



# KIMBERTON YOUTH ATHLETIC LEAGUE

## Rules of Play

### Softball – 10U Division (Ages 9 – 10)



#### I. BATTING:

- A. All rostered players present for the game shall bat in order, whether playing defensively or not.
- B. Bunting will be allowed. No slapping or fake bunts allowed.
  - 1. A player that squares to bunt has two options:
    - a) Bunt the offered pitch
    - b) Pull the bat back and take the offered pitch.
  - 2. 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.
- C. Batters must wear approved protective headgear including face guard while at bat and on base as a base runner.
- D. Balls and strikes will be called by a volunteer umpire (other than game coaches) assigned by the visiting team.

#### II. BASE RUNNING

- A. Leading is permitted after the pitch has been released.
- B. Stealing of all bases including home is permitted.
- C. No stealing during coach-pitch.
- D. If a player leaves a base early, they will be warned once, and the next time will result in them being called out.
- E. Runners **cannot** advance on any overthrow by the catcher of an attempted steal. The intent is to develop the catchers' willingness to throw and the awareness of when to throw the ball.
  - 1. EXCEPTION: "snap" throws by the catcher to 1st or 3rd base. Any overthrow here and the runner may advance.
- F. A base runner may advance on an overthrow by a defensive player (as many bases as they want). The ball is declared dead when either:
  - 1. The ball enters the pitching circle and is **controlled by the pitcher**
  - 2. The lead runner stops their advancement on a base due to a defensive player having the ball in front of the base runner.
- G. Head first sliding, into any base, is not permitted. A base runner attempting to slide into a base head first will be called out immediately. Base runners may dive back to any base.
- H. Use of approved protective headgear with face guard while on base is a requirement.
- I. 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 called 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.
- J. **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. At the conclusion of the season, a one-day play-off between teams will lead to two teams to a championship game. While this is an instructional division designed to teach the game and sportsmanship, it is also an opportunity to move the players toward more competitive development. See Below for Playoff/Championship Rules
- 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 inning. In the event the fifth, (5<sup>th</sup>), 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. In the bottom of the last inning, unlimited runs are allowed. This only applies to the home team. 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
- 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. 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. All innings will be Kid pitch.
- B. During kid pitch, if a pitcher delivers 4 balls to a batter, there are no walks. The hitting team's coach will come in to pitch to that batter (same count assumed). The defensive team's pitcher will remain on the field and play the pitcher's position. Coaches are to pitch and become invisible. They should make every attempt to get off the field of play once the ball is hit and must never interfere with the play on the field. Pitching coaches are not allowed to coach from the mound. They must allow the base coaches to coach runners. Coaches are encouraged to promote batters to hit off the pitchers and not wait for the coach to pitch.
- C. At the current level of play and with the number of pitches a pitcher will actually deliver, there are no maximum pitched inning requirements. Coaches are expected to rotate developing pitchers to allow for equal opportunity of growth. A developing pitcher is a player that is practicing outside of scheduled practices and receiving additional instruction.
- 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. The pitching rubber is to be set 35' from home plate.
- F. 10U Division softball utilizes an 11" ball.

#### VI. EQUIPMENT

- A. Throwing of equipment is extremely dangerous and will not be tolerated. 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. ADD: (re-word) Catchers may wear batters helmet with face guard, with approval from parent. Either for hygienic reasons or for a better fit.
- C. Any player warming up a pitcher is required to wear the approved protective equipment listed above.
- 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. Team managers are responsible for the conduct of their fans.
- B. Jerseys are to be collected after the last game.
- C. The Visiting team is responsible to supply an umpire.
- D. The Home team is responsible for providing someone to work in the snackbar.
- E. The Home team is responsible for preparing the field:
  - 1. Proper placement of pitching rubber
  - 2. Dragging and lining of field
  - 3. Placing the bases
- F. The Visiting team is responsible for closing the field:

1. Dragging the field
  2. Bases removed and plugs replaced. Shed closed and locked.S
- G. Shoes with metal cleats are not permitted.
- H. 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 Softball Commissioner.
- I. **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 decide 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.
- J. **Playoff/Championship Game Rules**
1. Games will still be timed to 110 minutes, finish the inning up to six innings.
  2. The 5-run rule will still be in effect, but after 90 minutes, it is unlimited runs at the start of the next inning.
  3. Runners cannot advance on an overthrow made by the catcher on an attempted steal, but runners may take as many bases as they are able with overthrows by fielders. Runners may advance freely on any attempted snap throw by the catcher.
  4. No steals permitted during coach pitch.
  5. In the event that there is a tie, we will utilize the ITB rule.

\*\*\* 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 2021**