

GRAYSLAKE PARK DISTRICT

Division 2 Youth Softball Rules

1. An 11" sponge-centered softball will be used.
2. The pitching mound to home plate will be 35'; base paths will be 60'. All equipment must be out of play.
3. Uniform shirts, shorts and visor must be worn for all games.
4. The defensive team will consist of 10 players. 7 players will be required to play a game; players may be borrowed from the other team to allow the game to be played, borrowed players must play in the outfield. Players must be a registered player of the Grayslake Park District league and equal or lesser age. Defensive players shall position themselves in a traditional manner. The outfield players shall be on the outside of the infield grass except to make a play after a batted ball. The "Short Center" fielder must be positioned on the outfield grass.
5. Players will pitch to the batters. The pitcher will pitch until she has pitched 4 called "balls" (not strikes). At this time, if the batter has not hit or struck out, the offensive coach will then come in and pitch up to 5 additional pitches to the batter (coaches pitch to their own team's players). The strike count will remain the same when the coach comes in to pitch, for example if the batter has two strikes and the coach throws a strike, the batter is out on strikes. The batter will be called "out" if she does not get a hit; no walks will be given. If the player fouls the pitch off, the at bat will continue, even if it leads to more than 5 pitches by the coach. No player can be considered out on a foul ball, unless the ball is caught and the out is recorded. Coach "pitchers" shall not be allowed to field the ball and make every effort to avoid contact with the ball to allow the fielder to make the play. If the coaches contact the ball, it shall be considered a dead ball. A) Pitching form: Girls are to begin with both feet on the pitching rubber, facing the batter, with the ball showing. The pitcher may then step back with one foot, leaving the other foot in contact with the rubber throughout the pitch.
6. There will be a continuous batting order; this order must remain the same throughout the entire game. An inning shall consist of three outs or once through the batting order. A "batting order" will consist of one time through the number of girls. Relative to the "last batter" of the inning, once a batted ball is in the possession of an infielder, located in the infield, the inning for the batting team will be considered complete.
7. No base stealing is allowed, (no exceptions ex. wild pitch, poor throwback to pitcher etc.). No leadoffs are allowed, if a player leaves the base early, the play shall be ruled dead and all runners must return to their original base. If problems persist, base runner will be called "out".
8. Only one extra base will be allowed on an overthrow to an infielder per batted ball, regardless of the number of subsequent overthrows.
9. Sliding must be feet first. Players must slide if there is a close play.
10. All players must have equal playing time. No player may stay in one position for more than 3 innings. No Player may sit out more than one inning in a row.
11. Base coaches can be parents or coaches (not players). Players must wear batting helmets at all times – in "on deck" circle, batting and running the bases.
12. The strike zone shall be expanded as follows:
 - a) The vertical zone shall be one ball width above armpit and lower than knee.
 - b) The horizontal zone shall be one ball width inside and outside of the plate.
 - c) **NO DROPPED 3RD STRIKE**
13. All games shall be seven innings or 1 3/4 hour in length. No inning should be started at 1 1/2 hours after the game start time. They shall be played to the fullest extent possible unless the umpire rules that conditions do not permit completion or darkness becomes a factor.
14. The "infield fly" rule will be used. Umpire will clarify this before starting.
15. Score will be kept for the individual games, but no standings will be kept.