



DE PERE GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION



U8 LEAGUE RULES (Board Adopted Dec 2014) (Last Updated January 2020)

DGSA MISSION STATEMENT:

1. To provide a safe environment for girls in the De Pere area (East / West) to have fun while learning the fundamentals of softball, teamwork, commitment, and competition.
2. To help build the self-esteem of all athletes and provide a service to the youth of the community.
3. To provide the De Pere High School softball programs (East / West) with athletes that can demonstrate a solid understanding of the fundamentals of girls softball.

LEAGUE OBJECTIVES:

1. The objective of this league is to introduced the fundamentals of softball to these athletes and prepare them for U10.

LEAGUE RULES:

I. GENERAL

1. The De Pere Girl's Softball Association's *Good Sportsman's Code* applies to all leagues.
2. No players will be allowed to participate until their registration fee is paid and their waiver forms is signed.
3. Any player, who cannot play after paying her registration fee because of an unforeseen circumstance, will be refunded her fee if the Board reviews the situation and finds the situation to be legitimate.
4. All names of players registering after the beginning of the season will be brought to the Commissioner for assignment to a team.
5. Players should wear league issued team shirt.
6. No jewelry may be worn.
7. The league commissioner is responsible for the postponing and/or canceling of games due to inclement weather prior to the start of the game. The canceling of the first scheduled game of the night does not necessarily mean that all subsequent games are canceled.
8. Teams may include up to 4 coaches/assistants/dugout parents. All coaches or parents participating in the coaching of girls (includes being in the dugout) must have successfully completed a background check before participating.
9. Parents may not be in the outfield/infield to help direct the players; coaches/assistants are only allowed on the field.
10. Umpire will confer before the start of the game to agree on the official start time. No new inning will start after 1 hour 15 minutes.
11. The home team, which will be the 2nd team listed on the schedule, will use the third base dugout and will take the field first. Team managers may designate base coaches.
12. A coach/assistant can act as a backup catcher (it is recommended to keep the game moving).
13. Games will consist of 6 innings or a time limit of 1 hour 15 minutes.
14. One inning will consist of 3 outs per team or 3 runs scored (whichever comes first).
15. Coaches will use a running batting order during league play. This means each coach will keep the same line up throughout the regular season. The player on deck at the end of a game would be the lead off for the next game. This will provide more even number of at

bats per player. Coaches are not required to use the running batting order during playoffs.

16. U8 League will participate in the end of the season league tournament.

II. DUGOUT CONDUCT

1. All players are to remain in the dugout except for the batter and the on-deck batter. All players, whether batting, while in the on-deck circle or on the bases as a base runner, must be wearing a helmet at all times. Chinstraps on the batting helmets must be connected at all times. If a helmet should fall off while running, the runner will not be called out.
2. Unsportsmanlike conduct, such as comments directed from opposing players, parents or from opposing coaches will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Removal from the ballpark may result if this rule is broken. Positive cheering is accepted and encouraged but there will be no "heckling" (i.e. swing batter, songs directed at opposing teams or players, etc.) allowed. Each coach is expected to enforce this rule with his/her team. Should fan behavior become a problem, the umpire will confer with the coach of the appropriate team. It will be the coach's responsibility to address and eliminate the problem.

III. PITCHING

1. Ball will be a hard 11" ball.
2. Player Pitch, pitching distance will be 30 feet from the back of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber.
3. A pitcher is allowed to pitch a maximum of 3 innings per game. Those 3 innings do not need to be successive.
4. One pitch constitutes an inning. A pitcher can reenter as a pitcher at anytime during the game and can be substituted for at anytime during the game.
5. If a pitcher walks 3 batters or hits 2 batters in an inning, the batting team coach will come out and pitch with a limit of 5 pitches per batter the rest of that inning from the pitching circle. If the batter doesn't swing on the 5th pitch or swings 3 times and misses the batter is out. If the batter fouls the 5th pitch off they continue till they miss or put the ball in play. The pitcher will play defense when coach pitches but must have at least one foot in the pitching circle. The pitcher may resume pitching the next inning unless they reached their innings max or gets substituted for a different pitcher. (Coach can come into pitch if a player wants to quit in the middle of an inning but another player must start the next inning pitching).
6. ASA rules will be used.
7. All Pitchers must wear a face mask.

(Note: When coaches do come in to pitch, the pitches should not be lobbed into the girls. They should come in at a similar speed and angle as normal player pitches.)

IV. CATCHING

1. Catchers must wear a mask and helmet, shin guards and chest protectors.
2. The catcher shall not interfere with the batter.

V. BATTING

1. Teams must bat their entire line up.

2. All batting helmets must have a face mask. (*Note: Chin strap recommended*)
3. An umpire will call balls and strikes during each at bat.
4. Batter must keep one foot in the box at all times.
5. If a pitch hits the batter, the batter must take her base.
6. If the batter is interfered with by the catcher, the swing will not be counted and the at bat continued.
7. If a batter throws the bat, a warning will be issued. A second offense will result in the batter being called out.
8. There is no bunting.
9. If the pitcher throws 4 balls that aren't strikes, it's a "walk". The batter doesn't take her base but a coach brings out a batting tee, the batter gets 2 swings to hit the ball if unable to do so the batter is out.
10. ASA rules will be used.

1. **FIELDING**

1. All players should have an opportunity to play the field. A player should not play 3 consecutive innings in the infield, unless there are not enough players to do so. All players should get an opportunity to play each position.
2. **Infield Positions:** Pitcher, Catcher, 1st Base, 2nd Base, Short Stop, 3rd Base, Rover
(*Note: Team's can play a Rover or 4 Outfielders*)
3. **Outfield Positions:** Left Field, Center, Right Field. All positions will be required to play on the outfield grass.
4. There will be no infield fly rule.
5. All girls should wear a defensive face mask.

2. **BASE RUNNING**

1. The batter and all base runners will wear batting helmets.
2. Teams are allowed to steal one base per inning but no stealing home. Runners must slide when play is made on them when advancing base. If runner does not slide they will be called out.
3. Runner may lead off after the ball cross home plate.
4. If the pitcher controls a played ball within the pitching circle area, runners that are past the halfway point may advance to the next base if it is unoccupied.
5. Runners may advance one base on an overthrow but a base runner can't go second to home on an overthrow, no stealing home. (*Note: An "Over Throw" is defined as being thrown to a base or back to the pitcher.*)

3. **SCORING**

1. The home team is considered to be the "Official Scorer" for that game, and will maintain the official scorebook. The home team is responsible to operate the electronic scoreboard during the game.
2. It is the responsibility of the winning team coach to inform the U8 league commissioner of the final score after each game. Failure to submit scores before the next scheduled game results in a tie.
3. Games tied up at the end of the time limit will end as a tie.

COACH EXPECTATIONS:

1. Coaches are responsible for:
 - Promoting good sportsmanship at all times. This league is to encourage the girls to participate and have fun. Our league commissioner will enforce a zero tolerance policy.
 - Keeping the girls on the bench and out of the playing area when appropriate.
 - Seeing that equipment is properly cared for and returned at the end of the season with an inventory of any equipment needs.
2. One Umpire will stand behind the pitcher or behind home plate to call balls and strikes and call outs on the field.
3. Home Team Coach is responsible for keeping the Official Book and submitting the winning team and score to the league Commissioner. (Note: U8 will have one Umpire but no Official Score Keeper). Coaches will pitch to their own team the entire season.
4. Coaches on the field may not interfere with a ball in play at any time. If interference occurs, the ball will be ruled dead. All runners will return to their previous positions, and the batter will return to the count previous to the batted pitch.
5. The De Pere Girls Softball Association Coaches Expectations and *Good Sportsman Code* applies to all leagues.