

**BLACKSTONE VALLEY GIRLS SOFTBALL
AAA LEAGUE DIVISION GUIDELINES**

Revised 03/11

General:

1. All players must be registered members of the Douglas, Mendon/Upton, Northbridge, Blackstone-Millville and Bellingham Youth Softball Leagues.
2. All players must wear uniforms consisting of shirts and hats/visors. They must also wear rubber spikes or sneakers.
3. Players are not allowed to wear jewelry of any kind.
4. Each team will field 10 players if available on defense, consisting of 4 outfielders. All outfielders must remain in the outfield area until the ball is live. The ball is considered live when the ball is hit.
5. The decision to call a game off due to weather/field conditions or due to school events will be made by the head coach of the home team scheduled to play. The coach may cancel the game two hours prior to the starting time. Make up games, if needed, will be played at the end of the season. Home team head coach must notify the league umpire.
6. Six (6) full innings define a complete game. An official game has a minimum of four (4) complete innings (3 1/2 if the home team is ahead).
7. Players must remain in the dugout or on the bench when not playing in the field. The on-deck batter may warm-up. Pitchers may warm-up between innings.
8. Each team will only be able to score up to 6 runs an inning. This is until the last inning of the game where each team can score unlimited runs. The umpire needs to announce when the last inning will be played, so both coaches are aware that they can now score unlimited runs.
9. All injuries must be reported to the leagues of those teams participating in the game.
10. All coaches will have on hand the emergency forms (registrations forms) at all practices and games.
11. Each team must have an emergency kit on hand with gloves, band aids, ice packs, gauze, etc.
12. An eleven (11) inch ball will be used as standard for all games.
13. Each player can only sit out one (1) consecutive inning. An injured player can sit out more than one consecutive inning.
14. Catchers must wear catcher's equipment as provided by the league, or equivalent, and wear personal protective equipment, as necessary, which is furnished by the player. This rule is in effect for both games and practices.
15. If an umpire is not present at the start of the game, the designated assistant coach for the home team will umpire.

**BLACKSTONE VALLEY GIRLS SOFTBALL
AAA LEAGUE DIVISION GUIDELINES**

16. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 40 minutes of play. At or near this time, the umpire will let each coach know that the next inning will be the final inning. Start time will be agreed upon by both coaches and the umpire.
17. If an injured player in a continuous batting order is unable to play she will be skipped in the order. The opposing team will not get an automatic out. The player is allowed to return to the game at any time.
18. All games will start at 6:00 PM. A team not fielding 8 players by 6:15 shall forfeit the game. Once a game has been forfeited, both teams can still play for fun, but the score and results will not count toward league play. 10 Field Players are allowed on defense: however you may start with 8.

Conduct:

1. Profanity, kicking equipment or other unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches, players, or parents will cause the umpire to give the team a warning. Continuation of this behavior by a player or coach after the warning will result in ejection from the game. If a parent continues to display unacceptable behavior after being warned, the team for whom their daughter plays may be forced to forfeit the game at the umpire's discretion.
2. Coaches shall assume the responsibility for the conduct of his/her players. They will also be responsible for assisting the umpire in managing unacceptable behavior displayed by the parents of girls on his/her team.
3. Coaches should encourage their players to cheer for their teammates. Chanting and singing of limericks will be allowed as long as they are not derogatory or degrading to the other team. Once pitcher presents the ball, all chanting and singing stops.

Pitching:

1. Pitching will be fast pitch regardless of the pitching motion utilized.
2. The starting pitcher, once relieved can return to pitch once during a game (provided that rule #3 has not occurred).
3. After three (3) batters are hit in the game, the pitcher must be removed from the mound.
4. Prior to the pitch, the pitcher shall take a position with the pivot foot on or partially on the surface of the pitcher's plate. Both feet must be on or touching the mound. All steps must be forward in motion.
5. The distance from the pitching rubber to home plate will be thirty five (35) feet.
6. For the first half of the season, up to the 6th scheduled game, pitchers will not be able to walk in a run. If ball 4 is called with bases loaded the coach of the team that is at bat will come in and pitch to his/her batter. The batter will keep the strikes she has in the count. The batter can either hit the ball in play or strike out. She cannot walk. When the coach comes on the field to pitch, player who was pitching will stand to the side of the pitcher's mound and play defense. Coach can have one practice pitch. Coach can throw at whatever speed he/she feels appropriate for batter at plate. When the next batter comes to plate, the pitcher resumes pitching. At the 7th scheduled game and for the remainder of the season the pitcher will remain in the game and can walk in runs up to the limits outlined in

**BLACKSTONE VALLEY GIRLS SOFTBALL
AAA LEAGUE DIVISION GUIDELINES**

line 8 of the general section above.

7. Pitchers will be limited to pitching half of the total innings scheduled to be played by their team in a given week, running Sunday to Saturday. If a scheduled game is rained out and rescheduled for a different week pitchers will be limited to pitching half of the remaining total innings scheduled to be played. The rescheduled rained out game does not add pitchable innings to that week, pitchers will still be limited to pitching half of the scheduled innings for the week and half of the innings for the rained out game.

Base Running:

1. Each team will be allowed 2 steals per inning. Players can only steal second base. No base runners can advance on a steal attempt.
2. The infield fly rule will not be used.
3. The dropped third strike rule will not be in effect.
4. If a ball is caught in the air, runners may tag up. (fair or foul territory).
5. The advancing base runner may not collide with the person covering the base. Upright collision results in automatic out.
6. Sliding is permitted.
7. A ball is considered dead when it is returned to the pitcher following a play. Runners may not advance after the ball has been returned to the pitcher's mound.
8. Base runners may leave the base upon the release of the ball by the pitcher.
9. To speed up the game, catchers may be replaced by a pinch runner at any time.
10. Player that has walked cannot make an attempt to steal second base as a continuation play.

Batting:

1. The batting order which is established prior to the game shall include all girls on the team that are present and shall remain unchanged for the duration of the game. If a player arrives late she shall be added to the end of the existing batting order.
2. A batter hit by a pitch does walk. Batters must make an attempt to move (umpires discretion).
3. Batters should be instructed not to throw their bats. If this occurs, one warning will be given to the team. If the infraction occurs again all other batters will be called out.
4. Batting helmets with cages and secured chin straps secured must be worn while batting and running the bases.
5. Balls and strikes (with walks and strikeouts) will be called. A tipped third strike that goes directly into the catcher's mitt and is caught will be considered a strikeout.
6. Bunting will be allowed. No slap bunting is allowed.

**BLACKSTONE VALLEY GIRLS SOFTBALL
AAA LEAGUE DIVISION GUIDELINES**

Note:

The guidelines contained above represent the general rules by which play is conducted. Any aspects of play which are not covered by these documents will be governed by current ASA Rules and Regulations as published for the upcoming year 20110 season.