**Rye Girls Softball
Local Rules 2017**

***Minor Division*
**

**UMPIRING**

* All matters not covered by these rules will be governed by the Official Rules of Softball ASA Code – Umpire Manual.
* No protests allowed.

**GROUND RULES**

* **Length of Game:** All games are scheduled for four innings. No new inning may be started after 45 minutes from the game’s scheduled start time, unless each team has not played an equal amount of innings.
* **Forfeit time**: 15 minutes after schedule starting time. Coaches from both teams must agree and that decision is final.
* **Bench Assignment:** Home team is designated on schedule. Home team occupies third base side of field; visiting team occupies first base side.
* **Coaching Responsibilities:** Prior to each game, a designated coach must make their identity known to the opposing coach. Players’ bench is for use of the players and they should remain on the bench when not playing. Only team officials and players will be allowed on the bench.
* **Required Player Equipment**:

Players are required to be in full uniform for all practices and games.

Pitchers MUST wear a facemask!

Catchers MUST wear facemasks, helmets, chest protectors, and shin guards (provided by the league).

Batters must wear batting helmets with facemask at all practices and games.

ALL infielders are encouraged to wear a mouth guard or a facemask. Not mandatory EXCEPT for previously noted requirements for pitchers and batters.

Sneakers or rubber cleats must be worn (converse sneakers are unacceptable)

* **Score Keeper:** There is no scorekeeping in the minor league.
* **Base Coaching:** Only designated coaches for that game are allowed to coach bases.
* **Inclement Weather:** No games will be canceled except for bad weather. The league official or Rye Rec Department staff will determine the condition of the field. Check the Rye Girls Softball website or a text from Rainedout.com for field status. Sign up for **rainedout.com** and select Rye Girls Softball. There will be no makeup games.

**PLAY**

* **Required Play Time:** Every girl will play in every scheduled game at least two full innings of a completed four-inning game (which need not be consecutive) in the field. Each player is required to play at least one inning in the outfield each game and at least one inning in the infield (infield for purposes of this rule includes the catcher and pitcher positions) in each game. In any case, the coaches’ word is final.
* **Minimum Required Players:** Each team will field 10 players including 4 outfielders and no short fielders. If a team does not have at least 7 players, head coach or one properly registered adult coach on the field at forfeit time (15 minutes after scheduled start time), the scrimmage will not be played.
* **Infield Fly Rule:** Infield fly rule in not in effect in the Minor League.
* **Leading:** No leading in the Minor League.
* **Stealing**: No stealing in the Minor League.
* **Advancing the Baserunners:** Runners may advance anytime the ball is in play, except when the pitcher has the ball and is on the area of the mound. If an overthrown ball goes out of play, the runner is awarded the base of possession plus one base. Coaches decision is final.
* **Sliding:** Sliding is not permitted in the Minor League.
* **Bunting:** Bunting is not allowed in the Minor League.
* **Batting Rules:** Teams will end the ½ inning after 3 outs **or** maximum of 10 batters. If a team has only 8 players, the first and second batters will bat again so that the total remains 10.
* **Third Strike Rule:** Does not APPLY in the Minor League.
* **Pitching Machine Usage:** Coaches will pitch to their own team using the pitching machine. Orange cones should be positioned approximately three feet from the rubber wheel around the pitching machine. When the pitching machine is used, any ball hit that hits the machine or passes through the cones around the machine is considered an automatic dead ball and the batter automatically goes to First Base. Any runner already on a base that is in a FORCED position will advance one base. (This is for the safety of the players).

**OR**

* **Hitting off a Tee:** Tees are available to use in place of the pitching machine.
* **Inning Rules:** Each inning will have a five-run cap.
* **Base Running:** The runner may only advance to the next base provided she is clearly past the halfway point between the two bases when the ball is returned to the pitcher, who must be on the mound.

**BEHAVIOR**

* Profanity from coaches, players or parents will not be tolerated and may result in ejection from game if umpire sees fit.
* No harassment of coaches or players on either team by coaches and managers will be tolerated. All managers and coaches should curb any negative comments toward any players or toward the other teams’ coaches, and ask parents to do the same.
* Coaches may not challenge the umpire. Any issues should be directed to the league officers.
* If a player throws a bat while at bat, player and manager will be warned. Second offense will result in an out. All players should use caution when swinging bat. There is no on-deck area or practice swinging. No one should have a bat in their hand except for the batter.