



DE PERE GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION



8U LEAGUE RULES (Board Adopted December 2014) (Last Updated April 2023)

DGSA MISSION STATEMENT:

- I. To provide a safe environment for girls in the De Pere area (East/West) to have fun while learning the fundamentals of softball, teamwork, commitment, and competition.
- II. To help build the self-esteem of all athletes and provide a service to the youth of the community.
- III. To provide the De Pere and West De Pere High School softball programs with athletes that can demonstrate a solid understanding of softball fundamentals.

LEAGUE OBJECTIVES:

- I. To introduce softball fundamentals to the athletes and prepare them for 10U.

LEAGUE RULES:

I. GENERAL:

1. The De Pere Girls Softball Association's *Good Sportsman's Code* applies to all leagues.
2. No players will be allowed to participate until their registration fee is paid and their waiver forms are signed.
3. Any player who cannot play after paying their registration fee because of an unforeseen circumstance will be refunded their fee if the Board reviews the situation and finds the situation to be legitimate.
4. All names of players registering after the beginning of the season will be brought to the 8U Commissioner for assignment to a team.
 - I. Late registrants will no longer be accepted at a date determined by the Board, typically after teams have been assigned and league shirts ordered.
5. Players should wear their league issued team shirt for all games.
6. No jewelry may be worn.
7. The Summer League Commissioner is responsible for the postponing and/or canceling of games due to inclement weather prior to the start of the game. Cancellation of the first scheduled game of the night does not necessarily mean that all subsequent games are canceled.

8. Teams may include up to 4 coaches/assistants/dugout parents. All participating coaches/assistants/dugout parents regardless of role must have successfully completed the SafeSport Training and related background check. Instructions on how to complete both will be e-mailed to all parties before the start of the season.
9. Only coaches/assistants are allowed on the field to direct and guide players. During games one defensive coach is allowed in the outfield.
10. One umpire will stand behind the pitcher to call balls and strikes and call outs on the field.
11. The umpire will confer before the start of the game to agree on the official start time and to review league rules with coaches. No new inning will start after 1 hour 15 minutes.
12. The home team will use the third base dugout and will take the field first.
13. Head coaches will designate base coaches.
14. A coach should act as a backup catcher to keep the game moving.
15. Games will consist of 6 innings or a time limit of 1 hour and 15 minutes.
16. One inning will consist of 3 outs per team or a maximum of 4 runs scored (whichever comes first).
17. Each team will participate in the end of the season league tournament, with seeds based upon record during league play.
18. Coaches should set their batting order before the first league game and not change it throughout the duration of the league year. For example, the coach sets the batting order prior to the first game in alphabetic order and the game ends with the 4th player due up next – that player hits first in the next game, the 5th player hits 2nd in the next game, etc.
 - I. The objective is to provide as even a number of at-bats for the players as possible during the league season.
 - II. During the League tournament only, coaches may reset the batting order as they desire.

II. DUGOUT CONDUCT:

1. All players are to remain in the dugout except for the batter and the on-deck batter.
2. All players, whether batting, while in the on-deck circle, or running the bases, must wear a helmet. If a helmet should fall off while running, the runner will not be called out.
3. Unsportsmanlike conduct, such as comments directed from opposing players, parents, or from opposing coaches, will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Removal from the ballpark may result if this rule is broken.
4. Positive cheering is accepted and encouraged but there will be no “heckling” (i.e., swing batter, songs directed at opposing teams or players, etc.) allowed. Each coach is expected to enforce this rule with his/her team. Should fan behavior become a problem, the umpire will confer with the coach of the appropriate team. It will be the coach’s responsibility to address the problem and to report the instance to the U8/Summer League Commissioners.

III. PITCHING:

1. Ball will be a hard 11” ball.
2. Players will pitch from a distance of 30 feet from the back of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber.
3. A pitcher is allowed to pitch a maximum of 3 innings per game; these innings do not need to be consecutive.
4. One pitch constitutes an inning. A pitcher can re-enter as a pitcher or can be substituted for at any time during the game.
5. If a pitcher walks 3 batters or hits 2 batters in an inning (maximum of 3 separately or in combination), the batting team coach will come out and pitch with a limit of 5 pitches per batter the rest of that inning from the pitching rubber (the only exception is for the first hitter the coach pitches to, where the coach inherits the number of strikes to finish the at-bat. Example: if the hitter had one strike, they have two remaining strikes in the at-bat, with a limit of 5 pitches).
 - I. If the batter doesn't swing on the 5th pitch or swings 3 times and misses, the batter is out.
 - II. If the batter fouls the 5th pitch off, they continue until the ball is put in play or they swing and miss.
 - III. The pitcher will play defense when the coach pitches but must remain within a reasonable distance to the pitching rubber.
 - IV. The pitcher may resume pitching the next inning unless they have reached three innings.
 - V. If the pitcher is consistently throwing pitches that are around the strike zone, allow them to continue to give them the opportunity to finish the inning.
 - VI. If by the 3rd batter the pitcher is not throwing pitches consistently around the strike zone, proceed to coach pitch for the rest of the inning.
 - VII. If a player wants to quit in the middle of an inning, a coach will pitch the remainder of the inning and a new pitcher will start the following inning.
6. USA softball rules will be used.
7. All pitchers **must** wear a facemask.

(Note: When coaches pitch, pitches should come in at a similar speed and angle as normal player pitches.)

IV. CATCHING:

1. Catchers must wear a mask, helmet, shin guards, and chest protectors.
2. The catcher shall not interfere with the batter.

V. BATTING:

1. Teams must bat their entire lineup.
2. All batters must wear a batting helmet and helmets must have a facemask (chin straps are optional).
3. An umpire will call balls and strikes during each at bat.
4. If a pitch hits the batter, the batter must take her base.
5. If the batter is interfered with by the catcher, the swing will not count and the at-bat will continue with the same count prior to the interference.
6. If a batter throws the bat, a warning will be issued; a second offense will result in the batter being called out.
7. No bunting is allowed.
8. If the pitcher throws 4 balls that aren't strikes the at-bat continues with the batting team coach pitching the remainder of the at-bat in accordance with rules outlined in the pitching section. Batters **will not** take the free base.
9. USA softball rules will be used.

VI. FIELDING:

1. All players should have an opportunity to play each position. A player should not play 3 consecutive innings in the infield unless there are not enough players to do so.
 - I. Infield Positions: Pitcher, Catcher, 1st Base, 2nd Base, Shortstop, 3rd Base.
 - II. Outfield Positions: Left Field, Left Center, Right Center, Right Field.
 - i All outfield positions must start on the grass.
2. There is no infield fly rule.
3. It is **highly recommended** all girls wear a defensive facemask but is **not required**.

VII. BASE RUNNING:

1. All base runners must wear batting helmets.
2. Runners may lead off after the ball **crosses home plate**.
3. Stealing is not allowed.
4. Only one base is allowed on an infield hit.
5. An outfield hit is considered a hit that goes past the infield player. An extra base is allowed on an outfield hit.
6. No attempt to take an extra base on an attempted throw to the pitcher is allowed. This takes effect as soon as it leaves the fielder's hand in their attempt to throw to the pitcher.
7. An extra base is allowed on an overthrow to the first attempted out at any base (example: bases are empty and a ball is hit to the shortstop who overthrows the first baseman – the runner may advance to 2nd base but cannot advance to 3rd base).

VIII. SCORING:

1. The home team is the Official Scorer for that game and will maintain the official scorebook.
2. The away team is responsible for operating the electronic scoreboard during the game.
3. It is the responsibility of the home team coach to record the final score in SportsEngine. Failure to submit scores may impact seeding for the League tournament at the end of the year.
4. Games tied at the end of the time limit will end as a tie.

IX. COACH EXPECTATIONS:

1. Coaches are responsible for:
 - I. Always promoting good sportsmanship; this league is to encourage the girls to participate and have fun. Our Summer League and 8U League Commissioners will enforce a zero-tolerance policy.
 - II. Teach basic softball fundamentals.
 - III. Keeping the girls in the dugout and out of the playing area when appropriate.
 - IV. Seeing that equipment is properly cared for, returned, and organized after each practice and game, and at the end of the season request or recommend any equipment needs.
2. Coaches will pitch to their own team the entire season.
3. Coaches on the field may not interfere with the ball in play at any time. If interference occurs, the ball will be ruled dead. All runners will return to their previous bases and the batter will return to the count before the batted pitch.
4. The De Pere Girls Softball Association Coaches Expectations and *Good Sportsman Code* applies to all leagues.

X. YEAR-END TOURNAMENT RULES:

1. The League Tournament will take place during the final week of the season; it will not be held on a weekend.
 - I. Games may be shortened in the event of inclement weather in order to complete the tournament during the final week of the season.
2. Coaches are allowed to reset their batting order for year-end tournament games.
3. All other League rules will remain in effect for the tournament.
4. If a tournament game is tied at the end of 1 hours and 15 minutes, the following extra innings hierarchy will be put into place:
 - I. Coaches will pitch the remainder of the game.
 - a. The only exception will be the championship game where players will pitch the entire game.
 - II. Extra Inning 1: A baserunner will be placed on 2nd base with no outs.
 - III. Extra Inning 2: Baserunners will be placed on all bases with no outs.
 - IV. Extra Inning 3+: Repeat extra inning 2.
 - a. Baserunners should be the last out of the prior inning.