

HAVERHILL GIRLS SOFTBALL RULES BY DIVISION

INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION: AGES 5 - 7

Goal is to teach the girls the rules of softball and the basic skills to advance to the next level.

- 1) The Divisional Commissioner will set up 6 stations with the coaches so the girls can go through them for 45 minutes before each game.
- 2) Games will last 45 minutes

Every girl will be evaluated to see where she falls between these next age groups.

DOUBLE A DIVISION: AGES 8 – 9 (formerly named Minor)

- 1) 6 inning games
- 2) No inning can begin after 7:45. If you start an inning and both halves are not completed then that game goes back to the previous inning for the score.
- 3) There will be 10 players in the field for each team. You must have 4 outfielders.
- 4) There will be a 5 run rule per inning per team. Play will continue if more than 5 runs are scored but only 5 will count. The team that is behind in the last inning may score more than 5 runs in order to tie the game. They can not go ahead.
- 5) After 3 walks in an inning the batting team has coach pitch. The batter may strike out but can not walk.
- 6) Each pitcher can not pitch more than 2 innings a game.
- 7) Each team will have a continuous batting order. This means the batters are numbered 1-13 the batter that makes the last out in a game the following batter will lead off the next game. The coach can change their batting order once per year after notifying the commissioner. No player will sit for more than 1 inning consecutively.
- 8) No bunting. No stealing in this division
- 9) Pitching distance is 30 feet. If the pitcher is having a hard time they may move up(no more than 25 feet). If the pitcher is finding this distance to easy they may move back.(Coaches discretion)
- 10) Each team can play with 8 players if they do not have enough team members. They may borrow from the other team.
- 11) A coach may walk the field to instruct their team but may not interfere with the game in progress.
- 12) A volunteer or coach will umpire these games. In the playoffs an umpire will be provided.
- 13) Playoffs will be determined after divisions are set with teams.
- 14) Players can advance 1 base on an overthrow.

TRIPLE A DIVISION: AGES 9 – 11 (formerly named Minor)

- 1) 6 inning Games. An inning may not begin after 7:45 pm if both halves of an inning are not played the score goes back to the previous fully completed inning.
- 2) We will have a continuous batting order. The batters will be numbered 1-13 who ever makes the last out the next player will bat first the next game. This may be changed once during the year after notifying the commissioner. No player can sit defensively for more than 1 inning continuously. No 2 innings back to back.
- 3) 3 walks will be allowed per inning after which the batting team will provide a coach pitcher. The batter can then strike out but not walk.
- 4) 9 fielders will play the field for both teams. You must have 3 outfielders. A team may play with a minimum of 8 players.
- 5) Bunting will be allowed in this division.
- 6) 2 steals per inning and you can not steal home. A passed ball with an advance will be considered a steal. The ball must cross home plate before the runner can leave the bag. If the runner leaves early they will be sent back. In the event that the runner leaves early and the ball is batted by the hitter the runner can not advance more than 1 base ahead of the hitter. The runner can not lead they must keep their foot on the bag.
- 7) Pitching distance is 35 feet.
- 8) 5 run rule in effect. Play will continue after 5 runs scored but only 5 will count. The team that is behind in the last inning may score more than 5 runs but may not go ahead. They may tie the game.
- 9) Pitchers may only pitch 3 innings a game. 6 innings in a week. Week runs from Sunday – Saturday.

MAJOR DIVISION: AGES 12 - 15

- 1) 7 inning games. No inning can begin after 7:45. If both halves of the inning are not played the score goes back to the previous completed inning.
- 2) 6 Run rule is in effect. The play would continue but only 6 runs will count. In the last inning the team that is behind will be able to score more than 6 runs but not take the lead only tie the game.
- 3) Teams will field 9 players 3 outfielders per team. A team may play with a minimum of 8. They may borrow a player from the other team.
- 4) We will play with a continuous batting order. The players will be numbered 1-13 (Everyone must bat when it is their time or it is an out) the player that makes the last out in a game the next girl in the order will lead off the next game. This may be changed 1 time during the year after informing the commissioner.
- 5) Every girl who shows up at a game has to play 3 defensive innings.
- 6) A pitcher may pitch 7 innings in a week Sunday to Saturday. In the best of 3 playoffs the pitching resets in game 3.
- 7) 3 hit batters in a game and the pitcher may be replaced at the umpires discretion.
- 8) Home plate may be stolen no more than 2 times in an inning. Any play where someone scores from third base without the ball being batted or a walk is considered a steal of home. Example: an over throw to second on a double steal with the runner on third advancing is a steal of home
- 9) You may steal as many bases as you can except for Home see rule 8. Advancing on a passed ball is a steal.
- 10) Pitching distance is 40 feet.
- 11) Base coaches may be adults or players (players must wear helmets)