

2021 GIRLS 9-10 SOFTBALL RULES
2021 NSA RULES APPLY EXCEPT THE FOLLOWING:

1. Coaches remember that this is a recreation league. **YOU** are responsible for exhibiting good sportsmanship. You are also responsible for your coaches, players **and** fans.
2. All players will bat in the lineup.
3. All players will play defensively every other inning. (No player to sit out consecutive innings)
4. Pitching distance is 35 feet.
5. Games will be 7 innings or 1 hour & 30 minutes. Ties to be played off if time allows. Tie games will count in the standings. **FINISH** the inning. **NO** new inning will begin at or after 1 hour and 20 minutes. Game times is **FORFEIT** time.
6. You must be able to field 7 players at game time or forfeit will result.
7. Free defensive substitutions are allowed for **ALL** players regardless of position.
8. The 5-up rule is in effect. You are allowed 5 runs in the first inning, after that you can score 5 runs plus however many runs you are behind from the last half inning. The home team is responsible for letting the umpires know when the 5 runs have been reached.
9. Both coaches must sign the umpires' card at the end of the game. Home team is responsible for the official scorebook. At the end of the game the score card is then turned into UIC.
10. Player who throws a bat for a second time will be an automatic out. (This results in a dead ball)
11. Run rule in effect. 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings, and 10 runs after 5 innings.
12. Outfields must play on the grass or 15 feet **BEHIND** the base line.
13. Shoes will be worn, **NO** open toes shoes. Coaches and players.
14. There will be 10 players with 4 outfielders in the outfield.
15. Helmets **with** facemasks will be worn when leaving the dugout and anytime while on the field by batters, runners and on deck batters. **NO** metal cleats.
16. A pitcher can only pitch 3 innings per game. (If a pitcher pitches one pitch in any inning it **IS** an inning pitched). **Pitchers must wear a face mask at all times**
17. Stealing is allowed; but there is **NO** stealing home. Head first sliding is **not** allowed. Infield fly rule is **not** in effect
18. First half of season dropped third strike the ball is dead. The second half of the season the ball is live.
19. Hesitation rule is in effect.
20. The Easton Ghost (Blue) **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN LEAGUE PLAY**. Should the bat be used in a game there will be a possible ejection of both the **Coach and Player**.

LOOK BACK RULE OR HESITATION RULE

When a runner is legitimately off base after a pitch or as a result of a batter completing a turn at bat, and while the pitcher has the ball in the eight foot radius of the pitchers plate, the runner may stop once, but then must immediately return to the base or attempt to advance to the next base.

1. Failure to immediately return non-stop to the base or precede non-stop to the next base will result in the runner being declared out.
2. Once the runner stops at a base for any reason, she will be declared out if she leaves the base.

EXCEPTION:

The runner will not be declared out is a play is made on her or another runner (a fake throw is considered a play), or the pitcher no longer has possession of the ball within the eight foot radius or the pitcher releases the ball on a pitch to the batter.

The batter-runner may continue past any base and is entitled to run as long as she does not stop. If she stops after she rounds any base, she must comply with (1) above.

Any act by the pitcher is possession of the ball in the circle that, in the umpires' judgment, causes the runner to react; IS considered making a play.