

CLASSIE LASSIE GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

RULES – 8 & UNDER DIVISION

General Rules

- Games start at the scheduled time. No new inning starts 1 hour 45 minutes after the 1st pitch is thrown. All play stops 2 hours after the first pitch is thrown (score reverts back to the previous complete inning unless the home team has tied the game or taken the lead). As an example, a weeknight game is scheduled to start at 6:15 pm but the 1st pitch is actually thrown at 6:20. Therefore, the latest an inning can start is 8:05 pm (1 hour and 45 minutes after the 1st pitch was thrown) and all play must end at 8:20 pm (2 hours after the 1st pitch is thrown).
- A maximum of 1 extra inning shall be played if the game is tied at the end of 5 innings if time permits. Use USA SOFTBALL Rule 5, Section 11 (Tie Breaker Rule) for extra innings – the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base (e.g., if the number five batter is the leadoff batter, the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base).
- Coaches pitch to their batters in innings 1, 3, and 5 and a player from the opposing team pitches to batters in innings 2 and 4.
- The coaches and the girls shall pitch from a distance of 30 feet
- Each team bats until the defense gets 3 outs or the offense scores 5 runs, whichever comes first, except for the 5th inning. Both teams can score unlimited runs in the 5th inning. However, the visiting team should consider limiting themselves after scoring 5 runs if they feel they have a comfortable lead (i.e., they are ahead by more than 10 runs). This is up to the visiting team but try to avoid unnecessarily running up the score.
- Each batter will get 3 strikes to put the ball in play (fair territory) or a maximum of 10 pitches (whichever comes first). The batter is out if she does not swing at the 10th pitch and make contact (foul ball or put it in play). The batter does get an additional pitch on each foul ball starting with the 10th pitch. Warn the batter before the 8th pitch is thrown so she knows she has 3 pitches left.
- All Players at the game are in the batting order and a maximum of 10 play in the field. You need a minimum of 7 players to start a game.
- Having fewer than 7 players is to be considered a forfeiture. However, the game is to still be played, with the forfeiting team “borrowing” players from the other team. The manager of the team lending the players decides which girls will be chosen. A team does not need to forfeit if they start a game meeting the minimum requirement for number of players and are unable to maintain that minimum throughout the game due to injury.
- There are no automatic outs in the lineup when a team has fewer than 10 players.
- Outs are recorded, and the base runners are removed from the base if an out is made on them. The first base coach and third base coach shall make the calls on plays at 1st and 3rd base. The coach that is pitching shall make calls on plays at 2nd and home. If there is not an adult coaching 1st or 3rd then the coach that is pitching shall make the calls at that base. The defensive team does not make any of the calls.
- Score is kept. Standings will also be kept. However, all teams make the end-of-year tournament.
- 11” safe/soft softballs are used
- The defensive team can use a maximum of 10 players in the field. The defensive team can have 1 catcher, 1 pitcher and 4 infielders. The 4 infielders must start no closer to the batter than 5 feet in front of the baseline. The pitcher must have at least 1 foot inside the pitching circle and be no closer to the batter than the pitching rubber. The catcher must be in the catcher’s box behind the plate. The remaining 4 players must be positioned in the outfield grass. Outfielders cannot routinely come into the infield. Outfielders can come into the infield to field a ball that is hit to them (they **shall not** move into the infield until after the ball is hit). Outfielders should not be coming into the infield to cover a base unless it is in a backup situation that would normally be done at the older levels (i.e., the outfielders should not routinely be covering the bases, especially on groundball force outs at 2nd and 3rd).
- Every girl must play at least 2 innings in the infield every game. The infield positions are considered to be P, C, 1B, 2B, 3B, and SS.

- Other rules include no stealing or leading, no infield fly, no bunting, and batting helmets must be worn. Base runners cannot leave the base until after the ball is hit.
- The batter and base runners may advance one base on any batted ball that does not leave the infield dirt. The batter and base runners may advance up to 2 bases on a batted ball that reaches the outfield grass **ON THE FLY OR ON THE GROUND** (this is not automatic, they can be put out by the fielders if they try for a 2nd base). Base runners cannot advance on any overthrow.

Rules Specific to Innings 1, 3, and 5 when the Coaches are Pitching:

- The following coaches are allowed on the field of play:
 - Defensive Team: A backup to the Catcher and up to 2 infield Coaches (stand back by the edge of the outfield grass out of the way)
 - Offensive Team: A Pitcher, a First Base Coach, and a Third Base Coach. If a kid (under 16) is coaching first or third they need to wear a batting helmet.
- Balls and strikes are not called on pitches where the batter does not swing.

Rules Specific to Innings 2 AND 4 when the Girls are Pitching:

- A coach from the team on offense shall call the pitches (balls and strikes). Coaches shall call a strike if the batter does not swing at a pitch in the strike zone, including strike 3. The objective of having the girls pitch is to get the batters used to hitting off the girls so coaches should have a fairly big strike zone to get the girls to swing the bat and should be encouraging their batter to swing at strikes.
- When the girls are pitching, they shall follow USA SOFTBALL pitching rules (start with both feet on rubber, only one step, etc). However, coaches need to understand that most of these girls are just learning how to pitch and should use good judgment before complaining about an illegal pitch. For example, it's not a big deal if the girl starts with her foot an inch off the rubber but it is a big deal if she takes 3 steps before throwing the ball.
- If the girl pitches 5 balls prior to the batter hitting the ball or getting 3 strikes, then a coach from the team on offense shall finish pitching the at-bat. The batter shall retain the number of strikes **and** the number of pitches they received when the girl was pitching. For example, if the count on the batter is 5 balls and 2 strikes when the 5th ball was thrown then the coach will come in and the batter has 1 strike remaining and has already received 7 of their 10 allowed pitches. After the coach comes in to pitch, balls and strikes are no longer called on pitches where the batter does not swing.
- If a girl hits a batter with a pitch, then the coach immediately comes and finishes pitching that at-bat. The batter starts with a fresh pitch count (no strikes and 0 pitches). If the batter cannot complete the at-bat, then her spot is skipped in the order without any penalty and she hits again the next time her spot comes around.
- The following coaches are allowed on the field of play:
 - Defensive Team: Up to 2 infield Coaches (stand back by the edge of the outfield grass out of the way)
 - Offensive Team: A Pitcher, a First Base Coach, and a Third Base Coach. The offensive team shall also provide the backup to the Catcher and that person shall call balls and strikes when the girls are pitching. If a kid (under 16) is coaching first or third they need to wear a batting helmet.