

## BGSL MIDDLE SCHOOL SENIOR RULES 2022

- The current rules of A.S.A are in effect with the following notes or exceptions
- The Middle School Senior Division consists of girls in 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Grades with the possibility for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Middle Schoolers to evaluate to play up into the MSS Division.
- Continuous Batting Order
- Teams will have 1 Manager and a maximum of 3 Assistant Coaches. Only the manager or designee may confer with the opposing manager and Umpires during the game.
- Sisters & Daughters: Sisters will automatically be placed on the same team. Daughters of existing coaches will be placed on the coach's team.
- Games will be played on Sundays and Wednesdays.
- Equipment:
  - Face masks are **mandatory** for Pitchers and 3B and strongly encouraged for other defensive infield positions.
  - We do not allow metal cleats in this division.
  - All batting helmets must have a cage.
- Bat Safety:
  - Batters shall not throw their bat after hitting the ball.
  - Bats must be dropped in a controlled manner. A thrown bat could hit the catcher, the Umpire or any bystander.
  - It is the Umpire's discretion to issue a warning which could include the threat of calling the batter out if actions are not corrected.
- Base Path Length: 60'
- Softball Size: Official USA (ASA) Softball 12 Inch
- Pitching Distance: 43' – If a pitcher is struggling they may take a step or two forward to the agreement of the coaches and umpire.
- Slap Hitting and Bunting are allowed
- Sliding:
  - Sliding is allowed and encouraged to reduce potential collisions at bases as well as teach the girls the fundamentals of proper sliding techniques.
  - Head first dives are allowed only when returning to a base.
- Base Running: When leading/stealing/advancing a base, a base runner may leave when the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.

- Dropped Third Strike: (Halfway thru season)
  - There will be the Dropped Third Strike Rule in the MSS Division
  - If 1st base is unoccupied and the third strike is dropped the batter may attempt to advance to first. The fielders will have a chance to put out the batter at first.
- Regulation Game:
  - Games will consist of 7 innings of play.
  - Must complete a minimum of four and a half innings if the home team is ahead or 5 innings if the visiting team is ahead.
- All players will play a minimum of 3 defensive innings per game.
  - Within the first 3 innings, all players must play one inning in the infield.
- Pitching Innings:
  - There are no limits regarding innings pitched for non-club/tournament pitchers.
  - Coaches should use discretion regarding innings pitched.
  - Tournament pitchers are limited to 4 innings/game.
- Run Rule:
  - The Five Run Rule is in effect for every inning except for the last inning (last inning means the last official regulation inning or a mutually-agreed upon last inning by the coaches and/or Umpire).
  - After the 5<sup>th</sup> run crosses the plate in any half-inning, the side batting will return to the field. The play in progress will continue until its end, however for scoring purposes, a maximum of five runs will be recorded.
- Mercy Rule:
  - If, after a game becomes regulation and a team is leading by 12 or more runs, the game is officially over. The umpire will leave.
  - If the team which has lost wishes to complete the rest of the game, no additional scoring or batting records will be kept by the coaches.
  - The team that is declared the winner will limit its team to one at-bat per girl per inning for the remainder of the game. Innings pitched after a game is declared over will still count.
- Game Timing:
  - No top of an inning will start 1:45 hours after the first pitch of the game.
  - Both coaches will meet with the home plate Umpire before the start of the game and mutually agree on the start time.
  - For games scheduled to start at 6:00, regardless of what day of the week it is, no top of an inning will begin after 8:00.

- \*\*If a game has not reached regulation game status, then the game will be replayed at a later date from the point of suspension.
- Infield Fly Rule:
  - Will be in effect in the MSS Division.
  - An Infield Fly is a fair fly ball (not a line drive or a bunt) that, in the judgment of the Umpire, can be caught by an infielder, pitcher, or catcher with ordinary effort.
  - When there are runners on first and second or first, second and third with zero or one outs.
  - The Umpire calls “Infield Fly”, the batter is out, regardless of whether the ball is caught or dropped. The ball is live and runners already on base may advance at their own risk if the ball is not caught or tag up and advance if it is caught.
- Pitcher Warm Up: Pitcher is allowed 1 minute of warm-ups before each inning
- Look Back Rule:
  - The Look Back Rule is in effect.
  - This rule applies to a base runner between bases when the pitcher is within the pitching circle.
  - According to the ASA Fastpitch Softball rule book, this rule specifies that when the pitcher has control of the ball inside the pitching circle and does not attempt to make a play on any runner, then all runners who are on base must stay on base and any runner not on a base must immediately either advance toward the next base or return to the previous base.
  - Any subsequent change in direction or stop by the runner while off the base will result in the runner being called out, so long as the pitcher does not attempt to make a play.
- Hit Batsmen:
  - There is a limit of 4 batters a pitcher can hit during a game.
  - If they hit 4 batters in a game that pitcher cannot pitch again that game.
  - If they hit 2 in the same inning they must come out for the remainder of that inning, but can return later.
  - It is the responsibility of the Manager to take their pitcher out of the game if the pitcher is wild and injuring opposing batters.
  - The Umpire can remove the pitcher from her position if in his/her opinion she is making no attempts to correct the problem.
- Forfeiture of Game:
  - A game is forfeited if one team is not ready to play within 15 minutes after the scheduled time.
  - Or can only field 7 players

- Misc:
  - This league has a rule preventing anyone (coaches, players and team followers) from harassing any individual player or Umpire verbally or physically.
  - All players and parents have read and signed the Code of Ethics Form from the City of Beverly which prohibits these actions.
  - Chanting in unison against your opponent is not allowed, only chanting for your team is allowed.
  - No fans shall congregate/stand in the back stop area.
- Courtesy Runner:
  - In order to move the games along more quickly, a courtesy runner may be used for the catcher when there are 2 outs.
  - The courtesy runner must be the player on the offensive team that made the last out (this may have occurred in the last inning if there are no outs in the current inning).
- The pitching standard shall be to encourage correct form and adjust where necessary while keeping in mind the goal is to develop pitchers in a positive encouraging environment. If incorrect form is observed during play, the coach shall confer with the opposing coach in between innings. The pitcher's coach shall correct her form before taking the mound once again.
- Field & Dugout Etiquette: Home team shall set up the field according to specifications supplied in the field JoBox. There is no dugout designation; first team to the field chooses the dugout.