



## 1st/2nd and 3rd/4th Grade Rules

### **Field Specifications**

**Location of bases:** Bases should be approximately 50 feet apart. Please use the measuring tape provided in the equipment box.

**Pitching:** Pitcher should be a minimum of 30 ft to a maximum of 40 ft from home plate.

Home team is responsible for taking the bases and batting tee out of the backstop box and returning them following the game. **BE SURE TO LOCK THE BOX!!!**

### **Game Rules**

**Team size:** A fielding team consists of 10 players (pitcher, catcher, 1st, 2nd, shortstop, 3rd, left field, left center, right field, and right center).

*1st/2nd grade-* All players can play on the field every inning. Please place additional girls in the outfield.

*3rd/4th grade-* 10 players on the field and additional players "sit." Please rotate for fair play time.

**Length of game:**

*1st/2nd grade* - Games will be approximately 1 hour. Please try to end in a timely manner with the home team batting. Be aware of the time before starting an inning. Parents will expect games to be close to 1 hour.

**Length of inning:**

*1st/2nd grade*- Bat through the full lineup each inning. Round Robin.

*3rd/4th grade*- An inning consists of 3 outs or 5 runs, whichever comes first.

**Pitching:** Pitches should be underhand with little arc if possible. Each batter should get 5 quality pitches before hitting off the tee. Coaches will use their best judgement on whether the tee is taken out.

***Pitcher Interference:*** Any batted ball or any thrown ball that hits the parent pitcher is a dead ball. NO pitch. Everyone returns to her previous base.

*1st/2nd grade*- coach pitch all season. Coaches can work on slowpitch technique if time allows during practice.

*3rd/4th grade*- Start season with girls pitching. A facemask is provided for player safety. Allow girls to pitch 5 balls and then have the coach step in. Not all girls will want to pitch.

**Umpires:** There will be no umpires. Coaches will use their best judgement.

**Base Running:** All players on base MUST wear a batting helmet. One base running coach is allowed at both 1st and 3rd base. There is no leading off, stealing, or sliding. Runners may advance only after the ball is hit.

*1st/2nd:* Players will advance one base per hit. Base coach will decide if a girl will advance additional bases.

*3rd/4th:* Players will advance a minimum of one base per hit. As long as the ball is in play, the runners may continue to advance. Base coach will decide if a girl will advance additional bases. Runners can tag up if a ball is caught in the outfield.

**Overthrown balls:** Ball thrown out of boundaries of play.

*1st/2nd:* Runners will not advance on an overthrown ball that goes beyond the boundaries of the playing field.

*3rd/4th:* The runner may take ONE additional base on an overthrown ball that goes beyond the boundaries of the playing field. An overthrow at first allows the runner to advance to second. No Infield Fly Rule- If an infield fly is dropped, there is no automatic out.

**Field positions:** Pitcher position is played behind the parent pitcher. The pitcher position is played at least six feet behind and to either side of the parent pitcher. A coach for the team at bat will pitch.

Infielders can be a maximum of 6 ft in front of the base line.

Outfield positions are at the grass line or along edge of dirt. There can be an outfield coach teaching the girls.

Catchers must wear full catchers gear (helmet, chest guard, shin guards).

All fielders must have their glove on during play and be alert.

**Batting:** All batters and on deck batters must wear a batting helmet. Batters will be taught to handle their bat with two hands unless they are batting or on deck. There will be an on deck area for girls to practice swinging. One assistant coach or parent should regulate this area for safety and time efficiency.

**Play time:** Coaches will make every attempt at equal play time. Coaches will rotate field positions as much as possible. Each player should experience all fielding positions once during the season. Girls arriving late will be placed at the end of the lineup.

**Player expectations:**

Players are expected to arrive on time for games and practice unless communicated with coach.

Players are expected to display good sportsmanship before, during and after the game. No chanting at opposing team.

Players are expected to respect their coach, assistant coaches, and parent helpers at all times.

Players are expected to stay in bench area as much as possible.

Players are expected to learn and have fun!

**Parent expectations:**

Parents are expected to communicate with coach if your player will be late or absent.

Parents are expected to display sportsmanship at all times. Before, during, and after a game.

Parents are expected to help if needed. Parent involvement is important to every player and the program.

**Players play. Coaches coach. Refs ref. Crowds cheer.**