



Northern Illinois Softball Association

10U Division (9 to 10 years old)

All rules and regulations for this league shall follow the IHSA, except for the following additions:

THE PLAYERS

- 1) Players are only REQUIRED to play a minimum of 2 innings per game if they are in the lineup for the game.
- 2) No girl shall play the same defensive position more than 3 innings per game.
PENALTY: If a team is found to have violated this rule, the player(s) in violation are required to sit out the remainder of that defensive ½ inning. If the player(s) in violation are currently playing pitcher or catcher, the game clock will stop while the new player gets ready. If there are no substitutes available, the team will have to play short players.
- 3) Courtesy runner will be allowed for the catcher and pitcher at any time. Courtesy runner will be the last batted out.
- 4) Continuous batting order will be used. Everyone bats.
 - a. If a player arrives late, she will be added to the bottom of the batting line up.
 - b. If a player must leave before the game ends due to injury, illness or family matters that player is not an out every time her spot comes up in the batting line up. It will just be skipped.
 - c. If a player is injured during her at bat and cannot continue her at bat, this is not an out. Last batted out may complete the at bat.
 - d. If a player is ejected during the game, her spot in the batting line up becomes an automatic out. The player is not suspended for any subsequent games.
 - e. If a coach is ejected during the game, he/she will be suspended for the next game. If coach attempts to be in the dugout coaching at the next game, his/her team forfeits.
- 5) Teams can play with a minimum of 7 players. If minimum 7 players are not reached, the team will forfeit the game.

SAFETY

- 1) All defensive players are required to wear a facemask.
- 2) Batting helmets are required to have a full facemask.
- 3) Proper Catchers equipment is required.
- 4) Bats must have USSSA 1.20 thumb print stamp for 10U – 20U.
- 5) No metal cleats
- 6) On Deck Hitter must be at the Batter's back.
- 7) When not playing the field, batting or on deck, the girls should stay in the dugout and behind the fence for their own safety all times.

THE GAME

- 1) A game shall consist of 6 innings or 1 hour 30 minutes. In weather situations, an official game is 4 innings. (3 ½ if home team is ahead.)
 - Fall Ball Exception: No minimum number of innings required for official game as there are no standings.
- 2) No new inning is to be started after 1 hour 30 minutes. Drop dead is 2 hours. When drop dead time is reached, if inning is not completed then you revert to the score of the previous inning. Ties are ok.
- 3) If you complete 6 innings, have a tie and are still under the time limit you may start another inning. Drop dead is still in effect.

- 4) There is a 5-run rule per inning. From the 6th inning on, unlimited runs can be scored until the third out is made. There is a 12-run slaughter rule after 4 innings (3 ½ if home team is ahead).
- 5) Team chanting and comments can only be directed to players on your own team and must be of a positive manner. NO chanting during the opposing team pitcher's windup.
- 6) Each team will play with a maximum of 10 players on the field: 4 outfielders, 4 infielders, pitcher, catcher.
- 7) All outfielders must be on the grass prior to the pitch. (For fields with a large infield, then the outfield should be no less than 5FT from the baseline) This is for players safety.
- 8) Infield fly rule is not in effect.
- 9) Bunting is allowed. The batter cannot take a bunt stance and then pull back and take a full swing at the pitch. If the batter attempts this, she is out. This is for the infielders' safety.
- 10) Bases are 60 feet apart.
- 11) If a game is cancelled, all attempts should be made between the coaches to reschedule. If the game is not played, it will not count toward the standings at all. Standings will be based on winning percentage.
 - See cancelled/forfeit information on NISA overview page
 - Fall Ball Exception: Rain outs or cancelled games can be made up, but it is not required.
- 12) If you are short players, you may only recruit from the 8U division. If you recruit a pitcher from the lower level, they can only pitch 3 innings maximum. Recruit bats last in the order and, if not pitching, must play in the outfield.
 - Fall Ball Exception: If you are short players, you may recruit from within your own division and from the 8U division. If you recruit a pitcher, they can only pitch 3 innings maximum. Recruit bats last in the order and, if not pitching, must play in the outfield.

PITCHING

- 1) The front of the pitcher's rubber shall be 35 feet from the back tip of home plate.
- 2) Each pitcher is allowed a maximum of 3 innings per game. One pitch constitutes an inning. Pitchers will be allowed 5 warm up pitches before their first inning. Returning pitchers will be allowed 3 warm up pitches before any inning after their first. (Warm up practice by Infield and Outfield is only allowed before 1st inning.)
- 3) Pitcher will not need to be removed from hitting multiple players with pitches in an inning. (Coaches should use good judgment)
- 4) Pitching will be IHSA rules.
- 5) There will be no illegal pitches.
- 6) There are no restrictions on replacing pitchers. Free substitutions are allowed at any time during the game if **PITCHING** Rule 2 is adhered to.
- 7) Coaches are encouraged to teach the girls the following rules. (12U and up, illegal pitches will be in play.)
 - a. Hands apart when Pitcher steps on the mound (ball can be either in hand or in glove).
 - b. Pitcher brings hand to glove. This is the start of the wind up. (Pitcher is not allowed to separate her hands and bring them together in the glove again.)
- 8) Per game, a pitcher must be removed from pitching for the remainder of the game on the fourth trip of the coach to the mound.
- 9) Per inning, a pitcher must be removed from pitching for the remainder of the inning on the second trip of the coach to the mound.
- 10) THERE WILL BE NO COACH PITCH AT THIS LEVEL.

BASE RUNNING

- 1) Players should be instructed by their coaches to slide to AVOID CONTACT with another player. This is for the safety of all involved.
- 2) Slide Rule: (IHSA) NFHS rule 8-6 "The runner is out" if:
 - a. Article 13; the runner does not legally slide and causes illegal contact and/or illegally alters the actions of the fielder in the immediate act of making a play on her.
 - b. Article 14; she remains on her feet and maliciously crashes into a defensive player. Malicious contact supersedes obstruction.

- 3) Runners are allowed one base on an overthrow made at 1st or 2nd base. Runner on 3rd base cannot score on an overthrow made at any base (exception BASE RUNNING Rule 4).
 Clarification: After a hit ball, batter runner is allowed one base at their own risk on an overthrow. Batter runner is NOT allowed to take an additional base on a second overthrow during the same play. Runner on 3rd cannot score on an overthrow made at any base. If there is a runner on 2nd base when the ball is hit and they are advancing to 3rd base and there is an overthrow made at 3rd base, the runner cannot advance.
 Runners can only score from 3rd on a walk, a hit ball or the exception BASE RUNNING Rule of 2 steals allowed per inning.
- 4) **PICK OFF ATTEMPTS** (Any attempt by a catcher or pitcher to get a runner out at the base they started the play at, after the pitch. This does not include when a base runner is making a steal attempt)
 - a. A throw by the catcher or pitcher in an attempt to pick off a base runner makes the ball live.
 - b. Any base runners can advance one base at their own risk.
 - c. A throw from catcher to pitcher is not considered putting the ball into play. (Includes an overthrow)
- 5) Stealing of 2nd and 3rd is allowed after the ball crosses home plate.
 - a. Runner cannot leave the base until after the ball crosses home plate.
 - b. Base runners may steal 2 bases at a time.
 - c. Double steals are allowed (runners on 1st & 2nd, they can both steal at the same time with the runner at 1st moving to 2nd and the runner on 2nd moving to 3rd)
 - d. The batter runner cannot advance to 2nd on a walk.
- 6) Stealing home will is allowed with a 2 run maximum per inning. After the 2 runs have scored by a runner stealing home, runners can no longer attempt to steal home.
- 7) During a play, base runners can only advance to the base that they are going to once the ball is in control by an infielder on the infield. Runners between bases when ball is in control by an infielder on the infield can advance to the next base or return to previous base at their own risk.
- 8) Dropped third strike is not in effect.
- 9) Look Back Rule is not in effect.

BASE RUNNING: Pick off attempt's vs Stealing Clarification and Examples.

- 4) **PICK OFF ATTEMPTS** (Any attempt by a catcher or pitcher to get a runner out at the base that they started the play at, after the pitch. This does not include when a base runner is attempting to steal a base):
 - a. A throw by the catcher or pitcher in an attempt to pick off a base runner makes the ball live.
 - b. Any base runners can advance one base at their own risk.
 - c. A throw from catcher to pitcher is not considered putting the ball into play. (Includes an overthrow)

Example 1: With baserunners on first and third base, the runner attempts to steal second base once the pitch crosses home plate. The runner on third base may NOT attempt to take home on the throw.

Example 2: With base runners on first and second base, both base runners attempt to steal when the pitch crosses the plate. Regardless of what base the catcher throws to, the base runners may NOT attempt to take an extra base.

Example 3: With a base runner on first base only, the runner attempts to steal second base once the pitch crosses home plate. The base runner stealing second base may NOT take an extra base on an overthrow.