

# Appendix A ~ Playing Rules



## Policy & Procedure ~ Spring 2020

### I ~ PLAYING RULES

**Section 1:** The League shall use the official rules and regulations issued by USA Softball for 2020.

**Section 2:** Chino Girls Fastpitch By-laws and ground rules will supersede the USA Softball Rulebook. (See Appendix A for Playing Rules; Appendix B for Spring Operating Procedure and Appendix C for All Star Operating Procedures.

**Section 3:** The UIC, in conjunction with the President or Field Manager, shall decide whether or not the field conditions are playable prior to the start of a game. In accordance to USA Softball rules, the assigned game umpire will make the decision once the game has started. The City of Chino may declare a field unusable at any time.

### II~ INJURIES

All injuries must be reported to the player agent who will notify the division commissioner. A rostered member, who becomes injured and requires medical treatment (i.e. paramedics, urgent care, and emergency room professional) or hospital care under doctor's order, must supply to the Player Agent a medical release from the treating doctor in order to be allowed to return to active participation with their team.

### III~ PROTEST

**Section 1:** Only the designated team manager of a contesting team shall have the right to protest. The manager shall immediately and before any succeeding play begins, notify the plate umpire that the game is being played under protest (except in the case of a protest over player substitution, illegal pitchers and illegal players, wherein a manager will have 24 hours to lodge a protest).

**AN UMPIRE JUDGMENT CALL IS NOT SUBJECT TO PROTEST.** The plate umpire shall in turn notify the opposing manager and official scorekeeper of this fact. The manager shall deliver within 24 hours from termination of play of the protested game, his/her written basis for the protest lodged to the Vice-President or Division Commissioner for that division. **RULE 9:1-7 IN OFFICIAL ASA SOFTBALL RULEBOOK.**

**Section 2:** All protests require a \$100.00 protest fee, in cash, to be turned in at the time of the written protest. The protest fee is refundable if the decision is made in favor of the team asserting the protest. The protest must be on a League Form.

**Section 3:** All protests must be turned into the Board.

**Section 4:** The decision of the Protest Committee is final, pending any appeal to the Board. The committee shall consist of the Vice-President of Operations, Umpire in Chief, Secretary, and Division Commissioner from which the protest originates.

**Section 5:** The protest committee shall obtain from the umpire of the protested game a detailed written explanation of the protested situation. The committee shall meet within three (3) days after receipt of written material from both the manager and umpire to decide upon the validity of the protest, and what action, if any, should be taken. After a decision has been made, the secretary will notify managers involved in writing of the committee's findings within three (3) days. The secretary will also inform the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting of the committee's decision.

### IV~ APPEALS

**Section 1:** Appeals to the Board for final decisions made by the protest committee must be made within Twenty-four (24) hours after notification by the protest committee of its decision.

**Section 2:** Appeals must be in writing to the President or Player Agent, and stating reasons.

**Section 3:** A special Board meeting to hear appeals will be scheduled within ten (10) days of appeal acceptance.

**Section 4:** The Board's decision is final and may not be appealed.

# Appendix A ~ Playing Rules



## CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS

### League Conduct and Expectations

- 1) All uniforms and equipment shall be as authorized by Chino Girls Fastpitch or that which is USA Softball approved. Uniform shirts will be provided to all registered players and selective playing equipment issued to approved teams for use during the season during practices and games.
- 2) All games postponed due to weather or darkness must be played off, if possible, at the earliest possible date prior to the end of the season. (based on field availability and make up games are not guaranteed.) Rescheduling needs to be cleared by division Commissioner and Umpire in Chief.
- 3) Unsportsmanlike conduct or "showboating" type behavior will **NOT** be tolerated and parent/coach/player will be ejected from the game, per **RULE 5.4 IN OFFICIAL USA SOFTBALL RULE BOOK.**

### Team Conduct and Expectations

- 1) All team rostered players must be placed in the batting line-up (Round Robin batting).
- 2) All players must have played two full innings within the first four innings, unless injured and unable to continue.
- 3) All girls must play a minimum of 50% of the game (2 of 4 innings; 3 of 6 innings; 3 of 7 innings).
- 4) If any girl plays only 2 of the 5 or 1 of the 3 innings she must start the next game. Failure to adhere to this policy shall result in board action and may result in a forfeit.
- 5) Ties will be allowed. If the game is tied after 6 innings in 8 and under and 10 and under or 7 innings in 12 and under, and HS before time limit is up, the Tiebreaker Rule will be in effect in tournament play only.
- 6) Each team must have a minimum of eight (8) players to start and end the game (NO Exceptions). Late players may be added to the bottom of the line-up at any time before the start of the third inning. A team will forfeit the game if at any time, for any reason, they have less than 8 players.
- 7) **TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES:** Pre-game field preparations including setting bases and chalking line (for the first game of the day please allow 30-45 minutes to prepare fields) for remaining games of the day touch up chalk lines and reset field if required; clean up dugout after game. **All teams** playing the last scheduled game of the day on that field **MUST** put away the bases and pitching plate, and return all field equipment to golf carts.
- 8) Teams in all divisions must fulfill all of their snack bar duties in order to be eligible for playoffs (end of season tournament)
- 9) Teams in all divisions must secure a sponsor in the amount no less than \$250 by the final due date of **March 30, 2020** in order to be eligible for playoffs (end of season tournament).

## GENERAL RULES FOR ALL DIVISIONS OF PLAY (EXCEPTIONS ARE NOTED IN INDIVIDUAL DIVISION RULES)

- 1) All base paths will be set at 60 feet.
- 2) All bases will be USA Softball approved equipment.
- 3) All catchers/players **MUST** wear USA Softball approved facemask with throat or wire guard, chest protectors, and leg guards when behind home plate. When a player is warming up a pitcher, she **MUST** wear a helmet and a facemask with throat or wire guard at all times.
- 4) All bats must be USA Softball approved.
- 5) All players, **and coaches/helpers who are 18 years of age or under**, must wear batting helmets with a NOCSAE approved face guard when batting, running bases, in the on-deck circle, coaching in the Coach's Box, and all the way into the dugout. **Removal of the helmet during a live ball will result in an out.**
- 6) No jewelry or hard hair barrettes shall be allowed. Absolutely no earrings of any kind will be allowed. Covering earrings with Band-Aids is not allowed. Medical alert are allowed but must be taped.
- 7) Sweatshirts or Jackets **MAY NOT** be worn by any player while at bat or pitching.
- 8) Any player who intentionally throws their bat or helmet shall immediately be disqualified from the game, per **RULE SUPPLEMENT #52 IN THE USA SOFTBALL RULE BOOK.**
- 9) If a player leaves during the game or is unable to continue to participate, the first time she is scheduled to be up, she will be out. Subsequent at bats will be skipped without penalty.
- 10) There will be **NO courtesy runners** allowed. Exception: If a player is injured while running the bases (note: injury must occur while running the bases, runners will not be given for injuries occurring before running the bases), the last out may be used as a courtesy runner (at umpire's discretion). The next scheduled at bat of that batter will be an automatic out if she is unable to continue. Subsequent scheduled at bats will be skipped without penalty.

# Appendix A ~ Playing Rules



## 6U Division

### Game Time and General Rules

- 1) Game Time: (1) hr (10) min drop dead or the game will conclude at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, whichever comes first. There will be a (4) run cap per inning.
- 2) A 10" USA Softball Approved RIF ball will be used (A safety ball)
- 3) An inning will consist of (3) outs or (4) run cap, or whichever comes first. Each team will only be allowed to score a maximum of (4) runs per inning.
- 4) The batting order **MUST** be changed each game to ensure each player has equal opportunity to bat.
- 5) No official game scores or team standings will be maintained during regular season play.
- 6) Home team is designated based on the team assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout. **Exception:** Interleague games will have a coin flip to determine home/visitor.
- 7) **Away Games: teams will play by the rules of the host league, which will be established at the home plate meeting (ex, game time and run rule).**

### Offensive Rules

- 1) Helmets must stay on heads. See Safety rule #14.
- 2) Pitching distance shall be set at thirty (30) feet. The adult pitcher shall pitch from within the pitching circle. One foot must be on the pitching plate at the release of the ball. The defensive player (pitcher) shall stand anywhere behind the pitching plate with at least one foot in the pitching circle while the adult pitcher is pitching.
- 3) There will be a 15-foot arc in front of home plate extending from the first base line to third base line. A hit ball that does not pass this line is considered a foul ball.
- 4) Batter must bat in the batter's box. If the batter **steps out of the batter's box** when the ball is hit, the ball is dead. Repeat play.
- 5) Each batter receives 3 pitches from a coach. **If on the 3<sup>rd</sup> pitch, the batter hits a "foul ball," the batter will receive additional pitches until either the ball is put into play or the batter swings and misses.** If missed, then the batter swings off of the tee. The batter must strike ball (not the tee) to put the ball in play. The batter has 3 swing attempts off the tee. If on the 3<sup>rd</sup> swing, the batter hits a "foul ball," the batter will receive additional swings until either the ball is put into play or the batter swings and misses. If the batter swings and misses from the 3<sup>rd</sup> swing attempt or after, an out will be recorded.
- 6) **On any live ball hit, a base runner is to stop when the ball is returned to the pitcher's circle or attempted to the pitcher's circle by any player assuming an infield position at the time the ball was hit.** If the runner has already passed the halfway line they will be awarded the next base. (This will be at the manager's discretion/judgment)
- 7) **On an initial play at 1<sup>st</sup> base, the batter runner, at own risk, may ONLY achieve second base. All other runners may achieve 1 additional base.**
- 8) If a thrown ball has gone out of play, at which point if a runner has already passed the halfway line to the next base, then they can advance to that base. Otherwise they must return to the last base achieved.
- 9) If a batted ball hits the adult pitcher, the ball is dead, considered "foul," and the batter will be allowed an extra pitch/swing.
- 10) NO bunting is allowed.
- 11) No base stealing is allowed. All base runners must remain on the bases until the ball is hit. If a runner is off of the base when the ball is hit, the ball is dead, the runner returns to base and batter bats again. (Do-Over).
- 12) No penalty for sliding.

### Defensive Rules

- 1) The outfield shall be considered any area beyond the base paths between 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> bases and 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> bases.
- 2) **1<sup>st</sup> half of season (until March 29<sup>th</sup>): Catcher position is optional.**
- 3) **2<sup>nd</sup> half of season (starting March 30<sup>th</sup>):** The catcher must remain in the defensive position until after the ball has been hit. The catcher must wear all ASA required protective gear.
- 4) The team taking the field will place all other players in defensive positions: six (6) in the infield including the pitcher and catcher, and all remaining players in the outfield.
- 5) Two (2) Coaches are allowed on the field during the season to guide in making defensive plays. They are not allowed to touch the ball or interfere with the play.
- 6) If an out is made the player that got out must return to the dugout.
- 7) **On an initial play off the bat, in order to establish the position of the runners on bases, the ball is dead when the ball is returned to the pitcher's circle or attempted to the pitcher's circle by any player assuming an infield position at the time the ball was hit.**
- 8) **2<sup>nd</sup> half of the season (starting March 30<sup>th</sup>),** Pitcher and 1<sup>st</sup> baseman **MUST BE** changed out each inning. The same player cannot play there more than once a game.

# Appendix A ~ Playing Rules



## 8U Division

### Game Time and General Rules

- 1) A game will be limited to six (6) innings or (1) hr and (20) min no new inning/ (1) hr (30) min drop dead.
- 2) A 10" USA Softball approved softball will be used.
- 3) Pitching distance shall be thirty (30) feet.
- 4) Run Limit per inning: the team at bat may establish and/or extend an already existing lead by **no more than (5)**.
- 5) There shall be no infield fly rule or drop third strike.
- 6) **1<sup>st</sup> half of season (until March 29<sup>th</sup>):** after the **3rd consecutive walks** (hit by pitch would be considered a walk also) the **remainder of walks that inning will be coach pitch**. (Even if a pitcher change is made). Example, the first 3 batters in the inning are walked (initiates rule), the next batter to receive a walk, in that half inning, will receive coach pitch).
- 7) **2<sup>nd</sup> half of season (starting March 30<sup>th</sup>): No coach pitch.**
- 8) Each team must have a minimum of eight (8) players to start and end a regulation game (No Exceptions).
- 9) Home team is designated based on the team assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout. **Exception:** Interleague games will have a coin flip to determine home/visitor.
- 10) **Away Games: teams will play by the rules of the host league, which will be established at the home plate meeting (ex, game time and run rule).**

### Offensive Rules

- 1) **On an initial play at 1<sup>st</sup> base, the batter runner, at own risk, may ONLY achieve second base. All other runners may achieve 1 additional base.**
- 2) The adult pitcher shall pitch from within the pitching circle. One foot must be on the pitching plate at the release of the ball.
- 3) The defensive player (pitcher) shall stand anywhere behind the pitching plate with at least one foot in the pitching circle while the adult pitcher is pitching. The pitcher who pitched ball four must be the same player who stands in the circle for coach pitch. No substitutions except for injury.
- 4) If batted ball strikes the adult pitcher *or the adult pitcher interferes with the play* a "dead ball" is called and the batter returns to the plate.
- 5) Bunting or sliding will be allowed. (Exception no bunting off adult pitcher)
- 6) **When the pitcher has control of the ball while in the pitching circle, The Look Back Rule will apply, per Rule 8.7.T & Rule Supplement #34 in the USA Softball Rule Book.**
- 7) Only one stolen base per pitch, home plate is closed. A player can only cross home plate on a batted ball or awarded.
- 8) Runners may not leave the base until the release of the ball from the pitcher's hand.

### Defensive Rules

- 1) Ten (10) players are used in the defensive position, six (6) on the infield, and four (4) in the outfield.
- 2) Outfielders must remain behind 10 feet behind the baseline until the ball is hit.
- 3) Illegal pitching will be brought to manager's attention, with no penalty. However, if the illegal pitch creates an advantage or if obvious leaping, crow hopping, or quick pitch occurs, at the umpire's discretion, it may result in a penalty.
- 4) **Unlimited Pitching.**

# Appendix A ~ Playing Rules



## 10U Division

### Game Time and General Rules

- 1) A game will be limited to six (6) innings or (1) hr and (20) min no new inning/ (1) hr (30) min drop dead.
- 2) An 11" USA Softball approved softball will be used.
- 3) Pitching distance shall be thirty-five (35) feet.
- 4) Run Limit per inning: the team at bat may establish and or extend an already existing lead by no more than (5).
- 5) **Open home plate will be used during the entire playing season.**
- 6) **Drop 3<sup>rd</sup> strike and Infield Fly Rule will be in effect.**

### Offensive Rules

- 1) Base stealing and leadoffs are allowed only after the release of the pitch.
- 2) Sliding is allowed.

### Defensive Rules

- 1) Nine players are used in the defensive positions, six (6) on the infield, three (3) in the outfield, with open substitution allowed.
- 2) **Illegal pitches will be enforced.**
- 3) Pitching Limit: Pitchers are limited to pitching **9 outs (In the event of a pitching change mid-batter, any pitcher who has thrown a pitch to the batter will be charged an out).**
- 4) **Away Games: teams will play by the rules of the host league, which will be established at the home plate meeting (ex, game time and run rule).**

## 12U Division

- 1) A game will be limited to seven (7) innings or (1) hr and (20) min no new inning/ (1) hr (30) min drop dead.
- 2) A 12" USA Softball approved ball will be used.
- 3) Pitching distance shall be forty (40) feet.
- 4) Run Limit per inning: the team at bat may establish and or extend an already existing lead by no more than (7).
- 5) Pitching Limit: Pitchers are limited to pitching **9 outs (In the event of a pitching change mid-batter, any pitcher who has thrown a pitch to the batter will be charged an out).**
- 6) Home team is designated based on the team assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout. **Exception:** Interleague games will have a coin flip to determined home/visitor.
- 7) **Away Games: teams will play by the rules of the host league, which will be established at the home plate meeting (ex, game time and run rule).**

## High School Division

- 1) A game will be limited to seven (7) innings or (1) hr and (20) min no new inning/ (1) hr (30) min drop dead.
- 2) A 12" USA Softball approved ball will be used.
- 3) Pitching distance shall be forty (43) feet.
- 4) Run Limit per inning: the team at bat may establish and or extend an already existing lead by no more than (7).
- 5) Unlimited Pitching.
- 6) **Metal cleats WILL be allowed.**
- 7) Home team is designated based on the team assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout. **Exception:** Interleague games will have a coin flip to determined home/visitor.
- 8) **Away Games: teams will play by the rules of the host league, which will be established at the home plate meeting (ex, game time and run rule).**