

NOR-GWYN

Majors Division

Rules and Guidelines

**Version 1.0
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NOR-GWYN Softball

Majors Rules and Guidelines

I. LEAGUE OBJECTIVE

Nor Gwyn Softball offers the girls in our local communities an athletic forum to help develop both their physical and social skills through the game of softball. Our supervised program is designed to provide softball instruction in recreational and competitive environments, while promoting the ideals of good sportsmanship, fair play, honesty, loyalty and a respect for authority. We want to offer an enjoyable and positive experience for the girls enrolled in the program. All directors, officers, coaches and members shall bear in mind that, although important, the attainment of exceptional athletic skill and the winning of games are secondary to the goal of helping to mold the future women of our community.

Although Nor Gwyn Softball does provide a competitive environment for girls with better than average skills through our Select program, the majority of the girls enrolled will play in the recreational divisions, which are intended to provide the players with an environment where they can learn the game of softball and have fun at the same time. These are instructional divisions with an emphasis on providing the player with the proper development and guidance needed to learn and acquire the necessary skills to grow in the sport and progress through each division.

II. DIVISION OBJECTIVES

Majors division is a competitive division. Teams are encouraged to play to win. Although competition is a major factor, it should also be combined with instruction. Objectives of this division become more advanced and the players are encouraged to hone their fundamental skills and learn the nuances of the game. Players are exposed to more strategy and team tactics. Bunting, stealing bases, as well as pitching become integral parts of the game and execution of these fundamentals leads to team success.

A team championship will be determined at the end of the season via a modified double elimination playoff tournament. All teams are eligible for the tournament. The regular season team record determines the seeding in the tournament. Again regular season games are important BUT win at all cost is never the most important goal.

III. RULES OF THE GAME:

A. General

- 1) Warm up: Home team has use of the field 30 minutes prior to the game for 15 minutes and visiting team will use it 15 minutes prior to the game for 15 minutes.
- 2) A game will last 6 innings or two hours whichever comes first.
- 3) A 12" optical yellow reduced injury factor (RIF) ball will be used.
- 4) Team must have a minimum of 8 players to start game and must have at least 7 to finish or team will forfeit game.
- 5) The 6th inning shall end in 3 outs unless, by the bottom of the 5th inning, both coaches have agreed to use the 10-batter rule (see section D.1). If it appears that the 5th inning will be the last inning due to time constraints, impending darkness, or

NOR-GWYN Softball

Majors Rules and Guidelines

- weather, both coaches must agree prior to the start of the inning whether the inning will end in 3 outs or the 10-batter rule will apply.
- 6) Score will be kept. It is the responsibility of the home team coach to get the scoring results of the game to the commissioner. Standings will be maintained and used for playoff bracket seeding at the end of the regular season.

B. Responsibilities

- 1) Home Team
 - a) Setting up bases and pitching rubber.
 - b) Providing two game balls.
 - c) Returning bases to appropriate location.
 - d) Responsible for calling off the game due to rain or field conditions and rescheduling through Division Commissioner.
 - e) Home team sits on first base side.
 - f) Transmit score of the game to the Division Commissioner.
- 2) Visiting Team
 - a) Visiting team will sit on the third base side.

C. Players

- 1) All players must be in proper uniform.
- 2) Shirts should be tucked in and visors worn forward.
- 3) No jewelry at all should be worn during games and practice including earrings, necklaces, watches, rings, etc.
- 4) Mouthpieces are recommended but not required.
- 5) All players should exhibit good sportsmanship before, during and after all games.

D. Offense

- 1) The 10-batter rule shall be in effect. If the 10th batter gets to the plate in the same inning, 2 outs will be assumed, and that batter cannot walk. The batter must either hit the ball into play or strike out. If the 10th batter is hit by a pitch and cannot continue, then the on-deck hitter shall assume that at bat with the same count. This replacement hitter will also lead off the next inning.
- 2) All players bat whether they are playing the field or not, the batting order is continuous.
- 3) All batters and base runners are required to wear helmets (with face guard), along with chin straps, at all times.
- 4) If a base runner is to be catcher in the next inning, the team may have a substitute runner. This is to occur with two outs only. The substitute runner shall be the last player who made an out.
- 5) Stealing is permitted. The base runner may leave the base upon release of the ball by the opposing pitcher. There is a limit of 3 steals per team per inning. Stealing of home is not permitted.

NOR-GWYN Softball

Majors Rules and Guidelines

- 6) Throwing of bats is not permitted. Player gets one warning. On second occurrence, the batter will be called out.
- 7) Aluminum or wooden bats are permitted.
- 8) Bunting is allowed. A foul bunt as the third strike is an out.
- 9) No infield fly rule.
- 10) No slaughter rule.
- 11) Runner may "tag up" on a fly ball at her own risk, but may advance only 1 base.
- 12) A dead ball will be declared if the pitched ball hits the batter. All runners must return to the base they were on. The batter will be awarded first base if in the opinion of the umpire, the player made an effort to avoid being hit by the pitched ball and the player was hit prior to the ball hitting the ground. (Batter has option to stay and continue her at bat)
- 13) Sliding is permitted, feet first only (no head first slides), but no sliding into first base.
- 14) Base runners must either slide or avoid the defensive player covering the base if there is a play on the base runner at any base except first base. The base runner will be called out if they do not attempt to slide or avoid the tag or play at the base.
- 15) Strike Zone: Top of shoulders to bottom of knees; 6 inches off plate.

E. Defense

- 1) All players should play a minimum of three innings per 6-inning game, as long as they arrive at the beginning of the game.
- 2) All players are required to play at least one (1) inning in the infield
- 3) Infielders should be placed in normal position; outfielders must be in grass beyond infield.
- 4) There should be no more than five players in the infield, one being the pitcher.
- 5) If fielding ten players, team must have a catcher in full gear. If there are less than ten, coach shall remove short fielder first, then whatever is appropriate after that. If catcher is removed and coach plays catcher, the coach may not make a play at home plate. (Pitcher needs to cover home plate).
- 6) If a ball is overthrown and goes out of play, the runners may not advance more than one base past the base they were going to. (i.e. runner going to second cannot go past third).
- 7) A live ball is declared dead when a fielder throws the ball to the pitcher and she has control of it in the pitching circle. The play stops at this point. A base runner may advance to the next base on a dead ball if, and only if, she is past halfway to the next base. If she is not past halfway, she must return to the original base. The defense may make the play at the base in lieu of throwing to the pitcher to end the play, in which case the ball shall remain live.
- 8) No dropped third strike.

F. Pitching

- 1) A player may pitch up to three innings per game. Pitcher may re-enter to pitch only once. 1 pitch in an inning constitutes an inning.

NOR-GWYN Softball

Majors Rules and Guidelines

- 2) If pitcher hits 2 batters in one inning, pitcher must be pulled for that inning and may be allowed to re-enter once. This is only if the batter makes an attempt to avoid the pitched ball.

G. Umpires

The League contracts with an umpire association to provide umpires for all regular season games and playoffs.

H. Field Layout

- 1) Base paths will be 60 feet.
- 2) Pitching rubber will be 40 feet from home plate and is measured from the back of home plate to the middle-front edge of the pitching rubber.
- 3) Ball is out of play anywhere over foul lines and past fence line.

I. Safety:

- 1) At the first sign of lightening, the game is called.
- 2) Any bleeding caused by impact with ball, player, or anything else will require player to come out of the game and appropriate medical attention given. They may not return in that game unless deemed safe by discretion of coaches, parents, and opposing coaches, as well as the wound be entirely covered up. Girls with nosebleeds may not re-enter the game.

J. Travel Players

- 1) Players that are playing in the Nor Gwyn Travel program will be allowed to play in the recreational league but will be limited to 2 per team.
- 2) If a travel player playing in the recreational program is a pitcher on the Travel team, she will not be allowed to pitch for the recreational team.

K. Playoffs

Double elimination playoffs will immediately follow the regular season. Playoff schedules will be published immediately after the regular season has ended. Playoff bracket seeding will be established based on standings from the regular season games.

IV. RULE CHANGES

The Nor Gwyn Softball Majors Division Rules and Guidelines contained herein may be changed during the season by the Major's Softball Commissioner to allow for changes in League Policy, introduction of piloted training programs, or any other factor that seeks to improve the quality of instruction and recreation for the player.