

# Northwest Skylands Girls Softball League

## 2018 Rookie Division Rules

*The Northwest Skylands Girls Softball League utilizes the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Rule Book. At a minimum, each head coach should have a copy of these rules. The rules included in this document are to be followed as exceptions to the ASA Rule Book. All coaches and umpires are expected to know and enforce these exceptions.*

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### I. ELIGIBILITY

1. Players may be girls in school grades K through 9.
2. The following divisions, with corresponding school grade levels, will be used:
  - Rookie..... Grades K through 2
  - Intermediate ..... Grades 3 and 4
  - Junior ..... Grades 5 and 6
  - Senior..... Grades 7, 8 and 9
3. Girls who play on a Northwest Skylands recreation team may not play on a travel team or a school team during the regular spring softball season (February to June). Examples: If a girl is playing on a travel team, she is not allowed to also play on a recreation team. If a 9th grade girl is not playing on a high school freshman team, she may play on a recreation team.
4. Town representatives/coordinators have the option to “pull up” a player to the next division for the entire season, or at any point prior to the mid-point of the regular season, if, after consultation with the coaches and player’s parents, the player is of sufficient playing ability, maturity and awareness to participate safely at that level. Players may also be pulled up one division for individual games at any time if the older team does not have enough players to field a team. Experienced 2nd graders (i.e., those who have played previously) should be moved up to the Intermediate division. Players may only be moved up one year (i.e., a 2nd grader may be moved up to Intermediate, a 4th grader may be moved up to Junior, or a 6th grader may be moved up to Senior). No player may be moved down a division.
5. Players may not play across teams in the same division (e.g., a player on one Rookie division team may not play for another Rookie division team during the regular season).
6. Towns are required to submit their team rosters to the league. Should a dispute arise over the age or school grade of a player, or if a player is already rostered on another team at that level, the town representative/coordinator may be asked to provide additional documentation.

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## II. ROSTERS

1. All players present and in uniform will be included in the batting line-up (i.e., “bat all”), regardless of how many fielders are being used, with no penalty for losing a player during the game. When you bat all, you and your opponent do not have a replacement player.
2. In the event that a team does not have enough players to field a team for a scheduled game, the coach may “pull up” enough players from the next division below theirs to field a team. Players may only be moved up one year (i.e., a 2nd grader may be moved up to Intermediate, a 4th grader may be moved up to Junior, or a 6th grader may be moved up to Senior). No player may be moved down a level. You may not pull up players just to fill a bench.
3. All teams in the Intermediate, Junior and Senior divisions may have a maximum of ten (10) players in the field during an inning. For the Rookie division, additional players may be placed in the outfield.
4. For all levels, all players present and in uniform must play a minimum of three (3) innings in the field.
5. Free substitution, including pitchers, is allowed at any point of the game.

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## III. UNIFORMS

1. Each player must wear a uniform consisting of team hat or visor (not mandatory, coaches discretion) and shirt with numbers in full view, while on the field. Uniform pants/shorts and socks are the choice of the coach; however, all players should be consistent (e.g., the entire team should wear uniform pants/shorts of the same color).
2. The pitcher may wear a warm-up jacket when she is a base runner.
3. Metal spikes are not allowed.
4. Jewelry of any kind, and/or barrettes or other decorative items, may not be worn during the game, except for medical alert pendant or bracelets, which must be securely taped to the body. Cloth or elastic headbands may be worn.
5. Any sweatshirts, jackets, etc. for cooler weather must be worn underneath the uniform shirt.

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## IV. EQUIPMENT

1. Catchers must wear all equipment when behind the plate during games and practice sessions. This includes mask, helmet, chest protector and shin guards.

2. All players must wear batting helmets with face masks while at bat, running the bases, or occupying a coach's box during all games and practices.
3. For Rookie level, the home team is responsible for providing two (2) new balls for play. This shall be an 11-inch safety or training ball, optic yellow in color.

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## **V. FIELDS AND WEATHER**

1. The home team will ensure that the field for play is safe and suitable for play.
2. The home team sits on the first base line.
3. Bases at fields for the Intermediate, Junior and Senior divisions should be secure (i.e., the base should not slide out from under a baserunner's foot). Bases at the Rookie division may be of a temporary nature.
4. The following baseline distances will be used for each division:
  - Rookie..... 45 feet
  - Intermediate ..... 60 feet
  - Junior ..... 60 feet
  - Senior..... 60 feet
5. In the event of threatening or inclement weather, both coaches will confer at least 90 minutes before game time and the home team coach makes the final decision. Once a game has begun, any further decision to cancel (rain, darkness, unplayable field, etc.) should be made by the two head coaches.

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## **VI. UMPIRES**

1. For the Rookie division, coaches will serve as umpires for outs in the field. No balls and strikes will be called.

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## **VII. CONDUCT OF PLAYERS, COACHES AND SPECTATORS**

1. Coaches have the responsibility to control both the team and the spectators.
2. Obscene or harassing language used by any player, coach or spectator will not be tolerated. In the absence of an umpire, coaches should contact their town representative/coordinator as soon as possible after the game for follow-up action.
3. Players not playing in a game due to disciplinary action by a coach, or injury, must be announced to an opposing coach before the start of a game.

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## **IIX. RE-SCHEDULING, MAKE-UPS AND PROTESTS**

1. Re-scheduling is to be taken care of before the season begins (black-out dates). There will be no re-scheduling during the season, except for school functions or emergencies. If re-scheduling must take place due to those reasons, the affected team's town coordinator (or delegate) must make arrangements with the opposing team's town coordinator (or delegate) as soon as possible (i.e., prior to game day).
2. Makeup games must be done the Friday, Saturday or Sunday of the week the original games were scheduled, weather permitting. If weather does not allow for the same week, it must be played by the following Sunday. Games postponed during the final week of the regular season must be made up by Sunday of that week.
3. Game protests must be submitted in writing (email is acceptable) to the league representatives/coordinators, who will forward the matter to the head of the league. The representatives/coordinators from the towns not involved in the grievance will make a decision on how to handle the issue and will inform the other two (2) towns when a decision has been made.

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## **IX. PLAY-OFFS**

1. There will be no play-offs for the Rookie division.

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## **X. GAME DURATION, RUN LIMITS AND SURRENDER RULES**

1. All games will start at the time indicated on the schedule provided by the league. A grace period of 15 minutes is allowed. If one team has enough players to begin and the other team does not, then the team with too few players will forfeit. If neither team has enough players to begin, the game will be re-scheduled.
2. A team in the Rookie division must have a minimum of five (5) players to begin the game.
3. Games for Rookie division will be a maximum of six (6) innings and three (3) complete innings will constitute an official game.
4. For Rookie division weekday games (Monday through Friday) that begin at 6:00 p.m., no new inning may begin after 8:00 p.m. However, any inning already in progress as of 8:00 p.m. shall be played to its completion (provided the game is not called on account of darkness or weather). For weekend games (Saturday and Sunday) or those played on holidays, no new inning may begin after 2 hours from the first pitch. However, any inning already in progress as of 2 hours shall be played to its completion (provided the game is not called on account of darkness or weather).

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## XI. GAME PLAY

1. Rookie teams shall Not follow a “three outs – clear the bases” rule for play. For each inning, the team at bat will bat through its roster. After three outs have been registered by the fielding team, the bases will be cleared and the inning will continue with a fresh set of three outs. This cycle will repeat until 10 players have batted once in the inning.
2. An inning shall end at the completion of the final play. There is to be no continuous base running by any players who are left on base, or by the player at bat.
3. Coaches may be positioned on the field during play to instruct the players. They may also be positioned at the bases for instruction. Coaches should not make physical contact with the base runners or fielders.
4. Coaches will pitch to their own players. Balls and strikes will not be called.
5. The players will be allowed six (6) swings at the coach’s pitches. If after six (6) swings the player cannot hit the ball, the coaches will produce a tee and the player will have a maximum of three (3) swings at the ball on the tee. If the player does not hit the ball off the tee in three (3) swings, the player is out.
6. After the third week of the schedule, 2nd grade girls may pitch at the coach’s discretion. Pitchers should pitch from a distance of 35 feet. Pitchers may throw a maximum of three (3) pitches per batter. If the batter does not have a hit after the three pitches, or if the player’s pitches cannot reach the plate, the coach should take over.
7. There is a one-base limit on overthrows.
8. The infield fly rule will not apply for the Rookie division.
9. The dropped third-strike rule will not apply for the Rookie division.
10. Batters should not take practice swings while in the batter’s box.
11. In addition to the pitcher and catcher, a team may have four players in the infield until the ball is hit. If using a short fielder in the outfield, the short fielder must be a minimum of eight (8) feet from the baseline.
12. Leading and stealing are not allowed for the Rookie division.
13. Bunting is not allowed for the Rookie division.