

## **6U Division Field Playing Rules and Guidelines**

The playing rules utilized by South San Jose Softball – E Division are the Official Rules of Softball as published by The Amateur Softball Association (ASA), with such modifications as are contained herein.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

**ASSISTANT COACH ...** In addition to the head coach, an assistant coach, age 21+ (or a former league participant age 16+ years), who will function as a member of the managing staff

**CHAPERONE ...** An adult female who is an official part of the managing staff who will assist the manager in keeping control and order among team members. She will attend all team functions; assist the other managing personnel as well as the players. And will protect the team from harm, which can result from the lack of adult supervision.

**HOME TEAM ...** The home team is the first team on defense in all games and will use the 3rd base dugout. The home team is listed first in all league game schedules.

**MANAGER ...** The adult responsible for the team member's actions on the field as well as at any event at which they are directed to remain together as a team. A manager represents the team in communications with the opposing team, and in the event the manager shall leave the field during a game, the manager will designate a coach as "acting manager" and inform the chaperone. The manager is to direct playing activities, training, discipline, and conduct of all team members.

**REGULATION GAME ...** A league scheduled game is sixty minutes maximum, regardless of innings completed.

**VISITING TEAM ...** The first team on offense, and will use the 1st base dugout, the visiting team is listed second on all League game schedules.

### **Rule 1. The Playing Field**

- a) The official diamond shall have 45' base distances.
- b) The field will be chalked and prepared for the game by the home team.
- c) At the conclusion of each game, it is the visiting team's responsibility to pick up and put away all trash.
- d) At the conclusion of the last game of the day, the field equipment will be picked up and put away. The trash-can will be returned to the equipment shed and the trash will be brought to the dumpster in the school parking lot.

## **Rule 2. Equipment**

- a) Any bat meeting the requirements of SEC. 1. A. - L. (in the ASA Rule Book) is an official bat for League play, even if the bat is labeled "Little League".
- b) E Division will utilize a 9" safety (soft) ball.
- c) Long-sleeved sweatshirts may be of different colors.
- d) All offensive players including batter, base runners and on deck hitter must wear a helmet.
- e) League issued uniforms must be worn during all games. Shirts will be tucked in.

## **Rule 3. Players**

- a) Players shall be 6 years of age or under by December 31<sup>st</sup>, preceding the season.
- b) Players must reach age 5 by September 1<sup>st</sup>, proceeding the season to participate.
- c) For personal safety, no jewelry will be worn and no gum will be chewed.

## **Rule 4. The Game**

- a) Each team will field all players. No game will be called for lack of participating players. As agreed upon by both managers prior to the start of the game, players may be borrowed from the opposing team.
- b) Each team will bat "continuously" through its line-up.
  - 1. The offensive manager shall announce "last batter" before the last batter starts their turn at bat.
  - 2. When the last batter puts the ball in play the batter and all runners will continue to run home.
- c) For the first half of the season - batters will hit off the "T" to put the ball into play. For the second half of the season, coaches will pitch **a maximum of four (4) pitches**. In the event the player does not hit off of the coach - the "T" may be utilized.
  - 1. The player positioned in the pitching circle shall play to the side of the pitching rubber and must remain alert.
  - 2. If a batted ball hits the coach/pitcher, the ball is declared dead and the pitch replayed.
- d) Once the ball is put into play, the batter shall run towards first base and the defense should make an effort to put the runner out. Existing runners shall also make an effort to advance to the next base.
  - 1. If the batted ball is hit beyond the infield area (dirt portion), the batter and runners may advance two bases.

2. There will be no base advancement as the result of an overthrow or error.
  3. Defensive players not attempting to make a play at a base shall return the ball back to the pitching circle to stop play.
- e) If a player is put out at any base - the base runner will remain on the base during *the 1st half of the season* and return to her team's bench *during the 2nd half*.
  - f) Sliding, stealing, or "player catchers" are never utilized during games.
  - g) The defensive team provides a "coach catcher" behind the plate.
  - h) There is no scorekeeping during the games. No standings are kept and there are no umpires utilized.
  - i) Defensive coaches are permitted in the infield territory *during the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the season* only and will move to the outfield territory *during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the season*.

### TEAM MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. One "live-scanned" representative must be present at all practices and games.
2. Only rostered team members shall be allowed in the bench or dugout area during a game. News photographers with official identification, when authorized by a Board member and officers of the law will be allowed on the playing field.
3. Players shall remain on the bench under the supervision of the manager/chaperone for the entire game.
4. For the safety of everyone, managing personnel shall immediately remove from the field any rocks, pieces of glass, or any other debris.
5. It is forbidden to use alcohol, tobacco or illegal substances on or off the playing field, during League games, practice sessions, or during League activities which require attendance or participation of one or more players.
6. The removal of disruptive persons for profanity, or poor attitude, or upsetting behavior, which may be upsetting to the girls, is the responsibility of the Board of Directors through the use of civil authorities.

### ANNUAL RATIFICATION

By action of the 6U Division Commissioner, these Field Playing Rules and Guidelines have been adopted and presented for discussion to the Board of Directors.

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President's Signature

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Division Commissioner Signature

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Date