

## **LITTLE LADIES DIVISION PLAYING RULES**

The Little Ladies division provides an opportunity for girls Kindergarten to 6 years of age to learn the fundamentals of softball in a fun and relaxing atmosphere. All girls play in every game, regardless of ability; and all girls remain in the batting order throughout the entire game. All players must play at least half of every game. Play time is measured by minutes, not innings. (Example: This division has a time limit of 55 minutes so each player must play at least 27 minutes). Only 10 players are placed on any given team so all will play defense and be put in the lineup.

### **Ball in Play**

Any batted ball must travel a minimum of 15 feet and be a fair ball to be considered in fair playing area and in play. All such balls remain in play until play is stopped as indicated in Dead Ball Rule.

**Outfield Hit.** Any ball hit past the base line is considered to have been hit to the outfield. Any thrown ball from the outfield which goes out of bounds is a dead ball situation and base runners will be entitled to advance one base past the last base safely reached.

**Infield Hit.** Any batted ball that is stopped or caught in front of the base line is considered to have been hit to the infield unless it is fielded by an outfielder. Each base runner may only advance one base for any ball hit to the infield, regardless, of whether or not there is an overthrow. After a play or attempted play by an infielder on a ball hit to the infield the ball becomes dead. Any batter/base runner not removed from a base on the play may advance no more than one base. The base runners are at risk in attempting to advance this base.

### **Base Running**

Base runners must remain in contact with their base until the ball is hit. Once the ball is put into play, base runners may advance at their own risk until the ball becomes dead. Once the ball is in the hand of the player playing the pitcher's position and that player is within the eight-foot circle of the pitcher's plate, the ball becomes dead and all base runners must return to the last base safely reached. Base runners will be removed from the bases for any situation as specified in the ASA rulebook.

### **Batting**

All players will bat each inning (the "all players bat" rule). The batting order remains the same throughout the game. All players may bat only once per inning.

Each batter will be allowed three pitched balls to hit one into fair playing area. If the third pitch is hit into foul ground, they shall be entitled to another pitch. If the batter fails to hit any pitched ball into fair playing area, they shall be permitted a maximum of 3 swings at a ball placed on the tee by their coach.

### **Coaching**

A maximum of two defensive coaches may be on the field at one time. These coaches are required to be positioned in the outfield and may not enter the infield during live play.

One offensive coach will be positioned in the third base coaching box, another in the first base box. These coaches may not touch players during live play. These coaches will also be responsible for umpiring the bases.

Any batted or thrown ball, which strikes the pitching coach is an immediate dead ball. The ball counts as a pitch; the batter is not out. All runners return to their bases. The pitching coach must pitch off of the pitcher's plate so as not to interfere with the player positioned in the pitcher's position and quickly move to the left or right once the ball is hit.

### **Dead Ball**

As used here, dead ball means anytime the play is stopped. Base runners may not advance when the ball is dead. The ball is dead when, after, being batted into fair playing area, the player in the pitching position has the ball in her hand and is within the eight-foot circle of the pitcher's plate (even on the last batter of the inning). All other dead ball situations as identified in the ASA. Rulebook shall also apply.

### **Equipment**

Teams participating in the program will utilize a 10 inch Soft Touch. Only those bats that are ASA approved will be allowed.

### **Field Specifications**

The base distance for the program shall be 50 feet. The distance for the pitching plate shall be 30 feet.

### **Game Time Limits**

The official game shall consist of a full three innings. Maximum of 55 minutes.

### **Infield Fly Rule**

The infield fly rule will not be utilized in the program.

### **Protests**

There are no protests in the division.

### **Scoring**

No scores or standings will be kept in this division. This is a developmental program, which shall stress the instruction of softball skills and the promotion of sportsmanship.

### **Substitutions and Changing Positions**

Defensive players may not change positions during the course of an inning. Once assigned a position at the beginning of the inning, the players must stay in that position for the entire inning.

### **Team Composition**

No games will be forfeited due to the lack of players. If the coaches agree, players may be borrowed from the other team to make up the shortage.

All players will play in the field every inning. These players shall be positioned as follows until the ball is hit and put into play. Catcher, behind home plate; pitcher,

one foot in contact with the pitcher's plate; four infielders, even with or in front of the base line; four outfielders, remaining players positioned 10' behind base path as defensive coach determines.

### **Outs**

There are only two ways to register an out in Little Ladies:  
When a batter hits a fly ball and a defensive player catches it.  
Or  
When a batter puts the ball into play and she is forced out at 1st base.

Due to safety concerns at this age level, physical contact such as tagging of batters or base runners is not acceptable. Due to the "all players bat" rule, we do not keep track of outs. Therefore, the three out rule is not enforced, but, again, when a ball is caught or an out made it 1<sup>st</sup> the offensive player does not remain on the bases.

### **Positions**

All fielders must play in their designated area. Infielders are allowed to move up 5 feet from the base path. They may not play up closer for weak hitters. Pitcher must stay within the pitcher's circle until the ball is put into play. Outfielders must stay beyond the base path as to not interfere with base runners.

### **Batting/Fielding Rotations**

Batting and fielding position rotations should occur continuously throughout the season so that every player plays every position and has been in every spot in the batting order by the conclusion of the season.