**Clarence Girls’ Softball League**

**DIVISION RULES - AAA**

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

**I. GENERAL**Players in 4th and 5th grade, as well as all 10u travel players are eligible for AAA Division. As an optimum, each team should consist of 10-12 girls.

1. Good sportsmanship is the rule at all times, including players, coaches and spectators.
2. Games will have six innings; each girl on the team roster who is present and physically able to participate must play at least a minimum of four defensive innings. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a forfeited game. 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.
3. The home team, designated on the schedule, shall have the following responsibilities:

	1. Sit on the first base side of the infield
	2. Supply game balls
	3. Team’s short players must use "call-up" players from the Ponytail 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.
4. 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.
5. Smoking and alcoholic beverages are not allowed at any CGSL games.
6. Jewelry shall be removed and hair shall be secured to avoid any incidents during game play.

**II. PITCHING**A) The distance from the pitcher's rubber to the home plate is 35’ measured from the front of the pitching rubber to the back of home plate.
B) Pitchers can pitch a maximum of 2 innings.

C) No illegal pitches will be called against the pitcher. In the event of an illegal pitch a coach shall instruct pitcher how to correct violation as best they are able.

D) Pitching form and regulations will follow ASA rules for fast pitch softball. There are no walks – batter either hits or strikes out. AAA pitcher pitches to each batter until either the batter hits, strikes out, or 4 called balls are thrown. After 4 called balls are thrown, a coach/parent will throw a maximum of 3 pitches batter. The strike count is not reset. Batter either hits or strikes out after these final 3 pitches (not counting foul balls).

E) If a pitcher hits three batters with a pitched ball in the same half inning the pitcher must be changed.

**III. BATTING**A) Teams will bat all girls present in continuous batting order.

B) If the offensive team scores five runs during one inning, the inning shall be declared over the instant the fifth run scores.

C) If the batter throws her bat in such a way that, in the coach’s opinion, it may be injurious to persons or property, the umpire will warn the batter. Should the same batter repeat this offense, she will be declared out and the play declared dead.

D) Bunting is permitted against player-pitcher. Bunting is not permitted against a coach-pitcher.

**IV. BASE RUNNING**
A) No stealing is allowed.

B) Runners may lead off. Runners must remain on base until the ball leaves the pitcher’s hand. The base runner must return to the base after each pitch. A runner in violation will be warned once by the umpire-coach. Repeated rule violation will result in the runner being declared out.

C) When the ball is in play, a base runner can advance at her own risk until the play is over. A play is considered over when the pitcher has possession of the ball within the circle. If a runner is more than halfway between the bases, she may advance to the next base.

D) 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.

**V. DEFENSE**A) The defensive team will consist of nine players with at least three outfielders. The outfielders should be approximately twenty feet from the infield. A minimum of eight fielders is encouraged. All players shall wear a softball safety cage regardless of defensive position.

B) There are no limits on substitutions except that pitchers may pitch a maximum of 2 innings.

C) Coaches must call up players from the next lower division only to prevent a forfeiture of their game. The call up player cannot pitch and must be assigned to the last position on the batting order

D) Catcher must wear a helmet, facemask, chest protector, and shin guards during games and all practices. Safety is always the first priority.

E) The dropped third strike rule is not in effect.

F) The infield fly rule is not in effect.

G) Players should be rotated equally between infield and outfield with no player playing the infield more than 4 innings per game.

**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 in the bottom of the sixth inning, the game is over, and the home team shall not bat its lineup.
5. A mercy rule is in effect for all games; 8 runs after 5 completed innings.

**VII. UMPIRES**

1. Coaches, or an adult designee, 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.

**VI. POST GAME**

A) At the end of the game, players will exchange a handshake as a gesture of good sportsmanship.

B) 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 all league property at the end of the season.

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