

7 AND 8 YEAR OLD GIRLS SOFT T-BALL LEAGUE

AVON JUNIOR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

League Organization

7 & 8 yr old Softball

- The following rules have been approved by the AJAA Board of Directors. Any changes to these rules must be approved by same
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League Goals

The goal of the AJAA softball is:

- For everyone involved to have a good experience, start learning softball, HAVE FUN!
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Official Rules Changes

Unless otherwise specified, the "ASA Official Slow Pitch Softball Rule Book." is the governing force.

ANY CHANGES TO THESE RULES MUST BE APPROVED BY THE AJAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Batting

- Everybody on the team bats. Three outs per inning or 10 batters.
- At the beginning of the game, each coach will make up the batting order consisting of all players present and the team will bat in that order throughout the game whether or not they start out playing a defensive position. Late arrival players that are allowed to play shall be put at the bottom of the starting batting order.
- Both coaches exchange batting order before the games starts.
- Batters must keep both feet in the batter's box.
- Each batter will receive 7 pitches or 5 strikes. The seventh pitch shall be considered the last pitch unless the batter fouls or foul-tips the pitch, in which case, the count shall remain at 7 pitches. A batter fouling a 5th strike and the catcher catches the ball, the batter shall be out. Any other foul ball, the ball must be over the batter's head for the catch to be counted as an out.
- There are no balls. Only pitches swung at shall be called a strike.
- One warning will be given to a team if a batter throws a bat that strikes the catcher, hit the fence or backstop, or travel over 20 feet, the hitter shall be out. Any player which throws the bat after that warning will be called out. This rule will be enforced.
- No intentional bunting or chopping at the ball is allowed.
- If a batter swings at an illegal pitch, it becomes a legal pitch. If the coach throws an illegal pitch, it becomes a dead ball.
- Home plate is in fair territory.

Tenth Batter Rule

- Whenever the 10th batter comes to bat in an inning, all runners crossing home plate prior to an out being made shall count as runs, regardless of the number of outs.
- An out occurs whenever a defensive player stops the forward progress of the hitter by forcing out the batter at first, tagging the hitter or runners or touching any base in front of any runner(s), including the hitter.

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- There are no overthrows on the 10th batter; all runners continue to run until an out is made.
- In case of an overthrow over the fence, the batter shall be awarded three bases and all runs forced home shall count.
- Whether a runner crossed home plate prior to an out being made is a judgment call.
- As long as a defensive player who has possession of the ball tags a base in front of any runner(s) an out has occurred.

Batting Out Of Order

- An error discovered while the incorrect batter is at bat, the correct batter shall take her place and assume the count of the incorrect batter.
- If the error is discovered after the incorrect batter has completed her turn at bat and before the first pitch to the next batter, the batter that should have batted is out. All runs scored are canceled and base runners shall return. The next batter is the player whose name follows that of the player called out for failing to bat.
- If the error is discovered after the first pitch to the second incorrect batter, all runs scored and all bases run shall be declared legal. The next batter shall be the one whose name follows that of the incorrect batter. No one is called out and those that missed their turn at bat will not bat until the next time their name appears in the line-up.

Home Team

- Shall use the 3rd base bench or dugout.
- Shall provide the game ball.
- The home team is responsible to line the diamond prior to the game. They will also furnish the game ball.

Sliding

- A slide or attempting to avoid contact is required on **all close plays at home plate, 2nd base and 3rd base**. This is a judgment call by the umpire.
- No headfirst slides forward into a base are permitted. A headfirst slide returning to base is permitted.
- If the fielder has the ball, the runner should slide when possible or make every attempt to avoid contact.
- The runner may be called out if she does not slide and a collision occurs. If the fielder does not have the ball but is blocking the base or home plate, she is guilty of obstruction.

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Base Running

- After a base runner has reached or returned to a base, she shall not move off the base until:
 1. The ball is hit by the batter, or
 2. A play is made on her or another base runner, or
 3. There is an overthrow. Runners shall advance one base on all overthrows. An overthrow is when the ball is thrown past an infielder. There can only be one overthrow per hit ball.
- When a ball is hit to the outfield, as soon as the ball crosses back into the infield and a defensive player in the infield gains possession of the ball, the base runners are allowed to advance, at the risk of being put out, only to the base that they are running toward. If they advance further and are thrown out, the out stands. If they reach the next base safely, they are to return to the base that they were running toward when the ball came under the control of a player in the infield.
- A run cannot be scored if the 3rd out of an inning is a force out.
- No base stealing or advance on a passed ball by the catcher.
- The base runner is out if she runs outside the baseline by three feet (length of arm) to avoid the tag. However the base runner is not out if she runs 3 feet or more outside the baseline to avoid interfering with a fielder attempting to field a batted ball.
- Coaches must stay in coaching box except to allow a fielder to make a play. No physical assistance may be given to any base runner. (Effect - runner will be called out)

Players And Substitutions

- All players must play every inning on defense.
- The manager has no obligation to play any player that arrives after 2 complete innings have been played.

Fielding

- All players must be positioned in the normal location of that position until the ball is hit. Normally outfielders should be positioned at least on the edge of the outfield grass.
- All players will be allowed on the diamond at a time with 5 of those positions being in the infield. All other players shall be positioned in the outfield.
- Coaches will be allowed in the outfield to direct their players on where to throw the ball. **Coaches in the outfield will not direct the offensive players.**
- The infield fly rule **will not** be used.

Pitching

- A slow moderate speed pitch with an arch of 6 feet from the ground and not to exceed 12 feet from the ground. (Ball must clear pitcher's head before reaching home plate.) **Coach/Pitcher cannot direct batter/runner after ball is hit.**
- The pitcher's helper must stand inside the pitching circle and cannot be any farther forward (toward the batter) than the pitching coach.

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Definitions

- Catch - a ball is considered caught as long as it is held in the hand, hands, or glove of one or more players and does not touch the ground. The catch is not complete while the ball is being juggled.
- Fly or Foul Fly Ball - any ball going over the batter's head. If a foul fly ball is caught, the batter is out and the base runner may tag up and advance to the next base at her own risk.
- Foul Tip - a ball that does not go over the batter's head. If the ball goes directly from the bat and is caught on the 5th strike, the batter is out. If it is not on the 5th strike, it shall be counted as a strike.
- Strike Zone - the strike zone is that space over any part of home plate between the batter's highest shoulder and her knees, when the batter assumes a natural batting stance. The strike zone is the area directly above the plate, regardless of where the batter is standing in the batter's box.

Obstruction Is The Act Of:

- A defensive player or team member which hinders or prevents a batter from striking or hitting a pitched ball.
- A fielder, while not in the possession of the ball, in the act of fielding a batted ball, or about to receive a thrown ball, which impedes the progress of a base runner who is legally running the bases.

Interference Is The Act Of:

1. An offensive player or team member which impedes or confuses a defensive player attempting to execute a play.

Field Decorum

Code of Conduct

- **Any abusive, obscene language or un-sportsmanlike conduct by coaches, players, spectators or parents will not be tolerated and the umpire has the authority to handle such situations in the customary manner (i.e. a warning, removal from game, removal from AJAA property).** (It is suggested a board member or AJAA officer be consulted if deemed appropriate.)

Sportsmanship Expectations

- Coaches are not only responsible for their own conduct, but also for the conduct of their players and fans as well. All coaches are expected to set a positive example for their teams.

Please take particular notice of the following sportsmanship expectations:

1. There shall be no jeering, distractions involving players, whether in the dugout or in the field.
2. No abusive, profane, or obscene language will be tolerated on the part of anyone.
3. Anyone ridiculing a player or volunteer will be asked to leave the field immediately.
4. No smoking in the dugout or on the playing field by anyone.
5. No foreign objects shall be thrown onto the field.
6. All decisions of the umpires are final and shall be accepted with restraint and grace. Please, do not question judgment calls. The umpires calling the games are all volunteers.

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Contesting Calls

- Only the coach or acting coach can contest a call made during a game.
- **Judgment calls cannot be contested.**
- Discussions over discrepancies in the application of these rules should be calmly discussed between the coaches with mutual respect.

Umpires

- Umpire assignment to game is responsible to get a second umpire if they want two to be used; otherwise they will call the plate and bases.
 - The umpire has the authority to stop any activity in the bleacher area or behind the fences that is, in his or her judgment, interfering with the game.
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Coaches

- Coaches are expected to be on the field instructing during offense and defense.
- Coaches will act as game umpires.

Conduct

- All players must remain on player's bench when not engaged in the game.
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Playing Field

- The diamonds for this league will have 60 feet baselines.
- The pitching distance will be 35 feet.
- A 8 foot radius circle will be marked for the pitcher's helper.
- Pitcher's helper must have one foot inside the circle and be no closer to the plate than the coach/pitcher.

Equipment

- The bat will be marked official softball or T-ball. (any length is acceptable)
- Standard softballs (Green Dot) will be furnished for practices and games.
- No metal cleats will be worn.
- Gloves or mitts may be used in all positions.
- Catcher must wear a mask, helmet, and chest protector when in the catching position. This rule will apply during warm up pitches and during practices.
- All equipment shall be kept off the playing field during the game.

Games Duration

- All games will be played as scheduled.
- All games will have an hour and 15 minute limit. No new inning may start after that time limit from the start of the game. (Umpires are responsible for knowing the starting time of the game.)

Number of Games

The number of games in the AJAA league may vary due to the number of teams organized in the league. The maximum number of games that may be scheduled is fourteen (14).

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Postponed Games

1. The weather becomes bad.
2. Darkness
3. Disciplinary reasons in which the umpire feels the game cannot continue.
4. Unsportsmanlike conduct - managers, coaches, players, or parents.
5. A 15-run rule that will apply after 5 innings. (4 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead.)
6. An hour and 15 minute time limit that was covered above. (Regardless of the number of innings completed.)

7. If the diamond is not playable 1/2 hour after the scheduled game time, the game will be rescheduled by the coordinator.
8. *The umpire is responsible of notifying the league coordinator of games that are postponed due to weather.*
9. Any make up games are to be scheduled by the coordinator.

Lightning

- Play will be suspended and the fields will be cleared immediately if lightning is detected. For further clarification, refer to AJAA Lightning Policy.