Framingham Girls Fastpitch Softball

Senior League - Grades 7 and 8

2019 Season - Approved April 3, 2017 – Revised April 28, 2018

2019 Season Highlights

Continuing with important initiatives this year, the intent is to keep games moving. In the league rules, we have highlighted ASA rules which are designed for pace of game improvements. We have instructed the umpire board to use good judgement in enforcing these rules, but to keep them in mind if there are delays between innings or getting play started or restarted. Coaches bear most of the responsibility for keeping things moving, therefore, here are some suggestions:

- Use a courtesy runner for the catcher when there are 2 outs.
- When the catcher is not on base, at bat, or on deck, she should have all of her gear on and be ready to take the field.
- If a catcher is not ready when the offensive half inning ends, make sure a coach or other CORI'd adult assists the catcher in getting ready.
- During the offensive half inning, all players going to the field on defense in the next half inning should be told of their position before the 2nd out or well before the run limit is reached.

Roster rules for 2019 include a modified call up/over process. If a team will have fewer than 10 players and the coach is aware of this ahead of the game, players may be called up from a Junior A team so that the roster does not exceed 12 players. If call ups are not available, there are now commissioners for each league/level who must be contacted to facilitate "call overs" from another team at the same level. It is preferred that added player(s) do not pitch in the game, however, if both coaches agree, it will be permitted.

There is a 5 run limit for all innings with the exception of the last inning, which is either the 6th inning or the declared last inning by the umpire due to the time limit being close. The time limit has 2 parts: no inning may start after 1:45 has passed; the game is over when 2:00 is reached. If the 2:00 time is reached and an inning has not ended (top and bottom), the score reverts to the previous completed inning.

Safety considerations: No jewelry is permitted on players participating in the game. This includes, earrings, other piercings, rings, necklaces, bracelets (including cloth). No taping of jewelry is permitted. Umpires have been instructed to remove players from the game for this. If they remove the jewelry, they may return.
*Medical ID jewelry (bracelets or necklaces for example) are permitted.

Batting helmets are no longer required to have chin straps. Chin straps are permitted, but not required.

Fielding masks are not required, but we recommend use of these for pitchers and infielders. We do have some available in the shed at Walsh for use during games.

At the Senior level, all other regular USA playing rules apply.

Senior League Home Rules and Regulations

The Framingham Girls Fastpitch Softball league will abide by all rules and regulations as stated under GIRLS FAST PITCH SOFTBALL, 18 and under in the Amateur Softball (ASA) rule book.

Framingham home rules are as follows:

Zero Tolerance Policy
Please refer to policy at www.framinghamsoftball.org

1. **Age Grouping and Roster**
   a. Senior League teams will consist of 7th and 8th grade players. Exceptions are at the discretion of the Board.
   b. Each Senior League team roster will consist of up to thirteen (13) players.
   c. If a Senior League team will have 10 or fewer players available for a game, they may call up a player or players from a Junior A League team, provided the total roster for the game does not exceed twelve (12) players.
      i. If, after following the procedure in the coach's manual for calling up Junior A player(s), the team is still short, Senior League teams may borrow players from another Senior League team.
      ii. Call-ups for a game may pitch in the game if agreed upon by both coaches.
      iii. Call-overs are NOT permitted to pitch in a game.
   d. If a team plays with eight (8) players per the ASA shorthanded rule, there will NOT be an automatic out recorded for the 9th place in the batting order.

2. **Coaches**
   a. One coach, no more than three assistant coaches, and one scorekeeper are permitted per team. These are the only approved coaches allowed on the field and in the bench area.
   b. Coaches and Assistants **MUST** attend initial coaches meeting to review rules prior to the season and must complete an interview, pass the CORI process, submit a signed Code of Conduct form, and must be registered by the league with ASA.
   c. Practice field assignments to be made by the league

3. **General Pre Game Rules**
   a. All week-day games will start at 6:00 PM unless the board defers the time to play under the lights.
   b. A team not fielding 8 players by 6:15 shall forfeit the game.
   c. If the number of players drops below 8 players during a game, a forfeit must be taken even if an injury or a player ejection occurs.
   d. A game can be canceled if determined by the umpire that the field is unsafe for the players.
   e. Only the Umpire can call a game due to unsafe conditions once a game begins.
   f. If an ASA/USA certified umpire is not present at 5:55, the two coaches must agree on a replacement umpire. Replacement umpire must use appropriate protective equipment.
   g. If a replacement umpire cannot be agreed upon by 6:10 the game must be rescheduled.
   h. Both Home and Visiting team coaches are responsible for field set up and takedown; including foul lines, bases and scoreboard. Field **MUST** be ready for play no later than 10 minutes prior to scheduled game time.
   i. Visiting team takes infield at 5:35-5:45.
   j. Home team takes infield at 5:45-5:55.

k. Both head coaches MUST attend a pregame conference with the umpire no later than five (5) minutes prior to the start time of the game.
l. Home team coach will discuss all ground rules with the umpire and visiting team at 5:55. Ground rules include field rules set by the town, including items such as curfews.
m. Umpire will review these rules as they pertain to the playing of the game.
n. Home coaches are responsible for reporting final scores to the league.

4. Uniforms and Helmet Rules

a. Senior league players **must** wear approved helmet attire with secured face masks. Fastened chin straps are not required but are permitted.
b. For player safety, pitching masks are required
    i. infielders and pitchers are recommended to wear facemasks, but not required. Note: The league has masks for use during games in the equipment sheds.
    ii. It is recommended that parents purchase facemasks for their own players.
c. All players must wear a league issued uniform including team shirt and pants or shorts, color determined by the team.
d. All League uniforms shirts are required and must be tucked in.
e. Sliding shorts, sliding pad on the leg and a visor are recommended but not mandatory.
f. All hair must be pulled back.
g. No jewelry is permitted on any player participating in the game. If jewelry is discovered, the umpire will remove the player from the game. All applicable substitution rules will apply. Jewelry includes, but is not limited to, earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and any other non-clothing item worn on the wrists, ankles, or neck. The jewelry rule is non-negotiable. Note: A player may return to the game once the jewelry is removed, provided they comply with applicable substitution rules. Medical ID jewelry (bracelets and necklaces for example) are permitted.
h. Mouth guards are highly recommended for all players.
i. Compression pants are recommended.

5. **Player Rules**

a. Each Senior player shall play a minimum of 3 defensive innings.
b. The minimum play rule should be considered early in the season because of darkness.
c. A continuous batting order is to be used consisting of all players present at the game.
d. Players arriving late to a game **must** be added to the end of the batting order.
e. Discretionary benching of a player is allowed. The coach must notify the opposing coach as to such occurrences before the start of, or during the game.
f. If, in the judgment of an umpire or coach, an injury requires immediate medical attention, the ball is immediately called dead and the player is attended to. Placement of runners and batters is at the umpire's discretion.
g. If an injured player or discretionary benched player in the continuous batting order is unable to play, she will be skipped in the order and the opposing team will **not** get an automatic out.
h. Players may **not** be pulled from the field on defense or the bases on offense for the purpose of warming up to pitch. If this is done, it will be considered a substitution.

6. Pitching Rules

a. Pitchers are allowed to pitch an unlimited amount of innings per game.
b. There are no weekly pitching maximums.
c. The starting pitcher only can be re-inserted at pitcher position once during a game at the Senior Level.

d. No other pitcher may be reinserted as a pitcher once removed from that position. Violation of this rule results in immediate ejection from the game of the player and an automatic out at each subsequent scheduled at bat for that player.

7. Playing Rules

a. A game is 6 innings.
b. No inning shall start after 1:45 has passed. The umpire will notify both coaches when the last inning is starting.
c. After 2:00 has passed, the game is over.
d. If an inning is not concluded the score will revert back to the score at the end of the last completed inning.
    i. **NOTE:** All playoff games will be played to completion with no time limit. Every effort **must** be made to keep playoff games moving.
e. Teams will have 1 minute between innings. Pitchers may throw no more than 5 warm up pitches within the 1 minute time frame. 1 minute starts upon the 3rd out of the prior half inning or the end of the play in which the run limit is reached. Umpires will use discretion, however, any excess pitches beyond 1 minute or 5 pitches will result in a ball being awarded to the batter for each excess pitch.
f. Teams will begin play within 2 minutes of the umpire declaring "PLAY BALL". Umpires will use discretion, however, failure to begin or resume play will result on a forfeit (per ASA rules).
g. The international tie breaker will be used if the game is tied after 6 complete innings (or the designated last inning) and 2 hours has not elapsed.
h. One inning only will be played using the tie breaker. If still tied, the game is recorded as a tie.
i. All innings will have a 5 run limit with the exception of the final inning, which will be an unlimited run inning (3 outs must be recorded to end the half inning).
j. There is no Run Ahead rule for FGFS. All games will be played to completion or time limit.
k. In each inning, play does not stop when the 5th run crosses the plate ... continue until the ball is controlled by the pitcher or becomes dead. Runs scored beyond the limit will not count for that inning.
l. 43 foot pitching distance, a temporary pitching plate is allowed to accommodate the distance.
m. Runners are allowed to leave the base on the pitcher's release.
n. Stealing of second, third, and home base is allowed with no maximum amount of steals per inning enforced.
o. Bunting is allowed at the Senior level.
p. Dropped third strike rule is in effect.
q. Infield fly rule is in effect.
r. Baserunners must slide or avoid contact when advancing or going back to a base.
s. Batters may not fake bunt and then swing away. Batter will be called out.
t. Courtesy runner is to be used for the catcher when there are 2 outs. The courtesy runner **must** be the player who made the last out. Courtesy runner may be used for the catcher with fewer than 2 outs.
u. The umpire will suspend play at the first sign of lightning or thunder with all players instructed to leave the field. The game may resume after a period of at least 30 minutes without lightening or thunder.

8. Playoffs

a. All teams qualify for the playoffs.
b. Schedule TBD

c. Players not playing in a minimum of 5 games during the regular season will not be eligible for the playoffs at the coach's discretion - coaches may also exclude a player from playoff eligibility for failure to attend practice sessions and/or other behavior deemed detrimental to the team or the league.
d. Playoff rules and schedule are subject to review and modification by the Board.