

## General Delaware County Rules for all Levels for 2024

### **League Format and Rules**

1. The entry fee is \$5 per team paid to the president for making schedules and mailings.
2. Players may choose to play for whichever town they wish. There are no boundaries in place limiting where they can play. Each town can set their own rules as to who they can accept. 100% league agreement needs to happen for this rule to change.
3. Towns that have more than 2 or more teams in one division must split up teams evenly by grade and talent. You must have multiple teams in 2 out of 3 age groups that make another pod of teams for the town. Towns are limited to 3 teams per age division. This is to help dilute the number of kids for other towns and also to allow tournaments to be done. 100% league agreement needs to happen for this rule to change.
4. Home teams are to provide umpires and game balls. 5 balls are required for pre-bantam and bantam games. At least 2 balls are required for Juniors games.
5. All teams and coaches are required to practice good sportsmanship. Cheering from the dugout is encouraged. At any time, if the opposing team feels they cannot hear direction, or the umpire deems anything to be directed to the opposing team, the cheering team will be asked to lower their voices.
6. All rules will be followed in the order of: the respective level's rulebook - General Del. Co. Rulebook - NFHS Rules.

### **Tournament Formats, Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines**

7. Tournament rules will follow league rules unless specified otherwise.
8. Tournament-hosting towns, please try to release the schedule at least one week in advance.  
\*Tournament-hosting towns need to schedule field prep between games when doing schedules.\*
9. All teams will play in every tournament.
10. A coin flip will decide the home team for every tournament game. This includes Friday games.
11. Tournament-hosting towns, first place trophies and second place medals must be awarded.
12. League Tournament-hosting towns only, at Pre-Bantam level, a participation medal or ribbon must be given to each player.
13. Tournaments will have a gate entry fee of \$5.00. Anyone 12 and under are free.
14. No gate fee as in rule 13 is to be taken on 1<sup>st</sup> round games of all tournaments other than the league tournament.
15. First round games of all tournaments, other than the league tournament, will be played at different locations than the hosting team town.

16. During any tournament, games will not start more than 20 mins before scheduled time unless both teams agree to do so.
17. A team may not delay a scheduled start time more than 20 mins to wait for a player(s) unless both teams agree to.
18. Tournament-hosting teams, please alert Casey Langel if you are more than 30 mins behind, he will send email out to all towns to alert them.

**Players, Equipment, and Game Rule Changes**

19. Metal cleats are not allowed.
20. No infield fly.
21. NFHS-Approved and stamped, optic yellow softballs are required. 11" for Pre-bantam and bantam, 12" for Juniors.
22. The pitching machine cord must be buried; legs should be consistent height for each town.
23. Batters and runners are required to leave helmets on. If caught intentionally removing the helmet, the team will be warned once and following offenses result in that batter or runner being called out.
24. Full catching gear is required to be worn by all catchers.
25. No bats are to be thrown. If thrown, a warning will be given and following offenses will result in the batter being called out.
26. All players must play both offense and defense at least one inning per game, unless for disciplinary or injury reasons. This includes league and tournament games. A child is not required to play if they are playing up and have already played a game at their own level. 100% league agreement needs to happen for this rule to change.
27. All players must have entered the game at Pre-Bantam level after inning 2, Bantam level after inning 3, and Junior level after inning 3. A violation of rule 26 and 27 will result in a forfeit of the offending team. If discovered after the game is completed and if necessary, the win will be vacated on any and all records for that season.
28. Continuous batting orders are allowed using free defensive substitution for all levels
29. No designated hitters, designated players, flex players or pinch runners. Courtesy runners are allowed according to each level's rules.
30. All Batting helmets are required to have faceguard's attached.
31. Umpires' decisions are final. Umpires must be educated on all rules as well as be either on a HS ball team or in HS and older.

\*It is highly encouraged that all coaches and players understand the rules before and during the season. If there is ever any question on rules or how to enforce a rule, contact a member of the League Board.\*

32. Any rules not listed here or in each level's respective rulebook should follow high school softball rules.

### **Scorekeeping**

33. An official scorebook will be kept at all games. Non-tournament games and tournaments.

34. For non-tournament games, the official scorebook will be the one kept by the home team.

35. For tournaments, it is encouraged to have a neutral scorekeeper recording all games. If this is not possible, refer to rule 34.

36. The official scorebook will be the final decision if there is a question about score, lineups, playing all players, etc.

\*If an obvious error occurs or a question arises in the official scorebook or by the official scorekeeper, they may work directly with the umpires as needed.\*

### **Canceled, Postponed, Make up Games**

37. Canceled games must be called 24 hours prior to scheduled time. The decision to cancel a game due to weather should be made at least 90 minutes before the scheduled start time.

38. For canceled or postponed games, agreement on a makeup date has to take place within 2 weeks of the event. In event agreement cannot be made a date, time and location will be set by the President/Vice President and the team who cannot make it will be considered a forfeit.

39. In case of rain, all games must be completed. They will resume from the exact point where the game was delayed. These games must be played out or made up at the agreement of both team's coaches.

\*Recommended that teams and bookkeepers have the same score, outs, runner positions, batter, and where each player goes during this delay\*