

## 2023 GROUND RULES

Norco Girls Softball  
2834 Hamner Ave.  
P.O. Box #126  
Norco, CA. 92860

### GENERAL GROUND RULES

- A. Home team will occupy the third 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout.
- B. A team may start a game with eight (8) players from their roster. Failure to do so at game time will result in forfeiture. 16U and 18U Divisions may start a game with seven (7) players if all the teams do not have a roster of ten (10) players to start the season. **No games will be rescheduled at the request of a coach or manager.** The only games rescheduled will be games postponed due to inclement weather or other acts of nature.
- C. All divisions will bat the entire roster. Should any player become injured and have to leave the game, there will be no penalty and that player shall be deleted from the team line-up. A player arriving late for a game may be added to the bottom of the batting order without penalty. A player having to leave early can be deleted from the batting order without penalty, providing the minimum number of players rule is still met.
- D. For the 6U Divisions, one half (1/2) inning shall consist of either three (3) outs or five (5) runs scored, regardless of the number of team members.
- E. For the 8U Division, one half (1/2) inning shall consist of either three (3) outs or five (5) runs scored, regardless of the number of team members. Exception to the maximum run rule is in the last inning (per time or complete game) where the home team can continue to bat until they record three outs or score enough to win the game. 1:30 drop dead and revert back.
- F. For the 10U Division, one half (1/2) inning shall consist of either three (3) outs or five (5) runs scored. The 5 up rule will apply in the 10U Division. Example: Team A can score 5 runs and the inning is called if team B has no runs. Then team B comes up to bat, team B can score a total of 10 runs - its first 5 and then an additional 5 - then team B will be 5 up.
- G. For the 12U and 14U divisions, 6 up rule will apply.
- H. A complete game consists of seven (7) innings or the time limit per division below:
1. 6U – one (1) hour and fifteen (15) minutes drop dead.
  2. 8U – one (1) hour and twenty (20) minutes no new inning with a one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes drop dead and revert back. Example of revert back: If the home team is losing and up to bat as time expires, the score shall revert back to the previous completed inning. If the visiting team is winning and batting as time expires, the score shall also revert back to the last completed inning. If the home team is winning or tied and batting as time expires, no revert back, game is complete.
  3. 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U - one (1) hour and twenty (20) minutes no new inning
  4. Mercy rule applies when 10 runs after three (3) innings; 12 runs after four (4) innings or 15 runs after five (5) innings.
- I. The time limit for games start when the (1<sup>st</sup>) first pitch of the game is thrown or as directed by the umpire. The umpire is the official timekeeper.
- J. 6U Division pitching distance is thirty feet (30'); bases are sixty feet(60').
- K. 8U Division pitching distance is thirty feet (30'); bases are sixty feet(60').
- L. 10U Division pitching distance is thirty-five feet (35'); bases are sixty feet (60').
- M. 12U Division pitching distance is forty feet (40'); bases are sixty feet (60').
- N. 14U, 16U and 18U Division pitching distance is forty-three feet (43'); bases are sixty feet (60').
- O. 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U Divisions will use a twelve inch (12") Worth Dream Seam C12RYLA (optic yellow) ball; 10U Division will use an eleven inch (11") Worth Riff (optic yellow) ball; 6U and 8U Divisions will use a ten inch (10") Worth Soft Dot (optic yellow) ball or approved equal.

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- P. Batting helmets shall be worn by all offensive players while on the field, including practices. Batting helmets shall be of a design approved under USA Softball rules. Face masks are required on all helmets. No chin straps. All players must wear a helmet in the bull pins.
- Q. For League play, softball bats require the USA Softball stamp and must bear the USA Softball certification mark. A metal bat should be free of burrs and cracks, and shall not have exposed rivets, pins, rough or sharp edges, or any form of exterior fastener that would present a hazard. Please refer to the ASA list of non approved bats.
- R. All catchers will be required to wear protective equipment, including during warmups, which consists of a catcher's mask, chest protector, shin guards, and helmet as approved by the League. Refusal will constitute an illegal player.
- S. All appeals and protests will be handled according to USA Softball rules and NGS, By-Laws and Ground Rules.
1. A fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) cash must be paid by a team representative filing the protest before the protest will be deemed valid. This money will be forfeited and placed into the NGS, general fund if the protest is deemed invalid.
  2. Protest hearings and decisions to be held and finalized within one (1) week from filing.
  3. The twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) fee will be refunded if the protest is overturned or if it is not acted on within one (1) week.
- T. There shall be no DP/Flex in NGS.
- U. Pitchers in the 8U division are eligible to pitch up to nine (9) outs per game. Pitchers in the 10U division are eligible to pitch up to twelve (12) outs per game. Pitchers in 12U and 14U/High School divisions are eligible to pitch unlimited. The first pitch after the ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) out in 8U division and the twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) out in 10U will constitute forfeit of the game by fielding team. If at conclusion of the inning, no earned outs were recorded. The pitcher that initially started the inning will be charged all three (3) outs.
- V. A pitcher may not pitch more outs than listed for her respective division, including Championship Playoff games and the Championship game.
- W. There shall be no infield fly rule or drop third strike in the 8U division.
- X. League standings will be determined by overall record for the season or by a tournament approved by the League. At the end of the season, teams tied for spots in the standings may, tie breaker rule will be determined by head to head, runs allowed, and runs scored. When a tie is still present a coin flip will determine outcome.  
For a playoff game, the following shall apply:
1. If the game is tied after the last inning played under the one (1) hour and thirty (30) minute time limit rule, the game shall be continued under the USA Softball International Tie Breaker rule until one team wins.
  2. Team standings are only kept in Spring season, not Fall.
  3. Fall seeding will be determined by a hat pick by the league.
- Y. 8U Division: With a runner on first (1st) base, if the catcher throws the ball to second (2nd) base on a steal attempt, and it is an overthrow, the runner must stop at second (2<sup>nd</sup>) base. Other runners may advance at their own risk, except for a runner on third (3<sup>rd</sup>). Home plate is closed.
- Z. NGS, will play by the USA Softball pitching rules for the current year.
- AA. If any manager or coach is abusing the Free Pitcher Substitution rule to affect the number of outs pitched, that action is not allowed. A disciplinary hearing may be held upon a written complaint per the Conduct rules in the By-Laws.
- AB. A team may borrow up to three (3) players from other teams to complete a game.
1. A team that has six (6) players less than the roster must forfeit the game.
  2. Borrowed players can only substitute for the division in which they are registered in or up.
  3. Borrowed players can only play the outfield
  4. Borrowed players must bat at the end of the line up.
  5. Managers may not borrow players if their roster is full (9 players)
- AC. In the event of a forfeit the final score will be recorded 7-0

\*\*Please see the 6U division supplementary rules on pages 3 and 4

\*\* Please see the 8U division supplementary rules on page 5

## **2023 GROUND RULES**

### **MANAGER AND COACH RULES**

- A. Criteria for selection of Coaches and Managers:
1. Quality of Prior Experience.
  2. Willingness coupled with sensitivity to the girls' needs.
- B. Managers or Coaches must see that their players stay in the dugout at all times when not on the playing field.
- C. The selection of Managers and Coaches must avoid an unfair distribution of player talent, especially pitching ability.
- D. There is to be no consumption of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products/Vape/E-cigarette in the dugout or on the field. Managers and Coaches shall not consume any alcohol while they are responsible for NGS girls.
- E. Only the Board Approved Managers, Coaches, team players, and one team parent that is background checked are allowed in the dugout.
- F. Home team manager of the first game played on each field will be responsible for watering, dragging, and lining of the field prior to the start of each game scheduled. Home team managers of all divisions will be responsible for taking bases, clocks and tools to the proper storage area after the last game of the day on that field. Last team is responsible for putting all equipment away and watering field.
- G. Each team will clean their own dugout, bleachers, and surrounding area after each game. A Board Representative on duty will inspect all areas before the team manager can leave. Failure to comply shall result in a one game suspension of the team manager or coach or forfeit the next league game.
- H. All jewelry must be removed before game time per USA Softball. Also, combs, brushes, electronic devices (with the exception of a medical device), etc. must be removed from player's pockets. Said items shall be considered illegal equipment and shall be removed from the game.
- I. Any person violating Article VI, Conduct Rules E, F, and G, or Article VII, Rule C of the NGS, By-Laws will be expelled from the game by the umpire or any Board Member on duty.
- J. Home team will be the official scorebook. The score sheet will be presented to both teams for signature as well as the umpire. The umpire will return the score sheet to the snack bar or other designated location. Managers failing to sign score sheet may cause forfeiture of game.
- K. Pitching changes, players entering the defensive line-up from the bench, and players leaving the game because of injury shall be verbally announced by the Manager to the Umpire and the Official Scorekeeper and to the Scorekeepers for the opposing teams. Failure to do so constitutes an illegal player. Players may be moved from one defensive position to another without notification, except for pitching changes.

### **PLAYER AGENT RULES**

- A. Player agents are responsible for the draft being conducted according to the By-Laws.
- B. Late sign-ups will be distributed according by the Registration Coordinator/Player Agent will conduct a meeting along with two (2) other Board members not affiliated with said division. Player Agents will notify the manager and player. Identified players will be distributed separately, and with regard for League parity. Managers, Coaches, and Player Agents cannot manipulate late sign-ups.
- C. Player agents shall also be responsible for monitoring the activities of the All-Star team from their respective division and report to the Executive Board.
- D. Select Teams, Sunday's only.

### **6U DIVISION SUPPLEMENTARY RULES**

#### ***PLAYING FIELD***

- A. Dimensions: Pitching 30 feet; Bases 60 feet

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### **PLAYING BALL**

A. Softball: 10" Worth SoftDot Level 1 ( and/or approved equal)

### **PLAYING FIELD**

A. 10 foot chalk arc shall be extended from the first baseline to the third baseline. If a hit ball does not pass this line, it shall be foul and considered one pitch.

B. A chalk circle shall be laid surrounding the 30 foot pitching mound.

C. A Coach shall pitch four pitches to the batter. If the ball is not hit in fair territory after four pitches a tee must be used.

### **GAME**

A. Game time shall be one (1) hour fifteen (15) minutes drop dead.

B. Each team will bat the entire roster.

C. 6u Division, if a player is 3 ½ - 4 yrs old they must have a background checked parent or guardian with them to assist on the field. Once the player is deemed to have concept of the game and is not a safety issue, the player can be on the field without assistance of parent or guardian once it is approval by the 6u player agent, coach liaison and 1<sup>st</sup> vice president.

D. A coach shall pitch to the batter four (4) pitches from the pitching circle. If the batter hits off the tee they shall advance only to one base. If the batter fouls off last pitch they will receive an additional pitch. If the batter does not hit a fair ball then the batting tee must be used until a fair ball is hit.

E. There shall be no hit batter, strike out or bases on balls.

F. All Teams must use Continuous Batting Order.

G. The score is not recorded, but outs are recorded with the team at bat hitting until 3 outs or 5 runs scored.

H. A T-Ball (baseball) bat will be allowed in this division only.

### **BASE RUNNERS**

A. Once a ball is hit fair, the runners may advance until the ball reaches the pitchers circle.

B. Runners must return to the starting base on a foul ball.

C. A ball thrown out of play shall stop action.

D. Only 1 base is allowed on overthrows whether or not the ball is in fair or foul territory.

E. If an out is made on a runner by the defensive team, the runner shall be removed from the playing field.

F. Base runners cannot leave their base until the ball is hit and can only advance to home on a hit ball.

### **PLAYERS**

A. All players will play the entire game (page 5 (A), 10 players on the field at one time.

B. All players shall be placed on the field for defense.

C. All players shall be rotated defensively to learn different positions.

D. All defensive players must stay behind the plane of the pitching plate. Outfielders must be about 10 feet behind the base path, stay behind the pitching circle and play in their defensive position.

E. The pitcher must have one foot within the pitching circle.

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F. A Board Approved Manager and/or Board Approved Coach will take positions on the field to coach the players on defense and will call the outs on the field (acting as the umpires). If a coach is hit with the ball, it should be considered a dead ball. The batter may only advance one base.

### **8U AND UNDER SUPPLEMENTARY GROUND RULES**

A. Ten (10) players are used on defense (six on the infield and four in the outfield). There is open substitution throughout each game with all batters batting. No one will sit consecutive innings.

B. There shall be no infield fly rule or dropped third strike rule. Stealing is limited to one (1) base per pitch. Home plate is closed. Runners may take their lead after the ball has left the pitcher's hand. If an attempt is made from third to steal home on a pitch; if the runner reaches home safely, the runner will be returned to third base. If the runner is put out at home, the runner is out.

C. The pitcher should follow by all USA/ASA pitching rules.

D. The League must very clearly inform 8 and under managers that until the ball is firmly caught in the pitcher's circle, the ball is live. This means on a batted ball that runners can continue around the base path until the pitcher has the ball. This also means that the runner can take the base they are heading for if the pitcher gains control while they are running. This also means that runners can advance even while the infielders or outfielders are throwing the ball to the pitcher. The importance of this rule cannot be stressed enough. During All-Stars, the girls can be quite overwhelmed by tactical base runners.

E. Illegal pitches will not be called. The umpire may inform the pitcher of the error in the pitching form and consult with the coach as well for training purposes.

### **FIRST (1st) HALF OF SEASON ONLY**

A. There will be no walks. If the pitcher has thrown four (4) balls the adult pitcher will come in. The batter will receive only the remaining strikes left on the count. The adult pitcher **MUST** pitch from the rubber. If the batter is hit by the rostered pitcher, the count will be cleared and the adult will come in to pitch, batter will receive three (3) pitches. No contact with the ball will result in an out.

B. When a ball is pitched by an adult pitcher, the pitcher from the opposing team must remain behind the pitching rubber with one foot inside the circle until the ball is hit. If the opposing pitcher moves in front of the pitching rubber before the ball is hit, a "dead ball" play is called and the batter returns to the plate. If a batted ball strikes the adult pitcher, a "dead ball" is called and the batter returns to the plate (do over).

C. Batters may not bunt during a Coach pitch.

D. Coaches and Managers for the defensive team will be allowed in the outfield only. Only two are allowed on the field at any given time. This rule applies for the First Half of the season only. No coaches are allowed on the field during the second half of the season.

### **SECOND (2<sup>nd</sup>) HALF OF THE SEASON ONLY**

The current 8U USA Softball Official Rules of Softball and the Southern California USA Softball Rules and Regulations shall be in effect with the following Exceptions and Modifications:

A. No Coach Pitch, Player Pitch **ONLY**.

B. No Infield fly rule or dropped third strike.

C. Runners can only steal one base per pitch ball.

D. Round Robin batting must be used.

## **2023 GROUND RULES**

### **OTHER RULES**

- A. No jewelry shall be worn on the field during practice or games.
- B. No visible jewelry may not be worn at practices or games. This includes newly piercings.
- C. Players may not chew gum; eat candy, etc. during games and practices. No unauthorized food will be allowed in dugout.
- D. All players shall clean up before leaving the dugout and stands.
- E. During Championship or Play off games there is no revert back there must be a winner.