2025 STSRL 8U Softball Rules Revised: 4/15/2024

Game Limits SMALL TOWN SUMMER REC LEAGUE

- 1. An official game will be 6 innings maximum with no extra innings except for tournament games
- 2. There will be no maximum number of runs scored in a game
- 3. There will be a one hour and thirty minute time limit. If time is reached in the middle of an inning the game will end with the last complete inning. Finished inning may end in a tie.
- 4. If both coaches agree that a rainout or other game postponement is necessary, then the home team's coach must communicate with other coach and field schedulers to coordinate a date and field to make up the game.

Lineup and Playing Time

- 1. The defensive team will play a maximum of 10 players on the field at one time.
- 2. Every player must play at least 1 inning in the infield within the first 4 innings. All infield positions must be filled (P,C,1B,2B,SS,3B) Outfielders must play at least 20 Feet behind the bases.
- 3. Every player present must play a minimum of every other inning on defense. If this is pointed out during the game, the offending team must forfeit the game.
- 4. Teams will bat every player present in the batting order.
- 5. A half-inning ends when three outs or ten batters, whichever comes first.
- 6. Players can be called up from a lower division when a team is short players, but can not play the infield ahead of a regular player and will bat last in the order. Player must be on a current rec roster of that season. (If a player is needed please contact a league commissioner for assistance) –NO TRAVEL PLAYERS (unless on the rec roster and playing both rec/travel)

Field Dimensions

- 1. Bases: 60 feet apart
- 2. Pitchers rubber: 30 feet from home plate
- 3. Softball: 11"

Game Rules

- 1. No bunting will be allowed
- 2. Infield fly rule will not be called
- 3. Batter cannot advance on a dropped third strike
- 4. Pitchers must be 30 feet from home plate and use an underhand pitch.
- 5. Although the offensive team's coach will pitch, one player from the defensive team will be designated to field the pitcher's position. This player will be positioned to either side and behind the pitching rubber until the ball is hit.
- 6. Balls and Strikes are not called. Three swinging strikes or five pitches (whichever comes first) is a strikeout except on a foul ball not caught on the last pitch. Team batting will keep track of pitch count and can let the batter know when they are approaching their last pitches in that at-bat.
- 7. On an overthrow to first base, runners may advance to the next base. Runners may not advance past third base on an overthrow.
- 8. On a well hit ball beyond the outfielders, the hitter and base runners may continue to advance on the bases until the ball has been returned to the infield (within the baselines). Base runners will be allowed to continue to the base that they were headed to but advance no further once the ball is in the field or if it passed through the 1st or 3rd base lines in the infield on an overthrow. The runner needs to be 1/2 way in order to be awarded the next base.
- 9. No Leadoffs or stealing bases will be allowed. Runners must remain in contact with the base until the pitched ball crosses the plate.
- 10. The defensive team can have two coaches on the playing field to instruct the defense as well as serve as umpires and one behind the catcher by the backstop.
- 11. Batters must not throw the bat. One warning per game by her offensive coach. Penalty for the second violation is that the batter is out and no runners are allowed to advance.
- 12. Courtesy runner is allowed in all divisions (must be last batted out for the pitcher or catcher only).
- 13. Home team is responsible for game balls
- 14. All teams must email the roster (last name and first letter of first name J.Smith) at the time they send in team numbers. This must be done by the end of May each season. Any roster changes, the added player must appear on a league roster from that season.

Safety

- 1. Batters and base runners must wear protective headgear during live ball.
- 2. No metal spikes or cleats of any kind will be permitted.
- 3. Players will be encouraged to slide or avoid contact when being played upon at a base and remain in the base path. Intentionally causing contact or mowing down players will not be tolerated. Players will be called out with no warnings and removed from the game if a second offense occurs.
- 4. If the onset of severe weather occurs, the coaches will call the game. Please take this seriously and err on the side of extreme caution. If lightning or thunder occurs, the game must be postponed at least for 30 minutes after the last sighting of lightning or hearing of thunder. Postponements should not exceed one hour, if so then the game should be called.
- 5. All infield players must wear a fielders mask while playing. (added 2022)

Competition, Special Tournament Rules, and Awards

- 1. While scores will not be kept on the regular season games, a scorebook can be kept by the coach to keep track of batting sequence. Division Standings also will not be kept, nor used for tournament seedings.
- 2. Score will be kept during the Tournament. Tournament will be double elimination and bracket seedings will be randomly drawn.
- 3. A half-inning ends with three outs or ten batters, whichever comes first. There is no batter limit from the 5th inning on, you need to get three outs.
- 4. Innings started will be completed regardless of time limit. The Championship Game will be played in its entirety no time limit.
- 5. Maximum of only two games scheduled per day per team in the tournament bracket.
- 6. Individual player awards will be given out for first and second place in the tournament
- 7. Speed up rule applies-one foot must stay in the batter's box. One warning per team will be given.
- **8.** Any roster changes, the added player must appear on a league roster from that season.
- 9. The championship game will be one and done and not based on wins or loses. No Time Limit for the Championship game.
- **10**. Teams playing in tournaments must submit a \$25 fee to play in said tournament. Tournament host will contact league directors for payment.