**West Orange Girls Club**

**Recreational Fast Pitch Softball League**

**HOUSE RULES Spring 2018**

**February 1, 2018**

**There was a coach’s meeting on Thursday, January 4, 2018 to go over and revise the West Orange Girls Club Recreational Fast Pitch Softball League House Rules for 2018. Items in red were revised or clarified.**

The following House Rules, for the WOGC Recreational Fast Pitch Softball League, for girls ages 5-18, have been reviewed and revised by a designated \*Rules Committee and coaching staff. Over the years, the WOGC Recreational Fast Pitch Softball League House Rules have evolved through trial and error and an overall discussion. **This league will follow and use the NSA Rules, with the following House Rules being used, as well.**

***ALL Coaches must read and understand these Rules to be a Coach at the WOGC and be able to explain these house rules, as well as NSA Rules to parents and players, if needed. NSA Rules can be viewed at***

www.playnsa.com

 **A copy of the written House Rules must be in the Coaches possession always while at the WOGC complex. It is the both head coach’s responsibility to meet at the plate with the umpire to go over house rules before the game begins.**

 **VERY IMPORTANT:**

**ALL DIVISIONS FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED ON BATTING HELMETS IN ALL AGE DIVISIONS. (NSA RULE)**

**RULE ONE**

***Legal Team Line-ups***

A Team will need at least 8 players to play a legal game. 7 of the teams’ own players and 1 to 3

 pick up players. **All pick up players must bat last. All pick up players must play the outfield**, unless otherwise agreed upon by Head Coaches and brought to the Rec Director in your age group’s attention.

In rare instances, a pick-up player can pitch or catch if they are being picked up because that positioned player for the team is not there. **This must be agreed upon by the opposing teams’ coach. If there is a problem in deciding if the player should play the pitcher or catcher position, it must be brought to the rec director for final decision.** All pick up players must be registered members of **WOGC Recreational League** during the current season.

\*\*12&under and 13&up play with 9 players in the field so they can borrow a MAX of 2 players. 10u plays with 10 players so they can borrow a MAX of 3 players. Remember if you are borrowing players this must be discussed and agreed upon by both head coaches. \*\*

**Rule Change this Spring 2018**\*\* with Regard to “pickup players”

Pickup players will not be permitted to play from the 12u to 13u/14u because that older group encompasses older girls combined into 2 age groups of older girls- NSA rules do not permit this – 10u players can be borrowed by the 12u group, if needed. In certain instances, players may be needed to fill in for teams in their own age group and if scheduling permits, that of course, is permitted. Questions on this should director to

one of the Rec Directors for clarification.

**RULE** **TWO**

***Injured/Sick Players/Late Players/Pinch Runners***

If a player becomes injured/sick during a game, and must leave the game, it will NOT be an out in her batting position. Just bat around her spot in batting line-up. Parental consent must be given for this player to re-enter the game, once taken out for any injury or illness. If no parent is available to consult, then the rec. director and the 2 head coaches must consult to make a decision.

If a player is late, and coach must bat around that player’s spot on batting line-up, it will NOT be an out in her batting position; When the player arrives, the coach can let that player bat in her position in the line- up. The coach may choose to move the player to the bottom or the batting order if the player has not arrived by game start, if he/she chooses. Coach must notify the opposing coach and scorekeeper of this decision prior to game start.

Pinch Runners are allowed if base runner is or becomes injured – Also pinch runners are allowed to come in game and run for the catcher, if catcher is on base and there are two outs in the inning.

Pinch Runner Must be the player that made the last out.

**If player is ejected from a game by the umpire, then her batting position will be an out at all times. RULE** **THREE**

***Late Sign ups***

Late sign-ups will be put on a team by the director of the Recreational League. It is the responsibility of the Recreational Director to place players where he/she feels they are needed. This is in an effort to make sure the teams are as balanced as possible.

**RULE** **FOUR**

***Late sign ups cannot pitch. Pitchers must try out before draft.***

Our teams are drafted and formed around registered pitchers. Each team gets two pitchers from those who tried out before the draft. It will be up to the Rec League director to allow any late sign ups or girls who did not try out during try outs, to pitch during the season.

**Exception to this Rule** is that if a girl wants to pitch, but is not an experienced pitcher, however, works hard, practices and becomes good, and she did not try out, SHE CAN PITCH. Any variations of this Rule that may result in controversy or the need for further interpretation will be resolved by the Recreational Director.

**RULE** **FIVE Restricted** **Pitchers.**

Pitchers who have a 40% strike out ratio to total batters faced against at least two different teams will be restricted. Accurate scorebooks must be kept by the opposing managers for this rule to be applied and maintained. The Recreational Director must be notified if it is believed that a pitcher is reaching this strike out ratio and scorebooks must be provided.

If a pitcher is designated as restricted by the Recreational Director she can pitch: the first two innings of the game or any one inning during the game.

10U pitchers will be the first and third innings.

Restrictions can be placed or lifted at any time during the season. Not during a game.

By unanimous vote at coaches meeting on Tues August 10, 2010, the coaches of the Rec. League, voted to omit Rule Five from the House Rules for the Fall 2010 Season. This rule will be reviewed by the Coaches and Rec. Director before each new season begins to discuss if this Rule will remain omitted from the

House Rules. REMAINS IN EFFECT – SPRING REC SEASON 2018.

**RULE** **SIX**

***Hit Batter Rule***

If a pitcher hits two batters in one inning, (DIRECT HITS) her coach MUST call a time out and talk with the girl about her control and hopefully calm her down. If that pitcher continues to have control issues and in fact hits another batter in that inning, she needs to be removed from the mound. SAFETY FIRST FOR THE GIRLS. \*\*IF THE PITCHER HITS 3 BATTERS THEY NEED TO BE REMOVED FROM THE MOUND FOR THE INNING\*\*

The pitcher can return to the mound another inning but If the pitcher returns later in the game, and then hits another batter, the girl should be relieved of her pitching duties for the remainder of that game. \*\*IF THE PITCHER HITS 4 BATTERS (DIRECT HITS) THEY NEED TO BE REMOVED FROM THE MOUND FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE GAME\*\*

ONLY HIT BY DIRECT PITCHES COUNT FOR THIS RULE - NOT HIT BY PITCHES THAT FIRST BOUNCE IN THE DIRT are counted in this rule. If the ball is a wild pitch in the dirt and hits the batter*, it is not counted against the pitcher.*

However, by Rule, A BATTER THAT IS HIT BY A PITCH THAT BOUNCED OFF THE DIRT FIRST AND THE

BATTER MADE A DILIGENT EFFORT TO AVOID BEING HIT BY THE BALL, BATTER WILL BE AWARDED 1st BASE

(DEAD BALL) – Remember this is an umpire’s discretion call.

If a pitcher is consistently having control issues, and you feel this is unsafe environment for the hitters - coaches should report this problem to the Recreational Director.

**RULE** **SEVEN-A**

***Run Rule***

There will be a limit of 5 runs per inning. A team can bat as many batters it may take to score these 5 runs, even if it’s more than their lineup.

**\*After a rule meeting with the majority of all the rec league coaches and the Rec Director held Friday, March 10, 2017 the last inning being an “open inning” was revised to: The** **last** **inning** **–** **will** **be** **the** **4th inning** **(and** **possibly** **go** **to** **the** **6th** **inning** **time** **permitting)** **for** 13u Age Group. **The** **teams** **will** **play** **until** **3 outs** **are** **obtained,** **scoring** **as** **many** **runs** **as** **they** **can**\* If the inning cannot be finished due to drop dead time rule the score will be what the previous finished inning was.

**RULE** **SEVEN-B**

***GAME TIME RESTRICTIONS***

**\*this rule has been revised by Rules Committee: November 18, 2009. No new inning can start after:**

**10 and under age division: 1** **hour** **and** **10** **minutes**

**12u and 13u’s: 1 hour 15 minutes**

ALL GAMES SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY OR BEFORE THE 1 HOUR AND 30 MINUTE MARK.

IT IS THE DECISION OF THE RULES COMMITTEE TO NOT CONTINUE WITH A DROP DEAD (1 HR. 30 MIN) TIME LIMIT that leads to the official stopping a game before it can be completed. INSTEAD, THE COACHES OF BOTH TEAMS SHOULD PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE START TIME OF THE GAME AND HOW MUCH TIME IS LEFT AT THE TOP OF EACH INNING BEFORE THE “NO NEW INNING” TIME WILL BE CALLED BY THE UMPIRE. AS TIME BEGINS TO EXPIRE, BOTH COACHES SHOULD CONSULT WITH THE OFFICIALS AS TO HOW LONG THE INNINGS ARE AVERAGING AND *AVOID STARTING A NEW FULL INNING IF IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO COMPLETE.*

ALL GAMES SHOULD BE COMPLETED WITHOUT A DROP-DEAD TIME LIMIT BEING CALLED. But with that being said the umpires are only paid for 1 hour and 30 minutes.

**RULE** **EIGHT**

***A team must use at least two pitchers per game.***

If two pitchers are used, each pitcher must pitch at least one full inning. If more than two pitchers are used, one pitcher can pitch every inning except one, while the other pitchers can be combined to pitch one inning.

For this rule, an inning is defined as three consecutive outs or an inning completed by run rule. It is highly ENCOURAGED that the coach, pitch his/her backup (second pitcher) in inning 1 or 2 of the game, but not required.

We often have cases whereas a team/coach feels he/she has only one pitcher that is capable of pitching in a game. (i.e. other Pitchers absent or injured) This situation should be **discussed PRIOR** to the game start between the 2 Head Coaches and attempt to come to a reasonable solution. If the coaches are not able to make a full 100% agreement as to how to handle the situation, then it must be brought to the League Director to resolve.

**RULE** **NINE**

***No one sits twice before everyone has sat once***

We bat the whole line up. Everyone bats, no substitutions.

The 8u Age division will follow House Rules as described in Page 6 of the House Rules. 8u House Rules.

The 10U, age division will play with normal infield and 4 outfielders.

The 12U and 13U division will play with normal infield and 3 outfielders.

ALL PLEASE FOLLOW RULES AS DESCRIBED IN THE ADDENDUM TO HOUSE RULES

**West Orange Girls Club – Recreational Fast Pitch Softball League**

**HOUSE** **RULES** **–** **Spring** **2018** **–** **Continued**

Miscellaneous:

**Inner-League-Play:**

At times of Inter-League Play – games against other organizations, a coach can at his or her

Discretion, choose to play any of his/her players for 3 defensive outs, if he/she chooses. All Players on Roster can be in batting line-up.

**Coach** **or** **Non-Player** **Hit** **by** **Ball** **in** **Play:**

If for some reason a coach or non-player is hit by a ball this is deemed a dead ball and the hitter gets first base or a base runner is awarded ONLY 1 base.

**Outfield** **Position** **Rule:**

The 4 Outfielders (8u or 10U) must position themselves on the grass at the start of a players at bat. Not to start play on the clay/infield and moving in once that ball is put into play.

**Coaches** **on** **the** **Field:**

When team is “at-bat” there should be only a first base coach and a third base coach on the field.

When team is “in the field” (defense) then that team’s coaches remain in their dug out and not on Field – If one coach needs to communicate with the defensive players, then that one coach may do so, however, should do so and NOT REMAIN on the field.

**Cheering** **Rules: ALL DIVISIONS:**

There will be no “cheering” aloud that is directed at any one particular position (pitcher) or player in

hopes of distracting that player. At the end of a game, there will be no “team cheer” at the pitcher’s circle or home plate.

**12 and under**

**All NSA rules apply *It is the decision of the Rules Committee (on November 18, 2009) that the infield fly rule and the dropped third strike rule WILL apply. This is a change from the WOGC’s previous house rules.***

***13 and up***

**All NSA rules apply.**

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**8 and under –House Rules**

**RULE** **1**

The time limit for games is 3 innings or 1:15 minutes, whichever comes first.

**RULE** **2**

Each team will bat the entire line-up, regardless of the number of outs or runs scored. ALL OUTS ARE COUNTED, HOWEVER, EACH TEAM WILL BAT THEIR ENTIRE

LINE-UP, IN EACH INNING. **Remember Batting lineup will invert each inning. Batter (example 1-9) and the inning the batting ordered will bat reversed (example 9-1). Every inning the ordered will be reversed alternating this way.**

**RULE** **3**

Each batter can have 5 pitches or 3 swings to hit the ball, whichever comes first. If the ball is not hit into play after 5 pitches or 3 swings, the ball is placed on a batting tee for her to hit. BATTER GETS 3 ATTEMPTS (FROM TEE) TO PUT BALL INTO FAIR PLAY; IF SHE DOES NOT, THEN SHE IS OUT.

**RULE** **4**

The base runners can attempt to advance only one base, at risk to be put out, on any overthrows during a live play. If there are multiple overthrows, the runner can still only attempt to advance one base. THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE BASE GRANTED ON ANY OVERTHROW BALL.

**RULE** **5**

**All of the players can play on the infield. REASON:** The hits won’t make it into the outfield and we want to keep all the girls involved in the game. **\*But with that being said NO PLAYER CAN PLAY THE SAME POSITION TWICE. Every inning the players should be moved.**

**RULE** **6**

**A coach or parent for the team at bat will act as catcher to throw the ball back to the pitcher.** A player is not used for this position in this age group.

**REASON:**

Girls this age are still learning to catch the ball and will miss most pitches. Using a coach or parent will speed up the game. Also, coach pitch teams often have only 7 or 8 players, so the extra player is needed in the field. Finally, in the excitement of batting, the batter may let go of the bat on the back swing or even throw the bat before running. We don’t want the girls to get hit by a flying bat. For this reason, the coach should also stay near the backstop.

**RULE** **7**

**Up to two coaches for the defense may be in the field with the players to help give instruction to the fielders.** The defensive coaches are in the field for instruction only and cannot touch a live ball during a play. If a defensive coach touches a ball, the base runners will be allowed to advance one base, in addition to the one base allowed on any overthrows.

COACHES CAN PITCH TO BATTERS AT HALF THE DISTANCE FROM THE PITCHING RUBBER (IN PITCHERS’ CIRCLE) AND THE HOME PLATE, BUT NO CLOSER THAN THAT DISTANCE.

**RULE 8:**

**NO Keeping Score**

**REASON:** We want the girls to have a great experience and have fun. At this age we want to focus on fundamentals and not winning and losing. We are batting through the line-up and not counting outs even though we want the girls to practice making outs.

Rules 9 **– New Rule as of Spring 2018**

**DEVELOPING PITCHERS**

Reason: to better prepare this age girls to be successful when time to move up to the next age group and give the girls the experience of pitching and batters the chance to hit ball from a player pitcher.

The Head Coaches will work with a few girls that may be able to attempt pitching and in approx. 2 weeks from League Opening Day, begin allowing pitchers to attempt to pitch to about 3 batters per game. Pitching distance to be determined by the Coaches and Rec Director.

**Notable in 8u group:**

 if shortage of player teams can play with at least 5 players

 (1st, 2nd, SS, 3rd, & Pitcher) with a coach or parent acting as catcher near the backstop.

**10** **and** **Under** **–** **House** **Rules** ***–*** ***Revised*** ***Spring*** ***2018***

This age group will play by and use NSA Rules, along with the following adopted HOUSE RULES.

NEW 10U RULE, AS OF SPRING 2018 – ALL INNINGS IN 10U WILL BE 5 RUN LIMIT –

FINAL INNING IS NOT OPEN – HOWEVER, IF HOME TEAM IS LOSING BY MORE THAN 5, AND THERE IS TIME TO ALLOW HOME TEAM TO BAT, THEN THE WOGC ENCOURAGES ALLOWING THE GIRLS TO FINISH THE GAME AND HOME TEAM BAT – THIS SHOULD BE DECIDED ON BY THE 2 HEAD COACHES AND IN COOPERATION AS TO ALLOW THE PLAYERS TO ENJOY THE PLAY TIME.

**RULE** **1** **–** **BASE** **STEALING**

Stealing of bases is limited to the following:

\*There will be no stealing of bases while a coach is pitching.

\*Balls going “behind the catcher will be considered a passed ball and the runner can advance one base (at her own risk)

\*A runner may not steal a base if the catcher drops or stops the ball in front of her or within the batters/umpire’s box (discretion by the coaches will be used if the ball goes to either side of the catcher; outside the aforementioned box)

\* Runners can’t advance if the throw back from the catcher gets pass the pitcher, UNLESS the pitcher throws ball to a base to make a play on a base runner and that throw is over thrown – then it should be only one base on that overthrow.

\*Bunting is permitted, however, if a runner is on 3rd and the batter misses the bunt, then the runner must

return to 3rd base. A runner on 1st at the same time will be permitted to steal 2nd base on a missed bunt.

**RULE** **2** **-** **OFFICIALS**

The 10 and Under age group will umpire their own games if for any reason Umpires are not available. If this happens, the coach for the defense will call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher, as well as out/safe on the bases, rules calls, etc. **Unless otherwise notified, Officials will be scheduled for all 10U games.**

**RULE** **3**

The 10 and Under age will place FIELDERS ON DEFENSE AS FOLLOWS:

\*Normal Infielders and 4 outfielders. **Rotate players**, adhering to the rule that nobody sits twice until everyone has sat once.

\*All the players present at a game will be placed in the batting order. Infield and outfield players should be changed around giving players a chance to play different positions. (Coach Discretion)

Exception: At times of Inter-League Play in games against other organizations, the Head Coach can at his or her discretion, choose to play any of his/her players for 3 defensive outs, if he/she chooses to do so.

**RULE** **4** **-** **PITCHING**

The pitcher is allowed only one walk per inning. After the first walk of the inning, if the pitcher throws 4 balls to another batter, a coach for the offense will then throw pitches to that batter to try and hit. When the coach takes over, the batter will keep the strike count obtained by the pitcher. The coach will pitch to that batter until she either strikes out (\*umpire is to call the 3rd Strike for the out\*) or hits the ball. Coach must stand with at least one foot on pitching rubber (to begin pitching motion) Coach must also make all attempts to NOT INTERFERE with ball in play. The pitcher will then take over again to pitch to the next batter.

**RULE** **5** **–** **In** **Field** **Fly** **Rule**

Infield fly rule WILL apply in the 10 and Under age group;

The Drop Third Strike Rule WILL NOT apply in the 10 and Under age group.