

Clarence Girls' Softball League

MAJOR DIVISION RULES

Clarence Girls' Softball League uses the Official Softball Playing Rules as adopted by the *Amateur Softball Association of America*; youth **fast pitch** rules apply.

I. GENERAL

- A) To be eligible for the Major Division, a girl should be in the 6th grade. Exceptions to this will be made with the agreement of the Major Division Coordinator and the Board of Directors. As an optimum, each team should consist of 12 - 14 girls.
- B) In every **six** inning game, each girl on the team roster who is present must play at least a minimum of three defensive innings, provided she is not declared ineligible by the coach at the start of the game because she is physically unable to compete. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a forfeited game to the offending team.
- C) There are no limits on substitutions. **Pitchers can only pitch a maximum of 2 innings or part of an inning.** Catchers can catch only a maximum of 3 innings or part of an inning. All players must play at least two innings in the infield.
- D) The home team, designated on the schedule, shall have the following responsibilities:
1. Sit on the first base side of the infield.
 2. Supply pitcher's rubber if needed, provides new game ball and good second base.
 3. Home team coach must call to reschedule rain outs with Major Division Coordinators within 48 hours of original game time. Games cannot be rescheduled for reasons other than weather without approval of Division Coordinator. Teams are required to show regardless of weather unless by prior mutual agreement of the coaches or notification of unplayable conditions by the Parks Department. Umpires will then determined the fitness of the field for play. All games must be rescheduled and played.
 4. Teams short players must use "call-up" players from the International Div.
 5. Division Coordinator will contact Umpire Coordinator for rescheduling of the umpire for postponed games at least 48 hours in advance.
- E) Any fan yelling or a deterrent of play from the spectators must be handled by the coach or coaches. If the spectator does not stop after two warnings, the umpire may forfeit the game to the opposing team. Spectators (not affiliated with a team) causing a disturbance will be approached by both coaches and the umpire to resolve the problem.
- F) Smoking and alcoholic beverages are not allowed at all players games.

II. PITCHING

- A) The distance from the pitcher's rubber to the home plate is **35 feet** measured from the front of the pitching rubber to the back of home plate.
- B) No balks will be called against the pitcher.
- C) **Pitchers can only pitch a maximum of 2 innings**
- D) Pitching regulations will follow ASA rules for Fast Pitch. See Rule 6, section 3 on legal delivery.

III. BATTING

- A) Teams will bat all girls present on the roster in continuous batting order.
- B) In the event that the offensive team scores five runs during one inning, the inning shall be declared over the instant the **fifth** run scores. This rule does not apply in the 6th inning.
- C) If the batter throws her bat in such a way that, in the umpire's opinion, it may be injurious to persons or property, the umpire will warn the batter. Should the same batter repeat this offense, she will be declared out and the play declared dead.
- D) Long pants should be worn while batting and running the bases.
- E) The batter will **not** be allowed to steal first base on a dropped third strike.
- F) Bunting is permitted and encouraged.

IV. BASE RUNNING

- A) Stealing is allowed on any base only **after the ball reaches home plate**, with the following exception. Runners can only steal home plate if the catcher makes a play on the runner at third base or on any other base runner.
- B) No metal spikes allowed.
- C) A runner may not lead off until the ball is released by the pitcher.
- D) If the catcher for the next inning is on base when the second out has just occurred, she will be replaced with a pinch runner in order to allow her time to dress for the next defensive inning.

V. DEFENSIVE RULES

- A) A normal defensive team will consist of ten players with at least four outfielders. The outfielders should be positioned at least twenty feet from the baseline. A minimum of eight fielders is required. Teams will wait a minimum of ten minutes after normal game starting time for players, and then the umpire will declare a forfeit.
- B) Coaches may call up players from the next lower division to fill their roster. The call up player cannot pitch and must be assigned to the last position on the batting order
- C) The infield fly rule is eliminated.
- D) Catcher must wear a helmet, face mask & throat guard, chest protector, and shin guards during games and practices. Safety is always put first.
- E) Players should be rotated equally between infield and outfield with no player playing the infield more than **4 innings per game**.

VI. POST GAME

- A) At the end of the game, players will exchange a handshake as a gesture of good sportsmanship.
- B) Each coach is responsible for the game report write-up and emailing it to the Clarence Bee after each game. Each report should mention 3-4 players, with all players mentioned at least once during the season.
- C) Each coach is responsible for the proper condition, cleaning, adjustments, safety concerns and accounting of league equipment. If you need replacement equipment contact the Equipment Manager. Each coach must return **all** league property at the end of the season.