

East Meadow Girls Softball Minors Division Rules - 2023

General Rules

- ✓ Games are 6 innings, with no new inning to start after 2 hours. If it does, home team bats.
- ✓ Game is considered official at the end of the 4th inning.
- ✓ Regular season games can end in a tie. Post season games play until completion and a winner.
- ✓ Darkness or weather is the Umpire's call which overrides all time rules above.
- ✓ If game is called by Umpire for time limit, weather or darkness, score will revert back to last full inning.
- ✓ Innings are 3 outs or 5 runs scored. Except for the last inning, which are unlimited runs. The designated "last inning" will be the Umpire's discretion and will inform the Managers.
- ✓ Only Managers may approach the Umpire for rule interpretation.

There is no questioning a judgment call by the Umpire – this means managers, coaches, players, and spectators. Yelling or commenting on a call will not be tolerated. This can result in being asked to leave the field.

- ✓ No one is permitted behind the backstop during the game. This includes all coaches, parents and children.
- ✓ Avoid contact/Sliding rule: The base runner must slide or avoid contact at a base when a play is being made; cannot "barrel" into another player. On the violation, the play is dead and the runner is called out. Note that the defensive player cannot block the plate or bag without the ball in glove/hand.
- ✓ No head first slides permitted, except back to a bag.
- ✓ Any Catcher warming up a Pitcher or participating in the infield or outfield drills as a Catcher must wear Catcher's mask and chest protector. During the game, the Catcher must wear all catching equipment and can use whatever glove she wants.
- ✓ No NEGATIVE CHANTING – respect the team you are playing against.
- ✓ Each player must play the infield for at least one inning.
- ✓ To keep the game moving, players should know where they are going before your at bat is over.
- ✓ Only 1 manager, 2 coaches, and parent scoring the book, are allowed in the dugout.

Pitching

- ✓ Regulation 11" ball will be used
- ✓ Pitcher's mound will be 35" feet. Distance is from back of home plate to back of pitching rubber.
- ✓ A Pitcher may pitch only 6 innings per game / 8 innings per week. One pitch thrown in an inning constitutes a full inning.
- ✓ Pitcher can use windmill or modified pitching and must pitch from the pitching rubber.
- ✓ Pitchers should be encouraged to throw legal pitches, meaning one foot in contact with the pitching rubber and hands apart then brought together. The throwing arm rotating no more than 1-1/2 times. The push foot staying in contact with the rubber or the ground prior to the pitch being thrown. Violations should be brought to the attention of the pitcher and coach, not no illegal pitches will be called.
- ✓ Once Pitcher motions for pitch, all dugouts must be quiet.
- ✓ If a Pitcher hits 3 batters in an inning she must come out but may go back in the next inning. If she hits 5 batters per game, she must be removed from pitching the rest of the game. Hit by pitch – is a judgment call by the Umpire as to whether or not the batter attempted to get out of the way of the pitch.

Fielding

- ✓ A maximum of 10 defensive players will be allowed on the field, with the 10th player in the outfield. The outfield positions will be Left Field, Left Center Field, Right Center Field, and Right Field. All outfielders must have both feet in the outfield grass at the time the pitcher releases the ball.
- ✓ A team must field at least 8 players to start a game. The team short of player(s) may borrow from the opposing team. Those player(s) will play the outfield. The borrowed player(s) shall be the last batted out.

- ✓ If an 8yo Farms player needs to be called up, the Farms Player Agent must be contacted (include Minors Player Agent too) to make arrangements. Call up player can play any position except Pitcher. Call up player should also bat last but that is the Manager's discretion.

Batting

- ✓ There will be no infield fly rule or dropped 3rd strike.
- ✓ Base runners may tag up on fly ball outs and advance.
- ✓ Bunting is allowed; Fake/slash bunts are NOT permitted; the Batter will be called out.
- ✓ All players must wear helmet when batting.
- ✓ If a player leaves the game due to an injury or another commitment, the spot in the lineup is skipped and no out is incurred.
- ✓ **VERY IMPORTANT** – Only the player at bat can have a bat in their hands.
- ✓ Only approved softball or little league bats are allowed – must say Fast Pitch Softball.
- ✓ There will be a UNIVERSAL BATTING order. Every player bats.
- ✓ The strike zone is larger than normal since the intent with this age group is to encourage players to swing at pitches. The strike zone extends from the top of the shoulders to just below the knees and one ball width on either side of home plate. Coaches must encourage batters to swing at decent pitches.
- ✓ A batter is permitted to hit an inside the park Home Run.
- ✓ There is no walk limit per inning.

Base Running

- ✓ Bases will be set at 60 feet.
- ✓ Stealing of 2B is allowed for a maximum of 3x per inning; unlimited steals to 3B. Stealing of Home is not permitted. A runner may only advance to Home on a batted ball or a walk. If runner advances in violation of this rule, the runner returns to 3B without jeopardy.
- ✓ No advancing to Home on an overthrow by Catcher to 3B on a steal – it's a "Free Throw".
- ✓ No continuation.
- ✓ Time is out when the ball is returned to the Pitcher on the mound and granted by the Umpire.
- ✓ A runner more than half way to the next base when time is called will be awarded that base. A runner less than half way will return to the previous base. This is up to the Umpire's discretion.
- ✓ Speed up rule at manager's discretion for Catchers with two outs. The player has to have been the Catcher in the previous ½ inning in order to have a runner take her place. Runner must be the last batted out.

Mercy Rule

- ✓ There is a 15 run mercy rule. The game shall end when the visiting team is behind 15 runs or more after Visiting team has had 5 at bats.