

**CROWN POINT GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE**  
**EIGHT AND UNDER (8U)**  
**LEAGUE RULES**  
**Revised May 8, 2023**

**LEAGUE PURPOSE**

The eight and under division (8U division) is intended to further the child's skills but also to introduce a higher level of play. They will learn to be competitive but also good sportsmanship.

**GAMES/TIME LIMITS**

Games shall consist of five innings. A game is also completed, upon expiration of the one-hour and 15 minutes time limit (finish the inning). No inning shall start after one hour. If the home team is leading, going into the bottom of the fifth inning they will not come to bat **unless the time limit is less than 75 minutes.**

\*A game clock should start during the warm-up of the first batter of the game. A new inning starts immediately after the third out in an inning occurs providing the home team is up to bat and is losing, if the 3<sup>rd</sup> out occurs with the home team winning, they do not bat and the game is over, providing teams played **75 minutes or more.**

\*\*Game clock will start at the warm-up of the first batter of the game.

**CANCELLATION OF GAMES**

In the event of bad weather, the league director will determine if the field is playable.

**MAKE-UP GAMES**

All make-up games should be played when fields are first available after cancellation. Both coaches will agree and recommend a date and time then submit it to the league director. The league director shall have complete authority in rescheduling dates and times for makeup games. They will be canceled only due to weather conditions and then rescheduled under the same conditions.

**LINE-UPS**

A continuous batting order is used (means everyone bats in the lineup). All players present at the start of the game should be listed in the pre-game batting order, any players who show up after the game has started will be added to the bottom of the order. If a batter or base runner must leave the game due to injury, the last batter that made an out can take her place to complete that at bat or base running. The next time the injured player is due to bat, her spot will be skipped if she cannot re-enter. She may re-enter if physically able.

The pre-game line-up should include the player's name, uniform number, playing position and batting order. The lineup should be given to the opposing manager and the Head umpire before starting the game. Games may be played with as few as seven players.

**RETURNING PLAYERS**

Players returning to an age group shall be assigned to a team through the league coordinator and league director. New players into the league shall be drafted in a fair way so teams are even as possible. Sisters are to be assigned to the same team unless the parents request otherwise.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance will be said before each game is started.

## DUGOUTS

The home team will occupy the third base dugout. Each team must clean up their side of field and dugout after each game. Please inform your parents and spectators. The last team to play each day shall be held responsible to be certain that everything on their side of the field is clean. It is suggested that your team not take the dugout until the entire area has been cleaned by the team completing play. Inform the other manager of his or her team's need to clean the area or it will become your responsibility.

## BATTING HELMETS

All base runners, batters, and on-deck hitters must wear batting helmets with protective facemasks. Any youth warming up pitcher must be wearing a protective facemask on or off the field.

## HIT BY PITCH (HBP)

In the event that a batter is hit by a pitch, that batter will be awarded first base. A ball that bounces then hits the batter will be counted as a ball. If a pitcher hits three (3) different girls in one inning, she must be pulled from the pitching the rest of that inning but may re-enter pitching the next inning.

**EXCEPTION:** If batter gets hit by a pitch *directly* or after a bounced ball she has her choice (1) or (2) below. If batter gets hit by a pitch with the bases loaded and NOT ball four, pitcher continues, batter has a choice to (1) take a base or (2) continue batting with the same pitcher. If batter chooses (1) takes the base, after getting hit, players advance. If batter chooses (2) and continues to bat players don't advance, pitch counts as a ball.  
**COACHES PITCH IF BASES ARE LOADED, AND BALL FOUR** Revised: March 2022

## PITCHING

For the safety of everyone on the field, pitchers and coaches are encouraged to pitch from the rubber (**READ BELOW**). A girl may only pitch for 2 innings per game. There are no walks allowed, if the batter has four balls the coach will then come in and assume the strike count and pitch to his player. A coach may stand where he/she feels comfortable with the pitcher on either side providing they are within the pitcher's circle. A coach may knock down a line drive that threatens his/her or the pitcher's safety. If the coach strikes out the batter it counts as a team out. The batter may not be walked by the coach. When the batter is finished, the pitcher will continue to pitch to the next batter. (**Modified pitching distance-pitcher can pitch from the front of the circle 30 feet**) **Modified Pitching distance Voted at the managers meeting (March 2018)**

## BASE RUNNING

On a hit ball the batter and base runner may advance at the risk of being put out until the ball is returned to the pitcher in the circle or until "time" has been called by the umpire. Runners will be awarded the base they were closest to as time is called. The pitcher just needs to touch the ball (as in an attempted catch) for time to be called. Any base runner that runs into a playable ball will be called out. Runners can lead off but only after the ball has been released. If a runner is caught leaving early the runner is out. **Pitcher must be in the circle with the ball to stop the base runners from advancing (March 2021)**

## OVERTHROWS

An overthrow/ passed ball is defined as a ball thrown at its intended target and travels (on the fly or bounces/rolls) beyond the defensive target in such a manner that the defensive player has lost control/possession of the ball. In the event of an overthrow/passed ball on a batted ball, the base runners may advance one base and the play in dead.

**DEFINE: One extra base on an overthrow (in-play or out-of play) no advancement. (Summer 2019)**

## HOME PLATE UMPIRE

The umpire must raise his or her hand and call time when in their opinion the play is dead. This is done after every play. The umpire must signal "play ball" in order to resume.

## DEFENSE

A maximum of (12) players can be on the field. Six players are allowed in the infield, pitcher, catcher, first, second, third, and short stop, (3-6) players in the outfield. All outfielders must stand on the edge of the infield grass or deeper not on the infield surface. Coaches are encouraged to rotate players at different defensive positions each game.

## LINE-UPS

**A game can be started, played, and finished with as few as seven players.** If one team has seven players and the other team has a full complement of players, there is no penalty to be assessed against a team with more players. If a team has less than nine (9) of its rostered players prior to the start of the game; it may use substitute players from other teams within the 8u division. **At no time shall a substitute player play when a team has ten (10) or more rostered players present.**

If a team does not have enough players, they can use substitutes for league play only from within the same 8u division, but they must bat last (bottom of the line-up if more than one substitute) and can't pitch. Substitutes for season ending tournament are not permitted. (Summer 2019)

A maximum of twelve (12) players can be on the field. 6u player substitutes are allowed only if a team can't find 8u players for league play only (vote each season-March 2021).

## CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER

The batting team will be allowed three outs per inning or no more than 5 runs can be scored in one inning. Modified for the Back-to-School league 2019.

DEFINE: NO more than (5) runs in any one inning can be scored (Summer 2019).

## THE UMPIRE CALLS A STRIKE

A) For each legally pitched ball entering the strike zone before touching the ground and at which the batter does not swing. B) For each pitched ball swung at and missed by the batter. This includes a ball that hit the ground first.

## THE UMPIRE CALLS A BALL

A) For each pitch that does not enter the strike zone, hits the ground, touches home plate, or is not swung at by the batter. B) When a pitch *directly* hits the batter outside of the strike zone. The batter is awarded first base. This would include a ball that hits the ground and then hits the batter.

**EXCEPTION: Girl gets hit by a pitch *directly* or after a bounced ball she has her choice (1) or (2) listed below. To (1) continue batting and count the pitch as a ball with the same pitcher. (2) awarded first base. Coaches pitch only on ball four.**

## PLAYING TIME

Teams may field up to twelve (12) girls at one time on the field (6 outfielders). Outfielders shall play on the edge of the infield grass not on infield surface. No girl shall sit on the bench more than one inning until all players have sat the bench at least one inning.

For example: if your team has 13 girls, each player will sit out every 6<sup>th</sup> inning. Girls should be exposed to multiple positions throughout the season to maintain their interest and enjoyment of the game. Coaches should rotate batting orders each game to allow players to bat at various levels of the batting order.

## FIELD PREPARATIONS

The home team is also responsible for measuring the distance of the pitching mound. The mound distance is 35 feet. The base distance is 60 feet. On dirt infields no person or team is allowed to play, practice or warm-up on the infield before the game starts, especially after it has been prepared. **On turf fields teams can share an even amount of time for pre-game infield practice.**

## GENERAL RULES

- Guidelines from the NSA Softball Official Rules [www.playNSA.com](http://www.playNSA.com)
- **FACE MASKS ARE RECOMMEND FOR ALL PLAYERS BUT NOT REQUIRED.**
- **One manager or coach is allowed in the outfield grass to coach the defensive team and one manager or coach is allowed behind the catcher to help with passed balls.**
- Pitching distance - 35 feet (See Below Modified Pitching distance)
- Modified Pitching distance (pitchers can pitch from the front of the circle 30 feet)  
Voted on by the managers in our meeting of **March 2018**
- Base path - 60 feet
- Softball- 11"-inch safety ball (coaches may practice with the hard ball)
- Bats - Regulation Softball Bats Only
- Time Limit – 1 hour 15 minutes
  - Game can't begin a new inning after the one-hour time limit has occurred.
  - Game is called once time limit reaches 1 hour 15 minutes (finish the inning)
- Maximum Innings - 5 innings (unless during the season ending tournament)
- Sliding - Optional
- NO Walks (unless bases loaded & hit by pitch), Stealing, Bunting, or infield fly rule.
- Courtesy Runner - Yes for pitchers and catchers only, runner will be the last out that was made.
- Helmet Rule - All players must keep their helmets on until they reach the interior of the dugout. The players will be warned twice, and the third infraction will result in the player sitting the rest of the game.
- Tied Games –will end in a tie except during playoffs (International tie breaker)  
International tie breaker (Play-offs only)-Last batter on second base and zero outs
- Outfielders must stand on the outfield grass until the ball is hit.
- No fielder shall position themselves in the runner's path to the base.
- For safety purposes all shirts must always be tucked in. Coaches and umpires are to enforce this uniform policy.
- If standings are taken, a tie doesn't count as a loss, the final standings/statistics goes to the winning percentage of the team because one team has less losses.
- Umpires will receive game balls prior to each game from the Crown Point Parks and Recreation Department representative.
- Pre-game warm ONLY in the outfield (No Infield practice allowed) **March 2021**
- **. On turf fields teams can share an even amount of time for pre-game infield practice.**
- **We encourage each player to play a new position in each game.**
- **We encourage each player to bat in a different order each game.**
- **EVERY player bats each game.**

## **PROTESTS**

If there is a situation where the manager wants to protest, he/she must take it to the league director and if it can't be resolved there the case can present it to the advisory board and league coordinators.

## **SCORING**

Score will be kept with home team being the official scorebook. If the home team is ahead at the end of time or the bottom of the fifth inning they will not come to bat. It is the away team's responsibility that the scorebooks agree.

## **STATISTICS AND FINAL GAME RESULTS**

THE HOME TEAM MANAGER is responsible for reporting all scores and results on game day. Scores MUST be reported to: John Stroia - jstroia@crownpoint.in.gov or call 219-661-2272.

Notification shall include the date, name of both teams, and the final run count for both teams.

- **If standings are taken, a tie doesn't count as a loss, the final standings/statistics goes to winning percentage of the team because one team has less losses.**

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Good sportsmanship on and off the field is expected from all managers, coaches, umpires, players, parents, and spectators. Poor sportsmanship such as verbal abuse, profanity, bragging, taunting, throwing of equipment and inappropriate gestures, etc. shall not be tolerated. Players who fail to show restraint during a game may be benched by the umpire, managers, coaches, or league director. Managers are the only staff members allowed to communicate with the umpires during the game. The manager or coach will be ejected for any verbal or physical abuse during a game by the umpire, Umpire-in-Chief, or league director.

If the manager is ejected only the assistant coach listed on the game's official line-up card shall be permitted to continue coaching the team. Repeat offenses will be reviewed by the league director and advisory board members to determine if further discipline is required. Please take time to encourage your players, families, and friends to demonstrate good sportsmanship always on and off the field.

Managers are the only individuals to discuss situations with the umpires and not their assistant coaches.

Managers are encouraged to bring game rules to every game and review our rules with the opposing manager and umpire prior to every game. Each umpire works in different communities and each league modifies their rules. Pre-game meetings will allow the managers to educate the umpire on our league structure.

**ONLY ONE DEFENSIVE COACH can stand behind the home plate umpire to ONLY assist their catcher. There should be no talking or trying to influence any umpires' decisions. (Summer 2019)**