MODIFIED LEVEL

NASSAU COUNTY SOFTBALL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION FASTPITCH SOFTBALL RULES INFO 2023

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#1 - Chin-straps on batting helmets are OPTIONAL. If a player chooses to wear a chin strap it should be properly worn.

#2 - On certain occasions, on-deck batters may choose to use either on-deck circle. This considered choice may not happen often because at the middle school level we do not often use any on-deck circles that are in playable area. Most are outside the backstop or bench areas where this choice is not available. #3 - Adult base coaches must wear a hard shell helmet with brim. This helmet may not be made of plastic and does not need to have any ear flaps. The helmets worn by student base coaches remain specified as the double ear-flapped approved batting helmet type with face-guard/face-mask.

Jewelry is now permitted. Stud earrings, small chains tucked in, bracelets that are tight to the wrist, rings.

Braids with beads should be covered.

No jewelry on the pitcher’s hand that could be distracting or damage the ball.

If an official deems it dangerous it must be removed.

REMINDERS:

1. Make sure a pitching distance of 40' has been measured out for use.
2. Make sure bases are secured properly in place. If the pitcher's plate is not secured, a line may be drawn on the ground to pitch from. The game cannot be played if you do not have a legally manufactured one piece double base at first base with each side of equal thickness.
3. On offense, the batting helmets and all of the bats must be approved..
4. 15 run Rule after at least 5 innings: No visiting team can win by the 15 run rule in the top of any partial 5th, 6th, or 7th inning. Innings 1 - 6 allow no more than 3 outs or 5 runs scored. Unlimited runs in 7th inning. With advance notice, inning 5 or 6 could follow the unlimited runs procedure to end a game.
5. All ASA and NYS Fast-pitch rules are in effect including bunting, stealing, dropped third strike and pitcher/catcher courtesy rulings. NO METAL SPIKES on shoes! There is no "must slide" rule; head first slides are allowed.

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1. A minimum of 9 players BAT and 9 PLAY in the field. 10 may BAT and 10 may play in the field. You can have a 9 player team against a team of 10 player team. There is a possible 11 player DP game interpreted as 11 BAT and any 10 (of those 11) PLAY THE FIELD. You cannot start with 8 at a middle school game as per long- standing Section Vll Athletic Council Ruling. However, if an INJURY causes your middle school team to have only 8 legal players to continue a game in progress, NYSPHSAA says, "The re-entry rules can be waived and a player who is on the bench and would normally have been ineligible to return to play can be used to re-enter as a replacement for the injured person and may even bat in a different batting position on the fine-up card than she was originally listed for. If you staffed with 10 and are forced to play with 9 under a NON-INJURY situation, you can continue to play shorthanded and an "out" should be recorded each time the missing batter's batting position comes up in the order. If you then go down to 8 players due to a non-injury situation, the game is ended at that point.
2. NO NEW INNING after generally allotted 2 hour game time from when you actually start the game. Game time starts after pre-game plate conference with umpires. For example, a game starting at 4:15 can continue until no new inning being allowed to begin after 6:15. There is no such thing as "all play ceases after 2 hours"; we finish the inning as necessary. NO extra innings are allowed. A tie is a tie in Middle School.
3. The NYS Softball Committee and Section Vlll continue to stress ail liability and safety concerns for girlsl fast-pitch softball. Dugout Conduct rules, Only one on-deck batter rule, Protective equipment for players if warming up a pitcher, the Concussion rule, Bat and Helmet inspection procedures, Jewelry is now permitted and Good Sportsmanship promotion.

l. Added Reminders: No metal should be visible through the legal 10" - 15" bat grip area. Remember to report substitutions to the plate umpire. All starters and subs may re-enter once into the same batting position on the line-up card, You get three charged defensive conferences per game and one charged offensive conference per inning. Pitcher should first step onto the pitcher's plate with hands separated with ball in either the hand or the glove. Pitch starts after the hands have come together for at least 1 and no more than 10 seconds and then are separated

# "PLAY BALL"

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