



Girl's Rookies Rules and Information

The OAA's philosophy is to develop each player by teaching the fundamentals of Softball while learning the value of teamwork and to encourage good sportsmanship in a safe, positive, and fun environment.

Season Schedule and Information

- ◆ There will be a game schedule and a year-end tournament.
- ◆ All games will start promptly at 6:30 PM and will consist of at least two full innings of play.
- ◆ There will be no official score or standings.
- ◆ Each coach will receive a list of the other coach's phone numbers and emails.

Field Dimensions and Information

- ◆ The coach will pitch 35 feet from home plate. No closer. The child playing the pitcher position will stand to the right of the coach and at least five feet behind.
- ◆ The distance between each base is 45 feet. Please bring a tape measure.

Safety

- ◆ All batters and base runners must wear a helmet at all times. This includes the player on-deck.
- ◆ Catchers must wear a catcher mask and chest protector.
- ◆ No sliding!
- ◆ Coaches must warn the batter the first time she throws the bat. Batter will be called out the SECOND throw in a game. Coaches may use their own judgment and sit the participant out the rest of the game if the problem continues after two (2) bat throws in a single game.
- ◆ Metal spikes are not allowed.
- ◆ At this age it is understood that concentration levels are limited. For safety reasons if after a third friendly reminder from the coach to pay attention to the ball on defense, the player continues to be distracted, she will be removed off the field for the inning, and/or in the next inning be placed in a position that will benefit their safety most until they are able to safely return a more active position.

Player/Coach/Parent Participation

- ◆ Practices: All players should attend practices scheduled by the coach.
 - In addition to games, if a player is unable to attend a practice, the coach should be notified.
 - If a player continues to miss practices but shows up to play games, it will be the coach's decision to sit the child for what he/she deems is fair.
 - We want fair time for all kids to play, but we need to also be fair to the children who make all the practices. It would be unfair for a kid who continually misses practices to receive the same amount of playing time as kids who make the practices.
- ◆ Ten (10) players are allowed on the field for defense.
 - In the case of a shortage of players:
 - Nine (9) players- 3 outfielders can be used (left, center, right fields).
 - Eight (8) players- team additionally forgoes catcher and batting coach will throw back balls.
- ◆ Fielding changes during an inning are not allowed, unless due to injuries or player has received three friendly attention reminders and continues to be distracted.
- ◆ Each player should get a chance to play all positions during the year.
- ◆ Players should not play the same defensive position more than one inning per game. In addition, players must rotate every other inning between outfield/infield positions. Please use your best judgment regarding this rule. The goal is to allow the girls to experience all positions of the game.
- ◆ Prior to a player sitting out a second time, all other players must have sat out at least once during the game.
- ◆ Each team must have one coach/parent at 1st and 3rd base. Base coaches **MUST** be 18 years or older.
- ◆ There should be a coach/parent at home to help speed up the game. The coach/parent will be behind the catcher and help with the balls.
- ◆ One (1) coach may be with their team in the field to assist with defensive plays, placement and game flow.
- ◆ During game only team members and coaching staff will be allowed on or near the bench. Parents, sibling, etc. will not be allowed on or near the bench.

Game Procedure and Rules

- ◆ Games will be 5 innings in length if time permits. An official game consists of no less than 3 complete innings. No new inning will begin after 1 hour.
- ◆ Coaches should have their lineups ready before the game begins. A lineup will be posted on the team fence so all players can see.
- ◆ Each hitter will receive up to five (5) pitches each at-bat. If they are unable to hit them, then the batter is out. No exceptions!
- ◆ The coach should pitch underhand.
- ◆ The girl playing the pitcher position must stand to the right of the coach pitcher and at least three feet behind until the ball is hit. After the coach pitches the ball, he/she should try to move away to allow the "real" girl pitcher to play her position.

- ◆ The coach on the pitcher's mound is considered as part of the playing field. Thus, if after pitching the ball, he/she is hit by a batter ball, play will continue. We will not be using the 6-foot arc markers as used in t-ball.
- ◆ All players bat each inning. The lineup is to remain the same for each inning. (If a player in the batting lineup has to go to the bathroom, he will bat last in that inning).
- ◆ Bases are cleared after 3 outs, but the rest of the lineup still bats until the last batter hits.
- ◆ The opposing team should be notified when the last batter is up.
- ◆ Last batter rule: All runners advance until the ball is in possession of an infielder. There will be no final play at the plate. Play stops when last batter completes his batting play.
- ◆ Bunting is not allowed.
- ◆ On a hit to the outfield, the play will end when in possession of an infielder, and must be located in the infield for the play to end.
- ◆ A base runner cannot advance after time has been called.
- ◆ If a player makes an out, he must return to the bench.
- ◆ If a player who is running from base to base is struck by a ball that has been hit, that player is out.
- ◆ Anytime the ball is thrown into the home base area or once it crosses the foul lines, it becomes a dead ball, and runner may not advance past the base they are on, or headed toward. However, the catcher may make a play on a runner at home plate.
- ◆ When a ball is overthrown, players may advance one (1) base only. (They need not be forced to advance by another runner.)
- ◆ Base runners should not be scoring from second base on a ball hit in the infield regardless of where the defensive team makes a play, UNLESS the ball is overthrown. (Whether or not an out is recorded on the play, it is not realistic that a runner would score from second on an infield play at any level of baseball.)
- ◆ If the ball crosses the foul line before the runner reaches home plate, the run does not count.
- ◆ Fair and foul balls will be determined by the base coaches.

Game Rescheduling

- ◆ Rainouts:
 - Both coaches should decide all rainout games. When severe weather approaches (wind, lightning or rain), games must be stopped for safety. Use good judgment and PLEASE PUT THE SAFETY OF THE CHILDREN FIRST. If less than 2 innings have been played, the game should be made up at a time and location agreed upon by both coaches within one week.
- ◆ Forfeits:
 - A forfeit shall result only if a team has less than eight (8) players, with no more than a ten minute delay of game and if no reschedule is possible at a time/place agreed upon by both coaches within 2 weeks. If this is not possible, coaches may choose to use the "Make-Up" day on the schedule. Forfeitures should be a last resort.

Tournament

- ◆ The tournament will be in July at Walton Park, fields 5-8.
- ◆ This will be a “live” tournament with winners advancing.
- ◆ Trophies will be given to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd place teams. The remaining teams will be given participation medals/certificates.

Sportsmanship

- ◆ There will be no arguing with other coaches or umpires. Please control your players and their parents if necessary.
- ◆ Heckling of any players will not be tolerated
- ◆ Bad sportsmanship will not be tolerated. This includes parents, players, and/or coaches towards any other individual during regular season or tournament play. Players are here to learn and to have fun. Individuals will be asked to leave.

Additional Information

- ◆ A parent or guardian must accompany a player for games and practices. Please do not leave your child unattended.
- ◆ Use of foul language is prohibited.
- ◆ Alcohol and tobacco are strictly prohibited from all games and practices.

Team Placement

- ◆ Registration will include an option to request a friend and/or a preferred coach. In addition, a participant may list if they prefer the coach or the friend as first priority.
- ◆ Guardians are also given the opportunity during registration to list a coach they do not want to coach their child. We understand that not all coach/player combinations are a good match and this will hold top priority.
- ◆ Requests are not guaranteed and refunds will not be given because of team placement. Early registration increases the chance that requests will be met, but does not guarantee it.
- ◆ In addition to friend/coach requests, teams will be organized by school and grade level. It is our desire to keep schoolmates together to help create bonds as well as divide first and second graders evenly throughout teams as much as possible. This too is not guaranteed and there may be some variances where grade levels are among teams.

Coaches

- ◆ Registration will include an option to volunteer to be a Coach, Assistant Coach, or Team Manager.
- ◆ Coaching staff will be determined not only by both registration date but by consideration of previous coaching history with OAA. Also, the amount of requests for a particular coach will also be in the determination factor.
- ◆ All coaching staff is volunteer and a background check will be completed every two years, as well as concussion training every two years.

Additional Information

Please contact the Coach Pitch Director Rebecca Dabe at email:

Email: coachpitch@oaaonline.com