

KIMBERTON YOUTH ATHLETIC LEAGUE

Rules of Play

Softball – AA Division (Ages 8 – 9)

I. BATTING:

- A. All rostered players present for the game shall bat in order, whether playing defensively or not.
- B. Bunting will be allowed.
- C. A player that squares to bunt has two options; 1. Bunt the offered pitch or 2. Pull the bat back and take the offered pitch. Any player that squares to bunt, pulls back and swings at the pitch, will be ruled out and the play called dead. No runners may advance.
- D. Batters must wear approved protective headgear while at bat and on base as a base runner. Deliberate refusal to obtain and wear approved protected headgear while at bat or while on base will result in ejection from the game.
- E. Balls and strikes will be called by an umpire (other than game coaches) assigned by the visiting team.

II. BASE RUNNING

- A. Players in this division will be permitted to steal on release. Stealing of home is permitted after the third full week from Opening Day regardless of rain outs. Stealing cannot occur until the 3rd inning of the game. A player may begin their steal attempt when the ball **is released**. If a player leaves early, they will be warned once and the next time will result in them being called out.
- B. Runners **cannot** advance on any overthrow of an attempted steal. The intent is to develop the catchers' willingness to throw and the awareness of when to throw the ball. If a runner leaves the base early, she can be called out.
- C. Leading is permitted after the pitch has been released.
- D. A base runner may advance on an overthrow by a defensive player (as many bases as they want). The ball is declared dead at the point when the ball enters the pitching circle and is controlled by the pitcher).
- E. Head first sliding, into any base, is not permitted. A base runner attempting to slide into a base headfirst will be called out immediately. Base runners may dive back to a base.
- F. Use of approved protective headgear while on base is a requirement. Refer to I.D. above.
- G. In order to prevent injuries and protect the defensive player attempting to make a play on a base runner, contact with the defensive player must be avoided by sliding and/or veering off to one side. If the base runner does not slide or make a valid effort to avoid contact with the defensive player, then the base runner will be call out immediately. Contact is defined as; if the base runner remains on their feet and makes, any type of contact with the defensive player holding the ball or while in the process of getting the ball, to apply a tag.
- H. **If contact is made, the umpire must warn both benches and must make a determination as the intent and severity of the contact. If in the judgment of the umpire, the act is determined to be flagrant, the base runner will be ejected from the game immediately. If the act is determined to be at the instruction of the manager or coach, the manager and coach will be ejected from the game immediately. Such an occurrence must be brought to the attention of the Executive Board of KYAL. The Executive Board will determine further suspension and or removal from the league.**

III. GAME

- A. No championship game will be played or trophies awarded, by KYAL, for this division. This is an instructional division designed to teach the game and sportsmanship.
- B. Starting time for all games will be as scheduled.
- C. Games are limited to one, (1), hour and fifty, (50), minutes on weekdays.
- D. A regulation game is six, (6), innings. Even in the event of a tie after regulation, no extra innings are played.
- E. The offensive team will only be permitted to score a maximum of five, (5), runs in any one-half inning including the last inning. In the event the fifth, (5th), run scores and the ball is still in play, play will continue until the play is over. If more than five, (5), runs are scored, (i.e. 6 or 7), only five, (5) runs will count.
- F. Runs scored during uncompleted innings will not count. The final score will be that of the last complete inning.
- G. The home team will be responsible for the official scorebook. The scorebook should be legible with first initial and full last name.
- H. The official scorebook must be available upon request of the Softball Commissioner, League President, Vice President or any member of the Executive Board.

- I. Players must be in complete uniforms.

IV. FIELDING

- A. A maximum of ten, (10), defensive players may be on the field at any one time, includes pitcher.
- B. Each player present must play a minimum of three (3), defensive innings. **Substitutions must be made by the third (3rd), defensive inning.**
- C. No player shall be removed from the game during a defensive half of the inning for any reason other than sickness or injury.
- D. No player shall be permitted to play more than two (2) defensive innings at one position in one game.
- E. Any player neglected must play the entire next game. Failure to comply will result in the following action taken against the manager or his appointee:
 - 1. First offense, a three game suspension,
 - 2. Second offense, dismissal of the manager or his appointee,
 - 3. Both penalties will carry over to the next year if committed at the end of the season.

V. PITCHING

- A. The first two innings will be machine pitch. The machine will be place 35" from home plate. Each batter during machine pitch will be give 7 pitches. This includes a calibration pitch if needed. Speed is to be consistent for all batters. If the batter takes the 7th pitch they will be out. If they foul the ball off they will be allowed another pitch until they either miss, hit or take the pitch.
- B. The maximum number of innings pitched by a player in two consecutive games, shall not exceed four (4). An inning pitched is defined as, any inning in which one (1), pitch is delivered to a batter during game play. Pre-inning warm up is not considered an inning. Innings pitched should be documented in the office book that is stored in Field 2 club house. Each coach should sign it.
- C. Once a pitcher leaves the mound and another player delivers one, (1), pitch, the original pitcher may not return to the mound in the same game.
- D. Two (2) hit batters in one inning or three(3) hit batters in one game. requires that pitcher to be removed (umpire's discretion).
- E. Five (5) consecutive walks in one (1) inning or Eight (8) in a game requires the pitcher to be removed from the game.
- F. The pitching rubber is to be set 35' from home plate.
- G. AA Division softball utilizes an 11" ball.
- H. During kid pitch, the pitcher is not allowed to walk in a run. If there are based loaded and a ball 4 is thrown, the team who is batting coach will come out and throw a maximum of four balls and will resume the count on the player. i.e If the count is 3 balls and two strikes and the batter swings at the first coach pitch and misses she will be out. If the batter does not swing at any of the four coach pitches the batter will also be out.

VI. EQUIPMENT

- A. Throwing of equipment is extremely dangerous and damaging to equipment and cannot be condoned. The throwing action will be an umpire's judgment call. The penalties will be as follows:
 - 1. Throwing or the bat while at bat: First time, Batter gets a warning. Anytime thereafter; the Batter is called out, dead ball rule applies
 - 2. Throwing of the batting helmets: First time, Batter gets a warning. Anytime thereafter, automatic ejection, no exception.
 - 3. Throwing of any equipment by other players, coaches or managers in any area will result in immediate ejection.
- B. Any player preparing to play the position of catcher is required to wear approved protective headgear, catcher's mask, chest protector, shin guards. If a player refuses to wear the above referenced protective equipment, they will not be permitted to play the position of catcher.
- C. Any player warming up a pitcher is required to wear the approved protective equipment listed above in VI.B.
- D. This division requires that all players who want to play the infield wear protective face masks while in the infield. We highly encourage outfielders to wear them as well.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. The managers are responsible for the conduct of their fans.
- B. Uniforms (shirts) are to be collected after the last game.

- C. The visiting team is responsible to supply an umpire.
- D. Shoes with metal cleats are not permitted.
- E. A team wishing to reschedule a game must do so 7 days prior to its original scheduled date. All requests must be in writing and approved by both teams. All requests will be given to either the League President or Girls Commissioner.
- F. **Concussion Protocol**
In the event that there is a possible concussion, both managers will get together to determine if the player should be taken out of the game. If one of the two coaches decides that the player should be taken out of the game, that player will sit out for one inning. After that one inning the coaches will determine if the player should return to play.

*** These rules are changes to the Babe Ruth Rules. If a rule is not mentioned in this document, then Babe Ruth Rules apply.

Revised January 2017