

## Senior Softball

Rules in this section apply to the senior division (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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 5 run limit per inning with the exception of the 6<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Games are limited to a length of 2 hours with no new inning starting after 1 hour and 45 minutes.

### **Pitching**

- Pitchers cannot pitch more than 5 innings (15 outs) in a six-inning game. Only a starting pitcher can re-enter if she has not reached her inning limit in a game.
- Pitching distance will be 40 feet
- There will be an 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.
- Bunting and slapping is permitted. No slashing/fake bunts permitted, if a player attempts, they will be called out.
- There will be no infield fly rule.
- Batters are permitted to run on a dropped third strike when first base is not occupied or there are two outs.
- If a batter is hit by a pitch 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 after the ball is released by the pitcher. Stealing is limited to 3 steals per inning only if the base is open.
- A base runner is automatically out if she leaves the base before the pitcher releases the ball. In the event that the base runner leaves the base before the ball is pitched, a "no pitch" shall be called.
- No headfirst sliding. Should a player slide headfirst the baserunner will be called out.
- Sliding is mandatory in a close play. If a runner does not slide, they will be automatically 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 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 (no metal cleats)