WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

Parks and Recreation Youth Softball Program

6U Coach Pitch Rules

Uniforms

* Uniforms will be distributed prior to the start of the season.
* Shorts or cut offs may not be worn during the games.
* Appropriate footwear (cleats or sneakers) must be worn (no metal cleats or sandals).
* No rings, watches, earrings or any other jewelry may be worn.
* Hair must be pulled back and out of the girl’s face.

Regulations For Games

Duration - Game shall be five innings unless shortened due to lack of daylight or inclement weather. The duration of the game shall not exceed 1 hour and 45 minutes with no inning starting after 1 hour and 30 minutes from the start of the game.

Games played on the weekend where another game is scheduled to start at a predetermined time must follow the 1 hour and 45 minutes / 1 hour and 30 minute rule from the original scheduled start time.

An official game will consist of five full innings unless time or weather conditions do not allow this. Since there are no official scores or standings, the official game is used only to determine whether a potential make-up should be scheduled. Coaches are encouraged to make up games and will be scheduled based on field availability.

Inning – Will consist of three (3) outs or three (3) runs.

The bases will be set at 50 feet.

There will be a 25-foot arc extending from baseline to baseline, between home plate and the pitcher’s mound.

The pitching rubber will be aligned evenly with all bases, at a distance of 35 feet from home plate. The circle designating the pitcher’s mound will be 8 foot in diameter (4 foot radius).

Helmets - All base runners, batters, first basemen, catchers and pitchers must wear protective helmets.

Catchers – There is no appropriately sized catchers equipment available for 6U players they are not permitted to stand behind the batter wear a batting helmet at all times. The catcher must take her position to the far side of the backstop.

Field - It is the responsibility of both coaches to leave the field and bench areas in clean condition. Report any problems to the League Director.

Coaching - First base coach will call plays at first base. Coach at the pitching mound will call plays at second and home. Third base coach will call plays at third base. There are NO ties awarded to the runner. Two coaches from the defensive team are permitted on the field during play to help align and instruct the players.

Defense

Team Size - All players present at the game will take a position in the field at the start of each inning. A coach will set his infield with six (6) players and the balance of the girls in attendance will take a position in the outfield. There should never be less than six (6) players on the field at the start of an inning for regulation play.

No player may play more than two (2) innings at one position.

The purpose of this rule is to develop a “position rotation” and to ensure that all the players get an equal opportunity to develop well rounded softball skills.

Pitchers - A coach from the offensive team will pitch to his/her respective team. Pitching must be underhand and of average speed. The coach will pitch from the pitching rubber or within one stride of it.

Outfielders – All extra players will assume a position as an outfielder. All outfielders must be positioned on the outfield grass. There is NO “short field” position.

Plays At Home –Balls batted off the tee, following the “batting” rule above, are not eligible to make outs at home plate. Runners on third base will be free to advance to home and score a run.

There can be outs made at home plate only when the force out resulted from a hit made by a PITCHED ball (not off a tee).

Offense

Continuous Batting Order - All players present at the start of the game will bat in a continuous order. Players arriving after the start of the game will be added to the end of the batting order.

Batting - There are no walks. There are no strikeouts. A batter is allowed five (5) good pitches. If by the fifth pitch the batter has not hit a fair ball a batting tee will be used until the batter has hit a fair ball.

A ball that comes in contact with the pitching coach shall be considered a dead ball and the batter will be awarded first base. No outs can be made on a dead ball.

The pitching coach will make the call as to whether the batted ball is fair or foul (ball traveling less that the 25 feet).

Both teams are responsible for counting the number of pitches for all batters.

Base Running - No bunting, stealing, or infield fly rule. Runners must remain on the base until the ball is hit (NO LEADS). Runners and batters may advance only one base at a time on any infield hit.

Any hit that flies to the grass in the air will be an automatic double. Runners may advance two bases.

If caught the batter is out however all runners that were already on the bases will have a free return to the base that they left from.

General

Double First Base – To protect the first baseman and the runner from collisions a new first base has been introduced. The new base consists of one double size base with half being white and half being orange. The white portion is in fair territory and the orange portion in foul territory. The base runner must run through the bag on the orange side unless rounding the bag for an extra base hit.

Overthrows - Any overthrow at any base is a dead ball and runners may not advance.

Forfeits – There are NONE. Each team must have a minimum of six (6) girls to take the field. If a team doesn’t have six (6) players, the opposing team may lend the players needed to play the game. There should NEVER be a forfeit. The player(s) on loan should be the ones at the bottom of the batting order. These players should be placed in the outfield.

Home Team - The home team is the second team on the schedule, i.e. AWAY vs. Home. The home team occupies the third base side of the field.

Rescheduling - It will be up to the coaches in conjunction with the League Director to reschedule games not played due to inclement weather or other extenuating circumstances. The opposing coach must agree upon any rescheduling. This request will only be honored if the reason is due to school, church or other family related functions.