

# **MARS AREA GIRLS SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION**

## **1. Duration of the Game**

Instructional games will be played for a time limit of one hour and fifteen minutes or for six innings. If the game is called for time limit reasons and the home team has not had last at-bats, the score will be reverted to the inning immediately prior to calling the game.

## **2. Equipment**

Any bat used in regulation play must be marked "Official Softball".

All batters and base runners, including the on-deck batter, must properly wear a double ear flap batting helmet.

MAGS Rule – If a player's helmet falls off while she is running, time is to be immediately called by the umpire until that player's helmet is returned. Any player who removes her helmet without first requesting a time out from the umpire shall be called out.

## **3. Batting**

MAGS Rule –After the third swing and miss the batting tee will be used. Note: Foul balls are to be counted as strikes, except on the third strike.

The batting order, which shall include all girls present, of each team showing the player's first and last names and the uniform number must be delivered to the opposing team prior to the start of the game. Any girl who shows up late will be added to the end of the batting order.

The batting order delivered must be followed through and any player batting out of order shall constitute an out.

A side is retired after three (3) outs are recorded or after all batters come to bat in one inning. If teams have a different amount of players, the team with lesser amount of players will continue to bat until the team bats the equal amount of players as opposing team.

The coach is required to rotate the batting order from game to game.

## **4. Pitching Regulations**

MAGS Rule – A coach will pitch to his or her own team during all games. A player will occupy the position to the left or right of the pitching mound and a pitching coach will not be permitted to field a batted ball.

## **5. Base Running**

On all balls hit to the infield, the runners and batter may only advance one (1) base. On all balls hit to the outfield on the ground, two (2) bases are permitted. All balls hit in the air to the outfield, the runners can take as many bases. Runners will stop on the base they were going to, once the ball reaches the infield.

## **6. Players Clothing**

MAGS Rule – No player is permitted to play in a regulation game wearing the following: Shorts of any kind, blue jeans of any kind, jewelry of any kind including rings, watches, necklaces, earrings and bracelets.

## **7. Concession Stand**

"Home" team is responsible to provide workers for concession stand.

## **8. Field Preparation**

"Away" team is responsible to prepare the field for play prior to the game.

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## **9. Coaches**

There will be no more than two (2) coaches for each team on the playing field at a given time.

Players and coaches will not make disparaging or insulting remarks to or about opposing players, officials or spectators. Neither shall they commit other acts that could be considered unsportsmanlike conduct, including using profanity or abusive language. There will be no smoking on the field, player's bench or in the coach's box.

The penalty for violations shall be a warning for the first offense and ejection from the game for the second offense. After 3<sup>rd</sup> offense, coach will no longer be permitted to coach in the league.

MAGS Rule – Because this is an instructional league designed to teach fundamentals, no chanting by any player shall be permitted (ex. "swing batter, batter swing").

## **10. Fielding**

MAGS Rule – All girls will be placed in the field regardless of the number present. A standard infield will be followed with the exception that a girl will also play at the 2<sup>nd</sup> base bag. Therefore, counting pitcher and catcher, a total of 7 girls will be in the infield. The outfield will consist of the remaining girls. All outfield players must be at least ten feet into the grass of the outfield.

All girls are required to play at least one (1) inning per game in the outfield.

There will be no extra base awarded on overthrows.

## **11. Blood Rule**

If a player's clothing becomes bloodied during a game, said player must be removed from play until the bloodied clothing is replaced by clothing that meets all previously stated guidelines.

## **12. Game Cancellations**

Game cancellations will be made by the league. Coaches and players will contact the MAGS softball hotline for cancellation information.

## **13. Nine Year Olds**

Any girl who is eight or nine years old is eligible to be called up by a Junior Division Coach to complete his/her lineup. Once called up, the eight or nine year old is treated like a regular player and must play at least two (2) innings in the field. However, a player may not be called up to play if it conflicts with her regularly scheduled Instructional Division game.

## **14. Statement**

The instructional league is to be used to teach the girls the fundamentals of softball. All girls must play at every position throughout the course of the season. The only exception to this is at a parent's request for the player not to play a given position. All girls will be treated equally.