

## **Mansfield Girls Softball Association 2011 Playing Rules**

**All play is governed by ASA Rules except as noted below. In addition certain ASA Rules are noted for emphasis.**

### **Special Playing Rules that apply to 14U, 12U and 10U divisions:**

- All players bat – a continuous batting order will be used. If a player leaves a game for injury or any other reason (other than ejection), their spot in the order is skipped (no automatic out, except for players ejected). Players who arrive after the start of the game will be added to the end of the order. Injured players who miss a turn in the order may not reenter the game.
- Teams playing one player short, or up to two players short if 10U, will not be penalized with an automatic out.
- Minimum of eight players required to start and finish a game (forfeit if less)
- Games must start once the scheduled start time is reached and both teams have the minimum number of players
- Free substitution of players in the field
- Players must slide or avoid contact. All sliding rule decisions are at the discretion of the umpire.
- A courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher or catcher - runner shall be the last player to make an out or last batter of previous inning (and second to last batter of the previous inning if both pitcher and catcher are on base at the same time).
- Pitcher shall be removed from pitching after directly hitting 3 batters in an inning or 5 in the course of the game (bounced pitches will not count).
- Home team pays the umpire
- Home teams supply two new leather, raised seam, optic yellow balls (ASA-approved max 375 lbs, .47 cor)
- All pitchers must wear a face mask. This rule also applies to practices.
- All players on the field who do not have a batting helmet on, catchers mask on or pitchers mask on must wear a mouth guard. This rule also applies to practices.

**14U Division:**

- 12 inch ball and 40 feet pitching distance
- 7 inning games
- 5 run limit rule per inning/ waived in the 7th or last inning
- Run ahead rule is 15 after 4.5 innings
- No slashing (faking bunt, then hitting away)
- Slap hitting and drag bunting are allowed
- Infield fly rule in effect
- Dropped third strike rule in effect
- No new inning to start after 7:45 p.m. for 6 p.m. games
- Stealing of all bases including home is allowed

**12U Division:**

- 12 inch ball and 40 feet pitching distance
- 6 inning games
- 5 run limit rule per inning/ waived in the 6th or last inning
- Run ahead rule is 15 after 3.5 innings
- No slashing (faking a bunt, then hitting away)
- Slap hitting and drag bunting are allowed
- Infield fly rule in effect
- Dropped third strike rule in effect
- No new inning to start after 7:45 PM
- Stealing of all bases including home is allowed

**10U Division:**

- 11 inch ball and 35 feet pitching distance
- 6 inning games
- 4 run limit per inning rule/ waived in the 6th or last inning
- Run ahead rule is 12 after 4.5 innings
- 10 fielders with 4 outfielders who must be stationed at least 10 feet behind the basepaths.
- No slashing (faking a bunt, then hitting away)
- Slap hitting and drag bunting are allowed
- No infield fly rule

- No dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike rule
- No "continuation". Batter may only take one base when awarded a base on balls
- Stealing home and advancing multiple bases on a steal attempt are not allowed
- No new inning to start after 7:45 PM

### **8U Division**

- 11 inch "softie" ball
- Coach's Pitch (Call strikes if necessary). Girls Pitch 2<sup>nd</sup> half of year w/Coach behind her to step in where necessary.
- Bases are 60 feet apart
- Innings are 3 runs or 3 outs, whichever comes first.
- No infield fly rule
- No dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike rule
- Tagging up on a fly ball is allowed
- Leads are not allowed.
- Stealing is not allowed.
- Baserunners are limited to one base on overthrows that are both in play and out of play.
- Hit batters do not get awarded first base.
- Sliding is required on all plays.

### **6U Division:**

- Games/practices are 90 minutes long
- All players field and all players bat
- Coaches pitch
- Bases are 50 feet apart
- There is no per inning run rule. Teams should bat through their lineup.
- There is no dropped third strike, no infield fly rule, no tagging up on flyballs, no base stealing and no leading.
- Baserunners are limited to on base and overthrows that are both in play and out of play.