

# FINAL

## DeKane Conference Softball League - 8U Rules (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) (updated 3/17/2013)

All rules & regulations shall follow ASA except as modified, clarified or altered as follows.

**General Rules-** Home team occupies the 3rd base dugout. Home team is responsible for field preparation. Coaches are responsible for their players and parents conduct during a game. Each team is to supply one game ball for each game.

**Playing Field-** Area behind backstop is off limits to everyone. No batter may warm up outside the on deck circle. On deck batter must be backside of the player up to bat. Pitchers plate distance from back of home plate is 30 feet. May be moved forward 3' at coaches discretion. Distance between bases is 50 feet and Safety base will be used at first base. 2 defensive coaches are allowed on the field for instruction only, during the game.

**Equipment-** MUST BE ADHERED TO DURING PRACTICES AND GAMES.

Balls: 11" RIF Bats Official Softball. This is not a "squishy" ball.

Bats: Official softball bats only.

Catchers: Full equipment to be worn (helmet, mask, throat protector, shin guards, chest protector)

Batting Helmets: must have face masks and chin straps. All batters, on deck batters and runners must wear helmets while on field and when taking warm up pitches. Whoever is fielding the pitching position must wear a helmet fitted with face mask and chin strap. If the batter/base runner intentionally knocks off her helmet, the umpire/coach may call her out.

Uniforms: All players must wear their official team uniforms with their shirts tucked in. Wearing of jewelry is prohibited unless it is religious or medical. Then it must be taped down for safety. Metal spikes are prohibited.

**Players-** A player can only play on one team and one town within the league.

Requirement: Field 10 players. Extra fielder is to play outfield. Outfielder must play behind baselines. Min 6 players are needed to play.

**Playing Time/Positions-** All players will have equal playing time infield, outfield and on the bench. No team is to have only 1 girl sitting on the bench. Play 9 or 11 girls.

**The Game-** Home team is to take the field for a 15 minute practice 30 minutes prior to the game. Visiting team takes the field for practice 15 minutes before the game. 5 complete innings are to be played. Games are to start on time. Game time limit is 2 hours. No new inning may start after 1 hour and 45 minutes. If a game is suspended prior to a complete game, when the game is replayed, the same runner shall be put on the same base and the same batter with the same batting order shall resume until the game has been declared complete. Unlimited scoring per inning, no score is kept. For an inning to end the entire roster will bat or 3 outs in the field, whichever comes first.

**Scoring-** Unlimited scoring per inning, no score is kept.

**Pitching-** Coaches are to throw 8 pitches per batter. No tee will be used. Players at the pitching position must wear a helmet with mask and chin strap while on the field.

## **Batting-**

Batting Order - A continuous batting order shall be used. If a batter is hurt and cannot continue, the next batter takes her count. She may come back in to play when ready. Opposing team must be notified. The entire roster will bat or 3 outs in the field, whichever comes first.

- Batter's Box - No enforcement.
- Bunting - Not allowed.
- Foul Balls - Unlimited with 2 strikes.
- Hit By Pitch N/A
- Dropped 3rd Strike Not in effect.
- 5 swings without contact is a strike out, at bat strike outs will not count towards the 3 outs to retire an inning.
- If batter hits the ball in the infield she must stop at first. If the ball is hit in the outfield the batter has the option to advance 1 or 2 bases.

## **Base Running-**

- Stealing -Not allowed.
- Pass Balls - Not allowed.
- Lead Offs - Not allowed.
- Sliding -Not mandatory, **but** contact between runner and fielder should be avoided.
- Overthrow - No advancement by the runner.
- Baseline - Runners should try to stay within 3' of the baseline.
- Infield Fly Rule- Not in effect.
- Dead Ball - Play is dead and runners cannot advance once any infielder has possession of the ball.
- Continuous Walk - Not in effect.

**Umpires-** Parent/coaches umpires will be utilized (1 from each team).

Decisions - Decisions by all umps are final. There are no provisions. Appeals must be made prior to the next pitched ball.

Interference - No penalty.

Thrown Bats - Upon the umps judgment, a thrown bat will result in the batter being called out.

Weather - The ump/coaches will, in consulting with the coaches, suspend a game if lightning or the assumption of lightning is present.

**Misc-** No foreign material (i.e. hitting devices) on the fence lines during a game.

**Safety-** A game will be called if there is visible lightning in the vicinity. All girls must be removed to an area of safety. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROCEDURE: A player or coach who is bleeding or who has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. If medical care or treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual does not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is the umps/coaches judgment. The re-entry rule applies to players taken out of the game for this rule. If there is an excessive amount of blood on any part of the uniform, that part of the uniform shall be changed before that individual may participate.

**Code of Conduct-** COACHES/players/parents/guests, regardless of residence, town association, and/or prior completion of any other Code of Conduct, will be held responsible for their behavior at any field, or location being sponsored by DeKane Conference Softball League. Negative behavior that cannot be resolved within their organization will be brought forth to the Board of the DeKane Conference Softball League. If the infraction(s) is not resolved to the satisfaction of each town's representative, then a citation may be imposed on that organization as a whole. Three (3) infractions in one (1) season will result in suspension of the **entire** organization from play within the DeKane Conference Softball League.