

# Diocesan Softball Rules

USA fastpitch softball rules will be used.

Any jewelry that is deemed dangerous by the umpire must be removed.

## 1) **Base Running:** (First Base must be double base)

- A) Runner on third base cannot steal home, come home on a passed ball or come home as a result of another runner being played on.
- B) All runners must be batted, walked or awarded home.
- C) The dropped third strike rule will not be in effect.
- D) The infield fly will be in effect.
- E) No stealing if up by 10 runs.

## 2) **Pitching**

- A) The pitching rubber will be at 40 feet.

## 3) **Line-Up**

- A) Nine players may play in the field at any time however a game may start with only eight. Should the ninth player arrive, they may be added at the end of the line-up.
- B) Teams may use up to 15 players in the batting order. Batter must bat in the original batting order. "Batting the Bench."
- C) If not "batting the bench," we will be using the standard re-entry rule: Any starter can re-enter the game once after being taken out, but can only re-enter in the same spot in the batting order. Substitutes can re-enter once.

## 4) **Speed Up Rule**

- A) Catchers may be replaced as base runners with one out, so that they can put their equipment on.
- B) The catchers substitute runner will be the player that made the last out.

## 5) **Batter Rule**

- A) After 10 batters have batted in any one inning, teams will change sides.

**Note: If the 10<sup>th</sup> batter is walked and all bases are occupied, the runner on 3<sup>rd</sup> scores and the inning is over. If all bases are occupied and the 10<sup>th</sup> batter is hit by a pitch and, in the umpire's judgment, the hitter did attempt to avoid the pitch or did not intentionally "move into the pitch," the runner on 3<sup>rd</sup> scores and the inning is over. (This rule does not apply in the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> innings.**

- B) If "batting the bench" and if player is injured, no out will be taken for the injured player.

## 6) **Coaching**

- A) There will be one visit or conference allowed in an inning. On the second visit the pitcher must be removed.
- B) The pitching position is treated the same as any other position in terms of substitution and defensive rotation when on the field, with one exception: Regardless of whether or not the pitcher is taken off the field or moved to another defensive position, after the first pitch of the inning is thrown the pitcher cannot return to the pitching position during that inning.

C) The winning team must report the score to the Division Coordinator after each game.

7) **Safety**

- A) All helmets MUST have face guards.
- B) Catcher helmets must have double earflaps.
- C) Helmets and all other protective equipment required in the rulebook must be worn. All offensive players (batter, base runners and on-deck batter) and players acting as coaches must wear batting helmet. Catchers must wear a mask with throat protector, helmet, shin guards with protection to kneecaps and body protector. Any player warming up – the pitcher must wear a mask with throat protector. Pitchers must wear a helmet when warming up.

8) **Games**

- A) Varsity Games will be 7 innings. A complete official game is 4 innings or 3.5 innings if the home team is ahead. Umpire will call the game due to darkness, rain, thunder or lightning or if the length of the game conflicts with another leagues scheduled use of the diamond.
- B) If the game is not official it will be suspended and resume at a later date.
- C) Mercy rule is 10 runs after 5 innings.
- D) No inning will start after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the game start time. Umpires will advise each team of the official start time. Score keepers should take note of the start time. If the last inning takes too long and the game has to be called, then the score must revert back to the last full inning completed.
- E) Games will start promptly at the scheduled start time. However, there will be a 15 minute grace period for a team arriving late. If after the grace period the late team is not ready to start the game, they will forfeit.