

2023 Softball League Rules – 6U Division

Revised 3.23.23

Division Requirements

- 1) All players must wear a full conforming uniform during game play, unless both coaches agree otherwise.
- 2) The official ball is the 11-inch Incrediball (typically cloth on the outside).
- 3) All players must have equal playing time. All players must play both infield and outfield within the first three (3) innings of a game. If you have special circumstances, they must be approved by a softball commissioner.
- 4) Players may not taunt an opponent. Derogatory comments are not allowed. Violation results in warning, the second violation results in ejection from the game.
- 5) Coaches, players and fans will exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. Profanity is strictly prohibited. Violation results in a warning, the second violation results in an ejection from the game.
- 6) All coaching staff must sign coach's code of conduct and all parents must sign the parent's code of conduct, both to be filed with the league prior to the first game or the game is forfeited.
- 7) USA rules will be used where not specified on this document.

Equipment Requirements

- 1) Defensive face masks are mandatory. I know it is hard to keep masks on 5 & 6 year old girls, but we have to get them used to playing in them. I will not push the mandate that hard, however, Pitcher's helper will be no exceptions.
- 2) Batting helmet with face mask must be worn while batting and running the bases.
- 3) Heart guards are required for pitcher's helpers.

Batting

- 1) Coaches' pitch will be used for all girls and each girl will receive five (5) pitches. If the girl does not hit the ball on those pitches they will complete their at bat by hitting off the tee.
- 2) No bunting is allowed
- 3) Coaches' pitch will be underhand in order to teach the batter how to hit this type of pitch.
- 4) All players present for the game shall bat in order, whether playing defensively or not.
- 5) An inning is over when the entire roster has batted. The final batter of the inning shall continue running all of the bases. The batting order will be reversed each inning.
- 6) If the batter completely misses the ball on their third (3rd) swing attempt (when hitting off the tee), it is considered a strikeout.
- 7) If the batter hits part of the ball and part of the rubber batting tee, it is a fair ball.
- 8) If the batter hits none of the ball and hits the only the rubber batting tee, it is a foul ball.
- 9) A coach from the batting team is responsible for putting the ball into play prior to each swing. The coach will hold the ball above their head prior to each swing, announce the ball is in play, place the ball on the tee, and step back out of the way.

Base Running

- 1) If base runner would be considered out, they will be returned to the dugout.
- 2) Runners may only advance one (1) base per offensive play.
- 3) Runners may not leave any base until the ball is hit into play.
- 4) Stealing of bases is not allowed in this age division.

Fielding

- 1) The entire batting roster will play defense. Team will play five (5) infielders (1st base, 2nd base, shortstop, 3rd base, and pitcher's helper) and the remaining players will play in the outfield.
 - 2) Outfielders must start in the outfield grass prior to each swing.
 - 3) A catcher will not be used in this age division.
 - 4) Pitcher's helper must wear a batting helmet with face mask while on the field.
 - 5) Two (2) coaches from the defensive team may be stationed in the outfield grass in order to provide defensive instruction.
 - 6) It is the fielding coaches' responsibility to make sure that all defensive players are paying attention prior to the ball being hit.
 - 7) All players MUST rotate positions. No player should play the same position in the same game.
- *** 6U WILL count outs. If a player is thrown out in a play, that player will be out and will return to the dugout. However, all players will still bat in the inning. This will express reward for the defensive player who makes an out, even if they make more than three (3) outs. Starting the last two weeks of the season, we will start to track a three (3) out rule. If the defense gets three (3) outs in an inning, the inning is over.

Game Length

- 1) Regulation game time is one hour (1:00) from the first pitch. No new inning will begin after the time limit has expired. New inning begins immediately following the third out of the previous innings. Tie games can be called in this division.
- 2) The following will be used for rain out and delay of game. The game is a complete game at the completion of three and one-half innings (3.5), if the home team is ahead, or four (4) innings if the visiting team is ahead. In the event a game is delayed by rain and either of these conditions has been met, the game is over and the score is final. If, however, neither of these two conditions has been met, the game will be suspended and the game will restart with a new time limit of one hour (1:00) of play as soon as possible.

Code of Conduct

All persons associated with Mt. Vernon Optimist Softball program, including coaches, players, umpires, parents, and attendees, will conduct themselves both responsibly and courteously. If a person's conduct results in an ejection, they will be asked to leave the property. They will have five minutes to comply and if they refuse, the offending team will forfeit the game.

Any "trash talking", derogatory comments, profanity, or abusive language toward a coach, player, umpire, parent, or attendee will result in a team warning. A second offense, during any will result in immediate ejection and suspension from the next scheduled game.

Any intentional physical contact by a coach, player, umpire, parent, or attendee will result in immediate ejection and suspension from attending Mt. Vernon Optimist sporting events for the remainder of the season.