

PONYTAIL SOFTBALL RULES

PLAYING FIELD:

1. Pitching mound – 35' for grades 4th – 6th; 40' for grades 7th – 11th
2. Pitcher must have one foot in contact with the pitching rubber until the ball is released
3. Bases – 60' for both the Junior and Senior Divisions

GAMES:

4. A game consists of 6 innings in the Junior Division (4th – 6th grade).
5. A game consists of 7 innings in the Senior Division (7th – 11th grade).
6. Game time will be 6:00pm. Forfeit time is 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time. No game may exceed 90 minutes in length for either division.
7. Rainouts will be made up on space/time availability at the discretion of the Park District.
8. Teams must have 8 players to start a game with a maximum of 10 players in the field.
9. If a game is called due to inclement weather, the game will be considered complete if the losing team has batted at least 4 times (Junior Division) or 5 times for the Senior Division.
10. Games will be declared a forfeit in the event illegal players are used. NO ADDITIONS to the roster are allowed after the first week of games.
11. In case of rain during the day the League Supervisor will determine if field conditions are presentable to play.
12. In the event that a game is called due to lightning, rain or darkness, and has not reached a completed game status (Rule 9), the game will be considered suspended and will be completed at a later date. When the game resumes, it must resume where it left off meaning that the score, runners on base, same batter (with same count if applicable), and the same number of outs. Before leaving the field of a suspended game, the two managers need to verify all of the items listed with the Umpire.
13. There will be a 15 run slaughter rule. This will be in effect after 3 ½ innings (Juniors) or 4 ½ innings (Seniors) if the home team is in the lead or 4 innings (Juniors) and 5 innings (Seniors) if the visitors are in the lead.
14. A maximum of 10 batters per inning for the Junior Division except for the last inning where three outs must be recorded to retire the sides. Senior Division has a 10 run limit per inning (unless a home run adds more).
15. Third strike foul – batter is out. Ball is dead – no runners may advance.
16. Pitching – both leagues will utilize a strike mat. If a pitch hits either the carpet or home plate a strike will be recorded. For the Junior Division a minimum height of a pitched ball is 4 feet; for the Senior Division the minimum height is 6 feet. For both divisions there is no maximum height.

17. If an “illegal”, “flat”, or “heavy” pitch is called, it shall be an automatic ball, unless the batter swings. The ball then is live and in play. If called late, or not called, it shall be called a no pitch.
18. The *home team* is the left number on the schedule, such as 4-1. Four is the home team and one is the visiting team. **The *home team* has the third base bench and is responsible for returning the completed scorecard to the equipment box.**
19. The *home team* will also be responsible for setting up and tearing down the field; and will provide the game ball. Game balls and scorecards will be given to the LaGrange Park coaches prior to the start of the season.
20. No spectators or parents are allowed on the field or players benches.
21. All girls must play 2 innings per game. All girls bat in a continuous roster batter order (whether playing in the field or not). Open substitution of players is not allowed.
22. NO leadoffs are permitted. Runners may leave the base ONLY after the ball crosses home plate. Catcher’s may throw to any base in an attempt to get a runner out. At no time may runners advance when a catcher plays on them. **Stealing bases is not allowed.**
23. “Official Softball Bats” only are allowed or the equivalent must be approved by the umpire before the game.
24. Any girl throwing her bat can be called out by the umpire. Usually, a batter is given one warning, but this is a judgment call on the part of the umpire.
25. IN-FIELD FLY – The situation: Runners on 1st and 2nd and no outs or one out or Runners on 1st, 2nd and 3rd, and no outs or one out.
 - a. The Play: Batter hits a pop-up that an infielder could easily handle.
 - b. The Call: Umpire immediately calls, “in-field fly”, the batter is out and the runners may advance at their own risk.
26. NO CONTACT – Base runners do not have to slide but will be called out if they make contact with a defensive player during a play at any base except 1st base. The runner will not be called out if contact is made while sliding into a base.
27. DEAD BALL – Play is dead when a ball reaches the pitching mound or when the umpire calls timeout. If the runner does not stop or hesitate, then they can advance to the next base.

CONDUCT:

28. Use of foul language or disorderly conduct may lead to expulsion from the league (players) or removal from park (spectators).
29. No alcohol is allowed by players, coaches or spectators.
30. No smoking is allowed in the playing area or bench area.
31. Spectators should not talk to or heckle any member of the opposing team.

32. Each team is responsible for keeping their playing area clean. Paper cups, water bottles, etc. are to be thrown in the garbage cans after games and practices. **Please help keep our parks clean. Thank you.**
33. Only at the discretion of the coach – if a girl shows up late and/or never comes to participate without a valid excuse, the coach has the right **not to play the girl(s).** *Make sure this is communicated with the parents.*
34. Any player removed from the game by an umpire will serve a one game suspension. A player ejected twice will be suspended and face possible removal from the league indefinitely.
35. **UMPIRES** – Please cooperate with them and make sure the girls give them their respect. ***Your cooperation is needed.***

MISCELLANEOUS:

36. No protests will be allowed.
37. Keep track of all practice/game balls, catcher's mask and first aid kits. Each field has bats, bases, strike mat, chest protector and score cards in the equipment boxes. **Make sure all bases are installed properly – only coaches are to install bases.** After removing the desired equipment for your game or practice, the equipment box is to be closed and locked immediately.
38. **All first aid supplies are to be handled by the coaches and/or umpires. ADULTS ONLY.** **If an injury happens, please report the injury to the Park District. Serious accidents - call 911. Do not move the injured player – only qualified personnel should do any moving.**
39. Blood Rule – any player who is bleeding or has blood on their uniform shall be prohibited from participating until appropriate treatment can be administered. The umpire shall: Stop the game and allow treatment; if the injured player would affect the continuation of the game. Apply the rules of the game regarding substitution, short-handed player and re-entry if necessary.

9/29/14