

# B.P.G.S.A General Rules

## Instructional (8U)

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The following rules apply to the (8U) Instructional division and are for girls ages 7 to 8 as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous year.

*The B.P.G.S.A will follow the rules of ASA with the following exceptions:*

### CANCELLATION & DELAYS

1. **Cancellations** - It will be the responsibility of the home team to cancel the game. The home team manager must notify the opposing manager, umpire coordinator and the division coordinator at least 60 minutes before the scheduled starting time of the game. All cancellations will be rescheduled through the division coordinator.
2. **Rain** - In case of rain, the game will be suspended if less than 3 full innings have been played. Division Coordinator will reschedule the game as soon as possible.
3. **Start of Game** - All games will start at scheduled times. A 15-minute grace period will be given. Teams having 8 players must start the game at the scheduled starting time. Players arriving late will be entered at the end of the batting order. All players will play in the field each inning. Teams may share players if on team has less than 8 players.

### EQUIPMENT

4. **Bats** - Team Managers are responsible for inspection and removal of "Illegal Bats". Bat Inspection is not the responsibility of the umpire and bats will not be removed from a game by the umpire. All bats must be ASA approved and the ASA stamp must be visible on the bat. *(Please see the appended illegal bat list).*

*The umpire will enforce the in house rule as stated in the penalty section as follows:*

*If an illegal bat is used the results are dead ball, no play on the field, and the batter is out. If there is a 2nd violation the player is removed from the game and BPGSA will be contacted before the next scheduled game for manager/player review.*

1. **Mouth Guards** - Mouth Guards are required at all times when players are on the field of play.
2. **Heart Guards** - Players located in the pitching position will be required to wear a heart guard.
3. **Helmets** - Batters/runners shall wear helmets with chinstraps that are securely in place
4. **Face Masks** – Players in the pitching position are REQUIRED to wear a face mask. The BPGSA STRONGLY recommends (but does not require) all other players wear a face mask when fielding.
5. **Cleats/Shoes** - Only athletic or rubber spiked shoes are to be worn. No metal spikes.
6. **Uniforms** - Players are to be in uniform for games (team shirt, shorts/pants). Visors are optional. No short shorts. Shorts must be below fingertip length when standing erect and hands are at your sides.

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### FIELD

7. **Field Preparation** - The home team is responsible for setting up and lining the field. Raking, dragging, and filling in holes from vacated bases & low areas in the batter's boxes & around bases are included within the field preparation requirements.
8. **Field Dimension:**
  - a. Baseline = 50 Feet (hash marks  $\frac{1}{2}$  way between bases)
  - b. Pitching Distance = 35 feet to center with 16' Diameter Pitching Circle (Coach can pitch anywhere within the circle)
  - c. Outfield = 150 Feet
  - d. Infield = Arc of 10 feet in front of Home Plate from foul line. Ball must pass this line to be in play.
9. **Double First Base** - The use of a double first base will be employed to reduce collisions. The bases will be strapped together and securely anchored so that one lies within the outside of the foul line. The fielder will use the infield (white) portion only; the runner will use the foul line (orange) portion only when there is a play on the batter/runner. If the fielder uses the wrong  $\frac{1}{2}$ , the runner is safe. If the runner uses the wrong  $\frac{1}{2}$ , the runner is out.

### SCORING

10. **Run Rules** - A team can score no more than 5 runs per inning. No cumulative score is to be kept. No team standings will be kept.

### RULES OF PLAY

11. **Coach Pitch** - A coach will pitch to his/her own batter. A player will be assigned to field the pitching position. If a batted ball strikes the pitcher-coach, the ball is dead and the runners will return to their original bases. The player-pitcher will be within the circle and not closer to the batter than the pitcher-coach. If the batter does not put the ball in play within 5 pitches, the "Tee" will be used. Pitching arc is 6" to 12" from the ground. No coach shall make any defensive play.
12. **Catcher** - The catcher will wear protective headgear and shall stand away from the batter.
13. **Game Length** - 5 innings or 1 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  -hour time limit from the start of the game, if another game follows. No new inning can be started after the time limit but an inning in progress must be finished. Practice time will be divided evenly between teams before the start of the game.
14. **Innings of Play** – All players must play at least 2 full innings in the infield at the 8U level.
15. **Outfielder Positions** - All outfielders must remain in the outfield during play and at least 10 feet beyond the baseline. No outfielder can make an unassisted play at a base.

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### **RULES OF PLAY (continued)**

16. **Stoppage of Play** - Play will stop when A) a fielding play is made at any base (whether or not an out is recorded); B) when an infielder throws the ball into or close to the pitching circle (whether or not the pitcher has possession); C) a fielder returns the ball from the outfield across the infield/outfield line. There shall be no advancement due to overthrows, poor throws, dropped balls or if any injury occurs. Runner may only advance until A, B or C has occurred.
17. **Base Running** - If a base runner is not past the halfway mark when play is stopped, she must return to the previous base. Allow the play to finish and then return the runner to the base.

### **GENERAL & CODE OF CONDUCT**

5. **Bench** - Team Members only on the bench. A maximum of 4 coaches per team, all coaches must remain within the designated team area.
6. **Coaches** - To qualify for a Head Coach/Manager or Assistant Coach position, you must be the parent/guardian of a girl on the team, unless approved by the board.
7. **Backstop** - No one behind the backstop is permitted during the game.
8. **Behavior** –
  - a. Managers are responsible for the behavior and actions of your team's parents and cheering section
  - b. Only the managers may discuss calls and rulings with the umpire.
  - c. Throwing equipment in anger, tobacco use, and derogatory remarks/foul language by players or coaches will not be tolerated