



## **2020 Fall Co-Ed Baseball/Softball 6U Division Rules**

*Approved 6/24/2020*

The following rules have been approved by the AJAA Baseball & Softball Committee. Any changes to these rules must be approved by same.

### **League Goals**

The goal of the AJAA 6U Fall Co-Ed Baseball & Softball Program is:  
*For everyone involved to have a positive team experience while developing fundamental softball skills, building player confidence, emphasizing player efforts to play well, practicing good sportsmanship and most importantly, to HAVE FUN!*

### **League Overview**

This is an **INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE**, score is not kept, ALL children should be considered **WINNERS!**

### **Changes**

Any changes to these rules must be approved by the AJAA Baseball & Softball Committee

### **Batting & Base Running**

- Every child **MUST** wear a batting helmet while batting and running the bases
- Every child bats every inning. Each team will bat their entire lineup. The last batter will run around all bases. After the last batter has batted, the inning will switch, and the other team will bat
- Batting order should change every inning (typically you bat through your line up and then the next inning reverse the order: top to bottom, bottom to top)
- Thrown bats will not be tolerated. The batter will be warned and re-instructed. Coaches should instruct the batter the importance of not throwing a bat, so they learn.
- All batters should receive six (6) coach pitched balls. If the batter does not hit a ball fair, then after the 6th pitch, the batting tee should be placed on home plate for the batter to hit from
- Boys will be pitched baseballs & Girls will be pitched 11" softballs in this league. It is the responsibility of the pitching coach to bring both a baseball and softball to the pitching circle at the start of each inning.
- There are no leadoffs, steals or bunting in this league



## AVON JUNIOR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

- The infield fly rule will not be in effect in this league
- Players should advance one (1) base only per hit. Exception: If a fly ball is hit into the outfield, without landing in the infield first, runners may advance bases until the ball is returned to the infield.

### **Fielding**

- Every child plays the field every inning. Positions should be rotated to expose each child to multiple positions.
- Each team will provide their own catcher (typically an assistant coach, parent volunteer, etc.)

### **Coaches**

- Coaches are expected to be on the field instructing during offense and defense
- It is the coach's responsibility to keep format of game and be responsible for time management of game

### **Home Team & Visiting Team Rules**

- It is the responsibility of both home team & visiting team to ensure their dugouts are clean and all trash is thrown away before leaving the fields
- Because this league is an instructional league, there are no umpires, and score is not kept.
- Game balls are provided by AJAA. If they are not on the field already by game start time, please send a coach to the concession to retrieve a game ball (soft baseball & 11" softball)
- Both teams/coaching staff should work together as much as possible during games to teach and instruct ALL PLAYERS the fundamentals of softball. Many players in our 6U league have never played before and they are eager to learn.
- It is strongly encouraged to appoint a parent volunteer or an assistant coach to run the dugout when your team is up to bat. Helping the players stay focused and ready to bat speeds up game time and possibly allows for more innings in the 60-minute game time limit.
- All players must remain on bench in her team dugout when not engaged in the game
- A strong, instructional atmosphere should be demonstrated by all teams and coaches during all practices and games. The #1 goal for players in 6u is to learn the basic skills of baseball/softball and prepare them for the next playing division. Players begin playing in 6u and need taught the basic rules, playing field, fundamentals, etc.



## **Field Decorum**

### **Code of Conduct**

- Any abusive, obscene language, or un-sportsmanlike conduct by coaches, players, spectators or parents **WILL NOT** be tolerated. It is suggested a board member or AJAA officer be consulted and/or made aware of the situation at all times.

### **Sportsmanship Expectations**

- Coaches are not only responsible for their own conduct, but also for the conduct of their players and fans as well. All coaches are expected to set a positive example for their teams.
- **Please take notice of the following sportsmanship expectations:**
  - There shall be no jeering, distractions involving players, whether in the dugout or in the field
  - No abusive, profane, or obscene language will be tolerated by ANYONE
  - Anyone ridiculing a player or volunteer will be asked to leave the field immediately
  - **NO SMOKING** in the dugout or on the playing field at any time
  - No foreign objects shall be thrown onto the field

### **Playing Field**

- The diamond for this league will have bases 55 feet apart
- The pitching mound is position at 35 feet, but coaches can pitch from a comfortable distance to home plate

### **Equipment**

- A “limited flight” ball will be used – Size 11” for softball for girls & a soft t-ball for boys
- Tee ball bats, either composite, aluminum, or wood, may be used.
- Batters **MUST** wear a batting helmet
- Gloves/mitts **MUST** be used in all positions
- Metal cleats are **NOT ALLOWED**
- All equipment shall be kept off the playing field during game time
- Heart Guard is **OPTIONAL** in this league

### **Games Duration**

- Generally, the games will last 2-3 innings or one (1) hour in length. Coaches are to use their best judgement. If an inning ends and it is believed both teams can bat through their entire lineup, teams are encouraged to play another inning for more game time as long as you don't exceed the (1) hour time limit



### **Number of Games**

- The number of games in the AJAA league may vary due to the number of teams organized in the league. The maximum number of games that may be scheduled is fourteen (14)
- There is no end of season tournament for 6U, instead, teams will play their last game of the season “under the lights” in the afternoon/evening

### **Postponed Games**

- A practice or game will be postponed due to inclement weather or unfavorable field conditions
- Coaches will be notified by the league coordinator or the softball commissioner of any cancellations or practice/game time changes. AJAA field staff will do their best to make fields playable but, in some cases, mother nature will win and we will unfortunately have to cancel practice or games.
- Make up games are to be scheduled by the league coordinator or commissioner
- In the event of practice or game cancellations, make-up practices or game days/times may vary and will be scheduled where field space permits

### **Lightning**

- Play will be suspended, and the fields will be cleared **immediately** if lightning is detected. For further clarification, refer to AJAA Lightning Policy