

# OFFICIAL GROUND RULES - Fall 2024

## GENERAL LEAGUE POLICIES

ALL RULES AS WRITTEN IN THE USA RULE BOOK WILL APPLY, UNLESS HEREINAFTER AMENDED.

THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY TO ALL DIVISIONS UNLESS SPECIFICALLY SUPERSEDED BY DIVISIONAL SUPPLEMENTS

- 1) All hair must be tied away from the face prior to the game. No jewelry is to be worn during the game or warm up time including bobby pins, metal hair clips, beads, etc. All hair ties must be soft. Metal medical tags may be worn, but must be taped with clear tape to the wrist with its information viewable in case of emergency. Jerseys must be tucked in at all times, all the way around. No knots will be tied in the jerseys, for safety reasons. No plastic visors will be permitted. No hard soled shoes will be worn. Tennis shoes or rubber cleats are required. **NO STEEL CLEATS (Except 18U)** A player may be ejected if not in compliance with this rule.
- 2) Catchers must wear a catcher's helmet with the facemask attached, chest protector and shin guards **ANY** time they are catching for a pitcher throwing under-handed. All batters, on-deck batters, base-runners and player base coaches must wear helmets with facemasks attached.
- 3) Only rostered, participating team members and Board ratified Managers, Coaches and Team Moms shall occupy the dugout and must wear their USA lanyard at all times. No parents, siblings, or friends may enter the dugout. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- 4) Games succeeding other games will start at the pre-scheduled time intervals or as close as possible. There will be fifteen (15) minutes between games, whenever possible. Any inning started must be completed, if necessary (exception, tournament play).
- 5) The home team is in the 3rd base dugout unless the home team is decided by coin toss. **The home team for the FIRST game will set out the bases and the home team for the last game will bring in the bases at the end of the night.**
- 6) Official start of the game will be when the Umpire calls "play ball". Teams must have seven (7) assigned players at the start of the game. Game time is forfeit time. No grace period. If a player comes late, she will be placed at the end of the batting line-up.
- 7) No game shall start prior to the scheduled game start time unless both the Umpire and the Managers from both teams agree.
- 8) All players present at the start of the game must play two (2) complete innings (2) complete defense innings and (2) complete offense innings) and one (1) complete plate appearance, or 45 minutes of playtime. A player listed as injured, may not play any part of the game. In a run shortened or mercy ruled game, players not given the required playing time must start and play three (3) complete innings in the next game in which she is listed as a rostered player. Players marked late on the line up card and who arrive after the start of the game are not guaranteed the minimum playing time. Violations of this rule will result in severe penalties per the League Season Policies under "Managers: Section E."
  - a. Any suspended manager and/or coach shall have no participation with their team or any other RGSA team until the suspension in the division in which the violation occurred is completed. This includes pre-game warm ups.
  - b. The suspended manager and/or coach, if they desire, must view the game from the area beyond the outfield fences.
- 9) All Substitutions must be recorded with the plate Umpire, and the Umpire will notify the opposing team and official scorekeeper at the time of the substitution. Failure to comply results in the use of an illegal player and will result in a forfeiture of the game. When the Plate Umpire has been notified of substitutions the players are officially in the game.
- 10) If a player cannot come up to bat when it is her turn, for any reason, she will be considered out **for the first occurrence only.**
- 11) A player removed from a game due to injury or illness may not return to the same game. Penalty is forfeiture of the game per USA rules.
- 12) If a rostered player is injured during a game, and all substitution has been exercised, the manager may re-enter a previously substituted player to replace the injured player. If the injured player had already substituted for another player, the original substituted player must come back in. The injured player cannot re-enter the game.
- 13) There will be no courtesy runners, flex or DP's allowed.
- 14) Infield fly rule, dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike rule and a hot plate will be in effect for all rounds.
- 15) Any player selected for the tournament team, must have played in at least ½ of the total games that her team played in the regular season to be eligible for the Tournament. Exception: Certain circumstances will be considered with the Executive Board's approval.
- 16) The umpire will turn in the final scorecard to the e-board on duty at the end of each night. The scorecards **MUST** be signed by both teams before turning in.



# OFFICIAL GROUND RULES - Fall 2024

## DIVISION SUPPLEMENTS

IN ADDITION TO RGSA GENERAL LEAGUE POLICIES, THE FOLLOWING DIVISIONAL GROUND RULES APPLY.

(ONLY RGSA GENERAL POLICIES 1-5 SHALL APPLY FOR THE 4U DIVISION)

### (4U) GROUND RULE SUPPLEMENTS

- 1) Field dimensions will be 45 feet between bases and 25 feet for the pitching rubber. Home plate dead ball will be a half-circle starting 5 feet from the back of home plate. Ball must be hit out of the half circle to be considered a "fair ball". If the ball is hit and does not get hit outside the half circle, it will be considered a strike.
- 2) Game ball will be a soft compression 10-inch ball (example – "Sof-Dot" 10" / RIF Level 1)
- 3) Games will be 45 minutes or 3 innings whichever comes first. The official start of the game shall be at the scheduled start time.
- 4) The offense will be allowed a maximum of four (4) coaches on the field; one to pitch, one to catch and set the tee for batters, as well as a first and third base coach. The defense will be allowed a maximum of four (4) coaches in the outfield.
- 5) Batting will be Round Robin and each girl will bat each offensive inning. Once all players have batted, teams will switch offense and defense. The batting order will remain the same once the game has started. Injured or fatigued players may come out of the game and re-enter if willing and able.
- 6) Runners may not lead off on offense or steal. Runners cannot advance if a player on defense attempts to throw the ball to the pitching circle. Runners may advance one (1) base only on an overthrown ball. If a runner is thrown out while advancing to the next base, the runner must return to the dugout.
- 7) Catchers are not required or recommended by the league, but may be used if wearing the appropriate gear as set forth in General Field Policies; Section 2.
- 8) Coach pitching is allowed for 3 pitches. If the ball is not hit fair within those 3 pitches, the batter will be allowed to take 3 swings off of the tee. If the ball is not fair after 3 swings off of the tee, the batter shall be awarded 1st base.

### (6U) GROUND RULE SUPPLEMENTS

1. Field dimensions will be 50 ft between bases and 23 feet for the pitching rubber.
2. There will be a 10-foot arc in front of home plate extending from first base line to third base line. A hit ball that does not pass this line is considered a foul ball.
3. Game ball will be a soft compression 10-inch ball (example - "Sof-Dot" 10" / RIF Level 1)
4. Regulation play will be five (5) innings or 1 hour drop dead (no new inning) (final score revert back to completed inning). Substitutions need to be made at the 35 minute mark.
5. The catcher must remain in a defensive position until the ball is hit. Coach catcher must be present to collect pass balls and return to the coach pitcher.
6. On a hit ball, base runners are stopped when the ball is returned or has broken the plain of the pitching circle. If base runners have already passed the halfway line to the next base, they can advance to that base.
7. The team taking the field will place 10 players in defensive positions: six (6) in the infield including the pitcher and catcher, and four (4) in the outfield. Outfielders must be standing 10 feet behind the baseline at the beginning of each play.
8. A maximum of two adults will be allowed on the field during the season to help guide the players with making defensive plays. They are not allowed to touch the ball or interfere with the play. Coaches MUST remain behind the outfielder.
9. A runner will be awarded no more than one (1) base on an overthrow to first base.
10. Umpire will determine if an overthrown ball has gone out of play. Upon determining that a ball is out of play, base runners that have already passed the halfway line to the next base can advance to that base.
11. The Infield Fly rule will not be in effect.
12. Offense will be allowed 3 runs max every inning. The batting order is defined as the complete lineup of players in attendance at that game. Drop 3<sup>rd</sup> strike, Infield fly, and look-back rules are not in effect.
13. Batting will be Round-robin and each batter will be pitched up to 4 pitches from a coach pitcher. If the 4th pitch results in a foul ball, the batter will get 1 additional pitch to make contact. The batting order will remain the same once the game has started.
14. No base stealing or lead offs are allowed. All base runners must remain on the bases until the ball is hit. If a runner is off the base when the ball is hit, the ball is dead, the runner is out and the batter bats again. Home plate is cold.
15. No player can be walked home. The Coach Pitcher must pitch from the rubber. The rostered pitcher must remain in the circle behind the coach pitcher.
16. If the Coach Pitcher impedes the path of a batted ball, "dead ball" will be called and the play will start over. Batters may not bunt when a Coach Pitcher is used.

# OFFICIAL GROUND RULES - Fall 2024

## DIVISION SUPPLEMENTS

IN ADDITION TO RGSA GENERAL LEAGUE POLICIES, THE FOLLOWING DIVISIONAL GROUND RULES APPLY.

### (8U) GROUND RULE SUPPLEMENTS

- 1) Field dimensions will be 60 feet between bases and 30 feet for the pitching rubber.
- 2) Game ball will be a soft compression 10-inch ball (example - "Sof-Dot" 10" / RIF Level 1)
- 3) Regulation play will be six (6) innings or 1 hour 20 minutes (drop dead), no new inning. Substitution needs to be made at the 40-minute mark.
- 4) Offense will be allowed 3 runs max every inning. The inning will be finished as stated in the ground rules and policies. Home plate shall be cold unless its ball 4 bases loaded batter will be walked home. Drop 3<sup>rd</sup> strike, Infield fly, and look-back rules are not in effect.
- 5) Batting will be Round Robin and each girl will bat. The batting order will remain the same once the game has started. General Policy 8 substitution requirements apply to defense only.
- 6) Base stealing is one base per pitch. Base on balls is one base only. If the runner reaches a base beyond the one allowed by rule, time will be called and the runner will be put back to the correct base.
- 7) There will be 10 defensive players. The 10<sup>th</sup> player will be an outfielder at the edge of the grass.
- 8) On a batted ball the batter-runner, runner(s) may continue to run until the pitcher has possession of the ball within the circle.
- 9) One base on a first base overthrow.

### (10U) GROUND RULE SUPPLEMENTS

- 1) Field dimensions will be 60 feet between bases and 35 feet for the pitching plate.
- 2) Offense will be allowed 5 runs or three (3) outs per half inning, whichever comes first. Offense will be allowed 5 runs max every inning. Batting will be Round Robin.
- 3) Game ball will be a soft compression 11-inch ball (example - "Sof-Dot" 11" / RIF Level 1)
- 4) Regulation play will be six (6) innings or 1.20 hours (drop dead), no new inning. A tie shall remain a tie unless there is time left on the clock. No extra innings except for a playoff game deciding first place. Beginning with the 7<sup>th</sup> inning ITB rules will be used in a playoff game, time permitting.
- 5) Batting will be Round Robin and each girl will bat. The batting order will remain the same once the game has started.
- 6) Subs can be at any time but must play half a game.

### (12U) GROUND RULE SUPPLEMENTS

- 1) Field dimensions will be 60 feet between bases and 40 feet for the pitching rubber.
- 2) Game ball will be a 12" / .47 COR / 375 lbs ball (example - "Dream Seam")
- 3) Regulation play will be seven (7) innings or 1.20 hours (drop dead), no new inning. A tie shall remain a tie unless there is time left on the clock. No extra innings except for a playoff game deciding first place. Beginning with the 8<sup>th</sup> inning ITB rules will be used in a playoff game, time permitting.
- 4) Offense will be allowed 5 runs max every inning.
- 5) Batting will be Round Robin and each girl will bat. The batting order will remain the same once the game has started.
- 6) Subs must be made at 40 min.
- 7) Courtesy runner(last out) for the current pitcher/catcher .
- 8) Review rules prior to end of the season before tournament

### (14U) GROUND RULE SUPPLEMENTS

- 9) Field dimensions will be 60 feet between bases and 40 feet for the pitching rubber.
- 10) Game ball will be a 12" / .47 COR / 375 lbs ball (example - "Dream Seam")
- 11) Regulation play will be seven (7) innings or 1.20 hours (drop dead), no new inning. A tie shall remain a tie unless there is time left on the clock. No extra innings except for a playoff game deciding first place. Beginning with the 8<sup>th</sup> inning ITB rules will be used in a playoff game, time permitting.
- 12) Offense will be allowed 5 runs max every inning.
- 13) Batting will be Round Robin and each girl will bat. The batting order will remain the same once the game has started.
- 14) Subs must be made at 40 min.

### (HS) GROUND RULE SUPPLEMENTS

- 1) Field dimensions will be 60 feet between bases and 43 feet for the pitching rubber.
- 2) Game ball will be a 12" / .47 COR / 375 lbs ball (example - "Dream Seam")
- 3) Pinch Runner for the cather , last out .

# OFFICIAL GROUND RULES - Fall 2024

- 4) Regulation play will be seven (7) innings or 1 hour 20 minutes (drop dead), no new inning. Substitution needs to be made at the 40-minute mark. A tie shall remain a tie unless there is time left on the clock. No extra innings except for a playoff game deciding first place.
- 5) Offense will be allowed 5 runs max every inning.
- 6) Batting will be Round Robin and each girl will bat. The batting order will remain the same once the game has started.