



## **2025 GIRLS' 3rd & 4th GRADES SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES**

The philosophy and intent of the Girls' Softball Program are to provide an opportunity to associate and to play the game of softball in a structured recreational nature and develop/promote girls softball. Remember to use common judgment and proper courtesies at all times. These rules are designed to keep the coaches from manipulating the game and direct them back to coaching their players

### **RULES OF PLAY**

- A. Players must wear the team jersey provided by the Orem Recreation Department.
- B. All players must have on proper foot wear. No open-toed shoes or metal cleats will be allowed.
- C. Jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game.
- D. All players present will be listed on the batting order and will bat when it is their turn. Only ten players will play defense, but all thirteen may bat. The “extra” defensive player must play in the outfield area (only 6 infielders are allowed including the pitcher & catcher). Defensive infielders must stay behind 35' (pitching distance) until ball is hit.
- E. The infield, for 3-4 grade leagues, is considered to be from the back side of the bases forward. Defensive outfielders must start on the grass (until ball is hit).
- F. An adult (coach, assistant coach, or parent) will pitch the ball (underhand) to his or her own team. The pitcher must remain in contact with the pitching rubber while pitching. Please have your girls throw the ball to the defensive player pitcher and NOT to the adult pitching the ball. The defensive player will hand the ball to the adult pitching. The defensive player pitcher must start each pitch with one foot in the pitching circle.
- G A PLAYER WILL PITCH THE LAST THREE REGULARLY SCHEDULED GAMES OF THE SEASON. PLEASE WORK WITH YOUR PLAYERS DURING PRACTICE SO YOUR TEAM IS PREPARED! ALL OTHER RULES WILL BE IN EFFECT.

- H. If the pitcher/coach intentionally interferes with a batted ball or a play, the batter-runner will be called out and all runners will return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch. If this happens again the coach must leave the field. If the ball hits the pitcher/coach while they are attempting to get out of the way, the ball is live and playable.
- I. The pitcher/coach may only talk to the batters while pitching. The pitcher/coach cannot talk to the runners. Use your base coaches to talk to the runner(s).
- J. A batter will receive five pitches. Five un-hit pitches or three strikes will constitute an out. A foul ball on the third strike or fifth pitch will not be an out. If a batter after fouling off pitches lets a pitch go by, then the batter will be out. Bunting is NOT allowed. There is no dropped third strike rule. Walks are not allowed.
- K. No player can sit on the bench for two consecutive defensive innings.
- L. Pitching distance for 3-4 grade girls is 35'. The base distance is 60'. An 11" ball is used. Any batting helmet used must have a facemask.
- M. **Batter-Runner:**
  - a. The batter-runner can advance 1 base on an infield hit with liability of being put out.
  - b. If the ball is misplayed, the batter-runner may advance one (1) base with liability to be put out.
  - c. If bases are loaded, the batter-runner cannot advance past first base on an infield hit.
- N. **Base Running:**
  - a. Base runners are allowed (1) one base with liability to be put out on an infield hit.
  - b. If the ball is mis-played, the runner may advance at their own risk one more base.
  - c. No more than one extra base may be gained on an over throw PER BATTED BALL.
  - d. Base runners may advance as far as they can on a hit to the outfield.
  - e. Once the ball comes into the infield, the runner may advance to the base she is going to with liability to be put out but will not be allowed to attain an additional base on a mis played ball.
  - f. Runners may advance to home base only on plays that result from a hit ball. For example, if a runner is on 2nd base and is hit to 3rd base and then the ball is overthrown or misplayed, the runner may not advance home.
- O. Base runners must **avoid contact** with the defensive players. This is a recreation league and we are trying to teach the girls and still maintain a safe environment so please teach your base runners to **avoid contact** with the defensive player. Sliding is encouraged (but since a lot of the players do not know how to slide properly), it is not required. Also, please teach your players that when playing a base, especially home plate, the defensive player should stand at the corner or away from the runner, especially when they do not have possession of the ball. Defensive players can NOT block the plate without the ball.

- P. Anyone intentionally throwing a bat will be removed from the game. If the umpire deems the throwing inadvertent, one warning will be given. A second occurrence will result in removal of the batter from the game
- Q. Balls hitting any power lines or poles within the playing boundary are considered in play and will be acted upon as such.
- R. No infield between innings and games. Anything which would take time from actual play is discouraged. When possible, the catcher should put her gear on before her team takes the field. Speed up rule: If the catcher is on base with two outs, please send in a pinch runner for her so she can put her catcher's gear on and be ready to go.
- S. No leaving base until the ball is hit. No stealing bases is allowed. No leading off.
- T. The batting team may score a maximum of six (6) runs per inning, even if the hit that produced the sixth run also produced a seventh run. If six runs score before there are three outs, the batting team takes the field and the defensive team comes to bat.
- U. Supervisors and score keepers have the right to notify teams and umpire if batters are batting out of order.

### **UMPIRES/SUPERVISORS**

- A. The assigned umpire will have complete jurisdiction and control of the game. It will be the duty of the umpires to administer rules and decisions as prescribed by the official rule book and those herein.
- B. It will be the duty of the field supervisor to make decisions concerning field conditions. The field supervisor, along with the game umpires, will handle field disputes or emergency situations.

### **TEAM STANDINGS**

Division standings will be computed on a win-loss system. The team with the highest win-loss percentage at the end of league play will be the Division Champion. If there is a tie for a place, the tie will be broken by: (1) results of head-to-head competition, (2) run differential between the tied teams in their head-to-head competition.

### **GAME TIME LIMITS**

- A. Forfeit time is scheduled game time.
- B. Game time limits are one hour. Regular season games can end in a tie score. In order to get the maximum innings, hustle in and out. No new inning will be started after 50 minutes. If after 45 minutes of play, one team is behind by seven (7) or more runs, when they come up to bat, everyone who hasn't hit will have a chance to hit (even if there are 3 outs).

### **TEAMS**

An official team is composed of 10 players. A team may play with as few as eight (8) players with no designated outs. A minimum of six (6) players will be permitted but there will be two (2) designated outs. With seven (7) players there will be one (1) designated out. As players arrive, they may be inserted into the lineup.

## **ROSTERS**

- A. No changes in rosters will be allowed. Late registration will be accepted on a space available basis at the Orem Fitness Center. Players will be placed on teams by the league director.
- B. A player may only play for one team in the prescribed league.
- C. Line-up cards must be turned into the scorekeeper ten (10) minutes prior to game time. If teams are not ready to play on time, the umpire may start the game clock. If one team still delays, runs may be awarded to the opposing team (one run per minute).
- D. All girls present are entered into the batting order. Anyone coming late is entered at the end of the order. (The scorekeeper/umpire must be notified.) .
- E. Tournament play sponsored by the league will be considered part of the league play with no intra-league exchange of players.
- F. If a team is caught using an illegal player, they will forfeit that game and will not be eligible for any league awards.

## **POSTPONED GAMES AND RAIN OUTS**

- A. The postponement of games will not be considered. All games must be played as scheduled except for rain outs.
- B. In case of a power failure, a sprinkler malfunction, etc., which prohibits further play, the Rain Out Rule will be in effect: If the game is in the bottom of the third inning and the home team is ahead, the game will end; if tied, it will be declared a regulation tie game.
- C. Rain out games will be made up as soon as possible. MANAGER, it is your responsibility to check if you are in doubt whether games will be played. Call 229-7101 **after 4:00 p.m.** to see whether scheduled games will be played. You will be notified of rescheduled games during regular season play. During post-season tournaments, managers must call 229-7455 the next day **after 9:30 a.m.** to find out new tournament schedules.

## **PROTESTS**

- A. Due to the recreational aspects of the league, protests are discouraged and should be the exception rather than the rule.
- B. Protests will not be considered if they are based solely on a decision involving the accuracy of judgment on the part of an umpire.
- C. Protests involving the misinterpretation of a playing rule; failure of an umpire to apply the correct rule on a given situation; and failure to impose the correct penalty for a given violation will be considered. The following must be followed:
  - 1. Notification of intent to protest must be made to the supervisor, the plate umpire, scorekeeper, and opposing team captain, by the manager before the next pitch.
  - 2. All protests not acted on by the supervisor must be in writing and in the hands of the league director within 24 hours after the game in question was played.

3. If a team wishes to protest a player not wearing a proper uniform, protest needs to be made to the supervisor before said player bats. If the player is protested, she must acquire a proper uniform or be ineligible to play. If she has batted, no protest will be accepted.
4. Protests regarding an illegal player must be reported to the supervisor in charge by the captain or manager of the protesting team before the game is completed. The supervisor will notify the opposing manager and the scorekeeper that the game is under protest. They will then check the field copy of the rosters and the protest will be handled on the field at that time.
5. If a league question arises on the field and a decision needs to be made at that time, BOTH team coaches and the field supervisor must meet and come to a decision. When the decision has been made by all three, that decision will stand and not be protestable.
6. During tournament play, all protests will be decided on the field by the supervisor. All tournament game protests must be made to the supervisor, plate umpire, scorekeeper, and opposing team captain before the game officially ends. After the game has officially ended, no protest will be considered.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Officials and supervisors can make mistakes on league rules. This is why protests are considered. These incorrect decisions made do not change a rule. It is the responsibility of each manager to have knowledge of the rules and to take responsibility for his or her team's adherence to all aforementioned policies as well as the team's conduct. Each manager is also expected to know the City of Orem Recreation Department Code of Conduct.

**We expect & require good sportsmanship from all coaches, players, and spectators!**

# City of Orem Recreation Department

## CODE OF CONDUCT

The City of Orem Recreation Department has established a Code of Conduct which applies to all persons participating in any way in any Orem City Recreation Department programs or facilities. All participants, volunteers, coaches, patrons, and spectators are expected to know, promote, and adhere to the following standards of conduct.

### General:

1. Promote and encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for players, coaches, officials, participants, and employees.
2. Treat everyone with respect, regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, disability, or skill level. Putting down or demoralizing others is not acceptable.
3. Adhere strictly to the rules of the game/facility (including official's or employee's decisions) and do not attempt to change or manipulate those rules in order to win or for personal benefit.
4. No smoking, drinking, or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be allowed in the facilities or on playing fields.
5. Abuse or harassment of players, volunteers, coaches, officials, spectators, or employees in any form will not be tolerated. Bullying is a form of harassment which is also prohibited.
6. Foul, abusive, profane, or vulgar language is prohibited and will not be tolerated.
7. Fighting is prohibited. Fighting includes physical (hitting, pushing, touching, "getting in the face of") or verbal (threatening, making fun of, calling names, cursing, arguing).
8. Remember that youth programs are for the kids [to learn fundamentals, techniques, sportsmanship, teamwork, and have fun]; they are not for adults! Therefore, all kids deserve a right to fairness at all times.
9. Conduct yourself in a manner that would be an example and a role model to youth under your direction or in the vicinity.
10. Coaches agree to support and work with assigned team throughout the designated season, and agree to hold regular practices (at least once a week) and show up to scheduled games.
11. Any equipment issued does not become personal property and all equipment must be returned in good condition to the City at determined time.
12. Promote team work, physical conditioning and teaching skills appropriate to the sport. Do not teach, encourage, or allow rough or dirty tactics of play.

Anyone who does not comply with this policy, or who conducts himself or herself in any unbecoming manner, will be subject to disciplinary action including (but not limited to) verbal or written warning, being asked to vacate the premises, suspension, or expulsion from the program, class, facility, or field and associated privileges will be terminated without refund. Financial restitution may be required when appropriate. Criminal violations will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.