

PLANO SPORTS AUTHORITY GIRLS' FAST PITCH SOFTBALL

2009 LEAGUE RULES – 3rd & 4th Grade League

Playing rules shall be governed by the Softball Board

1. **AGES:** Rules govern players on 3rd and 4th grade teams.
2. **TEAM SIZE:** Thirteen (13) optimum, fifteen (15) maximum.
3. **DIMENSIONS:**
Bases - 55 feet
Pitchers Plate - 30 feet for 3rd grade divisions
- 35 feet for 4th grade divisions
4. **GAME:** 7 Innings
5. **TIME LIMIT:** 80 Minutes
6. **PSA FIVE (5) RUN RULE (Inning Ending) :** In effect.
7. **OFFENSIVELY:**
 - A. Continuous batting order of all players.
 - B. Players arriving after the umpire has started the game will be entered at the end of the batting order.
 - C. A substitute or "pinch" runner for an injured player will be the batter who made the last out.
 - D. After a batter has received a count of four (4) balls, an adult coach will pitch the remaining pitches to that batter.
 1. Maximum of three (3) pitches by coach unless the last pitch results in a foul ball (there are no limit on the number of foul balls hit.)
 2. Strike count remains when coach comes out to pitch (for example: if the batter has two 2 strikes when coach comes out to pitch, the batter gets one pitch from the coach). Once the ball is hit the adult pitcher must remove himself from the field of play.
8. **DEFENSIVELY:** Ten (10) players in the field (4 outfielders). Eight (8) players minimum to field a team. NOTE: The missing 9th and 10th batters are not an automatic out.
9. **FREE SUBSTITUTION:** Yes, including pitchers but a pitcher may only pitch 3 full innings (**NO Exceptions**)
10. **MANDATORY PLAYING TIME:** See General Rules Player Participation, Paragraph C
11. **PSA BAT THROWING RULE:** In effect.
12. **PSA MALICIOUS CONTACT RULE:** In effect.
13. **PSA 12-RUN RULE (Game Ending):** Not in effect.
14. **STRIKE ZONE:** Armpits to the top of the knees.
15. **BUNTING:** Not allowed.
16. **INFIELD FLY RULE:** Not applicable.
17. **STOPPING OF PLAY:** Play is stopped when the pitcher has control of the ball inside the circle around the pitching rubber, and is making no attempt to throw out a runner. If the runner is more than half way to the next base, when the pitcher has the ball, the runner is awarded the base. If the runner is not more than half way to the next base when the pitcher has the ball, they must return to the previous base.
18. **DROPPED THIRD STRIKE:** Batter is out.
19. **BASE STEALING:** Not allowed.
 - A. There shall be no advance on a passed ball or if an overthrow occurs when the catcher is returning the ball to the pitcher. This is a dead ball situation.
 - B. The base runner must remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit.
20. **ADVANCE ON AN OVERTHROW:**
 - A. On an overthrow to a base, a runner may advance to the next base at her own risk. If the defensive team attempts to throw out the runner advancing to the next base after an overthrow occurs and another overthrow occurs, the runner may advance to the subsequent base at her own risk. Under no circumstances can a runner advance more than one base on one overthrow. If the defense does not attempt to throw out the runner advancing on an overthrow, the play is stopped.
 - B. An overthrow to the pitcher is treated the same as an overthrow to a base IF it is the first overthrow on a given play. Otherwise an overthrow to the pitcher is a dead ball.
21. **LEAGUE/DIVISION STANDINGS:** To be determined by the league coordinator in the following manner:
 - A. League. Best overall league record.
 - B. Division. Best division record.
 - C. All Tiebreakers.
 1. Record in head-to-head competition.
 2. Coin flip by League Coordinator

NOTE: There will be a post season tournament to determine the league champion.
22. **BALL SIZE:** An eleven (11) inch Level 1 training softball will be used in all games.
23. **ABBREVIATED GAMES:** In the event of inclement weather or darkness (including the lights going out), a game will be ruled official if the losing team has batted at least four (4) complete innings. The score will revert to the last complete inning to determine the winner. If four (4) full innings have not been completed, the game will be declared a suspended game.

PLANO SPORTS AUTHORITY GIRLS' FAST PITCH SOFTBALL

2009 LEAGUE RULES – 3rd & 4th Grade League

24. **SUSPENDED GAME:** A suspended game will be rescheduled using the following criteria:
- A. The game will resume at the point of interruption, with the same game situation and remaining time.
 - B. The umpire will inform both coaches of the remaining time and note the time in the home team's score book. The umpire will also sign the score book page.
 - C. The home team coach will inform the League Coordinator that a suspended game has occurred and supply the League Coordinator with a copy of the score book pages.
 - D. The League Coordinator will reschedule the suspended game within the same week,
25. **Hit Batter:** If the batter is hit by a pitch it is at the discretion of the umpire to award the batter a walk. If a pitcher hits 3 batters or 1 batter 3 times, the pitcher may not pitch the remainder of the game.
26. **Pitching:** No player shall pitch more than 3 innings per game. Delivery of one legal pitch shall constitute having pitched one full inning.