

# **2019 WESTFIELD IN-HOUSE SOFTBALL RULES**

## **10U LEAGUE**

### **A) The Playing Field / Equipment**

1. 60' between bases with 30' baseline hash marks.
2. 35' to pitcher's plate with 8' radius pitching circle.
3. Foul lines, batter's box, and base coach boxes per ASA Rule Book.
4. An eleven-inch optic yellow ball with red stitching is required.
5. Batting helmet faceguards are required and chin straps are strongly suggested.
6. Each team may have one (1) Head Coach and two (2) assistant coaches.

### **B) Pitching regulations**

1. 10U players will pitch all innings and are required to wear a heart guard (**fielder's mask is mandatory for pitchers**).
2. A pitcher may pitch a maximum of 4 innings per game with NO limit per week. One pitch an inning is considered an inning. No limit on substitutions. Note: Pitchers may be inserted multiple times(only once per inning) but must **abide by the 4 inning rule**.
3. Strike zone is from the top of the batter's shoulder to the bottom of the batter's knees.
4. A pitcher will be allowed 5 warm up pitches when the game starts, when a new pitcher enters the game, otherwise only 3 per inning.
5. The pitcher's wind up must start with both feet in contact with the rubber, facing the batter.
6. Play will end when the ball is controlled by the pitcher inside the pitcher's circle. Exception: If the girl on base is making an attempt to go to the next base after the ball is controlled by the pitcher the runner must advance.

### **C) The Game / Playing Rules**

1. A game shall consist of 6 innings or no new inning after 75 minutes. Teams are responsible for making inquiries to umpire about how much time is left. Umpires are not obligated to inform teams about how much time is left. Home Team is responsible for book. The clock will start immediately following the coaches meeting.
2. Home team is decided by the schedule and at least one player and coach will be present at the umpire meeting.
3. Mercy Rule- If the home team is up 15 runs after 4 innings the ball game is over and 10 after 5 innings.
4. Base Running: Stealing is permitted at all bases. A runner may leave the base once the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
5. Ties: If game has ended via max innings played or time has expired, game is entered into record as a tie.
6. A team must have at least eight (8) players to start an official game. If a team is short players they may bring up to two (2) players from a lower level rec league to field a team of eight (8) players. 9<sup>th</sup> batting position is considered an automatic out, until 9<sup>th</sup> player arrives.
7. Teams may use up to ten (10) defensive players with free substitution. Coaches must make an effort to allow players to play different positions and allow equal playing time.
8. Outfielders must have a STARTING position in the outfield (grass area) before the ball is pitched by the pitcher.
9. Infield fly rule is in effect, bunting is allowed, but no dropped third strike rule.
10. Bat Throwing: First time - warning to coach and player. Second time - may result in player being called out
11. Courtesy Runner- Catchers, pitchers and injured players may receive a courtesy runner at any time that they reach base. The courtesy runner will be the last out or if no outs the furthest away in the lineup If the last out was the pitcher or catcher it will be the player before them in the lineup.
12. Runs allowed: Max of 7 runs per inning for the first 5 innings then 10 max runs in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning.
13. No jewelry (unless medically necessary) is allowed on the field.
14. One (1) offensive conference is allowed per inning. Teams are allowed max of three (3) defensive conferences per 6 inning game (removal of pitcher does not equal a defensive conference). One (1) more defensive conference is allowed for each extra inning.
15. Sliding – Head first slides are not allowed and result in an out. Diving back to a base is not a head first slide.

### **D) Batting**

- 1) Teams will bat their entire team in the lineup abiding by rule C-12.
- 2) Any hit ball that lands in either batter's box is a foul ball.
- 3) A player removed from the game due to injury will NOT be allowed to return to the game unless agreed upon by both coaches. The injured player will be skipped in the batting order without penalty.

#### **E) Other Rules**

- 1) All other softball rules will be in accordance with ASA Rules and the Umpires call will be final.
- 2) All safety and conduct rules will be in accordance with WYSI and enforced by the Umpires and Commissioners.
- 3) Rain outs/Suspended Play: Will be determined thirty (30) minutes prior to the first game time by the League Commissioner at the recommendation of the Instructional, 8U, 10U or 12U Commissioners. During game times, Coaches and umpires will determine this. Lightning Policy will be in accordance to WYSI Lightning Policy. In the event the game is called prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, for whatever reason, the game will resume at a later date and will continue just as the game was never stopped (runners will return to bases, batter will have same pitch count and the outs will continue, etc). In the event the game is called after the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, for whatever reason, the winner will be determined by going back to the last full inning and the team with the highest score wins (unless home team is batting and is winning at the time game is suspended; home team would be winner). In the event the game was tied, the game will be considered a tie. In the event of a rain out that needs made up, the 10U Commissioner will coordinate the make-up dates.

#### **F) Tournament Seeding**

- 1) 10U tournament seeding is determined by the In House regular season records. All regular season scores must be reported to the 10U Commissioner. If two teams are tied then head to head is the first tie breaker followed by least runs allowed followed by most runs scored followed by coin flip.

#### **G) Umpires Requirements**

- 1) All umpires on the field must be 16 years of age. All 10U games will have one (1) umpire only at \$45.00 a game.  
Exception: 10U Championship Game there will be 2 umpires.
- 2) Only Head Coaches may privately and respectfully discuss calls that are made on the field of play. Head Coaches are responsible for the actions of the Assistant Coaches, players and fans. All issues with any umpire must be directed to the Umpire Director and the Overall Commissioner.