

Majors Rules

Effective Date: Jan 26 2015



Current USSSA rules with the following exceptions:

General

- 1 Eligible girls are in the 5th and 6th grades. Any player can play in a higher age class, but cannot play in a lower age class.
- 2 Players cannot play on more than one NGSSA team at the same time.
- 3 Each girl shall play for the NGSSA team in the area in which she lives, unless approved by the NGSSA Board of Directors.
- 4 The ball will be an 11 inch restricted flight, league approved softball.
- 5 The home team will be responsible for furnishing the umpire, and they will be a NGSSA TRAINED UMPIRE. If the home team has no umpire present, the visiting team may use their league certified umpire. Balls and strikes are not to be argued. Penalty is immediate ejection from the game and removal from the site.
- 6 All regular season games will start at 6 PM unless previous arrangements have been made by the coaches. (Ten minute grace period.) Home team will have the choice of dugout.
- 7 Minimum number of players to field a team, is 8 (eight).

LESS THAN 8 (EIGHT)

EFFECT: --- GAME FORFEIT – BUT PLAY THE GAME FOR FUN. Possibly share players to balance the teams for the gam

- 8 No mercy rule will be in effect during regular season games. Please play a complete game.

Rain outs

- 9 RAINOUTS. The decision to cancel a game is made by the HOME TEAM UMPIRE AT THE FIELD. It may be raining hard at 4:00, but sunny and playable at 6:00. It is imperative that the games get played due to field scheduling, so PLAY THE GAME IF CONDITIONS PERMIT.
- 10 An official game will be 4 innings (3 ½ innings with the home team ahead) or more with a maximum of 7 innings. If after 4 innings a game must be called, the score will revert back to the last complete inning. A game can end in a tie. Umpires have the authority and final decision to call a stop to games due to darkness, weather or safety conditions.
- 11 SUSPENDED GAME. A game that is stopped by the umpire because of rain or darkness, and cannot be restarted within 30 minutes, and is less than 4 innings completed, can be resumed at a later date, to be arranged by the home team coach. The suspended game will be resumed at the point of

interruption, with the same situation as when stopped as in, batting order, pitch count, positioning, etc.

- 12 All games must be rescheduled within 72 hours by the home team coach.

Substitutions

- 13 Every team will use the unlimited substitution format. All girls will be batted in a continuous order to be set at the beginning of the game. Any player may re-enter the field as often as desired as long as their position in the batting order does not change. Every girl will play at least 3 (three) innings in the field and be entered into the field by the 2nd (second) inning. In addition no girl can sit in back to back innings. It is not necessary to report changes made in the field to the other team. Late comers will be added to the bottom of the batting order.
- 14 If 8 or more girls are present, all must play, no exceptions. Every team will use the unlimited substitution format, thereby batting every girl in a continuous order. Any player may re-enter the field as often as desired as long as their position in the batting order does not change. Every girl must play at least three innings and be entered into the field by the 4th inning. It is not necessary to report changes made in the field to the other team. Latecomers are added to the bottom of the batting order. Remember, Tournament will be different.
- 15 If a player leaves the game, that player's spot in the batting order is eliminated without penalty. The player may not re-enter the game.

Infield and pitching

- 16 Bases will be 65 (sixty-five) feet.
- 17 Home run field radius, 160 (one hundred sixty) feet.
- 18 Pitching distance will be 40 (forty) feet.
- 19 Once the pitcher begins the delivery motion, the batter cannot request time out.
- 20 The pitched ball must be released within 5 (five) seconds from time the pitcher has the ball, and the batter has taken her position in the batter's box.
- 21 Pitchers legal motion allowed in actual delivery of the pitch.
- 22 The pitched ball must arc at least 3 feet after leaving the pitcher's hand and before it passes any part of home plate and the pitched ball shall not rise higher than 10 feet above the ground.
- 23 All Majors pitchers must wear a face mask for protection while pitching.
- 24 There will be no intentional walks.

Effect: The penalty for an intentional walk will be:

The team that has received an intentional walk will be given the option of batting again (or) not and taking the outcome of that at bat or a 2 base award and all base runners would advance as needed to award the 2 bases. In addition to this penalty the coach shall receive a warning and if the same batter or any other batter in the game is pitched 4 straight unhittable balls without a strike being thrown and in the opinion of the umpire this was another intentional walk than the coach

shall be ejected and the pitcher shall be removed from the pitcher's mound for the remainder of the game. The pitcher may play any other position if removed from the pitcher's mound.

Code of conduct

PLEASE REMEMBER AND INFORM YOUR TEAM AND PARENTS

- **All teams are responsible for cleaning up the fields after practices and games. Failing to do this may result in the loss of the field.**
- **No alcoholic beverages, smoking, sunflower seeds, or chewing tobacco are allowed on school or park grounds.**
- **No dogs or pets are allowed on the fields at games or practice.**
- **It is recommended that all coaches, male and female find a "team Mom or Dad" to be present at all practices.**
- **The girls "Pay to Play". Let's make it fun for them! Have a great year!**

Batting and Base running

- 25 A safety bag shall always be used when the defense is making a play at first base. The safety bag is considered the same as first base. For safety reasons, a batter/runner will use the safety bag on any play involving the first baseman. The runner will use the regular base if remaining on first base after the completion of the play. THE DEFENSE CANNOT SUBSTITUTE THE SAFETY BAG WHEN MAKING A FORCE OUT. They must use the regular base.
- 26 All batters and base runners will wear protective helmets.
- 27 Base coaches may be team players and may have adult assistants. Player base coaches shall wear protective headgear.
- 28 Home run line will be 160 (one hundred sixty) feet. The ball must clear on the fly for a home run. 2 (two) bases for all runners if the ball rolls beyond the home run line. The result is not changed if the defense makes contact with the ball before it crosses the home run line. If the field is unmarked and the ball rolls beyond an outfielder, it will be an automatic 2 (two) bases.
- 29 There is no limit on foul balls.
- 30 The batter cannot be called out on an uncaught foul ball.
- 31 Infield fly rule is NOT in effect.
- 32 Runners are encouraged to slide.
- 33 If a ball is overthrown and rolls past the cones, the ball is 'out of play', and the runners advance one base from the last base they had touched at the time the ball rolled past the cones.
- 34 When a home run line is being used during a game all defensive players must be positioned in the field of play in front of the home run line before the ball is pitched.
- 35 A maximum of five runs per half inning and the teams change sides.

EXCEPTION: When a ball is hit in the air over the home run line, then all runs count, or if there are runners on 2nd and 3rd and a ground rule double is hit, the runners on 2nd and 3rd will both score. (The Continuous Play Rules.)

Example 1: 4 (four) runs are already in, bases are loaded, and a ball is hit over the home run line.
EFFECT: 8 (eight) runs will score.

Example 2: 4 (four) runs are already in, there are runners on 2nd and 3rd, a ball rolls beyond the home run line.
EFFECT: Ground rule double, 6 (six) runs will score.

- 36 A maximum of 7 runs can be scored in the 7th inning. Continuous play for Home run and Ground rule doubles will be in effect for this inning as well. Maximum runs scored are 10 on a home run, and 8 on a ground rule double.
- 37 When the batter delays entering the batter's box, after the umpire signals play ball, after 10 (ten) seconds, the umpire shall declare dead ball and a strike will be called on the batter.
- 38 A play is considered complete when all forward motion OF THE LEAD RUNNER HAS STOPPED. Throwing the ball to the pitcher does not stop the play unless 'TIME' has been called by the umpire. Completion of play and the decision to call 'TIME' is at the umpire discretion.

39 There will be no throwing of a bat.

Effect: If a bat is determined by the Umpire to have been "thrown" instead of dropped after a base hit then the batter shall be given a verbal warning not to throw the bat, both benches shall also be given a verbal warning not to throw the bat, and if another bat is in the Umpire's opinion "Thrown" by a batter than an out shall be called and any advances by the team at bat shall be void on that play, all base runners shall move back to their positions at the time of bat.

Uniforms and Sportsmanship

40 Uniform is to be a team jersey, with a number on the back, and must be worn at all games. Baseball cap or visor is optional.

41 The catcher will wear a mask, protective helmet, along with a chest protector.

42 Rings, dangling jewelry, watches and metal cleats must not be worn at any game or practice. This is for the safety of all the girls.

43 There will be no negative remarks said or made to the opposing players by the players, coaches, parents, and or spectators. If no resolution, than the umpire shall have the authority to eject the offending coach, player, parent fan or whoever is causing the conflict or umpire can call a forfeiture of the game.

COACHES WILL BE RESPONSIBLE TO CONTROL THEIR TEAM AND PARENTS

EFFECT:

First warning--by the umpire to offending team.

Second warning---results in suspension of play, until the problem is resolved.

IF NO RESOLUTION, UMPIRE CAN CALL FORFEITURE.

ENFORCEMENT OF THIS RULE IS THE JUDGMENT OF THE UMPIRE.

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