

Reedley Community Services Department Softball Rules “AAA” 6th-8th grades

ADMINISTRATION

1. All teams, participants, and coaches must conform to and abide by all rules and regulations established by the Reedley Community Services Department and the Kings Canyon Unified School District as pertaining to this program.
2. All players and coaches participant at their own risk!
3. Rules governing the play of the Girls Softball League shall those of Amateur Softball Association, (A.S.A.) and the Reedley Community Services Department. The Community Services Department rules supersede A.S.A. rules.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Should the response be such that there is a limited placement for participants, then the following criteria will be used to enter participants into the program:
 - a. Those persons residing within the City limits of the City of Reedley;
 - b. Those persons residing in the Kings Canyon Unified School District;
 - c. Others who wish to participant but do not meet the previous requirements shall be entered on a first come, first serve basis as openings permit.
2. This program is for girls in grades 6th – 8th.

GENERAL

1. Games will consist of at least four innings and no more than six. The games will last 1 and ½ hours. No new inning shall start after the time limit of 1 hour and fifteen minutes.
2. All players who come to the games must participant in the game.
3. A team may start the game with a minimum of 7 players and a maximum of 10 players.
4. The home team will have the 3rd base dugout.

UNIFORMS

- ✓ Exposed jewelry (wrist watches, bracelets, large or loop earrings and neck chains) or any other item judged dangerous (i.e.. bandanas) by the umpire may not be worn during the game.

NOTE: Any exposed metal may be considered legal if covered by soft material and taped.

- ✓ All players must wear shoes (tennis shoes or soccer shoes). **NO METAL CLEATS.**
- ✓ Players must wear the uniform T-shirt and hat provided by the City. Shirts must be tucked in at all times.

COACHES

1. If a player consistently misses practices or games, contact the Recreation Department and explain the situation. Recreation Staff and coach will work out an alternate rule for this player.

Recreation Department must be notified before any action is taken.

2. Discipline problems will be referred to the Reedley Community Services Department Office.
3. Coaches may not use any player other than those assigned by the Community Services Department. **Only players registered with the Community Services Department can practice. No exceptions!**
4. Every team is only allowed 1 (one) head coach and 1 (one) assistants. Parent helpers may assist once the teams are established.
5. Only the Head Coach can call a time out. Time outs can only be called in dead ball situation.
6. Coaches may not do switch players with another team.
7. There will be a limit of no more than two (2) practices per week once games have begun. (Preferably one).
8. The offensive team will station first and third base coaches on the field during its time at bat. Only coaches registered with The Community Services Department can be on the field or in the dugout. **No Exceptions!**
9. Coaches are not allowed to go onto the field except in case of emergency and pitching to players.

PLAYING RULES

1. Defensive Team- the team out on the field will position ten (10) players on the field each inning. The 10th player will be positioned in fair territory in the outfield behind the line (burned line in outfield). No player can sit on the bench for two (2) consecutive innings.
2. Each player must play two positions in each game. To qualify as playing two positions, they must be in the position for 1 full inning. Please rotate your players every two innings.
3. Out of Play
 - i. Any ball crossing over the out of play line, or extension thereof, is a dead ball.
 - ii. Any ball caught without the fielder crossing over the out of play line is a legal out.
4. Stealing begins after the ball passes home plate. No stealing home base. No stealing on a coach pitching. No leading off and only 1 base per inning per player.
5. Sliding is optional- NO head first sliding is allowed. Players must either slide or get out of the base path.
6. There is no blocking of the bases by the defensive player. If the defensive player blocks the bag, the offensive player will be called safe.
7. Strike zone is space over any part of home plate between the top of the hitter's shoulder and the bottom of the knee when he assumes a natural batting stance.
8. 3rd Strike Rule: 1. A batter becomes a base runner when, with less than 2 outs and 1st base is unoccupied a dropped 3rd strike occurs the batter may attempt to advance to 1st base. The batter becomes a batter/base runner when the 3rd strike touches the ground before being caught.
2. When with 2 outs and a dropped 3rd strike occurs, the batter may attempt to advance to 1st base even if 1st is occupied.
9. Infield Fly Rule: An infield fly is a fair ball, which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when 1st and 2nd or 1st, 2nd and 3rd bases are occupied before two outs.

10. Pitching: Pitchers will pitch to the opposite team. If a pitcher hits 2 batters in 2 innings the pitcher will be pulled.
11. Runners are awarded one (1) base on overthrows, which are blocked or out of play. The award is based upon the last base touched. The lead runner, in multiple base runner situations, always takes precedent to any successive runners.
12. No change in three out rule. If three outs are made, the side is retired for that half inning.
13. 5 run rule for each inning.

BATTING RULES

1. Lineups will be turned into the scorekeeper 5 minutes prior to scheduled game time. Card shall list all players on team roster.
2. Batting order will consist of entire roster. Roster cannot be changed during the game. Any player who comes late will be added to the end of the roster and enter the game at the top of the next inning.
3. Any batter who is batting out of order will be out.
4. A batter must wear a helmet before entering the batter's box. A batter-runner or runner will be called **OUT** if she intentionally removes her helmet when the ball is in play.
5. Bunting is allowed. Not while the coach is pitching.

SPECIAL SOFTBALL RULES

1. Catchers must wear a protective gear and stand at least 3 feet from batter.
2. The coach will pitch 2 balls if the batter is walked.
3. Home team is responsible for providing the scorekeeper.
4. Ball size is 12 inch.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

By coach, assistant, parents, or spectators

Any act that is damaging to the goal of good sportsmanship, cursing directed at anyone, (including City Employees) excessive yelling, any physical conduct or threat of contact.

Any conduct that shows intent to disrupt the flow of the game can and will result in forfeiting a game. Anyone who disregards these rules may be asked to leave the game and facility. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

Mission of Youth Sports Program- Our league is designed as a recreation league in which everyone that signs up **plays**. It is **not** a competitive league, nor designed to be a competitive league. The league is structured to allow youth an opportunity to recreate, learn basic skills and most of all just have **fun**.

Youth Sports rules are available at www.reedley.com