

MANSFIELD-NORTON-SOUTH ATTLEBORO GIRLS RECREATION INTER-TOWN GAME

RULES

SOFTBALL

10U (Major Division)

The emphasis should be on teaching the girls the game and good sportsmanship.

Ball- 11 inch yellow hardball

Game time: 6:00pm, with a 15 min grace period. Weekend game times vary based on schedule.

Game Score: Wins and losses will be recorded. Scores of the games should be kept. Each coach should report score of game to designated member of their town's/city's league with: Names of teams playing, game date, & final score.

Innings:

- 6 innings limit, all games will have a time limit
- **Maximum of 3 runs per inning**
- No new inning may start after 7:30pm.
- For any new inning starting between 7:00 and 7:15 both head coaches MUST meet before the start of the inning to determine if this is anticipated to be the last inning. If it is determined to be the last inning, the unlimited runs inning rule goes into effect.
- "Drop dead" time is 7:45pm when game will end. If inning is not completed: **Score reverts to the score at end of last fully completed inning.**
- Run ahead/ "Mercy" rule: is 12 run lead after 4.5 innings for home team, 5 innings for visiting team
- Minimum of 8 players required per team; if a team does not have at least 8 players, they forfeit that game. Towns are allowed to pull up a player from a lower age division in order to field a team.

Pitching:

- **A pitcher can only pitch 2 innings total per game. (Does not apply during Playoffs).**
- Pitching distance of 35 feet will be strictly enforced.
- Any pitcher who hits 3 batters in one inning or 5 in one game will be removed from that position for the remainder of the game. All batters must make an attempt to get out of the way of the pitched ball. A bounced ball that hits the batter will NOT count as 1 of the 3 hits. Any pitcher who hits a batter WITH INTENT shall be removed from that position immediately.
- In an effort to keep the game moving, after a pitcher walks 3 batters in an inning, the batting team's coach will take over pitching to end the inning. The pitcher will remain in the pitching circle and field the position, Strikes will be called for coach pitch and players can strike out, but no walks will occur during coach pitch. That same pitcher IS ALLOWED to start pitching again the next inning. Coaches will not field the ball and make every attempt to avoid being hit by the ball.

Batting:

- All of a team's players bat in the game and in a declared batting order.
 - Players who arrive after the start of game are placed at bottom of batting order
 - **There is no penalty for players who are removed the batting due to need to leave the game early or for injury.**

- To avoid batting out of order, a coach needs to notify the opposing team of a player's departure prior to the following batter taking a pitch.
- **NO DROP THIRD STRIKE**
- **NO SLASHING** (faking bunt, then hitting away).
- Slap hitting and drag bunting are allowed

Base Running

- A safety base should be used at first base.
- Leads allowed; Baserunners will/should be called out if they leave a base before the ball leaves the pitcher's hand
- Stealing 2nd and 3rd base are allowed;
- Stealing home and advancing multiple bases on a steal attempt are NOT allowed
- No advancing on bases when ball is in possession of pitcher within the pitching circle
- Tagging up on a fly ball is allowed.
- **NO INFIELD FLY RULE.**
- Courtesy runners for pitcher or catcher are recommended so the players are prepared to start the next inning. (player who made the last out)
- **Slide rule-** a runner needs to avoid the fielder. If the runner makes contact with the fielder attempting to make a play the runner will be called out. Avoiding contact is completed by sliding or other means deemed acceptable by the umpire.

Fielders:

- There should be 10 players on the field (4 outfielders-positioned on the grass)
- Free substitution of players in the field at the start of each inning.
- Coaches should provide defensive coaching from the sidelines.
- **NORTON IN TOWN RULE: It is RECOMMENDED that all players wear a fielder's mask when out in the field. A fielder's mask is REQUIRED when playing: pitcher, 1st & 3rd base.**

Coaches are to provide equal field playing time to all available players each game.

Base Coaching- Coaches are encouraged to coach 1st and 3rd base.

If no umpire is available for the game, the batting team's coach will call the strikes/balls and field plays.

Score book – It is the responsibility of the coaches or designated party; no player is to be given the task of keeping the book during the game

Home team will supply two game balls and pay the umpire

Spectators – No spectators/players are to sit directly behind home plate. No abusive action or language towards an umpire, coach, or player will be tolerated. **ZERO TOLERANCE RULE.**

Plays Stoppage – Play will be stopped immediately with a player injury. The umpire will then determine any base advancement or ruling.

*****Any rule not listed will follow USA softball rule book.*****