

## **2017 Intertown Softball Rules – 12U Div.**

### **I. General League Considerations**

1. The Rules Committee shall be the sole decision makers in any grievances. The Committee shall consist of 1 representative from each town per division: Dighton, Freetown, Lakeville, Middleboro, Rehoboth, and Raynham.
2. Meetings shall be held as often as deemed necessary by the Rules Committee.
3. Team rosters shall consist of name and birth date for all players, and should be available for review if requested. All managers name and contact info shall be provided to the League Administrator prior to the start of the season.
4. Teams shall consist of 10-18 players. The roster may be increased throughout the season, not to exceed 18 players.
5. 12U players must not reach age 13 before January 1<sup>st</sup>
6. At least one coach or manager from each team shall be over 20 years of age.
7. All players must participate in 50% of their regular season games to be eligible for the playoffs. Any player appearing in less than 50%, must get Rules Committee approval in order to be eligible.
8. No player shall play for more than one town. No player shall play for more than one team within the same division. Players from younger divisions may play “up” or fill in, but must play on their rostered team during the playoffs.
9. Playoff format will be determined by the Rules Committee prior to the start of the season.
  - All teams will participate in playoffs.
  - Teams will be seeded based on a blind draw.
  - Playoff format will be a single elimination tournament style format; played on the final weekend of the Rec Season.
  - One town will host the playoffs. That town will be determined by all directors at the beginning of the season.
  - Before a team is entered into blind draw, each team must confirm they are able to field a team for the playoff weekend. If they are not, that team will not be entered into Brackets. Once they are entered, if they are unable to field a team, they must forfeit and are eliminated from playoffs.

10. Host town provides trophies for the age group they are hosting that year. Host director presents trophies immediately following the championship game. Each player should receive an individual trophy. Trophies should be awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams. As well, the Championship Cup will be presented to the winning team. The Cup will remain with the winning team for the full off season. It is the responsibility of that team to add their team plate to the Cup. As well, they need to return the Cup prior to the playoff weekend the following season.

## **II. Game Scheduling and Forfeits**

11. Monday begins the scheduled week and Sunday ends the week.
12. The home team must supply a certified umpire. If there is no official umpire, both coaches can play the game with an umpire agreed to by both coaches or reschedule the game.
13. The home team must make the decision on rainouts. Decisions are to be made by 4:00 pm or 2 hours prior to the game's scheduled starting time. The first call must go to the umpire coordinator (**Paul Bell (508) 982-6530**) so that he/she can notify the umpire scheduler. The next call must go to the opposing team coach and then the town director.
14. Any team not having enough players or not wanting to play on the scheduled date of a game will forfeit the game. If both coaches agree that the game can't be played because of hardship, they can reschedule the game. It is the home team's responsibility to reschedule the game.
15. Any rescheduled games must be played by the second Sunday following the original game date. Any team not being able to field enough players or not wanting to play on the rescheduled date will forfeit the game. Home team must give the opposing team's coach a choice of 2 dates for the make-up game. If a date can't be agreed upon, the away team must take the forfeit.
16. Home team is the official score keeper and the umpire should sign the book.
17. All game scores must be reported on the league website by the winning team within 24 hours of each game's completion. Please be accurate with scores.

## **III. General Procedures**

18. The current USA Softball rule book shall be the official rules for all contests except as modified in these rules. During the regular season coaches/umpires are encouraged to instruct the players regarding USA pitching rules. However during the playoffs, all USA pitching rules will be strictly enforced.

19. A protest must adhere to the rules outlined in the USA Softball rule book. In addition, it must be presented to the Rules Committee within 24 hours of the alleged infraction. Protest shall be heard by the Rules Committee within 10 days.
20. Any coach, manager, or player who is thrown out of a game, cannot participate in their team's next played game.
21. Base paths shall be 60'. Pitching distance shall be 40'.
22. The 12" (optic yellow) ball will be used. Home team provides 2 new game balls per game. During playoffs, each team provides 1 per game played.
23. All players must wear helmets while batting, running the bases, and coaching bases. Accidental loss of helmet will not justify calling a runner out.
24. The following are to be enforced by COACHES:
  - A. Team is neatly attired.
  - B. No jewelry will be allowed (except for medic alert).
  - C. No metal cleats are allowed.
  - D. No Cheering against any player or team. No screaming at or when a pitcher is about to deliver her pitch.

#### **IV. Game Length**

25. All games shall start at 6:00 pm unless otherwise noted on the master schedule or unless an alternate starting time has been mutually agreed to by both managers involved.
26. No inning shall start **1 hr 45 minutes** after the official starting time which is designated as the time of the first pitch. The home plate umpire's watch is the official time. Home team should get the official time from the umpire and record it in the score book.
27. The number of innings constitutes a complete game as follows:  
12U: 6 innings  
A game called by an umpire for weather, darkness, or other event shall be regulation if 2 less than the required number of innings have been played, or if the home team is ahead after 2 ½ innings less than the required number of innings. In this case, the score reverts to the last full inning played.
28. A 6 run per inning max shall be used with the last inning having unlimited runs, unless a mercy rule occurs prior to that inning. The umpire and managers from both teams must declare an inning to be the last inning prior to it starting unless it is the 6<sup>th</sup> inning. Once that inning is determined as last, it becomes unlimited. We will use a mercy rule of 12 runs after a regulation game has been completed instead of the USA Softball mercy rule.

29. Tie games: If a complete game (4 innings for 12U) is tied when stopped due to darkness or weather conditions, the game will remain a tie. (The game will not be continued at a later date). If the game is not a “complete game,” the entire game will be rescheduled to a later date.
30. If the score is tied at the completion of 6 innings and the 1 hour 45 minute time limit has **not** been reached; extra innings are permitted. The “International Tie-Breaker” rule will be used in extra innings. If the game is still tied after the 1 hour 45 minute time limit has expired, the game will end in a tie.

## **V. Team Lineups and Substitutions**

31. Teams may play with seven players. Teams not having the minimum of seven players to start the game will forfeit the game, unless both coaches agree that the game can be played with the players available. Forfeit is declared 15 minutes after the scheduled game start time as determined by the umpire’s watch.
32. All teams in 12U will field 4 outfielders to encourage maximum playing time. If a team cannot field 10 players, the opposing team is not obligated to field less defensive players. The opposing team may continue to field 4 outfielders.
33. A pitcher may pitch in a regular season game for the following number of innings:  
12U: 3 innings  
In games that enter extra innings, each pitcher is granted one additional pitching inning over the aforementioned allotted innings.
34. Free defensive substitution is allowed for all players, including the pitcher. Pitching even one pitch in an inning counts as a complete inning pitched. All players must play a minimum of 3 innings in the field or half the game.
35. A continuous batting order shall be used. Any player showing up late goes to the bottom of the order. If after 3 innings, a player has not been inserted into the lineup, she will not be allowed to pitch in the game.
36. In the event of an injury or illness requiring the removal of a player from the game (if the player is unable to return to the game), no out will be recorded when her turn is reached in the batting order.
37. Courtesy Runners:  
A courtesy runner will be allowed to run for the pitcher and catcher. The last out made will be the designated runner.