

# **KEMPSVILLE RECREATION RULES: Junior Pigtail Softball**

## **Mission Statement**

Kempsville Recreation Association (KRA), is hereby created to develop within the participants an appreciation for sports and the role that sports play in the formation of moral values, good citizenship and community. The primary emphasis shall be on the youth of our community

## **Enforcing KRA Policy**

It is the policy of KRA to discipline any participant or guest for misconduct. All instances of misconduct require the Enforcement Official to determine if the participant is amenable to the policy or procedure. If the party is not amenable, the Enforcement Official will suspend the offending party, prohibiting further participation in any KRA activity. This action will always require the violator to leave the event. If necessary, law enforcement officials will be summoned for assistance. The Enforcing Official's decision is undisputable and final until the KRA Board of Directors review the infraction. KRA Board Members, Game Officials, and Coaches are designated by KRA as Enforcement Officials. Inappropriate conduct, i.e. foul language, conduct that could affect safety of the children, and violation of KRA Policies and/or Procedures (including yelling at the officials) are all valid reasons to be asked to leave the park and are considered misconduct. Warnings are not necessary. These procedures are in place protect KRA and the children participating.

## **1. Objectives Of The Game**

- a.** Junior Pigtail Softball is a game between two teams of ten players on defense and a continuous batting order on offense consisting of the entire roster. The game is played under the direction of a team manager on a playing surface compliant with these rules.
- b.** The objective for of this division in **completely instructional** while maintaining sportsmanship and respect for all participants, spectators and officials.
- c.** Scores are not required to be called in and standing are not kept in this division.
- d.** The purpose of this association is first and foremost to teach sportsmanship. KRA, and its game officials will not tolerate any actions, statements or other spectator behavior that is disrespectful to anyone present. This includes any comments directed toward the officials. In the judgment of KRA any comments including those such as "Awe come on ump" are unsportsmanlike and will subject the team to forfeiture of the game without warning.
- e.** The Junior Pigtail league is governed by the Amateur Softball Association of America rules. Those rules will apply to the Junior Pigtail League except as modified herein

## **2. The Playing Field**

- a.** The playing field shall be laid out using the following instructions. Instructions annotated with an asterisk are recommendations only.
- b.** The distance between all bases shall be fifty-five (55) feet. The distance between the point of home plate and the front side of the pitcher's rubber shall be thirty (30) feet.
- c.** The outfield shall be the area between the two foul lines formed by extended the two sides of the square. The infield shall be graded so that the baseline and home plate are level.
- d.** The pitcher's plate shall be six inches above home plate\*. The infield and outfield, including the boundary lines, are fair territory and all other area is foul territory.
- e.** A two foot hash mark will diagonally intersect the baseline half way between first and second base, second and third base, and third base and home plate. This will provide a visual marker for the umpire to determine the progress of the base

runners between the bases when time is called. If the umpire concludes that a base runner has not crossed this special field marker at the time when play is stopped, the base runner must return to the base from which she had been running.

f. When the location of home plate is determined, measure 77'9" to establish second base. From home base, measure 55 feet towards first base. Measure 55 feet towards the first base side from second base; the intersection of these lines establishes the location of first base. Repeat this procedure to locate third base. The distance to third base from first base should be 77'9".

g. The catcher's box extends approximately 6 feet 4 3/4 inches from the rear of home plate. It is determined by extending the foul lines 9 feet beyond the back of home plate. \*

h. The batter's box shall be rectangular, 6 feet by 3 feet. The inside line, if used, shall be parallel to and four inches away from the side of home plate. It shall extend forward from the center of home plate 3 feet and to the rear 3 feet. \*

i. The coaches' boxes shall be 4 feet by 8 feet and shall not be closer than 6 feet from the foul lines.

### **SPECIAL FIELD MARKINGS**

1) A two foot hash mark will diagonally intersect the baseline half way between first and second base, second and third base, and third base and home plate. This will provide a visual marker for the umpire to determine the progress of the base runners between the bases when time is called. If the umpire concludes that a base runner has not crossed this special field marker at the time when play is stopped, the base runner must return to the base from which she had been running.

2) A circle with a radius of 8 feet shall be centered on the pitching rubber.

j. The foul lines and all other playing lines shall be marked with chalk or other white material.

k. The home plate shall be a five-sided slab of whitened rubber. It shall be a 12-inch square with two of the corners filled in so that one edge is 17 inches long, two 8½ inches and two are 12 inches. It shall be set in the ground with the point at the intersection of the foul lines. The black beveled area of home plate shall not be considered as part of home plate.

l. Canvas bags shall mark first, second, and third base. First and third shall be located entirely within the infield. The bags shall be 14 inches square and not more than 2 1/4 inches thick.

m. The pitcher's plate shall be a rectangular slab of whitened rubber 18 inches by 4 inches\*. The distance between the front of the plate and the rear point of home plate shall be 30 feet.

n. All teams will use "The Incredible", ASA approved 11" Tee ball equivalent (soft) softball. The home team will furnish one new ball and once acceptable ball (practically new) and additional balls if necessary. All balls will be top grade. The home team shall have ample supply on hand, and coaches are requested to make arrangements to have balls retrieved promptly.

### **3. Player Equipment/ Uniforms**

a. Players shall wear a uniform consistent with the players on the team. Both sleeves shall be of consistent length. There shall be no frays or splits or ragged edges.

b. No player shall attach material or tape to a uniform the property of KRA.

c. No player shall wear any shoe containing steel spikes or cleats. Molded cleats are permissible.

d. Players may not wear watches, rings, pins, earrings, jewelry or other metallic items.

e. Catchers must wear a throat guard attached to the catcher's mask. All catchers' equipment must be worn while warming up, during practice and throughout games.

f. All batting helmets must be NOCSAE approved. Any player off the bench must be wearing a batting helmet. Only one batter may be warming up with a bat at a time. Batters not on the field must be in the designated "on deck" circle. Players are to remain seated in the dugout area. An exception is made for pitchers and catchers while warming up.

g. All bats must be softball bats and be in compliance with ASA guidelines. They must be smooth and rounded made of wood or aluminum. If made of wood it may be no smaller than 1 1/16 inches in diameter (one inch for bats less than 30") at the neck. Bats may be taped or fitted with a rubberized sleeve for a distance not to exceed 16 inches from the small end. No laminated or titanium bats are allowed. They must be stamped "Official Softball", be one piece, not longer than 34", and the barrel diameter can no exceed 2 1/4 ".

#### 4. Game Rules

a. Junior Pigtail Softball is a developmental "Coach Pitch" division. The games will start on time. Teams will be at the game site 30 minutes before game time. The first game may start early if both teams are ready, but no later than scheduled. Coaches pitch to their own players. The pitcher (coach) officiates the field after the ball is hit.

b. **Players will hustle on and off the field.**

c. The Coach pitching to his/her batters acts as the umpire once the ball is in play. This coach may not "direct or coach" the runner after contact is made. The girls need to learn to listen to their base coaches.

#### 5. Regulation Game

a. Junior Pigtail Softball is a **six (6)-inning game.** Time limit for games is 1 hour 30 minutes. A new inning may not be started after the one hour and fifteen minutes has elapsed.

b. 3 complete innings constitute a complete game or the coaches deems it complete because the time limit has been used.

#### 6. Bench

a. The **home team** shall occupy the **third base bench**, and the visiting team will be on the first base bench. Home team will be designated on the schedule. Coaches are responsible for keeping "dead wood" off their benches.

#### 7. Score Book

a. The home team is responsible to keep the official scorebook.

#### 8. May Start And Finish With Eight

a. The game may start with each team having as few as eight (8) players. When and if the ninth and tenth players arrive, they must enter the game immediately and will be the ninth and tenth players in the line up. If a team starts with eight players, the ninth and tenth do not count as automatic outs.

b. The only instance in which a player would not bat would be in the case of injury, which in the parent or coach's judgment prevents a player from continuing to play. There will be no penalty for this. A team must always have eight (8) players in order to continue the game.

#### 9. Ball Strikes

a. **There are no called balls and strikes.** Each batter will receive **5 pitches**. If the batter does not hit the ball in fair territory during those 5 pitches, the batter is out. If the batter fouls the 5<sup>th</sup> pitch off, they receive another pitch until it is hit fair or it is missed.

## 10. General Rules

- a. It is mandatory for all catchers to wear a facemask, helmet, and chest protector. Batters and runners must wear helmets with ear guards. All helmets must have the NOCSAE seal of approval.
- b. **Minimum play guidelines** - Players will not sit the bench more than one consecutive inning. Coaches will alter the rotation so the same girls do not rotate out of the games all the time. All players in attendance will be included in the batting lineup.
- c. With two (2) outs and the catcher on base it is required that a courtesy runner be used to replace the catcher. The person may not be one of the next four (4) scheduled hitters.
- d. There will be no hidden ball tricks or any thing to encourage a delay. Umpires will inform players to put the ball into play immediately and to make every effort to keep the game moving.
- e. There is no infield fly rule in Junior Pigtail Softball.
- f. There is no stealing in Junior Pigtail Softball. The runner may not attempt to advance until the bat makes contact with a pitched ball in the course of normal play.
- g. There is a **5 run limit** per team per inning. **3 outs and that half of the inning is over.**
- h. Chattering to the opposite team will not be allowed; however, cheering for teammates is allowed.
- i. One (1) base will be awarded for an overthrow out of play at first or third base.
- j. When the coach (pitcher) **has control of the ball** and is **in** circle around the pitching rubber, time will be called and the next batter will bat.
- k. Two (2) coaches will be permitted in the field of play to coach the fielders. These coaches are allowed on the field for verbal assistance only and will not interfere with any ball in play or opposing base runners. Another coach may be stationed behind the catcher to aid in recovery of passed balls in order to speed up play.
- l. Outfielders must be at least ten (10) feet behind the bases until the batter makes contact with the ball.
- m. PROTESTS: There are no protests.

## 11. Coaches Responsibilities

- a. Any coach who's team is participating in a Kempsville Recreation Association run and organized division is required to sign and abide by KRA Coaches Code of Ethics contained in KRA Policy 0012 (Coaches Selection and Review).
- b. Coaches are to ensure that the area around their benches and playing areas are cleaned up prior to leaving the area.

## 12. Inclement Weather

Once a game is started, the decision to continue play or stop, because of the condition of the diamond and weather condition, will be determined by the coaches, and his/her decision will be final. In the event the game is temporarily halted, the teams will not leave the immediate area until the coaches make the final decision.

Check the banner on the front page of [www.krasports.com](http://www.krasports.com) 1 hour prior to game time for cancellations. You can also call 479-0009 (KRA Information Line) for major KRA Events and cancellation information.