

**THIS IS A NON-COMPETITIVE, INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION. NO STANDINGS WILL BE KEPT.**

**GENERAL RULES**

1. Unless specifically changed by the following rules, USSSA SLOW PITCH 2011 rules will prevail.
2. The distance between the bases shall be 55 feet.
3. The distance between the pitchers mound and home plate will be 35 feet. There will be a circle fifteen (15) feet in diameter around the pitchers mound. This rule will be strictly enforced by all teams in this league.
4. The game ball shall be an official USSSA 11 inch blue-stitched softball.
5. There shall be 12 teams in the Jr. Pigtail Division.
6. The team roster will be a maximum of 14 players per team.
7. Games will be played at the Mentor High School Fields # 5, 6, & 9. Games will be played on Tuesday and Friday nights.
8. There will be a 12 game schedule played in the Jr. Pigtail Division.
9. Five (5) innings shall constitute a game. A tied game is a tied game. This is a non-competitive division.
10. An official game shall be three (3) innings or 2 ½ if the home team is leading when game time is up or the game is called due to weather or darkness.
11. Game starting times shall be 6:00 P.M. and 7:15 P.M. No new inning shall start 1 hour and 10 minutes after the start of the game. The umpire will use his judgment in calling the game due to darkness.
12. WARM-UPS: For the first game, the team listed first on the schedule sheet (Home Team) will have warm-up time from 5:30 to 5:45 P.M. The second team listed (Visitor) will have warm-up time from 5:45 to 6:00 P.M. Teams for the second game will warm up on the side lines and be ready to play promptly at game time. There will be no leeway time called for the second game. If field time is available before the second game, it will be shared equally by both teams.
13. The entire roster will play on the field. Free substitution is allowed and every player will bat in regular rotation. Seven (7) players will play in the infield. These infielders will play in standard infield positions. The remainder of the roster will play on the grass line in the as outfielders.
14. There will be a minimum of 8 players by game time in order to play. If less than 8 players, the managers will agree to borrow players so the teams can play. This is a non-competitive division.

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15. Players shall report to the field for scheduled games regardless of weather unless the game is postponed in advance.
16. Managers of the teams scheduled to play and the plate umpire shall decide if games are to be played in adverse weather. The plate umpire shall decide if the game is to continue once play has commenced.
17. All players will wear team uniforms, which consists of team shirt, visor, and socks. All players will provide their own white shorts or white baseball pants.
18. **LEAGUE SHIRTS:** No numbers or names shall be placed on any league shirts. No manager is allowed to change shirt colors, such as tie-dying etc.
19. **SLIDING IS NOT PERMITTED.** The runner will be called out.
20. **INFIELD FLY RULE IS NOT IN EFFECT.**
21. **UNLIMITED FOULS ON 3<sup>RD</sup> STRIKE.**
22. **HOME TEAM/VISITOR:** The home team shall be the team listed first on the schedule sheet and shall occupy the first base side. The team listed second on the schedule sheet shall be the VISITOR and shall occupy the third base side. **ONLY PLAYERS OF THE TEAM PLAYING, MANAGERS, COACHES & SCOREKEEPERS SHALL BE PERMITTED TO OCCUPY THESE BENCHES.**
23. **GAME BALLS:** The team listed first on the schedule will supply the game ball. **Game balls will be picked up on Opening Day by the team manager.** All game balls will be placed back in the equipment box after each game. These game balls will be used for practice.
24. **FIELD EQUIPMENT:** The home team of the last game played on the field has the responsibility of replacing all equipment into the equipment box. The first team to arrive at the field shall place the bases accordingly.
25. **UMPIRE FEE:** The umpire fee is \$20 per game. The manager of the team listed first on the schedule (Home Team) will pay the umpire fee. The umpire money will be given to you on Opening Day when you pick up your game balls while checking in at the Information Booth.
26. **SPORTS LINE REPORT:** The HOME TEAM (team listed first on the game schedule) Manager for each game played will call, fax or e-mail the game scores of that game in to the News Herald.
27. **PROTEST:** There will be no protest of any kind. This is a NON-COMPETITIVE, INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION.
28. **CALL-UPS:** (SEE ATTACHED CALL-UP RULES)
29. **CATCHERS:** Catchers must wear face masks, catchers helmet and chest protector.

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30. **BATTING HELMETS**: Batting helmets will be worn by all batters, base runners and all player coaches. Any player who deliberately throws the batting helmets will be warned, second time, that player is out of the game.
31. **SMOKING**: No smoking during any game by any Manager, Coach, Parent or any person working with the team.

## GAME RULES

1. The pitching rules will be as follows:
  - a. Normal pitching rules apply.
  - b. Four balls constitute a walk with the batter being awarded first base.
  - c. Three strikes constitute a strike out resulting in an out.
  - d. Each pitch must have a minimum arc of four (4) feet from the ground to a maximum of eight (8) feet from the ground.
2. The ball is dead after a batted ball has been returned to the pitcher; the pitcher has control of the ball and is within the pitchers circle. The ball is not dead if it has been thrown over, or through the pitchers circle and not controlled by the pitcher.
3. Any ball thrown past the first or third baseman into foul territory will be a live ball, unless the ball goes outside the field of play and out of play, as determined by the umpire. If the ball goes out of the playing field, the runner gets one base plus the base she is going to. Overthrows at second base are not dead ball situations and base runners should be encouraged to advance.
4. On a ball that is hit into the outfield on a fly, the runners may attempt to go 2 bases.
5. There will be a limit of five (5) runs scored per team per inning. This rule applies to the first four innings only. In the fifth inning, the defensive team will be required to accomplish three (3) outs before that half of the inning is completed.
6. There is to be no deliberate rolling of the ball to any base to create an out. If done, the runner is awarded the base to which she is running plus the next base.
7. The batter must take a full swing at the ball.
8. No bunting is allowed.
9. No lead-offs shall be taken at any base until the ball is hit. Any runner leaving the base before the ball is hit, will be given a warning. If the instance occurs again, the runner will be called out.
10. Throwing the bat by a batter shall constitute a warning. The second time a player throws the bat, the player is automatically out. The ball is dead. This rule will be strictly enforced.

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11. On deck batters are not allowed to practice swing while on deck. There will be no “Hit Sticks” allowed in this division. (Please enforce this rule) This is a safety rule and must be strictly enforced.
12. **COACHES BOX**: Only one coach at one time in each coaching box during play. Coaches are not allowed to touch players unless time is called. The umpire will give one warning per game.
13. **PLAYER SURRENDER RULE**: The runner must surrender a play if it is apparent she will be out as she approaches the next base. Any player that is ejected from the game by the home plate umpire for bodily contact or deliberately pushing/knocking over another player, the team manager and player will be suspended from the next two games they are scheduled to participate in. This is a Recreational Non-Competitive Division and aggressive unsportsmanlike conduct on the ball field will not be tolerated.

### **TROPHIES:**

Trophies are not provided by Mentor Girls Softball League for the Jr. Pigtail Division. Each manager is welcome to do whatever is wished for the end of the Season. Serena’s Trophy World has trophies for approximately \$5.00/each. (Please check with your choice of store for price and production time.) Some managers will collect \$5.00 from parents at the beginning of the Season. Some teams have picnics and some meet at Dairy Queen or McDonald’s. These are only suggestions, not requirements.

### **SCHEDULE**

1. All games must be played as scheduled unless postponed for rain or wet grounds. **NO MANAGER HAS THE AUTHORITY TO CHANGE THE POSTED SCHEDULE.**
2. **MAKE-UP GAMES**: If a game is legally postponed, (due to wet grounds or rain) it will be re-scheduled according to the following regulations. The Manager of the home team shall call the field scheduler, **KIM GUENTHER, 440-255-0034.** She will re-schedule the games according to the availability of playing fields. She will notify the managers and will also re-schedule the umpires for all make up games. All make-up games will be made up at her discretion according to weather and field availability. **HOME TEAM** Manager is to contact Kim on the same day the game is cancelled.

### **EQUIPMENT BOX**

1. The equipment box is to be locked during the game and all unused equipment is to be secured in the box.
2. No spectators are allowed in or on the equipment box. Each league has a varying amount of equipment. In any case, this equipment is valuable and represents a considerable investment by the Mentor Girls Softball League. It is imperative that lost, misplaced and damaged equipment be held to a minimum.
3. All managers are responsible for our equipment. Please make sure you place all equipment back in the box and **KEEP THE LID CLOSED AND LOCKED AT ALL TIMES.**