



DE PERE GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION



U6 LEAGUE RULES (Board Adopted 12-07-2010)

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 U8.

LEAGUE RULES:

I. GENERAL

1. The objective of this league is to introduce these athletes to softball. This is a non-competitive league. No games will be scored. No League standings are kept. Active involvement from each athlete is the top priority for this league. Throughout the season the girls should be taught the following fundamentals:
 - Proper safety procedures (wearing helmets, etc.)
 - How to wear a softball glove properly
 - How to hold a bat properly
 - Fundamentals of throwing a softball
 - Fundamentals of fielding a softball
 - Basic Rules
 - How to score a run
 - How to make an out
 - What are a strike and a ball
 - The fundamentals of each position (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.)
 - Basic softball strategy
2. Team may include 4 coaches/assistants.
3. Parents may not be in the outfield/infield to help direct the players; coaches/assistants are only allowed on the field. A coach/assistant can act as a backup catcher (it is recommended to keep the game moving).
4. Coaches on the field will call outs. There will be no officials.
5. Games will consist of a 30-minute practice followed by a 45-minute game.
6. One inning will consist of all batters from both teams. Coaches will rotate the order each inning throughout the season so each player has an opportunity to be lead off batter at least once during the season. This rotation continues from game to game.
7. Games will consist of a 30-minute practice followed by a 45-minute game.

II. DUGOUT CONDUCT

1. The De Pere Girls Softball Association Good Sportsman Code applies to all leagues.
2. Keeping the girls on the bench and out of the playing area when appropriate.
3. Seeing that equipment is properly cared for and returned at the end of the season with an inventory of any equipment needs.
4. 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.

III. PITCHING

1. The ball that will be used is a soft 11” ball.
2. Coaches will pitch to their own team.
3. If a pitch hits a batter, she will continue at bat. If the batter is interfered with by the catcher, the swing will not be counted and the at bat continued.

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. An at bat consists of 5 pitches. If unable to hit a fair ball, batter will be allowed 2 swings at the ball on a tee.
2. If a pitch hits a batter, she will continue at bat. If the batter is interfered with by the catcher, the swing will not be counted and the at bat continued.
3. If a batter throws the bat, a warning will be issued. A second offense will result in the batter being called out for that inning.
4. If Coaches’ 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.

VI. FIELDING

1. All players should get an opportunity to play each position. A player should not play 3 consecutive innings in the infield, unless there are not enough players to do so.
2. Play can be stopped by throwing the ball to the base in front of the lead runner, or to the base occupied by the lead runner. When all runners have stopped advancing, the ball can be thrown back to the pitcher. All runners remain where they are, even if there is an overthrow to the pitcher.
3. Coaches on the field may not interfere with a ball in play at any time.
4. All players will play the field.
5. We will have normal infield positions of catcher, first, second and third bases. Pitcher and shortstop can have two girls per position to allow more hands-on play at this level. This can only occur when there are at least two girls in the outfield. All players will rotate each inning.
6. There will be no infield fly rule.

VII. BASE RUNNING

1. The batter and all base runners will wear batting helmets.
2. There will be no leading off or stealing.
3. 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.
4. If a player hits the ball, she may take two bases rather than stopping at first.

VIII. SCORING

1. Coaches on the field will call outs. There will be no officials.
2. We will not keep track of outs or scores. The last batter will run all bases and the team on defense will remain on the field until that batter crosses home plate.
3. We will not keep standings.

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.
1. Coach on the field will stand behind 2nd base and behind home plate to coach and call outs.
2. Coaches will pitch to their own team the entire season.
3. The De Pere Girls Softball Association Coaches Expectations and *Good Sportsman Code* applies to all leagues.

FIELD MAINTENANCE EXPECTATIONS:

1. If your team is scheduled for the first game of the day on a particular field, both team's coaches are responsible to set up the field.
2. If your team is scheduled for the last game of the day on a particular field, both team's coaches are responsible to put the equipment (includes bases) back in the storage building & rake the fields (pitching mound & batters box).