

# **2011 Frederick County Girls Softball League**

## **8 & UNDER (Coach-Pitch) RULES**

Revised November 2010

1. A regulation game for 8 & Under is 6 innings. A complete game for 8 and Under consists of four (4) full innings or three and one-half (3 1/2) innings, if the home team is ahead, or when the two (2) hour time limit has been reached. Games will have a 2-hour time limit but once an inning starts, you must complete that inning in full, unless the home team is ahead. (*see General Rules A-5*). If an inning starts and home team does not get to finish, and visitors are ahead, they don't necessarily win. Game reverts back to the previously completed inning. No new inning will start if the time limit expired at the time of the last out of the previous inning. An inning started prior to the time limit will be completed. The time limit or darkness (without a weather delay) constitutes a complete game regardless of the number of innings played.
2. The batting order will consist of all players at the game, and will run in a continuous order. Each team is allowed to substitute fielders freely throughout the game.  
(*General Rules 9-D ALL players must play a minimum of 3 innings in the field (8 & Under and 10 & Under). This rule is suspended in the event of injury, sickness, or disciplinary action taken by the coach (before or during the game),*
3. Umpire will call strikes if batter swings, and there will be a maximum of seven (7) pitches per player, with the only exception being a foul ball on the 7<sup>th</sup> pitch. If the batter hits a foul ball on the 7<sup>th</sup> pitch, then additional pitches will be added to the maximum pitch count until the batter either swings and misses a pitch (strikeout, regardless of prior strike count), fails to swing at a pitch (recorded as a strikeout), or puts the ball into play. If after seven (7) pitches, and excluding a 7<sup>th</sup> pitch foul ball, the batter fails to put the ball into play, the batter is out. Foul balls and tips are counted against the pitch count.
4. An inning will end in any one of the following ways:
  - a. When **three** (3) outs are made.
  - b. When **five** (5) runs are scored in that inning. (Innings 1-5 only; suspended in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning)
5. Coaches will pitch the ball underhanded to their own players, but must not touch the ball while it is in play. If the ball hits or is touched by the coach-pitcher, all runners go back and the play is repeated. If a live ball is touched by field coaches, runners are awarded an extra base. Coach-pitcher may not interfere with the ball or fielder making play. If so, play is repeated.
6. Coaches must pitch from within the 8-foot radius circle, and may coach the batter only until she reaches 1<sup>st</sup> base. The Coach-Pitcher MAY NOT coach the base runners. The home plate umpire may issue one warning to the offending coach-pitcher, and may *require* another pitcher if the offense continues.

7. When the player-pitcher gains possession and control of the ball within the circle, play stops. The umpire will instruct the runners to advance or retreat to the nearest base. Hash mark's will be drawn at midpoint between bases (1st to 2nd, 2nd to 3rd, 3rd to home) to serve as the decision point. Runners that are ON or PAST the hash mark when time is called by the umpire will be awarded the next base. Runners that have not reached the hash mark will go back.
8. The player-pitcher must be within the circle when the ball is pitched by the coach-pitcher.
9. Infielders must remain within **ten (10)** feet of baseline until the ball is hit. No more than **six (6)** infielders including pitcher and catcher may occupy the infield. Outfielders must stay **ten (10)** feet behind the baseline until the ball is hit (baseline being a straight line between bases). Bases will be 60 feet.
10. NO bunting allowed.
11. NO stealing allowed. Base runners may not leave the base until the batter puts the ball in play. Coaches are not permitted to touch the base runners during live play.
12. NO "Infield Fly" rule.
13. NO "Dropped Third Strike" rule.
14. The defensive team in the field may have two defensive coaches in the outfield. They must stay in the outfield equal to or beyond outfielders when the ball is in play. The offensive team at bat may have a base coach for 1st and 3rd base.
15. Face masks are required on all helmets.