

Junior (Grades 6 & 7 & 8) 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) Junior Division games are one hour and 15 minutes in length. A regulation game is 6 innings, or upon reaching the time limit. No new inning may start after one hour and 15 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.
- 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 will halt play and will direct base-runners to the base that they were advancing at time of error.

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(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. On a dropped third strike the batter is out. The ball is live and runners may advance.
- 12) Runners may advance no more than one base per pitch unless there is a hit. Runners may advance home on a steal, passed ball, or wild pitch.
- 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.
- 14) No bat throwing is allowed. For the safety of all players and coaches, a batter may not "throw" the bat after hitting a pitched ball. After the first instance of a thrown bat, the team batting will receive a warning and any subsequent "thrown" bat from that team, may result in the batter being called out, regardless of the outcome of the batted ball. It is the discretion of the umpire to determine a "thrown" bat.
- 15) Sliding: While running the bases, all players must slide into second base, third base, or home plate, if there is a play being made on them, or the defensive player is properly setting-up to make a play, regardless of an actual play being made. The runner is not required to slide if the defensive team does not attempt to make a play, or set-up to make a play, and there is no potential collision with another player. If a slide is not preformed when a slide is required, as outline above, the offensive team will be given one warning per team. After warnings have been issued, the runners will be called out, regardless of outcome of the play. If a player habitually violates this rule and is determined to be a safety concern, at the discretion of the umpire, the player may be ejected from the game.

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. **No shorts may be worn**, only soft ball pants, crop pants or pants, which cover at or below the knee, 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) A 12" ball will be used in the Junior 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.

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- 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.