

Hawthorne Baseball Softball Association

2020

Junior Softball

Rules in this section apply to the junior division (3rd, 4th and 5th grades)

Rosters

- Each roster has a maximum of 15 players
- Each roster has a minimum of 12 players when registration numbers allow
- A team will be permitted to play with eight (8) players. If/when a ninth player shows up, they must be placed into the ninth spot in the batting order.
- All players on the roster must play a minimum of two (2) full innings in all regular season six (6) inning games (including all playoff games)

Length of Play

- All games will consist of 6 innings of play, unless a run rule is implemented.
- There will be a 6 run limit per inning with the exception of the 6th inning (or last inning as determined by coaches & umpires), in which a no run limit will be in place.
- When a team is ahead by 12 or more runs after 4 complete innings (3 ½ if home team is winning) the game is considered complete.

Pitching

- Pitchers cannot pitch more than 3 innings (9 outs) in a six inning game. Only a starting pitcher can re-enter if she has not reached her inning limit in a game. If a game goes to extra innings, the pitcher who pitched the sixth inning may pitch an additional inning, even if they have already pitched 3 innings or the starting pitcher can re-enter and pitch an additional inning.
- Pitching distance will be 35 feet
- There will be a 8 warm up pitch count for a new pitcher and a 5 warmup pitch count in-between each inning following.
- Any pitcher who hits three (3) batters in any inning must be removed from the pitching position
- No balks will be called

Batting

- All players in attendance at a game must bat.
- Teams are permitted two bunts per game. No slap bunts/slashing/fake bunts permitted. If more than two bunts are attempted or any of the prohibited forms of bunting, the batter will be called out.
- The batter is not permitted to go to first base on a dropped third strike.
- There will be no infield fly rule.
- If a batter is hit by the ball the play is called dead and the batter takes first base. If the home plate umpire rules that the batter made no attempt to get out of the way of the ball, the player will not be awarded first base. A ball will be called.

Base Running

- Stealing will be permitted only after the ball has reached the catcher. Stealing is limited to one steal per inning only if the base is open. No stealing home and no double stealing.
- No leads will be permitted, a base runner may not leave the base until after the pitched ball reaches the batter.
- A base runner is automatically out if he leaves the base before the ball reaches the batter. In the event that the base runner leaves the base before the pitched ball reaches the batter, a “no pitch” shall be called.
- No headfirst sliding. Should a player slide headfirst the baserunner will be called out.
- Players need to slide to avoid contact in a close play. Players who do not slide may be called out.
- Courtesy runners are permitted for the pitcher or catcher at any time. Courtesy runners can also be used in the case of an injured player.

Equipment/Safety

- All games will be played on 35/60 field
- All players must wear uniform jersey and hat provided and softball pants in the color associated with the team which they are on.
- All players are required to wear a batting helmet while batting and on the bases. Helmets with face guards are highly recommended
- All players are required to wear a protective facemask while playing in the field
- Any player who is catching must wear a catcher’s helmet, chest protector and shin guards in order to catch in a game
- All players are required to wear cleats