

## SGSL 10U Division – UPDATE MARCH 2023

### Field Set-Up for 10u:

- **Base Distance – 60 Feet**
- **Pitcher's rubber – 35 Feet**
- **Game Ball – 11" Regulation**

U10 will follow the 2022 Official Rules of Softball Participant Manual developed by USA Softball. For specific questions to standard rules, please refer to the manual. The following are the "house" rules for the 2023 SGSL recreational season (including interleague games with North Providence):

### SGSL Zero Tolerance Policy:

SGSL has adopted a "zero tolerance" policy with regards to coach, player and spectator behavior. This applies to treatment of other coaches, all players and most importantly treatment of umpires. Abusive and obscene language, fighting (verbal and/or physical), and other behaviors detrimental to the sporting event will not be tolerated. ***It is the responsibility of ALL present to support the presiding official.*** There is to be no arguing of judgement calls (balls, strikes, safe/out). If there is a question about an interpretation of the rules, ONLY the head coach may approach the umpire to ask the question.

1. Players will pitch in this division. Players who walk four batters in a row (in the same inning) may be switched out for a different player (there is no coach pitch in this division).
2. Pitchers are limited to a max of 3 innings pitched per game.
3. A safely hit ball will allow both the batter and all base runners to advance as many bases as they chose with the possibility of getting put out.
4. Coaches are not allowed to be on the field to provide instruction.
5. Games will be 6 innings in length. No new inning will begin after 80 minutes. League games can end in a tie.
6. A maximum of 4 runs can be scored in all innings.
7. There will be no infield fly rule in this division.
8. All players in the field on defense must wear a face mask.
9. A continuous batting order is to be used (all players bat). Should a player be unable to take her turn at bat for any reason, proceed to the next scheduled batter without penalty. The player that was unable to take her turn at bat is out of the lineup and cannot return to that game. There are free defensive substitutions.

10. All players must play a minimum of 2 innings on defense unless the game is shortened by the run rule.

11. Each player that throws the bat will be given one warning, the next time the same player throws the bat, an out will be recorded whether the ball was hit or not. If the ball was safely hit, all base runners will return to the base that they previously occupied.

12. Stealing is allowed (passed ball or caught ball). Stealing home is also allowed on a passed ball. There is no drop third strike in this division.

***League Note: This rule was changed in 2023 to allow for stealing of home. The intent of this rule change is to speed up the game, and to prepare players for the next divisions, where stealing home is allowed. We are also trying to keep the "house rule" modifications to a minimum. The rule was not changed to allow coaches to "take advantage" of weaker pitchers or catchers, and base runners should not be taught to steal on every pitch. If teams are found to be abusing this rule, it can and will be changed mid-season, and stealing of any kind will not be allowed for the duration.***

13. 10 defensive players in the field, 6 in the infield, 4 in the outfield. The four outfielders do not necessarily need to be on the outfield grass to be considered an outfielder; however, they must play behind the infielders, not alongside of them.

14. Players can tag up and advance to the next base on a ball caught in the air.

15. Only the head coach is allowed to speak to the umpire when it comes to interpretation of the 10U playing rules. The game will be stopped and then resumed after clarification of the rule in question is completed. When the game is stopped, the timer is stopped also. THERE IS TO BE NO QUESTIONING OF JUDGEMENT CALLS.

16. Courtesy Runners: The last scheduled batter at the time when a courtesy runner is needed will be the runner for a player that requires a courtesy runner. The insertion of an incorrect courtesy runner discovered after the next pitch is thrown will result in an out. Should the incorrect runner be discovered prior to the next pitch being thrown, the correct runner is inserted without penalty.

*Example 1: The first batter of the inning pops out for the first out of the inning, the next batter gets a hit, and requires a courtesy runner. The courtesy runner is the batter that just made the first out of that inning.*

*Example 2: There are no outs in the inning when the first batter gets on base, the courtesy runner is the last scheduled batter in the lineup at that time*