

2011

ADIRONDACK GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

RULES AND REGULATIONS

RULE 1 – PLAYERS, SUBSTITUTES, COACHES

A. PLAYERS:

All players must be permanent residents of the city, town, village, school district, or fire district of the team that they are playing for. Any visitors wishing to play will be considered by a board of league officers and eligibility will be determined on a case-by-case basis **ONLY BEFORE** the game. **Players cannot be on more than one AGSL roster during any season.**

- Teams from two or more communities may combine to form a team when there are not enough players from the individual communities to form a complete team. An example: when school districts or youth commissions merge.

When there is a conflict as to whether a girl should be playing on one team or another, **it will be proposed by a coach and approved by the League board to decide on which team the girl will play for.**

In the event of a folding team, a meeting will be called ASAP among the coaches of that division and the board of the league to determine a solution in the best interest of the girls. No girls from the folding team will be allowed to play until there is a resolution to the folding team. **If that team has completed half of their season's scheduled dates, then their season is finished and the girls may not be placed on any other team.**

The age determination is **January 1st.**

There will be no "borrowing" players from same team levels. Players may be brought up from a lower division team to make a team of **11 for 10U, and 10 for 12U, 14U, and 18U.** A player will be allowed to **pitch** no more than **(3)** games at a higher level. **Should any player from a younger division pitch in four or more games at an older division she will be considered ineligible for those games and a forfeit situation will result.**

A team bringing up a player must notify the opposing coach at game time. Coaches are required to keep record of how many games a lower division player has **pitched** at the higher level, and must notify division coordinators.

All players must participate in a minimum of three games (14U and 18U) to be eligible for playoffs. In order to be a pitcher or catcher in the playoffs, players must participate in a minimum of half of a teams scheduled regular season games.

Circumstances such as illness, injury, or family-related problems that cause any player to miss games must be agreed to by a league official prior to game time. Otherwise the above rule is in effect.

B. COACHES:

Coaches are responsible for the safety of their players during all league games and practices. Coaches are also advised to use discretion regarding “running up” the score. Coaches must act in a sportsmanlike manor and are responsible for the conduct of their players during all league games and functions. Coaches will adhere to the code of conduct under ASA rules. Coaches are responsible to report any and all unsportsmanlike incidents. Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in a player or coach being suspended from participating in play, depending on the severity of the act. The unsportsmanlike act could result in suspension of from one to all of the team’s remaining games for that individual based on the decision of at least 3 league officials.

Coaches are responsible for maintaining their team rosters and schedules, as well as keeping record of scores of games, (**and names of pitchers and catchers for 14U and 18U**). Coaches must notify division coordinators of final scores and are responsible for rescheduling games when necessary.

The coach/manager of the home team must notify the coach/manager of the visiting team of unplayable conditions due to weather as soon as possible. A time before 5PM for weekday evening games is preferred. **Coaches are responsible when canceling games.** NOTE: Coaches should rely on personal contact rather than a phone answering machine since they are unreliable.

Coaches must notify opposing coaches of **non-weather related postponements**; such as work related or emergency situations as soon as possible.

Should a game be postponed for whatever reason, it is recommended that coaches give notice when circumstances for such postponement are known to avoid inconveniences. An advanced notice of 24-48 hours is preferred. A game may not be postponed if both teams have the required number of players available to play on the scheduled game date.

Coaches must be prepared to play on all regular season, playoff, and championship games as designated at the scheduling meeting and are in the master schedule. Coaches must notify division coordinators regarding any postponements and rescheduling of games.

Should the coaches and division coordinators involved with a postponed game be unable to agree on an appropriate reschedule date, the game will be a case for arbitration.

RULE 2 – THE PLAYING FIELD

A. BASELINES:

All playing fields will have the batters box, first base and third base lines marked when possible. Baselines shall be 60 feet for all divisions.

B. PITCHERS MOUND:

The pitchers plate shall be 35 feet from home plate for 10U, 9yr olds and younger may take 1 step forward. The pitchers plate shall be 40 feet for 12U and 14U, and 43 feet for 18U. At 14U and 18U levels, if a regulation pitchers plate is unavailable, then umpires must be notified before the start of the game. **At 14U if only a 43’ plate is available a modified pitcher may take one step forward to pitch. Please let certified umpire know this before the game. A JV pitcher should take a step back if you only have a 40’ plate.**

C. FENCES:

The minimum fence distance for regulation softball is 200 ft from home plate for 14U and 18U.

D. BASES:

Regulation 15-inch bases shall be used for all league games. Use of the double base at first base is optional for 10U & 12U & mandatory for 14U & 18U. All bases must be anchored.

RULE 3 – EQUIPMENT

A. FOOTWEAR:

Metal spikes are not allowed. Rubber cleats are permitted. Players must at least wear sneakers.

B. HELMETS:

Batting helmets must be worn when a player is batting or acting as a base coach. All helmets should have chinstraps or be adjustable fit helmets. **Mandatory chinstraps for 14U and 18U. Faceguards are mandatory.**

C. UNIFORMS:

All players shall wear same colored jerseys during games when possible. **Players may not wear anything which is the same color as the ball.** Long pants are optional for all divisions. Caps and/or visors are optional.

D. CATCHERS EQUIPMENT:

Helmets, face guards, throat guards, chest protectors, and shin protectors are mandatory for all catchers.

E. BATS:

Only regulation softball bats are permitted during league play. Handles must be taped. **No baseball bats are allowed. Use of ASA 2000 softball bats is optional. For 14U and 18U bats must be at least ASA 2000 stamped.**

F. SOFTBALLS:

The league will use .47 core or lower ASA leather (no synthetic) softballs. Regulation softballs may be yellow with red, or white with red seams. **12” ASA Softballs are used at 12U, 14U, and 18U. The 10U uses 11” ASA Softballs.**

G. ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT:

Players cannot wear distracting objects during games. **No jewelry may be worn during games at 10U and 12U. Jewelry at the discretion of the umpire at 14U and 18U.** Any illegal equipment must be removed from the game at the time of discovery. Pitchers may not wear any type of distracting sliding guards.

RULE 4 - THE GAME:

A. LENGTH:

The normal length of a game is 7 innings. (12U, 14U, and 18U) A game is official upon the completion of 5 innings including playoff and championship games. A game is official after 4 and a half innings if the home team is leading including post-season games. Saturday games will have a length of (2) and a half hours. 10U will play 6 innings. A game is official after 4 innings or 3 and a half if the home team is leading.

No new innings shall begin after 8:15 PM for 10U and 12U. (See rule 11 for exceptions). No new innings shall begin after 8:30 PM for 14U and 18U.

If a game cannot be considered official due to darkness or the above time limit, it will be resumed from where it was called, and completed at another date.

B. GAME TIMES:

League games shall begin at **6PM** during the week. Weekend games may begin at different times. The home team is to complete practice by **5:30 PM** and turn the field over to the visiting team so that they may complete practice by **5:50 PM**.

Should a team fail to contact an opposing coach to postpone a game, and/or fail to show or have enough players at a scheduled time, the division coordinator must be notified. Between the coordinator and the two coaches a mutual decision is to be made. Forfeit only as a last result. At 14U and 18U, if a visiting team does not show up for a scheduled game, they will be responsible for paying the cost of the umpire.

C. RUN LIMITS:

Teams will have a 6 run limit per inning, except for the seventh and all subsequent innings for all divisions. 10U will have a six run limit per inning, except for the sixth inning. **Umpires must be informed of these limits if unaware. There is no mercy rule at 10U, 12U, or 14U. At 18U there is no run limit per inning and there is a mercy run of 15 runs ahead after the 5th inning or bottom of the 5th is the home team is already leading by 15 or more runs.**

- **14U and 18U The International Tiebreaker Rule shall be used after the seventh inning. (The batter who would bat last from the previous inning starts at second base).**

D. NUMBER OF PLAYERS:

There will be 10 players in the field for 12U and 14U. 9 players for 18U. 10U will use 11 players in the field.

- Teams in the 10U, 12U, and 14U will bat all players.
- **The 18U division will have 10 players in the batting order including an AB (added batter). AB may move freely in and out of defensive alignment as long as she remains in her spot in the original batting order that she was in as the AB.**
- Teams may use the 'shorthanded rule' and start with 8 players. **No out shall be taken for the ninth or tenth spot in the batting order. (A game cannot continue with less than 8 players).**
- **No out shall be taken if a player leaves a game due to injury or other reasons.**
- **When a game is a continuation of a suspended game, substitutes may be used for players absent from the original lineup. No out shall be taken if short handed.**

- **All players listed in a teams lineup must play at least two (2) innings in the field in the 10U, 12U, and 14U.**

E. INFIELD FLY RULE:

The infield fly rule will be in effect for all 14U and 18U. No infield fly rule for 10U and 12U.

F. SUBSTITUTIONS:

Free substitution is allowed in the field in all divisions except for the 18U. Free substitution is not possible at the 18U level because only 10 players bat in the lineup.

G. FORFEITS:

No regular season, all-star, playoff, or championship game shall be declared a forfeit except under ASA rules.

If a team shows up for a game with the right number of players and the other team doesn't, then the first team gets a forfeit win and the second team gets a forfeit loss. A forfeit loss does not affect player eligibility or team eligibility for minimum games played requirement for playoffs but a forfeit win does count as an official game. (14U and 18U). For 10U and 12U teams must combine to play a game if one team is short players.

H. PLAYOFF SEEDINGS:

Each team during the regular season gets 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and 0 points for a loss. A team gets 1 point for a forfeit win and -2 points for a forfeit loss. At the end of the season teams are seeded high to low based on points. Tiebreaker is head to head, and then lowest runs allowed. The higher seeds are awarded home field for as long as they win.

I. WEATHER:

The league has adopted the Section II thunder and lightning policy. Thunder and lightning necessitates that contests be suspended. The occurrence of thunder and/or lightning is not subject to interpretation or discussion – thunder is thunder, lightning is lightning.

When thunder is heard and /or when lightning is seen, the following procedures should be adhered to:

a. Suspend play and direct participants to go to shelter, a building normally occupied by the public or if a building is unavailable, participants should go inside a vehicle with a solid metal top (e.g. bus, van, car).

b. Do not permit people to stand under or near a tree; and have all stay away from poles, antennas, towers and underground watering systems.

c. After thunder and/or lightning have left the area, **wait 30 minutes** after the last boom is heard or strike is seen before resuming play or competition.

Rule 5 – PITCHING REGULATIONS:

A. REGULAR SEASON-PLAYOFFS:

Pitchers may pitch no more than 12 outs (may be non-consecutive) for 12U and 14U. 10U pitchers may pitch no more than 9 outs (may be non-consecutive). In case of extra inning games, any pitcher may pitch 3 more outs. Pitchers for the 18U division have no limits on innings pitched.

Pitchers have ‘hit by pitch’ limit of two batters per inning. If a pitcher hits a third batter in an inning then a new pitcher must enter the game for that inning and the next inning. (10U, 12U, 14U).

B. ALL STAR GAMES:

Pitchers may pitch two innings or six outs for All-Star Games in all divisions. In case of a tie game, any pitcher may start another 3 outs.

RULE 6 – BATTING REGULATIONS

A. DROPPED 3rd STRIKE:

A batter may advance to first base if the catcher drops the third strike provided that first base is not occupied, or two outs and first base occupied. (12U, 14U and 18U).

RULE 7 – BASERUNNING

A. REGULAR SEASON-PLAYOFFS:

Stealing home is not permitted in the 12U. Runners at 3rd can only advance on a bases loaded walk, ball hit in fair territory or bases loaded batter hit by pitch or catchers interference or tagged up foul fly or dropped 3rd strike with bases loaded and 2 outs.

There will be no base stealing for the 10U.

Courtesy runners may be used for injured players in any division. Courtesy runner will be the player who made the last out.

Rule 8 – PROTESTS

A. REGULAR SEASON AND PLAYOFFS:

A coach must notify the opposing team’s coach of an intention to protest the game during the game, and then contact the division coordinator **within 24 hours**. The League President will schedule a protest hearing, and the protest will be decided by a panel of arbitrators. **For types of protest that are allowed and not allowed please see the ASA Softball Rule Book. (14U & 18U)**

RULE 9 – SCORING

A. REGULAR SEASON PLAYOFFS:

The home team is responsible for keeping the official score. It is recommended that both teams have a scorebook and scorekeeper at each game. **Coaches or scorekeepers must sign both scorebooks upon the completion of each game.**

RULE 10 – UMPIRES AND SPECTATORS

A. UMPIRES:

Umpires must be at least 15 years old and have knowledge of both ASA and AGSL rules. At 10 U and 12U a home plate umpire may not be a blood relative of a player or coach. The home team will provide the home plate umpire and **the visiting team has the right to provide the base umpire. At 10 & 12U a game may not start until there are 2 umpires.** Certified umpires are mandatory for 14U & 18U.

- **Umpires must be aware of rule modifications at the beginning of each league game. Umpires must be also provided with lineup cards (14U and 18U).**
- **There will be no verbal or physical abuse of an umpire. Violation may result in an automatic ejection from the game. Physical abuse of an umpire will result in the end of the game and a forfeit by the offending team.**

B: SPECTATORS:

Spectators are considered part of the game and may cheer for their teams. Spectators will also adhere to a sportsmanlike manner under ASA rules. **There will be no physical or verbal abuse of umpires, players, coaches, or officials on the field. No spectators or coaches will say “good pitch” before the call of the umpire in an effort to influence their decision. Spectators not adhering to sportsmanlike conduct may be ejected. Coaches and players on the field are the only people permitted to speak with umpires when the game is in progress.**

RULE 11 – MODIFICATIONS FOR YOUNGER DIVISIONS (10U & 12U)

A. RULE MODIFICATIONS:

- All players must play at least 2 innings in the field. All players will bat. (10U, 12U, and 14U).
- No new innings shall begin after 8PM during school year (10U), 8:15 for 12U.
- The balk rule will not be in effect. (10U and 12U).
- Outfielders must play at least 10 feet behind the base line. (10U and 12U)
- A total of six (6) balls are required for a walk when the bases are loaded (10U)
- Bunting and sliding are allowed; intentional contact with fielders will result in an out.
- No advancing when the pitcher has the ball in the pitchers circle.
- One team warning will be given for throwing a bat. Subsequent batters will be called out.
- Runners may advance on an overthrow or passed ball to the next base from the one occupied at the start of play. Exception: if no one was on first the batter may go to second base
- Pitchers at the 10U level will pitch at a distance of 35 feet for 10 year olds. For 9 year olds or younger the pitching distance will be 32 feet.
- A base runner **may** leave a base as soon as the pitch is thrown (12U)
- Runners may only steal one base per each pitched ball (12U).

NOTICE: FOR ANY SITUATIONS THAT ARE NOT COVERED BY OUR LEAGUE RULES, PLEASE REFER TO THE CURRENT EDITION OF THE ‘ASA SOFTBALL RULE BOOK’. ANY EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES MAY BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE LEAGUE.

2011

ADIRONDACK GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

BY-LAWS

Mission Statement:

The Adirondack Girls Softball League (AGSL) is open to all girls' ages 8-18 in Fulton, Montgomery, Schoharie, and Saratoga counties, and surrounding areas, and was founded to promote recreation and instruction in the game of softball. The AGSL is affiliated with the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of New York State. All girls registered in the AGSL will have the opportunity to improve their skills and enjoy a season's worth of softball. **** AGSL rules supersede ASA rules. For a subject not covered, please refer to ASA rules.**

DEFINITIONS

A. LEAGUE PRESIDENT:

Oversees the day-to-day operations of the league, and promotes the league through its policies. DUTIES INCLUDE: holding league meetings as necessary, holding arbitration hearings should they arise, overseeing graduation, all-star and championship games, as well as any other matters of importance to the league.

B. LEAGUE TREASURER:

Handles any monies for the league. The league treasurer will handle registration fees to be paid by each team entered for that season, and will handle payment of umpires for playoff and all star games or as needed.

C. LEAGUE SECRETARY:

Will maintain the league rules and ensure that all coaches have a copy of the current rules at the start of each season. Will contact communities regarding fielding teams for each season and create a list of coaches and their phone numbers before the season begins, and will notify coaches of all league meetings. Will get ASA materials at the beginning of the season.

D. LEAGUE VICE PRESIDENT:

Will conduct the league meetings and oversee the selection of division coordinators. Will hear any cases for amendments to the league rules and conduct votes on such when necessary. Will be the lead public relations officer for the league. The league vice president **will enforce the league and ASA rules.**

E. DIVISION CORDINATORS:

Will ensure that all teams complete schedules within their divisions. Will create a 'master division schedule' at the scheduling meeting. Will be determined at the rules meeting or the scheduling meeting. **Coordinators will maintain schedules for their divisions only and contact coaches for results.**

F: ARBITRATORS:

Will serve as a panel of individuals selected at the beginning of each season to determine cases of protests brought before the league. The decision of the arbitrators in such cases shall be final. **Arbitrators ARE division coordinators.**

G: ROSTERS:

Rosters of players, together with their full names, league age, address, phone numbers, team coaches/managers name, mailing address, phone number, (and at 14U and 18U a copy of their report card) must be in the hands of the division coordinator on **June 5th for 10-under, 12-under, and for the 14-under division, and June 20th for the 18-under division. There is no limit to the number of players on any AGSL roster.** A certificate of insurance must be presented at this time. The season **MUST** begin with a minimum of nine players on the roster. Rosters are due by slated time schedules. Rosters turned in after the deadline will result in non participation in playoffs.

Rosters will be the responsibility of the coaches/managers, and must be carried with them at all league games. Lineup cards must be exchanged before games begin, and coaches notified of all changes (18-under). ** All 14-under and 18-under rosters and scorecards must indicate at least one pitcher and one catcher. ** The league president may decide to sign all rosters before the start of each season. Any changes such as permanently bringing up a player must be brought to the attention of a league official. There will be no recruited or 'select' teams.

H: ENTRANCE FEES:

The league entrance fee for all teams is **\$80.00** per team for 10U, 12U, and 14U and **\$125** for 18U. Teams, who have not paid their entrance fee by the designated date, will not be allowed to participate in the playoffs. **All new teams in their first year of AGSL play must pay the fees in advance.** Coaches/managers are responsible for contacting their Youth Commissions, Sponsors, or Treasurers to make sure the fees are paid. Vouchers are accepted. **Entrance fee is made payable to the Adirondack Girls Softball League. C/o Angela Baker, 339 Dillenbeck Rd Fultonville NY 12072. Checks due by June 5th for everyone.** Any late entries will be reviewed by the league officials and a pro-rated entrance fee will be figured.

I: MEETINGS:

There will be at least one meeting per year, the scheduling meeting. Every team must send a representative to the **mandatory** scheduling meeting in order to participate in league play. If a team is not represented at the scheduling meeting and still wishes to participate in league play, they may only do so as exhibition games. A certificate of insurance will be required for any team participating in exhibition games.

J: INSURANCE:

All teams in the AGSL must be insured. Proof must be provided of your proof of insurance coverage. (Copy of certificate of insurance). Independent teams may acquire insurance through Bollinger at www.BollingerASA.com or Robert J Hoy agency in Broadalbin.