



## HUMBLE GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE LEAGUE RULES

### 10 & UNDER DIVISION

#### RULE I: THE PLAYING FIELD

1. The distance from the back corner of home plate to the front of the pitcher's mound shall be Thirty Five (35) feet.
2. Distance between bases shall be sixty (60) feet.
3. Pitchers circle shall be a radius of an eight (8) foot circle per ASA rules.
4. Coaching boxes per ASA rules - The coach's box is behind a line fifteen (15) feet long drawn outside the diamond. The line is parallel to and eight (8) feet from the first and third baselines, extending from the bases toward home plate.

#### RULE II: PLAYERS, SUBSTITUTES, COACHES, PITCHERS

1. All teams will consist of nine (9) players plus an additional 10th person outfield rover. A team shall consist of a minimum of eight (8) players. A maximum of two (2) players from the immediate lower or same division, or combination of both, may be used to prevent forfeiture and to field **nine players**.
  - a. Example: Team with only seven (7) players may call up a maximum of two (2) players; a team with eight (8) players could play without forfeiture but may call up a maximum of one (1) player.
  - b. **NOTE:** Any player called up must play the game in its entirety, cannot be used for purpose of pitching, must play in the outfield and will bat at the bottom of the batting order. The batting order of each team must list all team members present prior to starting the game. Players not present at the start of the game shall be listed at the bottom of the batting order. The plate umpire shall submit the batting order for inspection to the head coach or assistant coach of the opposing team. The continuous batting order must be followed throughout the game. Batters one (1) through nine (9) will bat in order as usual.
2. If at the umpire's discretion an obvious injury / illness occurs during the course of the game, no penalty will be assessed against the offensive team due to a player's failure to appear at the plate.
3. As not to penalize teams for item number one (1) above, there will be NO forfeits for illegal defensive substitutions. In effect, this allows free substitutions on defense: however, all girls MUST stay in the same batting order throughout the game. If a player is found batting out of order by the defensive team, she may be called out. (See ASA Rule 7, Section 2C through 2E).
4. No player will be permitted to pitch more than three (3) innings in any single game. A pitcher will be charged with one complete inning each time she takes her position on the pitching rubber.
  - a. **NOTE:** If a pitcher is pulled and put back into pitch during the same inning, she will only be charged with one inning. (This will only be allowed once per inning.) Penalty for violation of this section will be a forfeiture of the game. It is the responsibility of the official scorekeeper to obtain signatures of the umpire and the head coach of each team in ink in the official scorekeeper's book, immediately after the game.
5. The coach pitcher will pitch from the pitching rubber.

#### RULE III: THE EQUIPMENT

1. Pitchers shall use an ASA sanctioned twelve (12) inch softball provided by the league.
2. The ASA rule governing the official softball bats shall apply. No altered bats will be allowed.
3. All players at the catching position in both practices and games will wear catching protective equipment provided by the league or approved personal catching gear. NOTE: This includes warming up pitchers.
4. All offensive players in the field of play as prescribed by ASA **shall wear a helmet with a NOCSAE face guard and a CHIN STRAP at all times.** Subject to the umpire's discretion, if the ball is in play and players do not have a helmet on, the batter could be called out. Also, if a player removes her helmet during a live ball situation before reaching the dugout she could be called out.



5. Uniforms - League issued uniforms must be worn during the games. Shirts must be tucked inside the shorts. For safety reasons, jewelry (earrings, necklaces, rings, etc.) is prohibited during games. The game umpire has final authority regarding jewelry, casts and / or splints. Violators of the rule will not be allowed in the game. Forfeiture for lack of eight (8) players could be affected.

#### RULE IV: THE GAME

1. No new inning shall be started after one (1) hour and fifteen (15) minutes playing time. In the event of a tie, the International Tie Breaker rule is in effect, and one (1) additional inning will be played. If the game is still tied, it will be recorded as a tied game and will count in the standings as 1/2 win and 1/2 loss for each team. All innings will be completed at the end of regulation time, unless the home team is batting and ahead of the visiting team.
2. The game time is schedule time or immediately upon completion of the previous game, should the previous game be delayed.
3. A game suspended by the umpire (including incimate weather) shall be regulation if two (2) or more complete innings or a minimum of 45 minutes of game time has been played. A called regulation tie game shall be recorded as ½ win and ½ loss. Context of rule ASA Rule 5, section 3C and 3D, except as amended, remains in effect.
4. Home team will supply the official scorekeeper and mark the field prior to play.
5. Visiting team will supply score board operator, put away bases & rake divots after the game.
6. **Both teams, coaches, parents, players, and participants are responsible for cleaning their own dugout, bleachers and surrounding areas after each game.**
7. Failure to complete any of the above listed items (4-6) may result in forfeiture of one (1) win.
8. Protest - A \$100.00 check, payable to the Humble Girls Softball League, must be submitted with the full written protest within forty-eight (48) hours of the game being protested to the Division Director. If the protest is upheld, the check will be returned. If the protest is denied, the check will be deposited into the HGSL general fund. At the time of the protest (during the game) the umpire, official scorekeeper and a board member on duty must be notified at that time so as to mark the official scorebook correctly with the state of the game (pitch counts, runs, base runners, etc.). The Umpire & both coaches must sign the scorebook in ink to agree to the state of the game.

**NOTE:** Umpire judgment call cannot be protested. Judgment calls include, but not limited to; runner out or safe, ball or strike, fair or foul, legal or illegal pitch, did or did not touch base, did or did not leave the base too soon on fly ball, was fly ball caught legally or illegally, playing field safe or not safe and any other matter involving only the accuracy of the umpires judgment.

9. Rescheduling a game - Only applicable if one of the following occurs:
  - 🌸 Teams having seven (7) or less players due to a school function. A list with players' names and the type of school function must be submitted to the divisional manager of the affected age group 48 hrs prior to that affected date.
  - 🌸 Weather.
10. Teams will only be allowed two (2) minutes in between innings. If your catcher is not on deck or on base, please have her equipped for the catcher's position when two (2) outs have been made. Umpires will start counting when all defensive players have left the field.

#### RULE V: THE PLAY

1. The infield fly rule will **not** apply.
2. Dropped third strike rule will not apply.
3. Designated Adult Pitcher
  - a. A player shall be called out after three (3) strikes (called or swinging)
  - b. There will be no walks in this division. In the event that the batter receives four (4) balls, a designated adult representing the batter's team will be allowed one (1) warm-up per inning. He / She then will be allowed to finish the count remaining to the batter. A maximum of three (3) pitches allowed unless the batter fouls off the last pitch. EXAMPLE: Susie has 4 balls and 1 strike. The coach is allowed to pitch



Susie 2 pitches. If the batter swings at the ball and hits it into fair territory, then the ball is in play and subject to normal rules. The only exception to a ball hit into fair territory is that if the ball strikes the designated adult pitcher, then the ball will be declared dead and the batter awarded first base. The catcher must remain in the squatting position in the catcher's box during coach pitch.

- c. If a pitch thrown by the designated adult pitcher should accidentally hit the batter, the pitch will be declared a strike.
  - d. The designated adult pitcher is prohibited from doing any verbal coaching while on the field of play. One warning is given, thereafter the ball is dead and the runner closest to home is declared out.
1. The coach pitcher will try to avoid interfering with the play after the ball has been hit, by moving to foul ball territory away from the play. If in the judgment of the umpire, the coach pitcher intentionally interferes with the play:
    - 👉 The ball is declared dead.
    - 👉 The batter is awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base.
    - 👉 All other base runners will advance one base, only if forced by the award of 1<sup>st</sup> base to the batter.
    - 👉 The batting team is given an out.
  2. No teams will be allowed to score because of coach pitchers intentional interference, should a run be forced home, and then that runner will be the out mentioned in Rule 4 Section F.
  3. If in the judgment of the umpire, the interference was unintentional:
    - 👉 Dead ball
    - 👉 No out will be charged
    - 👉 Forced run may score
      - a. No base runner is allowed to leave early when the designated coach pitcher is pitching the ball. The runner must wait until the ball is hit into play or the ball has crossed the plate.
      - b. Stealing second or third base while the designated adult pitcher is pitching is not permitted.
      - c. In the event of a wild pitch thrown by the designated adult pitcher, base runners may not advance.
      - d. IF A COACH ROLLS THE BALL TO THE BATTER, IT WILL BE CALLED A STRIKE AND THE COACH WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE GAME.
      - e. Defensive Players - There will be a maximum of six (6) infielders. All other players will play on the outfield grass.
      - f. All players are required to play at least one defensive inning. (3 consecutive outs or 5 runs scored by the other team.)
      - g. Bunting is not allowed while the designated adult pitcher is pitching. Doing so will result in the ball ruled dead and the batter called out.
  4. The pitch shall not be delivered with a perceptible arc greater than six (6) feet from the ground, unless, in the opinion of the umpire, the pitch was a definite change up. Effect: Illegal pitch (ASA rule for illegal pitch to be in effect). Pitching violations will be called if it becomes clear that the pitcher is making no attempt to follow ASA pitching regulations and is gaining an advantage by doing so.
  5. If a pitcher hit three (3) batters in an inning, she must be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of that inning. She may return to the pitcher position the next inning. If a pitcher hits a total of 5 batters in a game, she is removed from the pitching position for the remainder of that game. Though removed for the pitching position, she may continue to play at any other position.
  6. If a batter gets hit by a pitched ball that hits the ground outside of or in front of the batters box, the player is not awarded first base. The ball is declared dead and a ball is scored on the batter. All runners must return back to any base they may have advanced from.
  7. No more than five (5) runs may be scored per inning. A ten (10) run lead at the end of four (4) innings or the end of any inning thereafter constitutes a ball game.
  8. Passed/dropped Ball: Runners at first and second base may advance at their own risk. A runner on third base shall not advance to home plate on a passed ball by the catcher or a wild pitch. A runner may advance from third



HUMBLE  
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[www.humblesoftball.com](http://www.humblesoftball.com)

2310 Atascocita Rd.  
PO Box 1225  
Humble, Texas 77347  
Phone: 281.319.2964  
Rainout Line: 281.319.3424  
info@humblesoftball.com

base to home plate only on one of two (2) ways:

- a. Ball hit by the batter
  - b. A sacrifice fly ball, the base runner tags third (3rd) base and then runs home.
  - c. Any girl attempting to advance to home plate illegally may be in jeopardy of being put out. In the event the runner reaches home safely she will be returned to 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
9. **NO TOBACCO OF ANY KIND IS ALLOWED ON PLAYING FIELDS - Any participant in violation of this rule is subject to ejection from the game.**
10. Any coach, player or participate that is ejected from any game shall also be subject to being suspended from the next scheduled game upon the decision of the Board of Directors.

The Humble Girls Softball League Board of Directors has adopted the current official ASA playing rules including the amendment of specific rules, or portions thereof as listed herein.

Doug Thistle  
President-HGSL Board of Directors

Date: 12/20/09