**Clarence Girls’ Softball League**

DIVISION RULES - PONYTAIL

Clarence Girls' Softball League uses the Official Softball Playing Rules as adopted by the *Amateur Softball Association of America***.**

**I. GENERAL**

1. Players in 2nd and 3rd grade, as well as all 8u travel players are eligible for the Ponytail Division. As an optimum, each team should consist of 10-12 girls.
2. Good sportsmanship is always the rule, including players, coaches and spectators.
3. Games will have six innings. Players shall play at least two innings in the infield and two in the outfield. Four completed innings will constitute an official game in the case of a rainout; score recorded at the end of the last completed full inning will stand.
4. The home team, designated on the schedule, shall have the following responsibilities:
	1. Sit on the first base side of the field
	2. Provide JUGS “Softie” balls used for pitching machine
	3. Teams short players must use "call-up" players from the Minor Division
	4. Teams are expected to be present regardless of weather conditions unless by mutual prior agreement by the coaches and approval of Division Coordinator. Once a game starts, rain outs will be declared mutually by the coaches.
5. Any fan yelling or being a deterrent of play must be handled by the coaches. If the spectator(s) do not stop after two warnings, the game may be forfeited to the opposing team. Spectators (not affiliated with a team) causing a disturbance will be approached by both coaches to resolve the problem. The Division Coordinator should be made aware of any issues immediately following the end of the game.
6. Smoking and alcoholic beverages are not allowed at any CGSL game
7. Jewelry shall be removed and hair shall be secured to avoid any incidents with the proper use of the pitching machine.

**II. PITCHING**

1. A head coach or assistant coach will use a pitching machine to pitch to his or her players. Pitching machine will be setup at 30’ measured from the back of home plate and set at 30 mph.
2. There will be no called balls or strikes and no walks. The batter will be out if she swings and misses on the third strikeor if she fails to hit a ball into the field of play after seven pitches. If a foul ball occurs on the last pitch, the batter will receive an additional pitch. The coach feeding the machine shall keep track of swinging strikes and the number of pitches, announcing when there is one remaining pitch.

C) If the pitching machine is hit by a batted ball the play will be called dead. The batter will be awarded a hit and every runner will move up one base.

**III. BATTING**

1. All players will bat in continuous batting order.
2. If the offensive team scores five runs during one inning, the inning shall be declared over the instant the fifth run scores.
3. If a batter throws her bat in such a way that it would be injurious to persons or property, the coach will warn the batter. Should the same batter repeat this offense, she will be declared out and the play becomes dead.
4. All girls must wear batting helmets when batting, on base, and on deck.

**IV. BASE RUNNING**

1. No leadoffs or stealing is allowed. Runners must remain on base until the ball is hit.
2. When the ball is in play, a base runner can advance at her own risk until the play is declared dead. If a runner is more than halfway between the bases, she may advance to the next base. On a hit to the infield a runner or batter-runner may advance one base; on a hit to the outfield a runner or batter-runner may advance two bases.
3. If the catcher for the next inning is on base when the second out occurs, she may be replaced with a pinch runner to allow her time to dress for the next defensive inning.
4. “Non-pitcher” coaches may assume the duty as base coaches. In this capacity, they may only provide instruction to their baserunners and shall in no way obstruct the playing of the game.

**V. DEFENSE**

1. A normal defensive team will use only one pitcher positioned on either side of the circle, one catcher, four infielders and at least three outfielders. Outfielders should be positioned at least ten feet from the straight line between the bases. All players should wear a softball safety cage regardless of defensive position.
2. The catcher should be positioned at least four feet behind home plate. Catchers must wear a helmet, face mask, chest protector, and shin guards during games and practices. Safety is always the first priority.
3. The defensive player assigned the pitcher position must keep at least one foot in the pitching circle or be positioned on the pitching mound until the ball is hit. There shall be one pitcher only. The pitcher, first base, and third shall all wear a protective cage or batting helmet for safety purposes.
4. The infield fly rule is not in effect.
5. The defensive play will end when an infielder has gained control of the ball in the infield or after one attempted play at any base. The runner then stops at the next base (one base advance on batter ball is in the infield; two bases on batted ball in outfield).
6. Players should be rotated equally between infield and outfield with no player playing the infield more than 4 innings per game. Coaches should ensure all players have equal playing time throughout the season.

**VI. SCORING**

1. For innings one through five, a five-run limit is in effect.
2. For the sixth (final) inning, a maximum of eight runs can be scored by either team.
3. If a home team is down by more than 8 runs in the bottom of the sixth inning, the home team should bat its lineup with a limit of 8 runs.
4. If a home team is ahead by more than 8 runs in the bottom of the sixth inning, the game is over, and the home team shall not bat its lineup.

**VII. UMPIRES**

1. Coaches will work together to umpire games.
2. In the postseason, an impartial member of the CGSL Board of Directors or a designee will serve as umpire.

**VIII. POST GAME**

1. At the end of the game, players will exchange a handshake as a gesture of good sportsmanship.
2. Each coach is responsible for the proper condition, cleaning, adjustments, safety concerns and accounting of league equipment. If replacement of equipment is needed, coach shall contact the Equipment Manager. Each coach must return allleague property at the end of the season.

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