

# CLASSIE LASSIE GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES CHART – 12U and 14U DIVISION

RULE	INTERPRETATION
Max Players on the Field	10 (Must use 4 Outfielders)
Min Players on the Field	8
Official Game / Min Official Game	Per USA SOFTBALL
Min Innings per Game for Each Girl	3
Min Innings per Game for Each Girl in Infield	1
All Players Present are in the Batting Order	Yes
Start / End Times	Per USA Softball - Games start at the scheduled time. 1 hour 20 minutes plus one more inning
Base Distance	Per USA SOFTBALL (60 feet)
Pitching Distance	Per USA SOFTBALL (40 feet for 12U, 43 feet for 14U)
10 Run Ahead Rule After	5 innings
5 Runs per Inning Limit	Yes, Except Last Inning of the Game The 2 managers and the umpires shall determine which shall be the last inning based on darkness and the time limit (once decided that will be the last inning played)
Warmup Pitches/Minutes	Per USA SOFTBALL (5/1)
Infield Fly	Per USA SOFTBALL (Yes)
Dropped 3rd Strike	Per USA SOFTBALL (Yes)
Charged Conference Limit	Per USA SOFTBALL (Yes)
Extra Innings	Per USA SOFTBALL (Yes)
Bunting	Per USA SOFTBALL (Yes)
Walk (Number of Balls)	Per USA SOFTBALL (4)
Batter Gets Base if Hit by Pitch	Per USA SOFTBALL (Yes)
No. Innings Pitched per Game (Max)	Unlimited, except a team must change pitchers if they get ahead by 10 runs
Stealing	Per USA SOFTBALL (Yes)

- Players must start the next game if they do not get the minimum 3 innings in the field in a game or do not get at least 1 inning in the infield.
- Use USA SOFTBALL Rule 5, Section 11 (Tie Breaker Rule) for extra innings (including at end of time limit) – Offensive team places girl who made last out at 2nd base at start of the inning.
- Games end in a tie if you reach the time limit or darkness and the score is tied. You revert to the score of the previous inning if you are not able to complete the inning.
- There are no automatic outs in the lineup when a team has fewer than 10 players.
- Make sure teams from other leagues know our rules when the games are played at the Classie Lassie fields (i.e., we allow 10 players in the field, there is a 5 run limit per inning, and teams have to change pitchers when they are ahead by 10 runs).
- Make sure you know the rules before the game starts when playing at other leagues fields (they could be slightly different than our rules).
- 12” softballs are used

# CLASSIE LASSIE GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES CHART – 10 & UNDER DIVISION

RULE	INTERPRETATION
Max Players on the Field	10 (Must use 4 Outfielders)
Min Players on the Field	7
Official Game / Min Official Game	6 / 3
Min Innings per Game for Each Girl in Field	3
Min Innings per Game for Each Girl in Infield	1
All Players Present are in the Batting Order	Yes
Start / End Times	Games start at the scheduled time. No new inning starts 1 hour 45 minutes after the 1 <sup>st</sup> 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).
Base Distance	60 Feet
Pitching Distance	35 Feet
Mercy Rule	12-10-8 runs after 3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> inning
5 Runs per Inning Limit	Yes, Except Last Inning of the Game The 2 managers and the umpires shall determine which shall be the last inning based on darkness and the time limit (once decided that will be the last inning played)
Warmup Pitches/Minutes	5/1
Infield Fly	Yes
Dropped 3rd Strike	Yes
Charged Conference Limit	3 Per Game
Extra Innings	Yes / 1 Maximum
Bunting	Yes
Walk (Number of Balls)	4
Batter Gets Base if Hit by Pitch	Yes
Maximum number of Hit Batters by a Pitcher (as defined by umpire)	3 per game, the pitcher must be removed from pitching after the 3 <sup>rd</sup> hit batter and cannot pitch again for the remainder of the game.
No. Innings Pitched per Game (Max)	4 Maximum, 3 Consecutive (any appearance in any inning is considered an inning pitched for that player)
Stealing	Yes, per USA softball rules

- Players must start the next game if they do not get the minimum 3 innings in the field in a game or do not get at least 1 inning in the infield.
- 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).
- Games end in a tie if you reach the time limit or darkness and the score is tied.
- There are no automatic outs in the lineup when a team has fewer than 10 players.
- 11” softballs are used

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> pitch was thrown) and all play must end at 8:20 pm (2 hours after the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2, 4, and 5 and a player from the opposing team pitches to batters in innings 1 and 3.
- 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 5<sup>th</sup> inning. Both teams can score unlimited runs in the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> pitch. Warn the batter before the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>).
- 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 2<sup>nd</sup> base). Base runners cannot advance on any overthrow.

### **Rules Specific to Innings 2, 4, 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 1 AND 3 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

# CLASSIE LASSIE GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

## RULES – 6 & UNDER DIVISION

- An adult will pitch to the batters. The adult can pitch from any distance.
- Each batter will get 10 pitches (not strikes) to put the ball in play (fair territory). After the 10th pitch, the batter will hit the ball off the tee. Balls and strikes will not be called. **This rule is to be strictly enforced. No batter shall receive more than 10 pitches.** This is necessary to keep the game moving.
- Games start at the scheduled time. No new inning starts 1 hour 45 minutes after the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch is thrown. All play stops 2 hours after the first pitch is thrown.
- All Players at the game are in the batting order and play in the field (no substitutes). There is no minimum number of players needed to start a game.
- Each team bats through their order one time each inning.
- Outs are not recorded. The batter and baserunners remain on base regardless of whether the defense makes an out. Baserunners may advance one base on each hit except when the final batter is up. All runners, including the final batter, cross home plate during the final at-bat of the inning. Coaches are encouraged to change the batting order each inning so that a different girl gets to be the final batter. A good strategy is to arrange the batting order per the uniform numbers and then rotate which number starts the inning and maintain that throughout the season. For example, uniform number 1 leads off the 1<sup>st</sup> inning of the 1<sup>st</sup> game followed by uniform numbers 2 through 12. Uniform number 2 leads off the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning of the 1<sup>st</sup> game, uniform number 3 leads off the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning of the 1<sup>st</sup> game, uniform number 4 leads off the 1<sup>st</sup> inning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> game, etc. That way each girl gets to be the last batter approximately the same number of times. Also, it helps the girls remember who they bat after which will speed things up.
- Score is not kept.
- The following coaches are allowed on the field of play:
  - Defensive Team: A Catcher  
Two Infield Coaches
  - Offensive Team: A Pitcher  
A First Base Coach  
A Third Base Coach
- The defensive team should have a player fielding the pitching position. **A catcher is not allowed.** The player at the pitcher position should cover the plays at the plate. No player shall be in closer than the pitching rubber before the batter hits the ball.
- Other rules include no stealing or leading, no infield fly, no bunting, and batting helmets must be worn.
- 11" safe/soft softballs are used