

CHELMSFORD GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE – U8 Division Rules

All Divisions – Standard Policies

INJURIES: Any player who has suffered an injury or has a pre-existing injury and is under the care of a physician will not be allowed to participate in any Game or Practice until a Physician's note is provided to the Head Coach and Division Manager.

Games must start promptly at the designated time (15 minute grace); no inning starts after one (1) hour and forty –five (45) minutes from the umpire designated start time of the game. All games must be a minimum of four (4) full innings for the game to be considered an official game. Regulation game is seven (7) innings. No Protests allowed.

Each player must be in uniform to play games. The uniform consists of shirt, socks, and pants. Shirts must be tucked in so that the umpire can accurately call balls and strikes.

Facemasks must be worn by all fielders

No forfeits permitted and a team can borrow defensive players from the opposing team, and may play with only an infield if necessary. Players must play the infield as well as the outfield. No player can sit on the bench for two consecutive innings. Each player must sit once before any player can sit a second time.

All player eligibility questions are to be resolved prior to the start of the game. **NO PROTESTS WILL BE PERMITTED** after the game.

Home teams sit on the 1st base side and will be responsible for placing the bases before the game and placing them in the storage container at the field after the game is complete. **BOTH** teams will provide one (1) game ball to the umpire prior to the start of the game.

Rainouts will be re-scheduled. The decision to play or not will be made 1 ½ hours prior to game time and will be posted on the league website. Coaches please tell players/parents to check the website to see if a game has been rained out. Rainouts will be re-scheduled and Sundays might be needed depending on the number of rainouts.

Practices are scheduled by the coaches for the season. Coaches should create a practice schedule at the beginning of the season and email the scheduling director to schedule practices. Any additional practice request should be emailed to the scheduling director. The scheduling director will assign practice fields based on availability and reserves the right to reschedule or relocate practices in the event that the field is needed for a game.

No equipment outside of the team bench. No one, except the coach, base coaches (team members or coaches) and the on-deck batter will be allowed outside the bench. Players who are coaching at a base must wear a helmet.

Umpires will be CGSL Junior Umpires. Remember that they will make mistakes. However, do not argue about rules with the umpire. Have a quiet discussion on the ruling with the umpire between innings or call the junior umpire coordinator. If there is a problem with the umpiring please email the league immediately with name of the umpire, the game location, and the date/time of the game.

Keep a copy of these policies in your scorebook. Talk the policies and the Rules of the Game out with the other coaches and the umpires before the game.

Game Rule Exceptions:

USA U8 Rules and Regulation apply except as noted.

- Roster: CGSL assigned Rosters and CGSL Player Pull-up Policy must be followed.
- Batting: A continuous Batting order will be used by all teams. The dropped third strike rule does not apply.
- Bats: Composite bats are NOT allowed.
- Scoring: ALL ASA Run Rules are suspended. An inning will end when 4 runs have been scored or 3 outs have been made with the exception of the 7th inning where there is no limit on runs scored. This rule applies only to the 7th inning and may not be applied to any other inning for any reason (darkness, time limit, etc.) There will be no continuation scoring, a maximum of 4 runs will be scored in innings 1 to 6.
- Fielders: Ten (10) fielders will be allowed on the field. The additional player must play in the outfield and all four outfielders must play on the outfield grass. The outfield players may not enter the infield until the ball is put into play by the batter, the catcher has the ball after a pitch, or the ball is otherwise live and in play. A maximum of three coaches are allowed within the field of play to assist/coach the defensive players.
- Overthrows: A runner will not advance to the next base in an event of an overthrow.
 - Example 1: The batter hits an infield hit to third base. The fielder picks up the ball and throws it to first and overthrows or under throws the first baseman causing the ball to roll out of play. The batter will hold up at first and will not advance to second.
 - Example 2: There is a runner on first and the batter hits an infield hit to the pitcher. The infielder throws the ball to second for the force play and the ball goes into the outfield. The runner will hold up on second. Result: By eliminating

the extra base we are no longer penalizing the fielders for attempting to make the throw to first.

- Example 3: The batter hits the ball to the outfield. In this situation the batter can advance to the next base until the ball has been returned to the infield. The infield will consist of any space inside of the base paths. Once the ball has been returned to the infield, the runner can continue to next base if she is more than halfway to that base. Note: The ball does not have to be in control of a fielder to be considered "returned to the infield". Result: This will eliminate the frantic "throw it around" play while still letting the runner to advance to the earned base.
- Other: No stealing, infield fly, or dropped third strike.

Pitching: This is a Coach/Player pitched Division.

- Player pitching will begin at the mid-point of the season with coach pitch no longer an option for any team. Develop your pitchers early.
- In the first half of the season the coaches will work on technique with players wishing to pitch. A player must exhibit the ability to throw the ball over the plate with relative consistency.
- All pitchers must wear a protective face mask while on the mound.
- When a batter reaches 4 balls during the player pitch portion of the season the coach will step in and the batter will receive two more pitches at which point they must put the ball in play or it is an out. There are no walks allowed in the game. The coach must remain on the field standing behind the pitcher for the entire inning. The purpose of having the coach pitch is to give the girls an opportunity to hit the ball and fielders an opportunity to field the ball. The coach must pitch from the normal pitchers plate.
- If a batter is hit by a ball thrown by a player pitcher, and the batter makes an attempt to get out of the way (a ball rolling into her feet is not considered "hit by pitch") she may take first base. The umpire will have final say as to whether or not it is considered a "hit by pitch" situation.
- A player can pitch only 4 innings, but only 3 innings may be consecutive. If a pitcher hits 3 batters in an inning, that pitcher must be removed and is not allowed to pitch any further in that game.

Pitching: Distance 35 feet

Ball: 11" – Softie