

BVGSL AAA / U10 RULES

2021 April

General:

Please remember the age of this group. Review and clarify rules with both coaches and umpire prior to start of game. Rules are slightly modified to help develop the girls with hitting, fielding and pitching in keeping with the spirit of the game.

ASA/USA rules apply for any rule not outlined below.

1. All players must be registered members of the Douglas, Nipmuc (Mendon-Upton), Northbridge, Blackstone-Millville, Hopkinton, Uxbridge and Milford Youth Softball Leagues.
2. All players must wear uniforms. They must also wear rubber spikes or sneakers.
3. Players are not allowed to wear jewelry of any kind.
4. Each team will field a max of 10 players if available on defense, consisting of 3 to 4 outfielders. All outfielders must remain in the outfield area until the ball is live. The ball is considered live when the ball is hit. **You may start a game with 8 players without penalty.** Players that arrive after start time will be added to the bottom of the batting order. Notify coach of opposing team.
5. Games will **begin at 6pm** unless otherwise notified on schedule. **Games will start no later than 15 minutes after scheduled time.** If a coach is unable to field at least 8 players 15 minutes after scheduled time, that team will forfeit the win/game. Teams may still play the game for “fun” but umpire will be paid and can leave.
6. The decision to call a game off due to weather/field conditions will be **made by the head coach of the home team at least two hours prior to the starting time.** If a decision is not made to cancel two-hours prior, all players should be report to the field. The umpire will then determine whether to call the game at the field.
 - 6a. If a game is cancelled, coaches should make every attempt to reschedule these games within a two-week time period. All games should be made up by the week before

the playoffs. Failure to do so MAY result in a forfeit for one or both teams unwilling / unable to make up the game. The home team head coach must notify their umpire coordinator of the rescheduled date/time/field.

***** In the event of a 2-hour weather cancellation, be sure to notify the umpire/umpire coordinator or home team is responsible for payment *****

In the event of scheduled game conflicts/cancellations due to reasons other than weather/field conditions, BOTH coaches must agree to reschedule the game and notify umpires with a minimum 24-hour notice.

WEATHER RELATED DELAYS/CANCELLATION: In the observation of lightning / thunder teams must wait 30 minutes of no thunder / lightening before continuing. This is an ASA/USA enforced ruling. Be safe.

7. Players must remain in the dugout or on the bench when not playing in the field. The on-deck batter may warm up. Pitchers may warm up between innings.
8. Each team will only be able to **score up to 4 runs an inning**. This is until the last inning of the game where each team can score unlimited runs. **The umpire needs to announce when the last inning will be played so both coaches are aware that they can now score unlimited runs.** Plan the call for last inning carefully, as the game time limits need to be considered.
9. All injuries must be reported to the leagues of those participating in the game.
10. All coaches will have on hand the emergency forms (registration forms) at all practices and games. Each team must have an emergency kit on hand with gloves, band aids, ice packs, gauze, etc.

11. An eleven (11) inch ball will be used as the standard for all games.
12. Each player can sit out one (1) consecutive inning. An injured player can sit out more than one consecutive inning.
13. Catchers must wear catcher's equipment as provided by the league or equivalent, and wear personal protective equipment, as necessary, which is furnished by the player. This rule is in effect for both games and practices.
14. **Protective face guards must be worn by the pitcher.** It is HIGHLY recommended however, that it be worn by first and third baseperson as well. It is up to each town-league board to enforce this ruling. Each town may implement their own ruling.
15. The home team is responsible for paying the umpire during regular season games. If an umpire is not present at the start of the game, the designated assistant coach for the home team will umpire the game.
- 16. Regarding play time allotted**
 - No new inning will be started after **One hour and 40 minutes** of game time or due to darkness, whichever comes first.
 - After **One hour and 50 minutes, drop dead stop.**
 - Given that the last inning allows unlimited scoring, plan the call of last inning accordingly!
17. If an injured player in a continuous batting order is unable to play she will be skipped in the order. The opposing team will not get an automatic out. The player is allowed to return to the game at any time.

*****New Playoff Rule*****

1. In the event that teams are tied in standings at the end of the season, these criteria will be used to determine seeding for playoffs:
 - a. Record
 - b. Head-to-head record
 - c. Best record in games involving all tied teams
 - d. Runs scored
 - e. Runs allowed
 - f. Coin toss

Conduct:

1. Profanity, kicking equipment or other unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches, players, or parents will cause the umpire to give the team a warning. Continuation of this behavior by the player or coach after the warning will result in ejection from the game. If a parent continues to display unacceptable behavior after being warned, the team for whom their daughter plays may be forced to forfeit the game at the umpire's discretion.
2. Coaches shall assume the responsibility for the conduct of his/her players. They will also be responsible for assisting the umpire in managing unacceptable behavior displayed by the parents of girls of his/her team.
3. Coaches should encourage their players to cheer for their teammates. Chanting and singing of limericks will be allowed as long as they are not derogatory or degrading to the other team. Once the pitcher presents the ball, all chanting and singing stops.

Pitching:

1. Pitching will be fast pitch regardless of the pitching motion utilized.
2. **After three batters (3) are hit in a game**, the pitcher must be removed from the mound. The batter must make every attempt to move out of the way or may not be awarded the base – based on umpire discretion.

3. The starting pitcher once relieved, can return to pitch once during a game (provided that rule #3 has not occurred).
4. Prior to the pitch, the pitcher shall take a position with both feet on or partially on the surface of the pitcher's plate. **Both feet must be on or touching the mound.** All steps must be forward in motion.
5. The distance from the pitching rubber to home plate **will be thirty five feet (35')**. A moveable mound is acceptable.

(Pitching continued) ...

6. **There is a limit of 2 walks per inning.** If two walks have occurred in the inning, the next "ball 4" is called and the coach of the team that is at bat will come in to pitch to his/her batter. The batter will keep the strikes/ball count she has. The batter can strike out on coach pitching (the **Umpire should be calling balls/strikes** to keep the game moving even when coach pitches, the batter cannot walk).

6a. When the coach comes on the field to pitch, the player who was pitching will stand to the side of the pitcher's mound and **MUST REMAIN IN the pitching circle** and play defense. The coach can have one practice pitch per inning. Coach should stand on the mound and pitch the ball at a speed equivalent to the age and ability of play. When the next batter comes to the plate, the pitcher resumes pitching. **This rule will stay in effect through playoffs.**

7. **Pitchers will be limited to pitching 9 innings in a scheduled week** running Sunday to Saturday. A single pitch counts as one inning pitched (Different rules apply during playoffs)

Base Running:

1. **Each team will be allowed 2 steals per inning, and Players can only steal from first to second base. No other base runners can advance on a steal attempt.**
Stealing and leading can be done once the ball leaves the pitchers hands. A player that has walked **cannot make an attempt to steal second base as a continuation play.**
2. The infield fly rule **will NOT be in effect.**
3. The dropped third strike rule **will NOT be in effect.**
4. If a ball is caught in the air, runners may tag up.

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5. The advancing base runner may not collide with the person covering the base.
An upright collision will result in an automatic out. Umpire will make this decision.
6. A ball is considered dead when it is returned to the pitcher in the pitching circle. Runners may not advance at this point.
7. To speed up the game, catchers may be replaced by a pinch runner at any time. Pinch runner is the last recorded out.

Batting:

1. The batting order which is established prior to the game shall include all girls on the team that are present and shall remain unchanged for the duration of the game. If a player arrives late she shall be added to the end of the existing batting order. Batting out of order is an automatic out.
2. A batter hit by a pitch takes a base. **Batters must make every attempt to move out of the way. (Umpire's discretion).** If at the umpire discretion, that the batter made every attempt to move out of the way from being hit, then the batter will walk to first and a runner will score if bases are loaded. Umpire may use discretion in not rewarding a base if there was no attempt to move out of the way.
3. Batters should be instructed not to throw their bats. If this occurs, one warning will be given to the team. If the infraction occurs again, the batter will be called out.
4. Batting helmets with cages must be worn while batting and running the bases. (Chin straps are no longer mandatory.)
5. Balls and strikes (with walks and strikeouts) will be called. A tipped third strike that goes directly into the catcher's mitt and is caught is an out.
6. Standard bunting is allowed. **Slap or Slash hitting is not allowed.** A slash hit is defined as showing bunt, pulling back and taking a full swing at the ball.