



# **SECTION VIII**

**2023**

# **MODIFIED SOFTBALL HANDBOOK**

## **Modified Girls Softball**

### **Girls Softball Coordinator**

**Rachel Barry**      **Clarke HS** [RBarry@emufsd.us](mailto:RBarry@emufsd.us)

cell 516-647-5260

### **Rules Interpreter**

Rick Norris 917-865-4461      [Norrisimo@aol.com](mailto:Norrisimo@aol.com)

**Sport Season: Spring**

**Start Date: March 27, 2023**

**End Date: June 3, 2023**

Required Number of Practices prior to 1<sup>st</sup> scrimmage/contest: 6

Maximum Number of Games: 11 contests

Two scrimmages will be permitted prior to the first game

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rachel Barry

Section VIII

Softball Coordinator

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## MODIFIED LEVEL

### NASSAU COUNTY SOFTBALL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION FASTPITCH SOFTBALL RULES INFO 2023

Rules Interpreter— Rick Norris 917-865-4461

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#1 - Chin-straps on batting helmets are OPTIONAL. If a player chooses to wear a chin strap it should be properly worn.

#2 - On certain occasions, on-deck batters may choose to use either on-deck circle. This considered choice may not happen often because at the middle school level we do not often use any on-deck circles that are in playable area. Most are outside the backstop or bench areas where this choice is not available. #3 - Adult base coaches must wear a hard shell helmet with brim. This helmet may not be made of plastic and does not need to have any ear flaps. The helmets worn by student base coaches remain specified as the double ear-flapped approved batting helmet type with face-guard/face-mask.

Jewelry is now permitted. Stud earrings, small chains tucked in, bracelets that are tight to the wrist, rings.

Braids with beads should be covered.

No jewelry on the pitcher's hand that could be distracting or damage the ball.

If an official deems it dangerous it must be removed.

## REMINDERS:

- Make sure a pitching distance of 40' has been measured out for use.
- Make sure bases are secured properly in place. If the pitcher's plate is not secured, a line may be drawn on the ground to pitch from. The game cannot be played if you do not have a legally manufactured one piece double base at first base with each side of equal thickness.
- Catchers shall wear protective equipment during the game and when warming up the pitcher.
- On offense, the batting helmets (face mask/guard is mandatory on helmet) and all of the bats must be ASA approved. Chin strap is optional.
- 15 run Rule after at least 5 innings: No visiting team can win by the 15 run rule in the top of any partial 5th, 6th, or 7th inning. Innings 1 - 6 allow no more than 3 outs or 5 runs scored. Unlimited runs in 7th inning. With advance notice, inning 5 or 6 could follow the unlimited runs procedure to end a game.

- All ASA and NYS Fast-pitch rules are in effect including bunting, stealing, dropped third strike and pitcher/catcher courtesy rulings. NO METAL SPIKES on shoes! There is no "must slide" rule; head first slides are allowed.

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- A minimum of 9 players BAT and 9 PLAY in the field. 10 may BAT and 10 may play in the field. You can have a 9 player team against a team of 10 player team. There is a possible 11 player DP game interpreted as 11 BAT and any 10 (of those 11) PLAY THE FIELD. You cannot start with 8 at a middle school game as per long-standing Section VII Athletic Council Ruling. However, if an INJURY causes your middle school team to have only 8 legal players to continue a game in progress, NYSPHSAA says, "The re-entry rules can be waived and a player who is on the bench and would normally have been ineligible to return to play can be used to re-enter as a replacement for the injured person and may even bat in a different batting position on the fine-up card than she was originally listed for. If you staffed with 10 and are forced to play with 9 under a NON-INJURY situation, you can continue to play shorthanded and an "out" should be recorded each time the missing batter's batting position comes up in the order. If you then go down to 8 players due to a non-injury situation, the game is ended at that point.
- USA rules, 7 innings however, NO NEW INNING after generally allotted 2 hour game time from when you actually start

the game. Game time starts after pre-game plate conference with umpires. For example, a game starting at 4:15 can continue until no new inning being allowed to begin after 6:15. There is no such thing as "all play ceases after 2 hours"; we finish the inning as necessary. NO extra innings are allowed. A tie is a tie in Middle School.

- The NYS Softball Committee and Section VIII continue to stress ail liability and safety concerns for girls<sup>1</sup> fast-pitch softball. Dugout Conduct rules, Only one on-deck batter rule, Protective equipment for players if warming up a pitcher, the Concussion rule, Bat and Helmet inspection procedures, Jewelry is now permitted and Good Sportsmanship promotion.
- Added Reminders: No metal should be visible through the legal 10" - 15" bat grip area. Remember to report substitutions to the plate umpire. All starters and subs may re-enter once into the same batting position on the line-up card, You get three charged defensive conferences per game and one charged offensive conference per inning. Pitcher should first step onto the pitcher's plate with hands separated with ball in either the hand or the glove. Pitch starts after the hands have come together for at least 1 and no more than 10 seconds and then are separated

# "PLAY BALL"

**2022 USA Softball Rule Changes with Comments as of October 27, 2021 NOTE: All changes below are EFFECTIVE January 1, 2022 unless otherwise noted**

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Rule 3, Section 1D: Delete the sentence; any attachment such as a molded finger grip, flare cone or choke up device must be attached with grip tape.

Comment: Removes the requirement to use tape to attachments added to the grip.

Rule 4, Section 1C [1]: Adds a letter D and E. D allows for ONE EP so you can bat 10. E allows you to use the DP/Flex with ONE EP to bat 10 players. In both D and E, any player in the line-up can play defense. Substitutions for the pitcher and catcher must be reported.

Comment: This allows for an EP in Junior Olympic Girls Classification of Play. In E the DP/Flex Rule is in effect so if the Flex is taken out of the defense it is a substitution.

Also clarifies substitutions for the pitcher and catcher must be reported.

Rule 4, Section 1C: Change the designation of “Baseman” to “Base player”.

Comment: This change better represents all who participate in our game.

Rule 4, Section 2L: Creates an additional section in the ADA Rule which allows a player with a disability, who needs to come out of the game due to the disability, to have a replacement player until the disability subsides.

Comment: This allows players who have certain conditions such as a diabetic event, to leave the game and be replaced until they can return, without requiring a substitution.

Rule 6A, Section 3K: (Women's and JO Girls) Pushing off and dragging the pivot foot in contact with the ground or having both feet in the air is allowed.

Comment: Allows for Women and Junior Olympic Girls Classification of Play to have both feet in the air at the same time but must still stay within the 24” pitching plate