

ORILLIA GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

PLAYING RULES

1. **ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE REGISTERED PRIOR TO TAKING PART IN ANY ORILLIA GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE SANCTIONED EVENT.** Absolutely NO unregistered participants are allowed to be on the diamond with the team. Our insurance policy will NOT cover any girl on the diamond if an unregistered player is playing. Please ask those unregistered players to join the league and then they are more than welcome to play. Coaches and helpers are exempt from this rule.
2. **FAIR PLAY** - The Orillia Girls Softball league is strictly a house league system and as such, coach's emphasis must be on the fair play of all participants.
 - a) Emphasis is to be on maximum participation with equal playing time for all players. Coaches must change player's positions where appropriate, so as to create a variety of play and to encourage and provide fun for all players.
 - b) Fair rotation of all players between infield and outfield positions in EVERY GAME is expected.
 - c) Please remember this is a house league system and the main goal of the league is to ensure that all participants HAVE FUN.
3. **PLAYER REQUESTS and TEAM BALANCING**
 - a) Player requests to play with a friend or a particular coach will not be guaranteed and in most cases will not be honoured. Due to the number of requests it has become almost impossible to have balanced teams.
 - b) If possible, requests for siblings to play on the same team or coach's children will be honoured.
 - c) Our aim is to have all teams balanced and equal from the beginning of the season. However, if needed teams may be balanced by the league coordinator prior to picture day.
4. **PLAYER MINIMUMS**
 - a) Please remember that the intent of the league is to have the girls playing ball games so no minimum amount of players will be required to play a regular season game.
 - b) On the Day of Champions, teams must field a minimum of 7 players.
5. **TEMPORARY MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS**
 - a) In all regular season games if a team has less than 10 players present at a game they may borrow a player from the opposing team or any other team in the same age group.
 - b) Under NO circumstances may unregistered players be used as temporary players.
6. The home team will be responsible for installing and putting the bases away. The home team is also responsible for providing the game ball.
7. **GAME REPORTS**

Both teams will be responsible for completing and submitting their game report to the league coordinator, no later than Monday at noon of the same week. We would like to submit the scores to the local newspapers so that the girls can read their names in the paper every Tuesday or Wednesday.
8. All **INTERMEDIATE/SENIOR** division games will be played using SPN rules, unless otherwise stated.
9. **BATTING ORDER**
 - a) A standardized batting order will be implemented and used by all teams. This means that all the players will bat before the leadoff batter bats again.
10. **DEFENSIVE POSITIONS**
 - a) Teams will be allowed to field ten (10) players at a time on the field
 - b) Four players must be positioned on the outfield grass.
 - c) **JUNIOR & INTERMEDIATE ONLY:** Except for in extenuating situations, a player may not play the same defensive position for more than two (2) innings per game **(pitchers are exempt from this rule)**
 - d) Teams may (if they wish) employ one (1) defensive coach ONLY, up to the end of June. The defensive coach must stay on the outfield grass and must not interfere with the play of the game. The reason for allowing this coach is to help the girls learn their defensive positions.
11. **GAME DURATION**

All games will be a full 7 innings in length with no new inning to start after one (1) hour.

12. MERCY RULE (All Divisions)

- a) A maximum of 6 runs per inning may be scored by any team. The last inning will be considered open with no maximum runs allowed.
- b) The mercy rule (12 runs) is in effect after five or more complete innings (or four and a half innings, if the home team has scored the 12 runs to mercy). The mercy rule applies after 4-1/2, 5, 5-1/2, 6, etc. The home team must have as many opportunities to bat (to tie or win the game) as the visiting team. In any inning where the mercy rule applies, a team is allowed to score enough runs to bring them inside the run spread. (Example: A team that trails by 18 runs in the 5th inning will be allowed to score up to 7 runs to get inside the 12 run rule.)

13. RAIN OUTS and/or CANCELLED GAMES

- a) The **league coordinator** will make the decision about canceling games prior to the scheduled start time of the game.
- b) Once the game has started, the umpire will make the final decision about canceling the game. In the junior division the 2 coaches will jointly make the decision to cancel.
- c) When games need to be canceled in advance, the league coordinator will try to make the decision as early as possible before the scheduled start time of the game so that the coach will have enough time to contact all their players. However, there may be times that the rain-out decision has to be made at the last moment.
- d) The league coordinator will try and get all canceled games rescheduled within three (3) weeks of the original date of the game.
- e) The league coordinator may cancel scheduled practices in order to get canceled games rescheduled.

14. PITCHING RULES

- a) Pitchers may not pitch from a distance closer than 35 feet; however they may pitch from a **further** distance if desired.
- b) The pitcher must pitch the ball with a perceptible arc that is at least **5 feet** off the ground.
- c) The pitched ball will be called a strike if it makes **contact anywhere on either the mat or plate**, or if the batter swings at the pitch and misses, or if the batter hits the ball foul and it is not caught.

15. BATTING RULES

- a) Bunting is not allowed. Any attempts to, or actual bunts will be automatic outs.
- b) The batter will be declared out if the ball is hit foul on a third strike.

16. BAYVIEW DIAMOND – Ground Rule Double

- a) Any ball that carries the gap in the outfield where there is no wall will be considered a home run
- b) Any ball that bounces at least once past the outfield fence where there is no wall will be considered a ground rule double