

# MS and HS Rules

Effective date Jan 2017



Current USSSA rules with the following exceptions:

## General

1. Eligible girls for Middle School are in 6<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>h</sup> grades. High School is in 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. A 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 NGSSA Board of Directors.
4. NGSSA uses only 11" USSSA approved softball during the game.
5. The NGSSA will be responsible for furnishing the umpire.
6. All regular season games will start at 6 PM or 8 PM unless the league schedulers have made previous arrangements. A ten minute grace period will be afforded to either team in need to get the required number of players there. The home team has a choice of dugout.
7. In the event of a double header, both games are subject to a time limit. At the umpire's discretion, there will be no new inning started after 1 hour and 40-45 minutes such that the 2nd game starts by 8:00PM. In case of an incomplete inning, the game reverts back to the last complete inning played. If the game ends as a tie, it will stand as a tie though the end of the season. A tie will be considered as ½ a win when determining standings.
8. Minimum number of players to field a team is 8 (eight). LESS THAN 8 (EIGHT) – EFFECT – GAME FOREIT – HOWEVER PLAY THE GAME ANYWAY FOR FUN. Share players to balance the teams for the game.
9. No mercy rule will be in effect during the regular season games. However – if the visiting team is ahead by 10 or more runs at the end of 6 innings – the Flip flop rule will be used. (Visiting team stays on defense; the home team then goes up to bat. If the home team catches up the Visitors would then have last at bat)

## Rain Outs

10. RAINOUTS – each coach needs to call the appropriate rainout number, if the fields are open for play – each team will need to show up at the field each with a minimum of 8 players. The LEAGUE UMPIRE will need to make the decision on the playability of the field.
11. An official game will be 4 or more. If after 4 (four) innings a game must be called the score will revert back to the last completed inning. UMPIRES WILL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO CALL GAMES DUE TO DARKNESS OR WEATHER.
12. SUSPENDED GAME. A game that is stopped by the umpire because of rain, lightening or darkness that cannot be restarted within 30 minutes, and has less than 4 innings completed can be resumed at a later date. Arrangements will be made with the coaches and the league schedulers. The suspended game will revert back to the last completed inning.
13. All games need to have the reschedule initiated within 72 hours.

## Substitution

14. 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 be entered into the field by the 2<sup>nd</sup> (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. (If a player arrives late, the first inning she is there is considered her first inning)
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.

## Field of play and Pitching

16. Bases will be 65 (sixty five) feet.
17. Home run field radius will be defined by the fences.
18. Pitching distance is 46 feet (Middle School) and 50 feet (HS). \*HS Players are allowed to pitch from up to 6 feet behind.
19. 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.
20. The pitchers pivot foot is to remain in contact with the pitching rubber prior to and during the pitch; your foot can come off the pitching rubber upon release of the pitched ball. \* This is not applicable when pitching from behind
21. 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.
22. All pitchers must wear a face mask for protection while pitching.

## Batting and Base Running

23. 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 DEFENSIVE PLAYER CANNOT USE THE SAFETY BAG WHEN MAKING A FORCE OUT. They must use the regular base.
24. All batters and base runners will wear protective helmets.
25. Base coaches may be team players and may have adult assistants. Player base coaches shall wear protective head gear.
26. There is a maximum limit of 5 runs per half-inning and the teams will change sides; with the exception of continuous play where all runs scored after the fifth run will count. Example: four runs in, bases loaded, batter hits a double - Two runners cross plate, time is called. Effect: six runs scored for the inning. Sides change. Exception: There will be no limit on runs scored in the seventh and subsequent innings.
27. If the batter fouls back a pitch to the catcher with less than 2 strikes, the ball must go over the batters head in order for an out to be recorded. However if the batter has 2 strikes and fouls a ball straight back into the catcher's mitt she is out.

28. Runners are encouraged to slide into a base other than first base when a play is expected, to reduce the risk of a collision. If a slide is not possible she must get out of the way to avoid collision, or to allow for a throw. Head first sliding is an out.
29. When the batter delays entering the batter's box, after the umpire signals play ball, after 10 (ten) seconds, the umpire shall declare a dead ball and a strike will be called on the batter.
30. A play is considered complete when all forward motion of the lead runner has stopped and the ball is in control by an infielder. Throwing the ball to the pitcher does not stop play unless 'TIME' has been called by the umpire. Completion of play and the decision to call 'TIME' is at the Umpire discretion.
31. There will be no reckless 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 given a verbal warning not to throw the bat, and if another bat is "thrown" by a batter 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**

32. Uniform is to be a team jersey, with a number on the back. The optional outerwear with a number is also permitted, and must be worn at all games. Baseball cap or visor is optional.
33. The catcher will wear a mask, protective helmet, along with a chest protector.
34. 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.
35. There will be no negative remarks said or made to 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 the umpire can call a forfeiture of the game.

### **COACHES WILL BE RESPONSIBLE TO CONTROL THEIR TEAMS AND PARENTS. EFFECT:**

First warning, by the umpire to offending team. Second warning, results in suspension of play, until problem is resolved. If no resolution, Umpire can call forfeiture. Enforcement of this rule is the judgment of the umpire.

### **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 so may result in the loss of field.

No alcoholic beverage, smoking, sunflower seeds, or chewing tobacco are allowed on school or park grounds at games or practices.

NO dogs or pets are allowed at the field at games are practice.

It is recommended that all coaches male or 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!