**Freeport Little League**

**Summary of Selective Rules (Girls Softball) 2024 Season**

**Coaching rules:**

1. Each team shall have no more than 3 coaches in the dugout and on the field at a time during the game (1 manager and 2 assistant coaches).
   1. To be a coach in the dugout and on the field, a background check must be submitted to Little League International. (free and online)
   2. More than 3 coaches can complete background checks so that coaches can be substituted between games, but the 3 coaches that start a game are the only ones allowed during that game. (Exceptions allowed for emergency situations with the approval of a FLL Board Member).

**Pitching Rules:**

1. Major Girls Division:
   1. Only players that are league age 11 and 12 or under may pitch.
   2. Pitching limit: 3 innings/player/game, innings do not have to be consecutive; 1 pitch in the inning = inning pitched
      1. This rule may be suspended or revised during the end-of-season tournament if approved by the Board.
2. Minor Girls Division:
   1. Pitching limit: 2 innings/player/game, innings do not have to be consecutive; 1 pitch in the inning = inning pitched
      1. This rule may be suspended or revised during the end-of-season tournament if approved by the Board.

**Substitution Rules:**

1. Minor Girl division will use a continuous batting order.
   1. Continuous Batting Order for is continued from one game to the next, i.e. the on-deck batter at the end of game 1 is the lead-off batter in game 2.
2. Note that all players must play in the field for **6 Consecutive Defensive Outs**

**Scoring:**

1. The official scorer of a game shall be the Home Team and they will be responsible for operating the scoreboard, if applicable.
2. The official pitch count record shall be maintained by the Visiting Team.

**Tie-Breakers:**

For purposes of the regular season standings, tie-breakers will be as follows:

1. Head-to-Head.
2. Run differential in games played between the teams that are tied.
3. Coin Toss.

**Calling Up Players:**

1. The Major Girls division can call up players from the Minor Girls division with the approval of a member of the Board. Any player called up may not pitch and will be listed at the bottom of the batting order. If a team is short and no player can be called up, a player can be substituted from another team in the same division. Same rule applies to the the Junoir Girls division, the player called up must be league age 11 or older.
2. The Minor Girls division is not allowed to call up players from a younger division; however they may use a player from another team within the same division with the permission of the acting Player Agent only. Players from other teams cannot pitch and must bat at the bottom of the order.

**Time Limits:**

Time limits for each division are summarized below (note- A new inning begins when the 3rd out is called in the bottom of the previous inning):

5/6 Coed Division

1. Time Limit is 1:15.
2. No new inning will begin after reaching the time limit. An exception can be made if all players have not batted twice.
3. If there is a tie score and the game is past its time limit, the game is over and the score will be recorded as a tie.

Minor Girls

1. Time Limit is 1:45
2. No new inning will begin after reaching the time limit.
3. If there is a tie score and the game is past its time limit, the game is over and the score will be recorded as a tie.

Major Girls

1. Time Limit is 1:45.
2. No new inning will begin after reaching the time limit.
3. If there is a tie score and the game is past its time limit, one additional inning will be played. If the game is still tied upon completion of the additional inning, the game is over and the score will be recorded as a tie.

**Starting Games with Less Than 9 Players**

Teams will be allowed to begin a game with a minimum number of 8 players, but they will be required to list 9 spots in their batting order and that spot in the order will be recorded as an out each time it comes up during the game. The umpires will allow no exceptions to this rule.

Minor girls: maximum of 9 players, minimum of 8 players, no recorded out for the 9th spot in the lineup. If fewer than 8 players are present the game may be played as a forfeit.

Coaches can position players within the following guidelines:

No shift rule: 9 players must be positioned in normal baseball positions before every pitch. If teams agree before the start of the game they may play with 10 fielders (4 outfielders), this rule applies only to the Minor Girls Division.

**Mercy Rules:**

1. 10 Runs after 4 Innings for all divisions.

**Runs Per Inning:**

1. Minor Girls and Major Girls will have run limit of 6 runs per half inning. Once the 6th run scores that half of the inning is over.
2. In the Minor Girls and Major Girls Division, the last inning of the game will automatically be “unlimited runs”, unless the game has reached its time limit and the visiting team has already batted and their half of the inning ended because of the run limit.

**Dropped 3rd Strike:**

1. The Junior Girls Division is the only division that uses the dropped 3rd strike rule.

**Sliding at Home:**

1. There is no rule that says a runner must slide at Home. The rule is that the runner must AVOID CONTACT. If the runner slides, they are deemed to have avoided contact.
2. This is a judgment call by the umpire.

**Special 5/6 year old League Rules (Coed only):**

1. A coach will deliver all pitches.
2. Each batter will receive as many as 6 pitches from the coach during an at bat. If the ball is not put into play after 6 pitches, the batter is out.
3. If a batter swings and misses for a 3rd strike prior to the 6th pitch of the at bat, the batter is NOT out.
4. If a ball is batted into play and strikes the pitcher, the ball is in play.
5. Base runners can only advance one base per play and only on a ball hit into play or when forced by a walk. There is no advancing on a wild throw or other kind of error.

**Special Minor Rules:**

1. Minor girls: once the schedule reaches June 1st, the 1st three batters of each inning will be pitched to by the defensive team, then switch to coaches pitch.
2. Normal pitching rules apply while a pitcher is pitching.
3. A coach shall deliver the rest of the pitches thrown in the inning. (All pitches from the coach prior to June 1).
4. Each batter will receive no more than 6 pitches from the coach during an at bat. If the ball is not put into play after 6 pitches, the batter is out.
5. If a batter swings and misses for a 3rd strike prior to the 6th pitch of the at bat, the batter is out and shall receive no more pitches.
6. If a ball is batted into play and strikes the pitcher, the ball is in play.
7. Any hit ball kept on the infield limits all runners to a one base advance. Runners can still be thrown out and it is a free throw to any base so that runners cannot advance in response to an error on the throw or catch during the play. Runners not forced to run can still hold the base.
8. Any hit ball that reaches the outfield grass limits all baserunners to a 2 base advance. Runners can still be thrown out at any base, and they do not have to attempt the second base, and it is a free throw to any base so that runners cannot advance in response to an error on the throw or catch at a base during the play. Please note this is not a ground-rule double rule, the play is still live. Finally, any ball hit over an outfield wall is still a home run on that field.