

# **2018 Blackstone Millville Softball Association**

## **14-18 Division**

### **Rules of Play**

All games will be played according to the current USA Playing Rules, excepting as specifically amended in this document for the 14-18 Division. Each team manager will be provided with a copy of the USA Official Rules of Softball, and the specific amendments to the appropriate Junior Olympic Age Classification. It is his/her responsibility to become familiar with these rules of play.

1. Each team can field ten (10) defensive players, but can play with as few as seven (7) players if that is all that is available. The 10<sup>th</sup> player must be an additional outfielder and can only be used if the opposing team can field more than the 7-player minimum.
2. If a team cannot field seven (7) defensive players within (15) minutes of the scheduled start time, they shall forfeit the game, unless the team can "borrow" a player from another team's roster in order to meet the seven (7) player minimum. If there is no other player available then the game is a forfeit.
  - a.) If the borrowed player is an established pitcher, she must play another position other than pitcher.
  - b.) Borrowing of players will not be allowed in the playoff or championship games.
3. Each player present at game must play a minimum of three (3) defensive innings, unless late arrival makes playing three (3) defensive innings impossible, in which case the player must play as many defensive innings as possible.
4. A normal game shall consist of six (6) innings. A regulation game is 3½ innings (home team ahead), or four (4) innings (visiting team ahead).
5. Free substitution is allowed at all times, including the pitcher.
6. A continuous batting order will be used consisting of all eligible players present at the game.
7. If a team scores six (6) runs in any inning, except the 6<sup>th</sup>, last or any extra innings, it will end their offensive inning. Unlimited runs are allowed for the 6<sup>th</sup>, last or any extra innings. The last inning can be the 6<sup>th</sup> or any inning deemed to be the last inning by the umpire.
8. If a team is leading by ten (10) or more runs, the base runners may only advance on a batted ball, walk, hit batter or pickoff attempt. This will remain in effect until the team is leading by fewer than ten (10) runs.
9. If a team is losing by fifteen (15) or more runs after the completion of at least four (4) innings, the umpire shall call the game and the game shall be considered regulation.
10. Discretionary benching of any player is allowed. The team manager must notify the opposing team manager at the time the benching occurs. Some reasons for benching a player are as follows:
  - Player missing scheduled practices without a valid excuse,
  - Player showing un-sportsman like conduct on the bench or field.
  - Player cannot be controlled on the bench or field.
  - Player missing scheduled games without a valid excuse for three (3) or more games.
11. The batter, base runner and on deck batter are the only offensive players allowed off the bench.
12. Only coaches, players and team staff allowed in the dugout while games are being played.
13. All offensive players are required to properly wear helmets, while batting, running the bases or on deck.
14. Any player(s) or person(s) under 18 years of age performing the duties as base coach is required to wear a helmet while on the field.
15. Catchers are required to wear protective equipment while playing their positions, both during games and at practice sessions.
16. The team managers or umpires may call time out at any time, for injuries. The ball will immediately be declared dead by the umpire. Runners between bases and advancing towards the next base when time is called will be awarded the base. Time out for a substitution or discussion of the rules shall be allowed only after the completion of the play and the ball is declared dead by the umpire.
17. Pitchers are limited to pitch a maximum of six (6) innings per game and per week. Any pitch in an inning will constitute a full inning pitched. The week will start on Saturday and end on Sunday. Legal pitchers in a make-up game shall be determined by considering the pitching rotation of the game's originally scheduled date.

18. If a runner is injured and unable to run and catchers (for equipment reasons), a courtesy runner may be substituted once the play is complete and the ball is declared dead by the umpire. The courtesy runner will be the player who made last out in the previous inning, or if required in the first inning, the last player in the batting order.
19. If the umpire ejects a player from the game, that player must serve a one (1) game suspension. This suspension will be the following full game at which the player is present. A player serving a game suspension shall be listed last on the lineup card presented to the home plate umpire and opposing team manager, and marked as such. If a player is ejected from the game, the home plate umpire and the player's team manager must immediately file incident reports with the Association President.
20. Bases will always be secured by driving a stake into the ground and fastening the base to the stake, only on the fields that do not have the "Hollywood" style bases.
21. An unintentionally thrown bat is a hazard to the other players and officials and will result in a player warning the first time it occurs. If repeated, the batter will immediately be called out. An intentionally thrown bat is an example of un-sportsmanlike conduct and the batter will be called out and ejected from the game by the umpire.
22. The home team for the playoff and championship game shall be the team with the best regular season record.
23. If a player misses 50% or more of the games played, following her registration, except for serious medical reasons, they are ineligible to play in any playoff or championship games. The season's roster of games played must be submitted to the league president on a weekly basis.

Revised #'s 15 & 23

Revised # 1, added # 24 – May 5, 2005

Revised #'s 18, 23, 24 April 6, 2006

Revised #'s 1 & 2 April 4, 2007

Revised #'s 4, 7, 9, 15 & 23 Removed # 21 March 2008

Revised # 11, added letter B April 2009

Removed # 21 April 2013

Revised # 16

Revised #'s 8, 13, 18, added #14 April 2017