

Glenn W. Shippy Recreational League Special Divisional Baseball & Softball Rules

*Revised April 2024

2024 Revisions in RED

1. Grade 1 & 2 Boys & Girls (Coach Pitch) Special Rules

- A. The pitching rubber will be set 35 feet from home plate.
- B. A regular 9-inch baseball and 11-inch softball will be used.
- C. An adult from the batting team will serve as the pitcher for his or her batters. The adult pitcher must stand with at least one foot on the rubber and the second foot must be on or behind the rubber. The adult pitcher is permitted to kneel on the pitcher's rubber. The adult will exit the playing field and move to foul territory once the ball is hit into play and has passed his/her position at the pitcher mound. The coach must make every effort to avoid contact or obstruction of players and live balls.
- D. The defensive team must position a fielder within six (6) feet of the pitching rubber as a defensive player. Player must be beside or behind the adult pitcher. **Any player who is playing this position in softball must wear a facemask. A mask is recommended for all pitchers and infielders in both the softball and baseball divisions.**
- E. Each batter will be allowed a maximum of six pitches. If the batter does not hit the ball into play within six pitches, the batter is out. If the batter hits the sixth pitch foul, the batter will be allowed another pitch. They can keep batting if they keep fouling off the pitch. Batters can still strike out but will not have non-swinging strikes called on them. The umpires will be responsible for counting the number of pitches. If a pitched ball hits the batter, the ball will be considered dead, and the pitch is not considered in the pitch count of 6; batter will NOT be awarded first base.
- F. No batter can walk, but a batter can strike out.
- G. A batter may bunt.
- H. If the batted ball hits the adult pitcher (coach), the ball will be dead, but the batter will hit again, and no base runners shall advance or be put out. The pitch will not count against the 6 total.
- I. No stealing, runners may not step off their base until the pitch crosses home plate. First offense is dead ball and team receives a warning. Second time it is a dead ball and runner is out. The warning is per team, not per player.
- J. Any style of bat is legal (i.e., baseball, softball and/or T-ball)
- K. The batter is out on a third strike. Catchers do not have to catch the pitch.
- L. The defensive team must place an adult coach behind the home plate umpire to retrieve pitched balls that are not hit. This coach is allowed to coach players during an active play. The defensive team may also place a coach in the outfield. This coach must be behind the outfielders. He/she may coach players but cannot touch players or the ball. If a coach touches a player or a live ball, he/she will be removed from game and no other coach may take their place.
- M. Three (3) outs or five (5) runs per inning.

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1. (Continued) Grade 1 & 2 Boys & Girls (Coach Pitch) Special Rules

- N. Play will be stopped, and the umpire(s) will declare time when the ball is inside the base line and controlled by a defensive player and the umpire(s) feels there is no further play to be made by the defensive or offensive team.
- O. No infield fly rule.
- P. Runners/batter will be allowed two (2) bases maximum on an overthrow to first base. The runner/batter position at the time of the pitch will determine the two (2) bases allowed.
- Definition of overthrow: The initial throw from any player to first base that is not caught by the player covering first base and travels into foul territory.
 - The Umpire determines the final decision of an overthrow and runner's positions.
 - Runners/batter are at liability to be put out while attempting to advance to the next base or returning to the previous base.
 - Time will not be called until all runners have either reached their two (2) base maximum or returned to their previous base as the defense may be attempting a put out on a runner.
- *NOTE: A runner that has over run their base (even if it is their two bases maximum) is at liability to be put out.
- Q. When the home team is ahead by more than five (5) runs at the end of six ½ innings or when the minimum time limit has expired the home team does not bat.

2. Grade 3 & 4 Girls (Petite) Special Rules:

- A. Runners are allowed to steal one base per pitch. Stealing home is allowed but only with the opposing team's girl pitching. Stealing home will not be allowed while the batting team's coach is pitching. If bases are loaded, and the count on the batter is three balls and the opposing team's pitcher is pitching, the ball becomes dead immediately when the umpire calls ball four. The runner from third cannot steal home even if the catcher does not catch the ball. The runner is also not liable of being put out. Batter cannot steal second base on a walk. **A runner cannot leave the base until the ball is released by the pitcher.** The first offense is a dead ball and team receives a warning. Second offense is a dead ball, and the runner is out. The warning is per team, not per player. A runner may not steal a base on the throwback to the pitcher.
- B. A run cannot score on a walk. When bases are loaded and the batter receives their fourth pitched called ball, they do not walk and the runner from third does not score (if bases loaded). A coach from the batting team will pitch to the batter. The batter retains their strike count. The coach pitcher will be allowed to throw up to three pitches. If the batter does not put the ball in play in the three pitches, then they are out. If they foul off the last pitch, then they will be allowed another pitch. After the batter either puts the ball in play or is out then the pitcher will resume their position and face the next batter. While the coach is pitching to their batter the defensive pitcher will stand within 6 feet of the coach pitching but cannot be in front of the pitching rubber.

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- C. Three (3) outs or five (5) runs end the inning.
- D. The batter is out on a third (3rd) strike. The catcher does not have to catch the pitched ball.
- E. No infield fly rule.
- F. When the home team is ahead by more than five (5) runs at the end of six ½ innings or when the minimum time limit has expired the home team does not bat.
- G. A circle shall be drawn around the pitching rubber in all petite girls' softball games as required by the National Federation of High School rules.

3. Grade 5 & 6 Girls (Chic) Special Rules

- A. Three (3) outs or seven (7) runs per inning.
- B. Spread rule applies – 15 after 3 innings and 10 after 5 innings.
- C. A circle shall be drawn around the pitching rubber in all Chic girls' softball games as required by the National Federation of High School rules.

4. Grade 3 & 4 Boys (Atom) Special Rules

A.

- A. Runners are allowed to steal one base per pitch. Stealing home is allowed but only with the opposing team's boy pitching. Stealing home will not be allowed while the batting team's coach is pitching. If bases are loaded, and the count on the batter is three balls and the opposing team's pitcher is pitching, the ball becomes dead immediately when the umpire calls ball four. The runner from third cannot steal home even if the catcher does not catch the ball. The runner is also not liable of being put out. Batter cannot steal second base on a walk. **A runner cannot leave the base until the ball is released by the pitcher.** The first offense is a dead ball and team receives a warning. Second offense is a dead ball, and the runner is out. The warning is per team, not per player. A runner may not steal a base on the throwback to the pitcher.
- B. A run cannot score on a walk. When bases are loaded and the batter receives their fourth pitched called ball, they do not walk and the runner from third does not score (if bases loaded). A coach from the batting team will pitch to the batter. The batter retains their strike count. The coach pitcher will be allowed to throw up to 3 pitches. If the batter does not put the ball in play in the 3 pitches, then they are out. If they foul off the last pitch, then they will be allowed another pitch. After the batter either puts the ball in play or is out then the pitcher will resume their position and face the next batter. While the coach is pitching to their batter the defensive pitcher will stand within 6 feet of the coach pitching but cannot be in front of the pitching rubber.
- C. The batter is out on the third (3rd) strike. The catcher does not have to catch the pitched ball.

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- D. When the home team is ahead by more than five (5) runs at the end of 6 ½ innings or when the minimum time limit has expired the home team does not bat.
 - E. The additional defensive player in baseball must be positioned in the outfield in line with the normal three outfield positions. Positions will be left field, left center field, right center field, and right field.
 - F. No infield fly rule.
- 5. Grades 5 & 6 Boys (Bantam) Special Run Rule**
- A. Three (3) outs or seven (7) runs scored end the inning.
 - B. Spread rule applies – 15 after 3 innings and 10 after 5 innings.