

Spring 2010 Sierra Girls Softball League Playing Rules and Regulations 8U Division

1. Before the start of regular season play, each team will be given one copy of the League Constitution, Bylaws, Draft Rules and Playing Rules and Regulations. In addition, each team will receive an official scorebook, line-up sheets, and a copy of the current NAFA Official Guide, NAFA Softball Rules and Regulations.
2. Twelve players is the maximum number of players a team may carry unless otherwise approved by the Board.
3. Physical facilities:
 - a. Pitching distances: 25 feet
 - b. Base distances: 50 feet
4. a. Balls: 11" diameter, soft safety

A new game ball will be provided by the home team, normally from a supply kept in the snack bar. After the game, the game ball will be given to the home team. A back-up used ball will be provided by the visiting team and will be returned to them at game's end.

- b. Bats: No illegal bats may be used. Refer to "NAFA Banned Bat" list in coach's packet.
5. Game Parameters:
 - a. 6 innings or 1 hour 20 minutes.

At game start, it is the responsibility of the coaches to establish the official game "start time" and communicate it to both benches.
 - b. Slaughter Rule: None
 - c. Maximum runs per inning: 5 for all innings or 3 outs, whichever may occur first.
 - d. Tied games: All divisions, ties in regular season will stand and be considered in season standings.
 - e. Number of players required to start games: 6

A team may lose one player from the minimum start number, but the player must play a minimum of one full inning in order to avoid forfeiture of the game.

If a girl is hurt or falls sick during a game and cannot continue to play, she is skipped in the subsequent turns at bat. No out is called out on her. Once a player leaves the game, she may not return to the game.

f. Late arrival Grace period:

All divisions will have a grace period of 10 minutes, after which a forfeit will be called by the coaches. If the game is played, the game will be shortened by the length of the grace period allowed, up to 10 minutes maximum.

g. Pre-game Infield:

10 minutes for each team as long as a game is not delayed. The home team takes infield last.

h. Uniforms:

No player may participate in a league game out of uniform. Uniform, for this purpose, shall be defined as League-provided team jersey and softball pants, which the players are responsible for providing. Teams must choose to wear a specific type of pant/short during games. In inclement weather, and at the discretion of the home plate umpire, players will be allowed to wear protective clothing such as jackets, sweats or pants over their uniforms. It is desired though not mandatory that each player wears a softball hat or visor. Hats/visors need not be the same design and color, nor must all players wear a hat if one girl does. However, no plastic bills are allowed. Players MUST TUCK IN their jerseys prior to the start of each game.

i. Umpires:

There shall be no umpire for games played in this age division. Coaches on the Field will be the assigned umpires for that game not parents.

6. In the 8U Division, if a player is 9 during the season and they have played for 4 years then they need to move up to the 10U Division.
7. All coaches are encouraged to play all players at all positions during the course of the season. However, due to age and/or physical limitations it will be at the discretion of a coach as to which positions will be played by which players. If a girl will not be playing for a legitimate reason such as injury, illness or discipline her name must be submitted to the other coach prior to the start of the game along with the reason she will not play.
8. The NAFA substitution rule will not be enforced.
9. Players may wear no jewelry, hair clips (plastic or metal) or other accessories that are visible during any portion of a game.
10. The home team will be the team who is listed second on the official League schedule. Each team will be home team for half of the games and visiting team for the other half.

11. The home (listed 2nd on the schedule) will be responsible for field preparation prior to each game and tear down after the game. Field preparation will be considered, minimally, to mean: bases installed, visible foul lines, batter's boxes and pitcher's circle and bases/infield free of significant obstruction such as rocks or other debris. The home team will occupy the third base dugout at each game.
12. The League must notify Coaches, or Coaches must notify the League, of any schedule cancellations at least 24 hours in advance of game time. Games called due to inclement weather or other "Acts of God" can only be postponed by the coaches, at the field. Called games will be rescheduled by the League, if necessary and possible, after consultation with each team. The new schedule will be communicated to the affected team Coach or his/her designee at least 24 hours prior to scheduled games times.
13. All catchers must wear facemasks with attached throat protector, chest protector and shin guards.
14. All batters, on deck or in-the-hole batters and base runners are required to wear batting helmets equipped with face mask and chin strap. Additionally, players coaching a base or performing other duties will be required to wear a batting helmet with face mask and chin strap while on the field of play or otherwise exposed to errant throws or batted balls.
15. A coach may not touch the base runner. The first occurrence will result in a warning. The second will result in an out being called to the coaches team. This is an existing NAFA rule that will be enforced.
16. League Officials Conduct:
 - a. Coaches, Managers, and League officials will be expected to conduct themselves in a mature, socially acceptable manner. Failure to do so can result in their removal from their duties by majority vote of the Executive Board. Managers/Coaches will be expected not to use tobacco or drink alcoholic beverages while participating in a game or practice.
17. Player, Coach and Parent Conduct:
 - a. Players, Coaches or Parents may not swear or use other vulgar language or gestures while participating in a game or practice.
 - b. Players, Coaches or Parents may not direct derogatory comments towards umpires.
 - c. Players, Coaches or Parents may not use tobacco or drink alcoholic beverages while participating in a game, practice or other League activity.
 - d. Players, Coaches or Parents may not harass members of opposing teams, nor may any derogatory remarks be directed to an individual payer on an opposing team.
 - e. No Player, Coach or Parent shall be allowed to throw a helmet, bat or other solid object in anger during a game or practice.

- f. Failure to abide by these rules of conduct or other conduct considered to be offensive or unwarranted may result in a removal from a game, suspension, or banishment from the League.

If someone is thrown out of a game then they need to leave immediately and are suspended from the next game.

If there is a physical fight, the Executive Board will convene to review the events. Both Coaches will be present to discuss the events along with any parents who want to speak to the group. No one who participated in the alleged conduct may participate in another game until the Board has met to review the event. This special meeting will occur within 48 hours.

- 18. The infield fly rule will not be enforced in the 8U division.
- 19. The Catcher Speed-up rule will be in force in all divisions. This means that a runner will be substituted for the catcher if she is on base with two outs. This will enable the catcher to get her equipment on while the last out is being recorded, recognizing the catcher will probably not bat again that inning. The substitute runner will be the last out recorded before the catcher reached base safely.
- 20. In the interest of safety, a special rule regarding unintentional, non-malicious bat throwing must be made. The umpire will give one warning per team per game. Subsequently, any guilty batter on a team previously warned that game will be called out for throwing the bat. Throwing the bat shall be defined as a thrown (not carried) bat landing more than six feet from the batter's box after the batter has swung at and hit a ball.
- 21. A team is not allowed to field more than ten players at a time although all able and present roster players are expected to play defensively during some portion of the game as outlined in *Playing Rule 6*. However, each team is required to "bat the roster" in each game. This means that the entire list of roster players present at the game and able to play must be listed on the batting order and must take their scheduled turns at bat. Failure to follow this rule may result in forfeiture of the game in which the infractions occur.
- 22. Absent players who are expected to arrive at the field in time to play should not be listed on the official game batting order if they are not present when the game begins. After they arrive, they are to be placed last on the line-up for their team. The coach shall advise the opposing team of their placement into the batting order.
- 23. Other special rules for the division are as follows:
 - a. Pitching: a team coach or player/pitcher will pitch his/her own team while standing in the pitching circle.
 - b. Batting: a batter will be given six (6) pitches. If, after six (6) pitches, the ball has not been hit fairly, the batter is out.

There will be no walks. Each batter will be given a maximum of six pitches as described above. If after all allowed tries, she has not hit the ball fairly, she will be called out by the home plate coach (even if the first attempt is foul ball).

If the ball hits the pitcher then it is considered a "dead ball" and the runner advances to first base.

When hitting off the batting tee, the ball (or ball + tee concurrently) must be struck by the bat and must be hit in the field of play. Additionally, the hit ball must travel at least six feet as determined by a chalk line semi-circle which must be drawn six feet from home plate at the start of each game and must remain visible throughout the game. A hit ball that is fair, but fails to travel the required six feet, shall be considered a foul strike.

- c. Sliding or base stealing: no sliding or base stealing will be allowed.
- d. Overthrows: Overthrows will not be allowed and runners may not advance any extra bases.
- e. Defensive Player Positions: defensive players must be in "normal positions". Outfielders must play at least ten feet behind the closest base line. First, second and third basemen must play no closer to home plate than ten feet in front of their base. The player/pitcher and shortstop can position themselves either side of the coach/pitcher, but no closer than the pitching rubber (25' from home plate).

An infraction of this rule occurs if any defensive player is out of position when the ball is hit. If, when an infraction occurs, the ball is hit fairly and no out occurs, the play stands. If an out is called, it shall be voided and all runners are called safe. If possible, the player position limits should be marked with chalk before each game.

- f. Coaches and players positions: a maximum of two coaches may position themselves in the field of play while their team is on defense. The purpose of this is to allow the coaches to give on the spot direction, but they will not be allowed to physically interfere with any plays.
 - g. If any runner has left the base prior to the ball being in control, of an infielder, the runner **can** finish advancing to the intended base ***“at the risk of being thrown out”***.
24. If there are more than 12 teams in a division then the division will be split into two sections and teams will play the majority of their games within their section.
26. It is the intent of the Sierra Girls that teams achieve parity as much as possible while still achieving our League Objective (Article II). It is also our desire to make the Sierra Girls experience as pleasant and as achievable as possible for players and their families. To optimize achievement of both, often conflicting, goals, we have the following rules for placement of girls onto their League.

8U girls will be allowed to be placed on whichever team they request, up to a maximum of 12 girls per team, according to their desires to play on the same team as friends, be

on the team Mom or Dad coaches, accommodate ride pooling or other multitude of possible reasons which exists for a girl or her parent(s) wanting her on a particular team. In order to balance the number of girls per team, it may be that the League will decide that the number of girls per team in a given year will be less than 12. This might limit someone's desire to be on a particular team, but is considered to be in the best interest of most. In this case, preference will be given on a first-come, first serve basis. In any case, the Player Representative or Division Coordinator must be told of a particular girl's desire to be on a specific team or be teamed with a specific player(s). This is best accomplished by notation on the registration sheets of all affected girls. For instance, if Mary wants to be on Sue's team, she should place a notation on her registration sheet that she wants to be on Mary's team. Whatever the mean of communicating team preference, it must be in writing to assure the best chance of accommodation of the preference. New girls or girls new to the division who do not voice a team preference will be randomly placed on a team although some attempt may be made to group girls from a particular school or neighborhood.

Returning girls will be given the right to return to the same team within a division, assuming age requirements are met, and this right will be given priority over wishes of girls new to a particular team. This same priority right accrues to daughters of the Head Coach, Assistant Coaches, Team Parent and/or Team Sponsor and to a girl coming into a division where her sister is a returning player.

27. All other playing rules shall be the same as those listed in the Official Rules of Softball published by NAFA of America and issued to each team Coach at the beginning of the year.