



# Northern Illinois Softball Association

## 16U Division High School

### 2015 FALL BALL

All rules and regulations for this league shall follow the IHSA, except for the following additions:

#### THE PLAYERS

- 1) Each girl must not sit more than 2 innings per game. Coaches are encouraged to give equal playing time to all players.
- 2) Courtesy runner will be allowed for the catcher after two outs. Courtesy runner will be the last batted out.
- 3) Continuous batting order will be used. Everyone bats.
  - a. If a player arrives late, she will be added to the bottom of the batting line up.
  - b. If a player has to leave before the game ends due to injury, illness or family matters, that player is not an out every time her spot comes up in the batting line up. It will just be skipped.
  - c. If a player is injured during her at bat and cannot continue her at bat, this will be an out. After this initial out, the spot in the batting line up is then skipped going forward.
  - d. If a player is ejected during the game, her spot in the batting line up becomes an automatic out. Player is not suspended for any subsequent games.
  - e. If a coach is ejected during the game, he/she will be suspended for the next game. If coach attempts to be in the dugout coaching at the next game, his/her team forfeits.
- 4) Teams can play with a minimum of 7 players. If minimum 7 players is not reached, the team will forfeit the game.

#### THE GAME

- 1) A game shall consist of 7 innings. An official game is 4 innings. (3 ½ if home team is ahead.)
- 2) No new inning is to be started after 1 hour 45 minutes. No drop dead. Ties are ok.
- 3) If you complete 7 innings, have a tie and are under the no new inning time limit you may start another inning.
- 4) There is a 6 run rule per inning. From the 5<sup>th</sup> inning on, unlimited runs can be scored until the third out is made. There is a 10 run slaughter rule after 4 1/2 innings.
- 5) Team chanting and comments can only be directed to players on your own team and must be of a positive manner. NO chanting during the opposing team pitcher's windup.
- 6) Each team will play with a maximum of 9 players on the field.
- 7) Infield fly rule is in effect.
- 8) Bunting is allowed. The batter cannot take a bunt stance, then pull back and take a full swing at the pitch. If the batter attempts this, she is out. This is for the infielders' safety.
- 9) Bases are 60 feet apart.
- 10) Rain outs or cancelled games can be made up, but it is not required.
- 11) If you are short players, you may recruit from within your own division and from the 14U division. If you recruit a pitcher from the lower level they can only pitch 4 innings maximum. Recruit bats last in the order and, if not pitching, must play in the outfield.

#### PITCHING

- 1) The front of the pitcher's rubber shall be 43 feet from the back tip of home plate.
- 2) There are no restrictions on innings any one pitcher can pitch. One pitcher may pitch the entire game. (Exception THE GAME Rule 11)
- 3) Pitcher will be allowed 5 warm up pitches before they pitch in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning of the game. Pitcher will be allowed 3 warm up pitches before any inning after the 1<sup>st</sup>. (Warm up practice by Infield and Outfield is only allowed before 1<sup>st</sup> inning.)

- 4) Pitcher must be removed from pitching after three hit batters in any one inning with significant force. If the ball hits the ground first before hitting the batter it is not considered significant force. If the batter is hit with a pitch that the umpire determines was not significant force, the batter will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base. However the pitcher shall not be charged with a hit batter that would count towards her removal from the inning or game. Pitcher may return in subsequent innings. If the pitcher hits four batters in the game she is removed from pitching for the remainder of the game.
- 5) Pitching will be IHSA rules
- 6) An Illegal pitch is ruled a ball. Runners advance one base.
- 7) There are no restrictions on replacing pitchers. Free substitutions are allowed at any time during the game.
- 8) Coaches are encouraged to teach the girls the following rules. (Illegal pitches will be in play.)
  - a. Hands apart when Pitcher steps on the mound (ball can be either in hand or in glove).
  - b. Pitcher brings hand to glove. This is the start of the wind up. (Pitcher is not allowed to separate their hands and bring them together in the glove again.)
  - c. Both feet should be in contact with the pitching rubber prior to wind up.

### BASE RUNNING

- 1) Players should be instructed by their coaches to slide to AVOID CONTACT with another player. This is for the safety of all involved.
- 2) Slide Rule: (IHSA) NFHS rule 8-6 "The runner is out"

Article 13; the runner does not legally slide and causes illegal contact and/or illegally alters the actions of the fielder in the immediate act of making a play on her. Runners are never required to slide but, if the runner elects to slide, the slide shall be legal.

Article 14; she remains on her feet and maliciously crashes into a defensive player. Malicious contact supersedes obstruction.

- 3) When the ball is thrown out of play 2 bases are allowed at the time of the throw. (The base they are going to plus one base.)
- 4) Stealing is allowed (all bases) once the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- 5) Dropped third strike is in effect. The batter becomes a runner on the third strike if the pitch is not caught before touching the ground as long as (A) 1<sup>st</sup> base is unoccupied before the pitch or (B) 1<sup>st</sup> base is occupied with two outs.
- 6) Look Back Rule: (IHSA) NFHS rule 8-7

Article 1; the look back rule will be in effect when the ball is live, the batter-runner has touched first base or has been declared out, and the pitcher has possession of the ball within the pitcher's circle.

Article 2; the runner(s) may stop once, but then must immediately return to the base or attempt to advance to the next base.

Article 3; once the runner stops at a base for any reason, she will be declared out if she leaves the base.

### SAFETY

- 1) All Pitchers are required to wear a facemask.
- 2) It is strongly recommended that 1st and 3rd basemen wear a facemask. (This will be mandatory next Spring.)
- 3) Batting helmets are required to have a full facemask
- 4) Proper Catchers equipment is required
- 5) Bats must have USSSA 1.20 thumb print stamp or 1.20 rating for 10U-20U
- 6) On Deck Hitter must be at the Batter's back.