1/1/2015

ROANOKE AREA YOUTH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

LOCAL RULES FOR 10 & UNDER "A" (10U-A) AND 12 & UNDER "B" (12U-B) SOFTBALL

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7. PLAYER-PITCHER that is playing the pitcher's position when a coach-pitcher is used shall stand with both feet even with or behind (not in front of) and within eight (8) feet of the pitcher's plate until the ball is hit.

8. COACH-PITCHER is the offensive coach who pitches to the players on his/her team and will pitch from a distance no closer than 30 feet from home plate. The coach-pitcher must make every effort to avoid interfering with any ball put into play either hit by a batter or thrown by a defensive player.

The coach-pitcher shall do no coaching while pitching other than to correct the batters stance. This will reduce confusion for the defensive team, as the coach-pitcher would be too close to the action and may confuse the defensive players if they were allowed to give instructions to their base runners. The penalty for a coach-pitcher assisting in coaching will be a warning the first offense and removal from the coach-pitcher position upon the second offense. Whether a coach-pitcher assisted in coaching is within the judgment of the umpire.

The coach-pitcher shall only field the ball when it is being thrown in order to put the ball back in play. If, in the judgment of the umpire, a coach-pitcher intentionally interfered with the play, the penalty shall be: The batter is out and the ball is dead. All base runners must return to the last base they legally occupied. If, in the judgment of the umpire, a coach-pitcher unintentionally interfered with the play the ball is ruled dead and the pitch replayed.

SUBSTITUTIONS

9. The offensive team shall consist of all players in attendance. The defensive team may play with a minimum of eight (8) players and maximum of ten (10) players. When playing with eight (8) offensive players, an out will be assessed for the unoccupied ninth batting position (according to the NSA rulebook).
NOTE: All players must play twelve (12) consecutive outs or two consecutive innings (offense and defense) during the game. Any player may re-enter defensively at any time.

10. Teams may borrow players from another RAYSA team within the same age group to prevent a possible forfeit due to lack of players. 12U-B teams may only borrow other 12U-B players; 10U-A teams may borrow 10U-A or 10U-B players. Borrowed players may play only two games for each team, must play in the outfield on defense, and must bat first on offense (top of the line-up). Once a player plays in an older age group, that player may not return to the younger age group (i.e., a 10 year old may not play for a 10U team after playing for a 12U team).

EQUIPMENT

11. An 11" RIF 10 or Safety 10 softball shall be used for games. Face guards and chinstraps are required on batters helmets. Any bat marked “OFFICIAL SOFTBALL”, not more than 34” in length, may be used for league play. Shoes with metal cleats are not allowed.

GENERAL

12. Games will not be played during a thunderstorm or a downpour of rain. If a downpour comes in the middle of a game, it will or will not continue at the umpire's discretion, however, safety should always be the primary consideration.

13. A batter who releases a bat with such force, that, in the opinion of the umpire, could cause injury or could impair the defensive player from making a play, shall be called out for interference.

14. Headfirst sliding is not permitted. Runners who slide headfirst shall be called out. Diving back to the base without a running start should not be considered sliding.

15. Base runners shall not leave the base before the pitched ball reaches home plate (Penalty: No pitch is declared and the runner shall be called out). Base runners may steal one base per player pitched ball with the liability to be put out. Base runners may not steal home.

16. The ball remains alive until the umpire calls "TIME" which should be done when the ball is held by a player in the infield area and, in the opinion of the umpire all play has ceased. Each team may request a maximum of one offensive and one defensive time out per inning.
NOTE: Players / coaches may request "TIME"; only umpires can call "TIME".

17. The infield-fly rule does not apply. Batters may not advance to first base on a dropped third strike.

18. Until the pitcher/coach pitcher releases the ball, no defensive player (excluding the catcher) may be positioned closer to the batter than the pitchers plate and no more than five defensive players (excluding the catcher) may be inside the base lines.

19. Participants in the 12U-B league **may not be or have been** a member of a middle school softball program during the current school year.

20. No protests, including umpire judgments or decisions, will be accepted. If the rules are not being properly interpreted, contact your RAYSA representative. Head coaches will be held accountable for the sportsmanship and conduct of their players, fans, and coaching staff. Incident Reports filed with RAYSA representatives will be reviewed and, if applicable, appropriate sanctions implemented.

21. Coaches should notify the opposing team's coach at least a day in advance if a game is to be cancelled. The host team's coach is responsible for notifying the umpire assigner and field scheduler of the cancellation.

Jack Griffith
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ROANOKE AREA YOUTH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION