

2017 Tri-City Youth Fast-Pitch Softball Rules

TRI-CITY LEAGUE (East Alton, Wood River, Roxana, Bethalto Boys & Girls Club)



1. MEMBERSHIPS:

A. Ponytail Division (8–9 year olds)

Includes all female players who have not attained the age of 10 years old prior to September 1st of the current year.

B. Petite Division (10–12 year olds)

Includes all female players who have not attained the age of 13 years old prior to September 1st of the current year.

C. Chic Division (13–16 year olds)

Includes all female players who have not attained the age of 17 years old prior to September 1st of the current year.

2. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS, MANAGERS, AND COACHES:

A. All players, managers and coaches must be registered thru recreation office sponsoring the team.

B. Team rosters may fluctuate, depending on player registration.

C. The coaching staff will consist of a manager and a maximum of 4 coaches who must be approved by the Recreation Department sponsoring the team prior to working with the participants in **any manner at practice or games**.

D. All coaches must have a **“Background” check** prior to be authorized to coach the youth participants.

E. **Only registered players** of a team are eligible to participate in any practice and/or game in the Tri-City. Using non-rostered players will result in the manager

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being suspended for the next game or possibly dismissed for the remainder of the season and will also result in a forfeit for the team.

- F. **NO TOLERANCE FOR ANY** unsportsmanlike conduct, profane language, verbal abuse, or physical abuse towards any umpire, staff or coaches will be tolerated from any player, parent, spectator and/or coach. Offender may be ejected from a game and will be suspended for the next game. With two (2) ejections for a coach or player will then be suspended from the league.

If actions are severe enough, the police will be called, charges will be pursued if necessary and offending team will forfeit the game.

- G. **NO TOBACCO OR ALCOHOL PRODUCTS** may be used or present within the playing field, dugout, warm up areas and/or practice areas.

3. VERIFICATION OF AGE:

- A. The word of a player's parent or legal guardian will be accepted, unless it is challenged. The league directors reserve the right to request a birth certificate, a suitable copy, or any other legal transcript that the director approved for verification.

4. GENERAL PLAYING RULES:

- A. All league games will be governed by the rules compiled by the Illinois High School Association, with the only changes or exception with special league rules modifications applying to your division adopted by the League Directors.
- B. The LAST number in the pairings of the official league schedule will be HOME team and occupy the third base dugout.
- C. **Game time is forfeit time.** Teams may start a game providing they have 8 registered players at game time. Teams with fewer than 8 at game time will forfeit.
- D. Each manager must provide a starting line-up to the umpire. The umpire will record scores by innings and will be considered the OFFICIAL SCORER.
- E. **Teams must bat their entire roster.** All players that arrive for a league game late must be added to the bottom of their team's batting order.
- F. Injured player may be skipped over in the batting order without penalty. The coach must inform umpire that an injured player is being skipped before that injured player is skipped.
- G. A regulation game shall consist of 7 innings or appropriate time limit for division. An official game will be 3 ½ innings (with home team ahead) or 4 innings (visiting team ahead). This applies to games called for darkness, time limit, and/or poor weather condition.
- H. **TIME LIMIT:** The Ponytail will have a 1 hour & 15 minute time limit while Petite & Chic will have a 1 hour & 30 minute time limit. The team leading will be the winner. If game is tied after time limit has expired the game will officially be recorded as a tie.

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- I. All games that are not yet an official game but are stopped due to poor weather conditions will be considered SUSPENDED, and will be finished from the point of interruption. All suspended games will be played as soon as possible. Teams may add to the bottom of their line-up any registered players who were not available for the original game. Also, players who are not available for make-up games will be skipped over in the line-up WITHOUT PENALTY. The time limit will be carried over to the make up game.
- J. All registered players participating MUST play at least 2 innings in the field. (Exception: if the game is called for weather conditions)
- K. **FREE SUBSTITUTION** rule applies for all teams defensively. Players may rotate in and out, without penalty. Batting order always remains the same.
- L. Managers receive 3 defensive conferences (per game). Two defensive conferences within the same inning, the pitcher has to be replaced. After 3 conferences have been used, pitcher has to be replaced with each conference. If replacing pitcher, no conference is charged.
- M. **NO written or verbal protest** will be accepted by the Tri-City league. Any problems or complaints should be directed to your sponsoring recreation department and recreation department hosting that game.
- N. ALL softball participants required to have a batting **helmet with face guard** attached, when they're batting and/or on deck, **NO EXCEPTIONS**.
- O. **NO shoes with metal spikes** may be worn. Any player in violation of this rule will be immediately ejected from the game and suspended for the next game.
- P. **HEAT RULE** – Anything above 95* heat index will result in reducing game times by 15 minutes.
- Q. **STANDINGS** – will be determined by the following criteria: 1. Overall wins 2. Head to head record 3. Overall runs allowed for entire season. Standings will be kept in all divisions.

5. PONYTAIL DIVISION SPECIAL PLAYING RULES:

- A. Ponytail Division will use the **11" softball**.
- B. **Ponytail division** pitching machine set at 35' with dial set at 35 on Jugs Jr machine , and bases are 60'.
- C. Games consist of **7innings or 1 hour 15 minutes time limit**. No "new" inning will be started after 1 hour 10 minutes has been played. Game officially starts on the first pitch. Pitching machine used for this division, which will have a circle around the machine designating is a dead ball area. NO player may enter the circle to play the ball. Any ball striking the machine or umpire operating the machine DEADBALL will be called and *the batter is awarded first base. Other base runners will only advance one base if forced.*
- D. **10 players** will play defense, which results with 4 outfielders. All outfields must start in the outfield area at the time of the pitch.
- E. Pitchers must be start on the pitching mark at 40' at the time of the pitch.
- F. **NO walks** for the batters. Each batter gets three strikes per out or 5 pitches, whichever comes first. Batters are NOT out for foul ball on strike three, unless the foul tip goes directly into the catcher's glove and is caught, *or it is the 5th*

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- pitch.** Batters may NOT run on drop third strikes. NO bunting allowed in these divisions.
- G. **NO lead offs or stealing bases.** Runners must remain on the base until the batter swings at the pitch.
 - H. **Maximum of 5 runs** scored per inning or 3 outs for the first three full innings, teams must get three outs from the fourth inning on. NO 10 run rule or extra innings.
 - I. When the pitcher has the ball and does not attempt to make a play on the base runner, **ALL, base runners MUST immediately** make a decision to either advance without any hesitation or retreat to their base. If they fail to do this, runners in violation will be called out.
 - J. Mandatory to courtesy run for any catcher on base with the previous batter NOT on base. This is to help keep the catchers ready and game moving.
 - K. **Standings** will be kept in Ponytail Division.
 - L. **NO COACHES** are allowed on the playing field unless their team is batting and they are coaching a base.
 - M. In the case of an overthrow, the base runner can **advance at their own risk, but only one base.**

6. PETITE DIVISION SPECIAL PLAYING RULES:

- A. Division will use the 11" softball.
- B. **Petite division:** pitching mound 38', bases 60'.
- C. Games consist of 7innings or 1 hour 30 minutes. After 1 hour and 20 minutes no new inning may start.
- D. Runners must remain on the base until the pitcher releases the pitch. Players may steal only ONE base (2nd & 3rd) per pitch. Then can not advance to additional base for any reason (i.e. bad throw on the steal attempt).
- E. **NO stealing bases if team is winning by 10** or more runs, this includes pass balls.
- F. **NO stealing home.** This includes passed ball from the catcher, wild pitch, play made by the pitcher and/or catcher on any runner. Runner may only advance on a batted and/or bunted ball, or walk which forces runner to advance.
- G. The batter is automatically out on all dropped third strikes.
- H. **Maximum of 5 runs** scored per inning or 3 outs for the first three full innings, teams must get three outs from the fourth inning on. **NO new inning will be started with less than 10 minutes** to go in time limit. NO 10 run rule or extra innings.
- I. Pitching circle for pitchers. When the pitcher has the ball within the circle and does not attempt to make a play on the base runner, **ALL, base runners MUST immediately** make a decision to either advance without any hesitation or retreat to their base. If they fail to do this, runners in violation will be called out.
- J. Mandatory to courtesy run for any catcher on base with the previous batter NOT on base. This is to help keep the catchers ready and game moving.
- K. **NO COACHES** are allowed on the playing field unless their team is batting and they are coaching a base.

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7. CHIC DIVISION SPECIAL PLAYING RULES:

- A. Division will use the 12" softball, pitcher's mound at 40' and bases 60'.
- B. Games consist of 7innings or 1 hour 30 minutes. After 1 hour and 20 minutes no new inning may start. There will be no 10 run rule or extra innings.
- C. Runners may take a lead off when the ball is released from the pitcher's hand.
- D. 16' **pitching circle** for pitchers. When the pitcher has the ball within the circle and does not attempt to make a play on the base runner, **ALL base runners MUST immediately** make a decision to either advance without any hesitation or retreat to their base. If they fail to do this, runners in violation will be called out.
- E. **NO stealing home**, must be a batted ball
- F. **CAN run on a dropped third strike.**
- G. Pitchers must start with both feet on the mound facing home plate. The pitcher can either start with the ball in the pitching hand or the glove hand. The pitcher must bring her pitching hand and glove together prior to starting her pitching motion. The pitching motion can either be a windmill motion (full circle) or a sling shot motion(which is half circle).
- H. Only **3 outfielders are allowed** (not 4).
- I. **NO COACHES** are allowed on the playing field unless their team is batting and they are coaching a base.

8. PITCHING / BASE MEASUREMENTS:

- A. Ponytail Division – machine set at 35', circle 8', bases 60'
- B. Petite Division – pitching mound at 38', circle 16', bases 60'
- C. Chic Division – pitching mound 43', circle 16', bases 60'

9. SAFETY / INTEGRITY OF THE LEAGUE:

- A. Tri-City League Officials reserves the right to remove and/or suspend ANY player, parent, coach, spectator or manager from the league and/or participating parks for any reason or rule violation that jeopardizes the safety and well being of participants, spectators, and/or park staff.