

## Central Thumb Area Girls 12U Softball- 2014 Season

Rules concurred to by the 12U Brown City, Kingston, Marlette, Mayville & North Branch Girls 12U Softball Programs

### Rules, Exceptions, and Clarifications to the Standard NFHS Softball Rules

#### General

Substitution is allowable at any time. Any player that comes to a game after the game has started will be placed at the bottom of the batting order. Substitutions are to be announced to the umpire.

All players eligible to play will bat in the order designated on the score sheet, even if they are not in the field. *For example, if a team has twelve players at a game, all will bat in the designated order, even though only ten can take the field defensively.*

All players must play at least two complete innings per game defensively.

Batting helmets with face masks are mandatory for offensive players when on the field of play.

Pitchers must wear protective face masks or batting helmets with face masks while pitching.

The catcher must wear shin guards, chest protector with a neck collar when playing defense or warming up the pitcher.

No metal spikes will be allowed.

The home team will keep the official score for the game.

Rainouts should be made up if possible. The coaches of the affected teams must mutually agree on date and time to play.

#### Coaches in the Field

Up to 2 coaches for the team playing defense are permitted in the **outfield grass**.

This is for teaching purposes for young & inexperienced players. The coaches are not allowed to touch the ball or interfere with the play of the ball.

If not in the outfield, defensive coaches should remain in their dugout or near their dugout doorway and should not obscure or distract the offensive base coaches. Defensive coaches are allowed to call time out after a play & conference with their players for teaching purposes.

#### Defense

The defense will be allowed to field ten players. The additional girl must be positioned in the outfield (must be in the grass).

#### Sliding

If a fielder **has possession of the ball or is in the process of fielding the ball** while at home plate or any base, any approaching runner must slide. If runner does not slide, they will be called out.

The purpose of this rule is to avoid collisions and subsequent injuries.

A fielder cannot block a base without the ball.

#### Pitching

A pitcher 10 years old or younger can pitch a maximum of three innings per game. *Rule does not apply if extra innings.*

The innings pitched do not need to be in consecutive order.

A pitcher delivering one pitch in an inning is considered to have pitched an inning.

Once a pitcher is removed during an inning, she cannot reenter the same inning to pitch.

Pitching distance is 40 feet (between the front of the pitchers rubber to the point of home plate).

## **Batting**

There will be a limit of 5 runs scored per inning except in the final inning where there is no run limit.

If a batter, while swinging the bat, gets hit in the hand with the ball, it is considered a strike/foul ball and the batter does not get to take her base.

If a ball is pitched inside, the batter must attempt to move away and avoid getting hit. If the batter does not attempt to avoid the ball, she is not granted a base and the pitch is added to the count as a ball.

If the ball, that is pitched, hits the ground and then hits the batter, it is considered, a “dead ball” and the batter takes her base.

If a batter gets “walked” (four balls), the player is rewarded first base.

If a batter strikes out (swinging or looking) and the catcher does not catch the pitch before it hits the ground, the batter can run to first base. If the batter fails to run, she can be called out when she enters the dugout. This rule applies when first base is open, or if there are two outs.

## **Stealing**

If a player leaves the base early, one warning will be given to their team. If there is a violation after the initial warning, the base runner will be called out.

A base runner may leave the base only after the ball leaves the pitcher’s hand.

A base runner cannot steal home when their team is ahead by more than four runs.

If a play is made on a runner, the runner or runners may advance at their own risk.

## **Length of Game**

The umpire declares the start of the game by starting the timer.

Games are six innings or time limit

Game times 6:30 pm.

Time limit per game is one hour and thirty minutes.

No inning will be allowed to start one hour and thirty minutes after the game has started.

The beginning of an inning is defined to start as soon as the third out is made in the preceding inning.

In the event of a tie, and the time limit has not yet been reached, then the game will go into extra innings using the International Tie Breaker rule with an additional rule of 3 ball- 2 strike counts for all batters.

International Tie Breaker Rule – The player that made the last out of the previous inning for the visiting team is placed on second base with no outs. The same procedure will be done for the home team.

## **Other**

Infield Fly Rule may be enforced If there are runners on first and second, or first, second and third with less than two out.

Designated Runner – Designated runners are only allowed if the runner gets hurt while running to the base. In that instance, the last out player shall run be the D.R. If the injured girl comes up to bat again during the game, she cannot get a designated runner for a previous injury. If she cannot run, the coach can skip her in the lineup and no penalty / out is given to the team.

Designated runners will also be used for pitchers and catchers on base when their team has 2 outs. This will allow for the player to prepare to start the next inning in a timely manner.