

## **RULES**

### **AWABSA Girls 7-8 Softball**

- Purpose:** To explain and demonstrate what the sport of softball is and to teach catching skills, throwing skills, pitching skills, proper base running, field layout, good sportsmanship and team spirit. Players should have a good understanding of these aspects when the season ends or before advancing to the next age group.
- Age:** Age group is 7 and 8 years old (unless approved by commissioner.)
- Ball:** An 11" 'softie softball' or similar ball will be used at all games and practices.
- Team:** Coaches/Parents are strongly encouraged to assist with on field instruction. Players and head coach will receive a t-shirt and hat to keep. All players will receive a participation award.
- Game:** There is a 1 ½ hour time limit for games or 6 innings (whichever is sooner), weather and daylight permitting. No new inning shall start after 1 ½ hours from the official state of the game (unless agreed to by both coaches)
- Pitching:**
- 30' pitching distance.
  - The OHSAA step back rule for pitching is allowed.
  - First 4 pitches of each at bat are from the kid pitcher. After four pitches, the coach then pitches the remaining strikes. No arc is permitted when coach pitches.
  - In an effort to speed up the pace of play, the coaches may mutually agree to shorten the number of kid pitches per at bat.
  - A pitcher may only pitch a maximum of 3 innings per game.
- Batting:**
- Hitters cannot walk. They must get a hit, strike out, make an out, or get hit by pitch.
  - Hitters cannot strikeout against the kid pitcher.
  - After 3 strikes against the coach pitcher, the batter is out.
  - 3 outs will end the inning.
  - No dropped third strike rule.
  - Bunting is only allowed when the pitcher is an opposing player. No bunting when there is coach pitch.
  - Helmets must be worn by all batters and base runners.
  - Teams are only allowed to bat through their entire lineup one time per inning. Coach must notify the opposing team when their last batter is up.
- Base Runners:**
- If a baserunner is out, they must leave the base.
  - Base runners cannot steal bases or advance on passed balls.
  - Baserunners must be halfway between bases when the ball is in the pitcher circle to be able to advance to the next base. Otherwise, they must return to the last base touched.

- When available, a safety base will be used at first base in foul territory next to the normal white first base bag. The runner should run toward the safety bag, which will be considered part of the white bag, and play will be called as such.

Catching:

- Catchers must be equipped in proper catcher's equipment.

Field:

- Coach should pitch from at least 25 feet.
- Adults may be placed on field to assist in teaching players' proper position and offensive play. Adults may not interfere with play.
- No more than 11 defensive players are allowed on the field.
- Up to five outfielders are allowed.
- Outfielders have to be on the grass when the ball is pitched, or where a "normal" outfield would be when playing on a larger field. Outfielders are allowed to cover the bases.
- Outs may be made force, tag, or fly.
- Three outs will end the inning.
- No infield fly rule.
- Rotating players into various defensive positions is strongly encouraged.