxed, non-competitive environment. As such, there should be a focus on instruction throughout the game. It is for this reason that we have two types of games – Sunday Games and Regular Games.

2. REGULATION GAMES

- a. Sunday Games – each Sunday session will consist of three 30 minute rotations. In each rotation, 1 team will hold a practice and the other two teams will play a 30 minute game. These games may last only 2 innings. As this is Junior Girls and the standings do not mean anything, this is OK!
- b. Weekday games are 6 innings. Official game is 4 innings, 3 ½ if the home team is winning.

3. THE FIELD:

- a. Bases 45 feet apart. Before the game, umpires should determine the halfway points between the bases.
- b. Pitching rubber no closer than 20 feet from the back of home plate.

4. TEAMS:

- a. A team must have 7 players (regular season or playoffs) available by 15 minutes after game time to avoid a forfeit.
- b. All available players must be in the batting order and play the field. EXAMPLE: If 14 players are available, the batting order shall be 1–14 and there will be 14 in the field.
- c. All players play in the field.
- d. No substitutions necessary.
- e. Anyone reporting to the game after the game has begun will be added to the bottom of the batting line up.
- f. No more than four adults in the field/dugout.
- g. A player catcher is optional. If there is a player catcher, a coach from the fielding team or umpire may backup to the catcher. If there is no player catcher, a coach from the fielding team or umpire may serve as the catcher, but cannot make any plays in the field. However, that coach cannot comment on the pitch; or give direction to the fielders.
- h. No player may play the catcher position for more than 3 innings in a

- game.
- i. For safety, prior to the ball being pitched, fielders must play behind a straight line drawn 25 feet from home plate.
 - j. The fielding team may have a coach in the field, whose purpose is to encourage and instruct the fielders. The coach must stay beyond the most distant outfielder, and may not interfere with, or comment on, calls by the umpire.

5. RUNS:

- a. Teams are limited to a maximum of 4 runs per inning during innings 1 through 5.
- b. During the 6th and extra innings, there is a 7 run limit.

6. BASERUNNING:

- a. May not leave the base until the ball crosses homeplate or is hit. There can no play on a baserunner unless the ball is hit.
- b. Runners may only move one base at a time, unless the ball is hit past the base paths, in which case the runners may take extra bases at their own risk. When a ball is hit past the base paths, play stops when a player is in possession of the ball on the infield within the base paths.
- c. It shall be deemed an obstruction if a fielder, during a play, fakes a catch or tag that causes the runner to alter course of action. The umpire shall award the runner one additional base in addition to the one she was headed to.
- d. The runner is not out if, after making contact with a base, the base is displaced and the runner is tagged, as long as the runner stays where the base was. The runner shall remain in position until time is called, or may advance at own risk. If the runner attempts to “follow” the displaced base or to progress to another base and is tagged, the runner is out.
- e. No head-first slides except when returning to a base. A runner who otherwise slides head first is out.
- f. Managers and coaches should encourage base runners to slide on close plays. The “slide or avoid” rule is in effect. If a fielder is in possession of the ball, and the runner attempts to reach that base without sliding or avoiding the fielder, the runner shall be out. If the fielder is not in possession of the ball, she must allow the runner access to the base; otherwise, it is obstruction and the runner is safe.
- g. After a play is over, runner may not lead from a base while the pitcher has the ball on the mound.
- h. [Deleted]
- i. Stealing is NOT permitted.
- j. Tagging up is permitted.
- k. May not advance on passed balls or dropped 3rd strikes
- l. A courtesy runner may be inserted if a player is injured while batting or running the bases; or sustained a witnessed injury immediately before his at-bat. The pinch runner is the player who made the last batted out in the lineup. A pinch runner can only be inserted once for any given player in any given game. A pinch runner may also be inserted for the catcher when there are two outs. If a pinch runner is used for a catcher, then the manager shall use the replaced runner as a catcher on defense for the entire inning immediately following.
- m. In those leagues using safety bases: the first baseperson must touch the white part of the base for the runner/batter to be out. If she touches the orange part, the batter/runner is not out. The batter/runner may touch either

white or orange. However, if she touches white and makes contact with the first baseman, the batter/runner is out.

- n. Not Applicable.
- o. If a coach touches a runner during play in a manner deemed to assist the runner, the runner will be called out.
- p. Coach pitchers have the responsibility to field balls returned to them by the fielders. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the coach pitcher deliberately avoids this responsibility, the batter shall be called out and all base runners' advancement shall be reduced by one base.
- q. If, in the judgment of the umpire, a runner is more than halfway to the next base before the pitcher has stopped play, the runner shall be awarded that base.
- r. Bunting is not permitted.

7. PITCHING:

- a. Coaches pitch all innings of all games. Any batted ball that hits a coach pitcher is considered in play. Coaches may pitch no closer than 20 feet from the back of home plate
- b. 11" Softee softball shall be used.
- c. Coaches will pitch underhand to their own team from the pitching rubber. The team in the field will provide an adult to back up the catcher. It is the responsibility of the coach pitcher to throw pitches that are capable of being hit without penalizing their batters.

8. BATTING:

- a. Batter will be allowed 3 swinging strikes, no balls. A strike will be assessed against the batter for failing to swing at 4 consecutive pitches. If, after 2 strikes have been assessed against the batter, and the batter has not swung at the next 3 consecutive pitches but fouls the 4th, the batter shall be permitted a maximum of 2 additional pitches after each foul. If she does not swing at the 3rd pitch after a foul ball, she is out.
- b. Batter must be in the batter's box when swinging. Except where the batter's swing carries the batter out of the batter's box, a strike will be assessed against the batter if the batter leaves the batter's box to swing at a pitch. If the batter leaves the batter's box to swing at a pitch and puts the ball in play, the fielding team shall have the option to accept the result of the play or the strike.
- c. If the batter is called out for throwing the bat, the ball is dead and no runners may advance.
- d. Dropped third strike rule is NOT in effect.
- e. Omitted
- f. Any foul exceeding the height of the batter shall be considered playable and if caught, the batter is out.

- g. **BAT THROWING:** Warnings (reminders) will be issued during all preseason games. During regular season games, the umpire shall issue a warning before the game. Thereafter, a batter caught throwing the bat will be out.
- h. Caged helmets must be worn while batting.
- i. Infield fly rule is NOT in effect.
- j. **Injured batter:** An injured batter may be replaced by the next player in the order, without penalty and without the injured player being prevented from returning. The replacement batter assumes the count of the injured batter.

9. EQUIPMENT:

- a. Catchers must wear a catchers mask, helmet, chest protector and shin guards
- b. Non-metal cleats are mandatory for all players.
- c. All players must wear complete uniforms (TBO recreational hats, TBO recreation pants, TBO Shirt). A player may wear alternate pants as long as they are the same color as the TBO recreation pants. Any player not in uniform must bat at the end of the batting order.
- d. No wearing of any jewelry or combs. Medic Alert bracelets are permissible. Players with casts and/or hard splints on extremities may not play. Braces on the trunk are permissible, with a note from the child's physician, not a parent.
- e. Intentional throwing of equipment is prohibited and can mean ejection from the game.
- f. All team equipment must be kept in the dugout or in dead ball territory.

10. BATS:

Maximum length of bats shall not exceed 33 inches. Maximum width of bats (diameter) shall not exceed 2 ¼ inches. There is no applicable length/weight differential. A player found with an illegal bat must change bats. A softball bat must be used for softball and cannot be used in hardball leagues.

11. HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES:

Winning team's manager or coach is responsible for posting the results of the game on the website. Home team is responsible for raking the field at the end of the game and putting away all equipment in the lockboxes.

12. GAME CANCELLATIONS/RE-SCHEDULING:

No game can be canceled or rescheduled for the convenience of the teams without the **prior** approval of the Schedule Coordinator. Failure to observe this rule will

result in forfeiture of the game by both teams. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

13. TIME LIMIT:

No inning may commence after play has reached 2 hours. Innings already underway after the two-hour time limit shall be completed unless the umpire calls the game for darkness/weather, or 2 ½ hours of play have expired. If a game is called because of darkness or rain, it will be continued from the exact point at which it was stopped, with the same lineups, at a time to be determined by the Division President in conjunction with the Scheduler. If the game is an official game as defined above, it is complete. The time limit is not in force during the playoffs. . If a game is called because of darkness or weather, at the subsequent finishing of the game, any player not present initially but who are at the game at the time the game is finishing, may be added to the bottom of the batting order.

14. UMPIRES:

- a. The umpire shall have the authority to call or suspend a game once the game has commenced. Managers, coaches, parents, etc, shall have no say. An executive member of the TBO board who is not a manager, coach, or parent in the division may end or suspend the game if he/she feels there is a safety issue.
- b. **NO UMPIRE:** If there is no umpire, the managers may agree to utilize anyone they deem suitable and the game will be official. Please notify the Head Umpire if the umpire fails to show
- c. The umpire is responsible for putting out the bases before the start of the game.
- d. Umpires must enforce all rules as written. A manager, coach and/or umpire **may not** alter or suspend any rules.

15. VERBAL ABUSE:

Verbal abuse of any umpire, player, manager or coach by any other player, manager or coach will not be tolerated and shall be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct. The offender shall be subject to ejection at the discretion of the umpire or at the direction of a Member of the Board who observes the abuse. If the ejected party refuses to leave, the umpire may forfeit the game to the opposing team.

If the abuse is from a spectator, partisan to a team, the umpire shall direct the manager of that team to intervene to stop the abuse. If the manager refuses to or is unsuccessful in stopping the abuse, the umpire, after a warning, may declare a forfeit to the other team.

If the abuse is from a spectator who is not a partisan of either team, the umpire may request the assistance of either or both managers to intervene. If the intervention is unsuccessful, the umpire may suspend the game.

16. PROTESTS: NO PROTESTS ALLOWED.