

## Clarence Girls' Softball League

### DIVISION RULES - JUNIOR

Clarence Girls' Softball League uses the Official Softball Playing Rules as adopted by the *Amateur Softball Association of America*.

#### **I. GENERAL**

A) Players in 6th – 9th grade, as well as 12u travel softball players are eligible for the Junior Division. As an optimum, each team should consist of 12-14 girls.

B) Good sportsmanship is the rule at all times, including players, coaches and spectators.

C) Games will have six innings; each girl on the team roster who is present and physically able to participate must play at least a minimum of four defensive innings. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a forfeited game. Four completed innings will constitute an official game in the case of a rainout; score recorded at the end of the last completed full inning will stand.

D) There are no limits on substitutions. Pitchers can only pitch a maximum of 3 innings or part of an inning. Catchers can catch only a maximum of 3 innings or part of an inning.

E) The home team, designated on the schedule, shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Sit on the first base side of the infield
  2. Supply game balls
  3. Teams short players must use "call-up" players from the AAA Division
  4. Teams are expected to be present regardless of weather conditions unless by mutual prior agreement by the coaches and approval of Division Coordinator.
- Once a game starts, rain outs will be declared mutually by the coaches.

F) No metal spikes allowed.

G) Any fan yelling or being a deterrent of play must be handled by the coaches. If the spectator(s) do not stop after two warnings, the game may be forfeited to the opposing team. Spectators (not affiliated with a team) causing a disturbance will be approached by both coaches to resolve the problem. The Division Coordinator should be made aware of any issues immediately following the end of the game.

H) Smoking and alcoholic beverages are not allowed at any CGSL games.

I) Jewelry shall be removed and hair shall be secured to avoid any incidents during game play.

## **II. PITCHING**

A) The distance from the pitcher's rubber to the home plate is 40 feet measured from the front of the pitching rubber to the back of home plate.

B) Pitchers can only pitch a maximum of 3 innings.

C) No balks will be called against the pitcher.

D) Pitching form and regulations will follow ASA rules for fast pitch softball. There are no walks – batter either hits or strikes out. Junior pitcher pitches to each batter until either the batter hits, strikes out, or 4 called balls are thrown. After 4 called balls are thrown, a coach/parent throws 3 pitches maximum to batter. The strike count does not reset. Batter either hits or strikes out after these final 3 pitches (not counting foul balls).

E) If a pitcher hits three batters with a pitched ball in the same half inning the pitcher must be changed.

## **III. BATTING**

A) Teams will bat all girls present on the roster in continuous batting order.

B) In the event that the offensive team scores five runs during one inning, the inning shall be declared over the instant the fifth run scores.

C) If the batter throws her bat in such a way that, in the coach's opinion, it may be injurious to persons or property, the umpire will warn the batter. Should the same batter repeat this offense, she will be declared out and the play declared dead.

D) Bunting is permitted.

## **IV. BASE RUNNING**

A) Stealing is allowed on any base except for home plate on a passed ball. Runners can only steal home plate if the catcher makes a play on the runner at third base or on any other base runner.

B) Runner may lead off. Runners must remain on base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. The base runner must return to the base after each pitch. A runner in violation will be warned once by the umpire-coach. Repeated rule violation will result in the runner being declared out.

C) When the ball is in play, a base runner may advance at her own risk until the play is over. A play is considered over when the pitcher possesses the ball within the circle. If a runner is more than halfway between the bases, she may advance to the next base.

D) If the catcher for the next inning is on base when the second out has just occurred, she will be replaced with a pinch runner to allow her time to prepare for the next defensive inning. The player who made the second out is the pinch runner.

## **V. DEFENSE**

A) A normal defensive team will consist of nine players with at least three outfielders. The outfielders must be positioned at least twenty feet from the infield. A minimum of eight fielders is required. All players will wear a softball safety cage regardless of defensive position.

B) There are no substitution limits except pitchers may pitch a maximum of 3 innings.

C) Coaches may call up players from the AAA division to fill their roster. The call up player cannot pitch and must be assigned to the last position in the batting order.

D) Catcher must wear a helmet, face mask and throat guard, chest protector, and shin guards during games and practices. Safety is always first priority.

E) The dropped third strike rule is not in effect.

D) The infield fly rule is in effect. When an infield fly is hit, as declared by the coach-umpire, with runners on first and second **or** on first, second and third with fewer than two outs, the batter is out.

G) Players should be rotated equally between infield and outfield with no player playing the infield more than 4 innings per game.

## **VI. POST GAME**

A) At the end of the game, players will exchange a handshake as a gesture of good sportsmanship.

B) Each coach is responsible for the proper condition, cleaning, adjustments, safety concerns and accounting of league equipment. If replacement of equipment is needed, coach shall contact the Equipment Manager. Each coach must return all league property at the end of the season

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