



# GIRLS SOFTBALL RULES

## GOLD DIVISION 4<sup>TH</sup> & 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE 1<sup>st</sup>. Year Kid Pitch

It is the intent of these rules to teach the youth participants the game softball. Any action or technique that is contrary to playing the game as it is intended will be considered unsportsmanlike and will not be tolerated.

1. The philosophy of this division is to provide players with little or no experience a structured league environment that they can learn the basic skills and concepts of the game.
2. Gold division is meant to be instructional in nature.
3. The intent is to ensure all players the same opportunity to play a number of positions, and approximately the same amount of playing time. Coaches are required to allow players to play different positions.
4. No stealing - base runners must remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit.
5. Intentional bunts will be ruled an out & runners may not advance.
6. The infield fly rule and the dropped third strike rule will not be used.
7. Overthrows: Balls going completely out of play will be ruled a dead ball, **base runners may advance to the next base.** (If the runner is between bases they get to advance to the next base). All balls that stay within the foul lines are considered live (runners may advance at their own risk). The umpire may call time at his or her own judgment.
8. Every player that attends the game will bat. Those players who arrive late will be added to the bottom of the batting order.
9. A half inning will conclude with the end of the batting order or the third out.
10. In an inning a max of (6) players may play the infield and (4) in the outfield.
11. Coaches are not permitted on the playing field during an inning, except when called upon to pitch.
12. Infielders playing first and third base will be allowed to be no more 5 feet inside of the baseline. All other infielders excluding the pitcher must be positioned behind the base line and at least 5 feet from the nearest base. All infielders are required to wear a defensive face mask.
13. Catchers must wear all the supplied catcher's equipment.

14. An 11-inch softball will be used for the entire season.
15. No leading off or stealing will be allowed. Foot first sliding is allowed, absolutely no head first sliding
17. Base distance is 60 feet and pitching distance is 35 feet.
18. Seven (7) players must be present in order to start a game. Players are asked to arrive 20 minutes prior to game time.
20. The umpire will have the official time for the start and completion of the game. Coaches must communicate with the umpire regarding any and or all-game time situations.
21. Gold division time limit is 75 minutes, or seven innings. For the 7:15 pm games, no new inning shall start after 8:30pm. The games are ending in darkness and this becomes a safety issue. Check with the umpire who has the official game time.
22. Helmets, with a face mask, must be worn by all batters and base runners. Any player who removes her helmet intentionally during the game without the umpire's approval will be called out as a base runner or warned as a defensive player.
23. Only league approved softball bats will be permitted.
24. The Parks & Recreation Department will provide each child a uniform consisting of a hat, shirt, and pants. Steel cleats & jewelry will not be allowed.
25. Every player that attends a game must play at least two (2) innings defensively. If they are in the infield for the first 2 innings, they must go to the outfield if at all possible for the next two. Continue this process throughout the entire game. If a player has not been attending practices or games on a regular scheduled basis the Parks & Recreation Office should be notified.
26. Any player that is bleeding must leave the game indefinitely until first aid has been administered. A base runner may be replaced by the last person to make an out for that team.
27. When a bat is thrown, the batter will be called out at the umpire's discretion.
28. Rain-outs will be called by the league supervisor. Coaches may call the Parks & Recreation office inclement weather phone number after 5pm @ 248-628-1720 x 6 or the OTPR Facebook page. The Parks & Recreation Department will re-schedule rain-outs on the earliest available date.
29. Team managers are responsible before and after a game for all players, assistant coaches, and spectators associated with their team. Abusive language and or foul actions will not be tolerated by this Parks & Recreation Department. Umpires and the on site league supervisor has the authority to suspend a game for the removal of a player, coach, and or a spectator. Any person ejected from a game will have two (2) minutes to be out of sight & sound.

30. No negative chanting or chattering at an opposing player or team is allowed. Teams are asked to shake hands after each game under the coaches supervision.
31. The Director of Parks & Recreation has the authority to amend league rules, schedules, or league changes in order to accommodate a physically challenged participant under the A.D.A or in the best interest of the entire league.

The Modified Player Pitch Rule:

There are no walks in Girls Gold level softball. Once the batter has taken ball four, the coach of the team batting will come out and pitch until the batter hits the ball, strikes out **or sees five (5) additional pitches thrown by the coach. If the batter has not hit after the five (5) coach pitches**, the batter will be ruled out. A batter may be out on a called third strike. The pitcher must stay within a 6-foot radius of the pitching rubber until the ball has left the coach's hand. The coach must pitch with a normal delivery **but may move closer to get the ball over the plate.**