



# ***ELV Softball***

## ***Eastern Lehigh Valley Softball League***

### **2020 - 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> JUNIOR RULES**

#### **→ General Rules**

- 1) **Game Times** - All game times and days will be chosen by the home team coach - There are no set days/times that teams will play. Normally games are played Monday – Thursdays.
- 2) **Length of game and minimum playing time of players.**
  - A. Seven (7) innings
    - a. A running batting order consisting of all the players is mandatory
    - b. Each player must play at least three (3) innings in the field in a seven (7) inning games or a minimum of two (2) innings in any game of less than 7 innings that is shortened due to darkness, weather or a mercy rule. **No player shall sit for consecutive innings.**
- 3) **Dimensions** - The pitching rubber shall be forty-three (43) feet from the back of the plate and the bases will be set at sixty (60) feet.

#### 4) Complete Games

- A. In the event of bad weather or darkness, a game shall be considered complete after five (5) innings, or four & a half innings (4-1/2) if the home team is leading.
- B. In the event that the home team is ahead by ten (10) runs after four & a half innings (4-1/2) innings, or the visiting team is ahead by ten (10) runs after the five (5) innings.

#### 5) Equipment

- A. The home team shall supply one new ball and one backup ball for each game.
  - I. A twelve (12) inch ASA .47 approved optic yellow softball shall be used for play.  
**Red stitching is mandatory**
- B. Bats
  - I. All bats must be 2004 ASA or BESR certified softball bats.
- C. Helmets
  - I. Batters and base runners must wear protective helmets with attached facemasks and chin straps.
- D. Pitching Facemasks shall be optional but **highly recommended** for all pitchers
- E. All coaches are required to have first aid kits at all practices and games. A pair of rubber gloves must be available.
- F. Hit sticks may not be used during games.
- G. Metal cleats may not be worn.**

#### 6) Rosters

- A. Minimum size - Eleven (11) player minimum unless exception is approved by league board.
- B. Minimum players needed for game is eight (8), no automatic out will be charged provided there are eight (8) players in the line-up. If there are less than eight (8) players, the offending team will FORFEIT the game to the opposing team. The opposing team has the option of supplying a player (s). The Forfeiting team is responsible for paying the umpire.
- C. All coaches will receive copies of each team's league roster. Names of any player added to the league roster will be furnished to all the coaches by the league statistician.
- D. Bringing up of players
  - I. Fifth/Sixth Grade players may be brought up to this level on a ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) and tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) player per game basis. All players who have been brought up may not play any more innings than the regularly rostered players. The player must play at her primary level if they have a game the same day/night.
  - II. Fifth/Sixth Grade players **pitching** will be restricted to three (3) appearances per current season. These appearances shall be permitted only in the event of sickness, injury, or vacation. Additional appearances will be permitted by league approval only.
  - III. Fifth/Sixth Grade players **playing** at this level will be restricted to five (5) appearances per current season. Additional appearances will be permitted by league approval only. Should a player make more than five (5) appearances without league approval, all games in which she participated shall be declared a forfeit.

## 7) **Game Procedures**

### A. Game rainouts, cancellations and make ups

- I. All rainouts and cancellations must be replayed by the first Sunday following the date of the cancellation. In the event of two rainouts/cancellations in the same week, the second game must be made up by the second Sunday following the date of the second cancellation.
  1. Failure to follow this rule will result in the offending team being charged with a forfeit or being fined \$25.00 at the league's discretion, or both for repeat offenders. The league will have the option to reschedule the game.
  2. Lineup must be exchanged prior to the game
  3. If a coach moves a game after the umpires have been scheduled, a \$5.00 fine will be assessed to the requesting (offending) organization rather than having the league assume this cost. Any show up fees due the umpires shall be paid by the offending organization as well.

### B. Scorekeeping - Scores will be kept by both teams.

- I. Each team will hand in a line-up to the opposing team that will consist of last name, first initial, number. All players playing up shall be identified with an asterisk (\*)
- II. The winning team is responsible for submitting the scores to the statistician google form. Players playing up shall be submitted for each game as well.
- III. Failure to send the information to the statistician within twenty-four (24) hours will result in a five dollar (\$5.00) fine, payable at the next league meeting.

- 8) **Game Protests** - A fee of \$25.00 must accompany a written protest within 24 hours of the completion of the game being protested. The protest must be filed with the umpire in compliance with the 'PIAA protest rules". The protest is for rules only, not judgement calls and the protest must take place before the next pitch. The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld. The league administrator must be notified of any protest within twenty-four (24) hours.

## → **Batting**

- A. A running batting order that includes all players shall be used.
- B. In the event a team has eight players at the start of a game they will not be charged with an automatic out in the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) batting position. Any player arriving late shall be added to the end of the batting order. If players arriving after the lineups have been exchanged and the other team is not made aware of the changes prior to the first pitch being thrown, they will take an out when the batting position comes up the first time.
- C. If a team has more than eight (8) players to start a game, a player may leave a game due to injury or illness, she may return at any time and will be put back into her original position in the batting order.
- D. The strike zone shall be from the letters to the middle of the knees and shall include the white and black portions of the plate.

→ **Pitching**

- A. Pitching rules will be from the PIAA rule book
- B. All organizations and coaches should use good judgement and not pitch girls that are too young and risk chance of injury. It is better to move or forfeit the game rather than risk and injury.

→ **Base Running** - All PIAA rules apply

→ **Defense/Fielding** - All PIAA rules apply

→ **Game Conduct**

- A. Any coach or player ejected from a game is automatically suspended from their next game. The ejected person will not be allowed to participate, coach or attend the game.
- B. Assistant coaches will be permitted to coach the other team's players if it is done in a positive manner. They may not address or engage the opposing coaches or umpires. Arguing or discussing a rule or call with the opposing coaches or the umpire will result in an ejection of that coach.
- C. Any parent who steps on the field of play for reasons other than an injury will be ejected from the game.
- D. Persons behind the Backstop
  - I. No one will be permitted behind the backstop. One warning will be issued by the umpire. On the second offense, the offending team will be assessed an out.

→ **Post Season**

- A. All playoff games must be played in their entirety. Any game that isn't completed will be completed the following night. In the event there is a game scheduled the following night, the incomplete game will take precedence and shall be completed prior to the start of the regularly scheduled playoff game.
- B. Team Eligibility - We will discuss and vote on with the coaches at the last meeting. Normally all the teams make it depending on number of participants during the year and amount of forfeits. A single elimination tournament is held either during the week or on one weekend.
  - I. After the first round of playoffs have been completed, the seeding of the remaining teams will be established as follows:
    - 1. Season Record
    - 2. Head-to-Head Competition
    - 3. Runs Allowed
    - 4. Coin Toss
- C. Player Eligibility - A player must play in at least one-half (1/2) of the regular season games.