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MINOR GIRLS (9-10) RULES

Minor Girls League Tourney-Fulton June 29th
All Star Tournament Erie-Prophetstown July 13th-14th

All IHSA softball rules will apply with the following exceptions or additions:

GAME TIMES:

1. Game shall consist of six innings as time allows. No new inning can start after 90 minutes of play unless both coaches / host town agrees. Umpire is the official time keeper and announces game start time at beginning of game.
2. Game is considered complete after 4 innings of play.
3. Game suspended for rain or other uncontrollable circumstance, before being a complete game, will be picked up where left off, at a rescheduled time agreeable to both coaches and host town. Only the umpire or host town may officially suspend play of the game.
4. 12 run rule after 3, 10 run rule after 4 and 8 run rule after 5 applies.

TEAMS

1. A team must field 7 players to start the game. When playing with 7 players, the team will give up 2 outs when batting through the line-up. When playing with 8 players, the team will give up 1 out when batting through the line-up. The outs must be declared where in the batting order before the start of the game. If 7 players do not show up, it is a forfeit, but the game can still be played.
2. The team will consist of 10 players on the field (4 outfielders must play in outfield grass or 15' beyond baselines.) All team members will be in the batting order. The batting order must remain the same once the game has started, except for an injured player. If an injured player misses his spot in the batting order, it does not constitute an out (unless team has 9 players or less), however the player cannot play the rest of the game.
3. Can play with 9 players without taking an out.
4. Each player must play the field at least twice and bat once per game. (if a game is terminated by the 12 run rule then every attempt should be made to accommodate this rule.)
5. Except for disciplinary reasons, no player may be substituted for or made to ride the bench while another player from a lower league plays.
6. Players eligible to substitute are younger aged league players
7. Free substitution in the field.

GROUND RULES:

1. Attempt to have field 180' or more. Bases will be 60'. Pitching distance will be 35'.
2. A pitcher may pitch a maximum 3 innings per game. One pitch constitutes an inning. A 9 year old who is also a FIRST YEAR PLAYER in this league, must pitch one complete inning (3 outs or 5 runs) within the first four innings of a game and it must be completed within one complete inning.
3. Pitchers – The back foot must remain in contact with or may push off and drag away from the pitching mound. The foot must remain in contact with the ground.
4. After 4 walks by the pitcher – successive or throughout the inning- a coach will be inserted to finish the inning where coach pitch rules apply- 8 pitches. 3 swinging strikes, no walks, foul on 3rd strike continue until a 3rd swinging strike.

5. Players are not allowed to steal when a coach comes in to pitch; defensive players should throw to their teammate at the pitching position in the circle when the coach is inserted to pitch.
6. An 11” softball will be used.
7. Any inning will be considered complete when either 3 outs have been made or 5 runs have been scored by the team at bat. The play is over when the 5th run crosses the plate unless an out of the park homerun is hit then all runs count.
8. Bunting is allowed.
9. Dropped third strike rule does not apply.
10. Infield fly rule will apply.
11. Batters and runners must wear helmets from the time they leave the dugout until they return to it. The first offense will result in a team warning. Each offense after that will count as an out against the team. Players losing their helmets during a play will need to get their helmets back on prior to the next pitch.
****All players must have face masks on their batting helmets****
12. Catchers must use catcher’s masks, chest protectors, and shin guards. Masks must be worn during pitcher warm up.
13. A pitcher may re-enter the game as a pitcher one time later in the game.
14. A batter will be warned once for throwing her bat and will be called out the second time she throws it.
15. Stealing will be allowed- live plate the whole season. The runner may not leave until the BALL CROSSES THE PLATE. If a base runner leaves base too soon: 1) the umpire shall warn the coach on the first infraction; and, 2) the runner is called out after the second infraction by the team.
16. A circle around the pitcher’s mound will be used, 16’ in diameter. No delayed stealing is allowed. Once the runner(s) has stopped forward progress, advancement is no longer possible and the runner(s) must return to their base(s).
17. **The runner on third base must return to third if she stops forward progress once the catcher has the ball at home plate. If a play is made on any runner, then the base runner(s) may advance at their own risk.**
18. Sliding is allowed but not required unless there is a play at the plate or at a base. However, if the runner does not slide the umpire may call the runner out for excessive contact or intended injury. Catcher can not block the plate. No sliding when advancing to first base. No head first sliding is allowed. Head first back –play at base is allowed.
19. No jewelry will be worn during a game.
20. Regular league games can end in a tie. Tournament games will use the international tie breaker rule to break a tie after the allotted innings have been played or the time limit is reached.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

1. Managers and coaches are responsible for the sportsmanship and conduct of their team and fans.
2. There will be no swearing on the field by anyone.
3. Helmets and bats will not be thrown in anger; anyone doing so will be ejected from the game.
4. Shaking hands at the end of the game is required.
5. There will be no protests acknowledged with the Fulton-Erie-Albany-Port Byron-Prophetstown-Morrison –Tampico minor/major playing schedule. These games are designed for recreational fun, learning and experience. Enjoy the fellowship of our various communities and cheer all of the kids.

**No foul or abusive language from teams, coaches, or fans will be allowed and any continuous harassment of umpires, players, coaches, etc. will result in the following:
YOU WILL BE TOLD TO LEAVE THE PREMISES AND YOUR TEAM MAY HAVE TO FORFEIT THE GAME. NO WARNINGS WILL BE GIVEN.**