

## 2019 Intermediate (Grades 4 & 5) Division Rules

### Rules for Play and Practice:

Iowa City Girls Softball operates with the intent to give all girls the opportunity to play all softball positions, to have equal playing time, to have fun and to do so in a safe environment.

All games are played in accordance with the current edition of the official softball playing rules of the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) with the following exceptions:

Games are played on **Tuesday and Thursday** nights.

- 1) An inning will be completed when five runs score, or three outs are made.
- 2) Intermediate Division games are 75 minutes in length. A regulation game is 7 innings, or upon reaching the time limit. No new inning may start after 75 minutes of play. In case of rain or darkness, 4 innings is considered a complete game (3½ innings, if home team is ahead). If the last out of an inning is made before the time expires the next inning will start. When time elapses and outcome of the game is already determined, due to the 5 run per inning limit, the game is over. If there is a significant stoppage of play, for whatever reason, the umpire has the discretion of stopping the game clock. Coaches may petition umpires to activate this rule.
- 3) The team listed as the home team on the schedule will sit in the 3rd base dugout; keep the official scorebook, and operate the scoreboard (optional).
- 4) The batting order is set at the start of the game to include all team members present. A continuous batting order of all team members is to be maintained. Any late arriving player is to be placed at the bottom of the batting order. An automatic out will be issued for a batter who misses a turn after being added to the batting order, unless coaches agree not to apply the automatic out.
- 5) Each team must have a minimum of 6 players to start a game, or a forfeit will be declared unless coaches from both teams agree to play without forfeiture.
- 6) A player must reenter the game after sitting out one inning defensively, except in the case of injury. Every player must sit out one inning before any player sits out a second inning. First violation of this rule will result in a warning. A second and any following violation of this rule will result in an immediate forfeiture of the game.
- 7) Players should rotate through both infield and outfield positions. Every player must be given an opportunity to play an infield defensive position in every game. All outfielders must be positioned in the grass.
- 8) Pitching regulations per the current ASA Rule Book are in effect except for the following. The pitching rubber will be set by the city. Pitchers will be permitted 3 warm-up pitches at the start of each inning. A pitcher may not pitch consecutive innings during a game. A single pitch will constitute one inning pitched. A pitcher may not return to the position of pitcher in an inning in which they were removed. In case of a dropped third strike the batter is out and runners may not advance.
- 9) The "Look Back Rule" is in effect as per the current ASA Rule Book.
- 10) The infield fly rule does NOT apply. Purpose: to encourage a play always be attempted on a base-runner before returning the ball to the pitcher position. Fielding teams are not penalized when making throwing or catching errors in the act of making a play on a runner. After such errors, umpires

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will halt play and will direct base-runners to the base that they were advancing at time of error. (Failure to attempt to make a routine play on a runner will result with a reminder from an umpire of the intent of the rule.)

11) Umpires call balls and strikes. Each hitter will begin with a 1-1 pitch count. When the count reaches Ball 4, an offensive coach will pitch until the batter strikes out, fouls out, or hits the ball in fair territory. Friendly reminder: The coach must keep both feet inside the circle at all times. The pitch is to be a flat pitch, not a lob.

12) Stealing bases, passed balls, and wild pitches. Base runners may leadoff ONLY after the pitched ball crosses home plate. Once a player reaches base she may advance to the next base, by means of a steal, passed ball, or wild pitch. NOTE: The player is allowed to advance only one base by any one of these means per each trip around the bases. She may not advance by any of these means when the coach is pitching. She may not advance home by any of these means.

13) Tie games will be played out using the international tiebreaker rule if the time has expired or after the 6th inning. For each half inning, the team's last scheduled batter will start out the new inning as a runner on second base.

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### Equipment Policies and Rules:

1) ASA approved helmets with face masks must be worn during games and practices while in the on-deck circle, at bat and on the base paths. Chinstraps must be used any time helmets are worn. Shorts may be worn, but ONLY with regulation sliding pads and sliding shorts, otherwise long pants must be worn. No metal jewelry (including earrings) and no wristwatches may be worn. Rubber bracelets are permitted. All participants to be eligible for play must wear team shirts. Sport shoes (sneakers or softball shoes) must be worn during practices and games. NO METAL SPIKES/CLEATS may be worn.

2) Pitchers are highly encouraged to wear Game Face Masks.

3) An 11" ball will be used in the Intermediate Division.

4) All bats must be ASA approved.

### Other Policies:

1) Two official coaches are permitted per team; the head coach must be NYSCA certified or equivalent. Parents are encouraged to volunteer to assist the official coaches.

2) Rainouts: For rainout information go to the division website at <http://www.icgs.org> and click on Rainout Information link.

3) Players, coaches, parents, and fans may be warned or ejected for foul language and unsportsmanlike behavior. No person will receive more than one warning during a game without being ejected. All warnings and ejections will be reported to ICGS officials for action. Teams and coaches will line up after each game to shake hands and congratulate each other.