

## **UNION COUNTY SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES 2008**

### **1. Mouth Pieces:**

IT IS MANDATORY THAT ALL GIRLS EXCEPT CATCHERS WEAR MOUTHPIECES OR APPROVED PROTECTIVE PITCHERS MASK WHEN THEY ARE IN THE FIELD. NO PLAYER WILL BE ALLOWED TO PLAY WITHOUT ONE.

All players are required to wear protective mask on their batting helmets while hitting and base running.

### **2. Regulation Games:**

All age groups will play 6 innings. Four innings constitute an official game.

(3 ½ if home team is ahead)

### **SLAUGHTER RULE:**

15 runs or more after 3 innings or 2½ *innings* if the home team is winning for 6, 8& under. 10 runs or more after

5 innings or 4½ *inning* if the home team is ahead for all the other age groups.

### **Run Rule**

All age group will have 5 runs per inning rule and 9 run rule limit in the 6th inning.

#### **Exception:**

All runs will be counted on an over the fence homerun even if the total is more than 5 and 9 in the 6th inning.

**Must get to the 6th inning for 9 run rule limit.**

### **3. TIME LIMIT:**

There will be a **1 hour and 30 minutes time limit for ALL AGE GROUPS** A new inning may be started if any time remains in the time limit. If the game is purposely being stalled, the umpire will call strikes until the batter is out. The team with the most runs at the end of the time limit will be declared the winner provided:

**3, a.** After an inning has started it must be played to completion even though the time limit has been surpassed,

**3,b.** If the game is tied after 6 innings or after the time limit. Whole innings will be played until the tie is broken. (International **tie breaker**)

**4. Scheduled Games:** All games must be played as scheduled. All games must begin within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time. Penalty: **Forfeiture of the game.**

#### **Exceptions:**

1. If the home field conditions are hazardous for the players.

2. For school or church functions (only) which take more of the teams players than needed to field a team of 9 players.

**NOTE; The home team must notify the League Commissioner of visiting team as early as possible prior to game time if the field becomes unplayable.**

#### **4,a. Make up Games:**

1. The League Commissioner of the home team and Head Umpire will give a make up date to visiting teams Commissioner.

2. All postponed games will be rescheduled by the League commissioner and the umpire booking agent within *Seven* days of the original game date and time. If either team refuses to reschedule, it will take a forfeit.

### **5. Defensive players**

**5,a.** Defensive players may be substituted as desired.

**5,b.** The pitcher will be allowed to wear a face shield.

**5,c .** The pitcher **MUST** start with both feet on the mound.

5.d. Pitching Rubber: 6,8 and 10 and under 35 ft. All other age groups: 40 ft.

**NOTE; All Pitching Rubbers will be level with ground.**

5.e. **Player runner maliciously and aggressively runs over the catcher at home plate; the player runner will be called out and ejected from the game.**

6. 6 & under: All outfielders must stand 5 ft. or more behind the base path.. All other age group must be 10 ft or behind the base path.

7. **INTENTIONAL WALKS:** There will be no intentional walks in any age group.

#### **8. BATTER RULE:**

**ALL AGE GROUPS: No bat person.**

Each team will bat their entire roster.

**If the batter throws the bat past the catcher there will be one warning per player. If the same player does it a 2 nd time the batter is out.**

9. Batters and base runners must wear batters helmets with earflaps. Batters are **required to wear chin straps on the helmets.** Base runners will be called out if they intentionally throw off their helmets. If the helmet falls off by accident, the runner will not be penalized. Catchers must wear a mask, helmet, chest protector, throat protector and shin guards.

10. Only one manager, two coaches, and the players will be allowed in the dugout or on the player's bench. **Exception:** The official scorekeeper for the team may be allowed in the dugout if desired.

11. The home team will keep the official score book and time. Scorekeepers must identify themselves to each other prior to the game. The home scorekeeper will mark the beginning time in the score book and notify the plate umpire when the time has expired.

12. There will be **NO UNSPORTSMAN LIKE CONDUCT** or profane language permitted at any time on or off the field or in the dugout by either the coaches or the players. Anyone using profanity will be dismissed from the game. In addition, coaches are responsible for the parents and other spectators conduct. One warning will be given by the umpire. If the harassment does not cease, the umpire has the right to declare the game a forfeit against the offending team. Anyone displaying unsportsmanlike conduct will be given one warning. Any further displays of bad conduct will result in having to leave the game.

#### **13. MUST PLAY REQUIREMENTS:**

All players will be placed in the batting order and bat in their assigned order. No player may sit on the bench and not play a defensive position for more than one consecutive innings. Any girl who has violated team and league rules for behavior and practice attendance may be disciplined by not being allowed to play. If this occurs, both the opposing coach and the umpires must be notified prior to the game and the player will not be allowed to participate in that game,

14. No protest on judgment calls by the umpire. His/her decision is final. A protest can only be filed on a rules interpretation. The protest must be filed before the next pitch. At that time the umpires, coaches, and scorekeepers must be notified. The home team scorekeeper will note in the score book the time, batter, pitch count, pitcher, runners aboard, and the umpires' name at the time of the protest. The coach filing the protest must notify his/her Association's commissioner in writing the details of the protest within 48 hours after the protest for the protest to be valid. At that time the board of commissioners will set a hearing date to hear the protest. All coaches and umpires involved will be required to attend the protest hearing. An umpire may not involve any disciplinary action on a coach filing a protest. He will document the protest as required above and proceed with the game.

**15. INFIELD FLY RULE: 15. INFIELD FLY RULE:** There will be no infields fly rule in the 6,8 and 10 under age group. The infield fly rule will be in effect for all other age groups.

**16. Birth Certificates** (or League Player Cards) must be kept by the respective League Board to be used in case of dispute. **There will be no discussion between coaches or parents concerning player's eligibility during the game,** A formal protest should be lodged and brought to the attention of the respective League commissioners within a seven day period. Incidents will be discussed privately among League commissioners to determine the outcome.

**17.** Final rosters must be submitted two weeks before season starts to the Union County VP of Board. League Commissioners will be responsible for keeping the rosters in case of dispute. Names may not be added to the rosters after Season starts unless approved by the board of Union County Commissioners.

**17a.** All rosters must include the player's full name, birth date and must be signed by the head coach and the league commissioner. League Commissioners will turn in the signed rosters to the UCSL Board. If it is learned that a player's age is not correct the team will forfeit all games played and the player will be removed from the roster immediately.

**18.** No pull up players unless needed to field a team and only enough to make 9 players except for 6, 8 and 10U they can have 10. 6U can pull from another team to as long as it is 6U and the player is on a roster, all other age groups have to pull up from a younger team and the player has to be on a roster.

**19.** 6, 8 & under are not allowed to steal or play off base until the ball is batted. All other age groups can leave when the ball leaves the pitchers hand.

**20. INJURED PLAYER:** If a player is hurt or injured. The other coach and score keeper must be notified. Once a player has left the game, she is removed from the batting order and may not return. No outs will be counted for her not being in the line-up. Exceptions 1.Ejection from game. 2.If a player refuses to bat due to illness her bat will be recorded as an out.

**21.** The Catcher and Pitcher Substitution rule is in effect. If the catcher/pitcher is on base she may be replaced by the person who made the last out at anytime.

**22. BALL REQUIREMENTS:**

- A. 12, 14, 16, 18 & UNDER 12" 47 CORE
- B. 10 & UNDER: 11" 47 CORE
- C. 8 & UNDER: 11" 47 CORE (smooth seam)
- D. 6 & UNDER: 10" 47 CORE (smooth seam)

**23.** Each Team will be responsible for its gear and for clean up of there trash after the game.

**24. Number of players required to start a game:**

**24, a.** All age groups may start with 8 players/ Players may enter the game defensively upon arrival She may not enter the game offensively until the beginning of an inning. At that time she may be entered as the last batter in the line up. If there is no 9 th batter in the line up that position will be recorded as an out.

**24, b.** 6&8, 10, Can play 10 players. All other age groups play 9 players.

**25. Base Dimensions:** All age groups: 60 ft Bases.

**26.** Final scores and pitching logs should be reported by the home team to the appropriate commissioner.

**27.** Umpires must be Babe Ruth certified. 8 under will have only one umpire. All other age groups will have 2 umpires. **If one umpire does not show, the single umpire may call the game if both coaches agree.** We need 2 umpires in 10U

**28. ALL PLAYERS MUST LIVE WITH IN THE BOUNDARIES IDENTIFIED BY THE BOARD OF UCSSL.**

### **29. Age Eligibility**

#### **Age Division Birthday (or later)**

6& Under Age as of 12/31/previous year is what she plays

8& Under Age as of 12/31/previous year is what she plays

10& Under Age as of 12/31/previous year is what she plays

12& Under Age as of 12/31/previous year is what she plays

14 & Under Age as of 12/31/previous year is what she plays

18 & Under Age as of 12/31/previous year is what she plays

**30. Pitch Rule for all Leagues:** If a Pitcher pitches more than 4 innings in one game they cannot pitch the next game regardless of when the next game occurs. There is no weekly restriction on innings pitched.

### **31. Age Specific Rules**

#### **6U:**

##### **THE FIELD**

. A circle approximately 12' in diameter and 35' from homeplate will be centered on the field.

. Half way between first and second base and half way between second base and third base a two to three foot long mark will be chalked.

. A semicircle

extending from foul line to foul line will be chalked approximately 8'

in front of home plate. Any ball not crossing this line will be considered a foul ball.

. A normal size batters box will be chalked on both sides of home plate.

. There will be one defensive coach allowed in the outfield behind the outfield defensive players.

##### **THE PITCHER**

. Must wear an approved face mask helmet.

. The pitcher may not tag any base on any live ball not previously touched by another fielder in an effort to create a force out. If another fielder touches the ball first the pitcher may tag any base and record a force out.

. The pitcher may tag home plate or a runner attempting to reach home plate at any time.

. The pitcher may tag first base or a runner attempting to reach first base if the pitcher fields the ball near the baseline and properly tags the base or runner. This will be called by the umpire as an out if in his or her opinion the pitcher was not "chasing" the runner.

. The pitcher may not leave the circle until the batter has hit the ball. If in the umpires opinion the batter was thrown out as a result of the pitcher leaving the circle early the batter will be awarded first base.

. Play will stop when the ball is held with possession inside the pitchers circle by any defensive player.

. Play will stop when the lead runner stops on a base. Time will be called at the discretion of the umpire.

## **THE HITTER**

- . The hitting coach cannot draw lines for the batter to place their feet in an effort to get the batter to hit the ball to a specific area of the field.
- . The hitting coach cannot touch the batter once they are in the batters box. They must remain against the fence. If the hitter is having trouble hitting the ball the umpire will provide assistance to the hitter.
- . Verbal instructions to the hitter will be allowed and is encouraged.
- . If after two strikes have been recorded the hitter misses the ball and or the tee this will be recorded as an out. If on the third strike the batter hits the tee stand this will be considered a foul ball.
- . All bats must say approved TBall on them. The markings must be clear to read and placed on the bat by the manufacturer.
- . Bunting is not permitted.
- . If in the umpires discretion the hitter loses control of the bat and “slings” it First Offense is a warning Second Offense is an out.

## **8U:**

- . A circle approximately 12' in diameter and 35' from homeplate will be centered on the field. Pitchers must have at least 1 foot inside the circle to begin play.
- . Pitchers must be behind the front and to the right or left of the pitching machine.
- . Pitching machine will be used. Jugs Softball pitching machine or Louisville Blue Flame are examples. Other machine must be approved by the Union County League.
- . If no Pitching machine is available or breaks the game may be finished with coach pitch.
- . The Machine shall be set for 28mph or as close as possible and 35ft from home plate ( setting for Louisville Blue Flame can be found on Chart listed on machine : setting is 3,3).
- . Each team will be responsible for having a pitching coach to pitch to there own players.
- . While inside the pitching circle coaches are not allowed to instruct batters. If outside the circle instruction is permitted on a limited basis.
- . Pitching coaches will begin the pitching procedure by pointing at the batter and executing the pitch. There may be no voice commands.
- . A batter may receive a total of no more than 5 pitches per bat. The batter will be out unless the 5th pitch is put into play or foul tipped.
- . If the ball is batted and hits the pitching machine or coach the ball is dead and the batter receives 1st base. All other players advance one base.
- . Thrown balls that hit the pitching machine are live balls.
- . On a batted ball if there is an attempt to throw the player out at 1st Base and only 1st base, the player may advance 1 base at her own risk but no further than 2nd base, there is no restriction on any other runners.
- . When runners make no attempt to advance their position immediately time will be called.
- One coach is allowed in the field for defensive instruction during the fall season.
- Coaches are not allowed in the field during the Spring Season. Coaches may instruct their team within reasonable vicinity of their dugout.

## **10U**

- . All Girl Pitch
  - . There is no stealing of home at anytime.
  - . There will be only one base awarded per steal attempt.
- All other rules that are not covered by **UNION COUNTY SOFTBALL LEAGUE**