NBSA GIRLS SOFTBALL RULES

MINORS (9-10 YEARS OLD)

[Adopted for use by the Newport Baseball & Softball Association, the Toledo/Siletz SET program, and the Waldport Junior League]

\*All cities participating in LCGSA (Lincoln County Girls Softball Association) will follow the County League Rules set forth below:

1. CONDUCT: Most importantly, the coach should try and remember that their job is to teach the kids softball skills, to help them enjoy the game, and to foster good sportsmanship. They should set good examples for the kids, stay under control, and provide a safe environment in which to play the game of softball. This is for the kids, not the coaches. ABSOLUTELY NO FOUL LANGUAGE, ALCOHOL, or SMOKING during games.
2. OFFICIAL RULE BOOK: OSAA, and therefore NFHS (National Federation of High School)
	1. Rules will apply. Listed below are any exceptions to and/or reminders regarding these rules.
3. GAMES: Games shall start on time, with warm-ups to take place before this time.
4. HOME TEAM: The home team shall be denoted on the schedule provided at the beginning of the season. The home team shall provide the game balls, umpires, and the official scorebook.
5. No new innings are to start after 1 hour and 40 minutes, the time limit for a game.
6. 4 innings will be considered a complete game if the time limit has expired. If any team is behind by ten or more runs at the end of the 4th inning the game is over.
7. A half inning is complete when there are 3 outs, or at the time 5 runs are scored. No more than 5 runs can be scored per team per inning .
8. Games will be no more than 5 innings in length. If it is a tie game at the end of the 5th, the game will be declared a tie, and neither team will be awarded a win.
9. All equipment must be softball approved.
10. It is the coaches responsibility to within (3) minutes of the end of an inning or half inning, have defensive or offensive players in position and ready to play ball. Failure to do so can result, at the umpire’s discretion, in the following consequences:

## Defense not ready: Batter up will be called by the umpire. After 20 seconds, and every 20 seconds thereafter, a ball will be awarded to the batter.

## Offensive not ready: Batter will be called by the umpire. After 20 seconds, and every 20 seconds thereafter, a strike will be called on the batter.

1. HELMETS: Helmets must be equipped with proper faceguards. The faceguard must bear the NOCSAE approved designation. Helmets are to be worn by offensive players at all times inside the playing area. A team will be given one warning for failure to comply; they will incur an out for each subsequent incident. A helmet falling off is not considered as “not wearing” a helmet, and will not count. Players not batting, on deck, or in the field defensively, should be inside the dugout area for their safety.
2. SAFETY SLIDE: The safety slide rule is in effect, and will be enforced at the umpire’s discretion. i.e. where a close play exists at a base, and sliding is necessary to provide safety. Plays at first base are the only exception to the safety slide rule.
3. Teams will bat their entire line up and each player must play a minimum of 2 innings on defense.
4. For LCGSA purposes, we will play with a minimum of 8 players and a maximum of 10 players on the field for defense (possible 4 outfielders).
5. There is a 3 inning limit on the number of innings a pitcher can pitch per game.
6. Rubber cleats or tennis-type shoes must be worn. NO METAL CLEATS WILL BE ALOWED.
7. Games are cancelled only for reasons beyond control or due to weather. Cancellations for non-emergency reasons may be deemed a forfeit by the voting board. When it is necessary to justifiably cancel a game, it is the responsibility of the home team to notify the visiting team as soon as it is known the game needs to be re-scheduled. The NBSA Director of Softball must also be notified. Make-ups must be initiated by the home team within two weeks. Failing to reschedule will result in forfeiture of the game by the home team.
8. The pitching rubber will be placed 35 feet from home plate. Bases will be 60 feet. An 11” approved softball will be used.
9. NBSA Stealing Rules:

## Players may steal one base per pitched ball, 1st through 3rd bases (STEALING HOME IS NOT ALLOWED!)

## Players may steal on pitcher’s release ONLY. Runners may not lead off while pitcher has the ball in the circle.

## Example: Runner on 1st and 3rd, the runner on first may steal second base and the catcher may throw down to second base to try and get the out; the runner on third MAY NOT advance on the throwdown.

## RUNNERS ON THIRD BASE WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO ADVANCE TO HOME ON A BATTED BALL OR HIT-BY-PITCH WHICH FORCES A RUN IN (BASES LOADED SITUATION).

## RUNNERS MAY STEAL DURING COACH PITCH ON RELEASE OF THE BALL.

Objectives of these stealing rules are as follows:

* 1. To teach offensive players when and how to stead.
	2. To teach defensive players to cover a throwdown and what their responsibilities are.
	3. No stealing of home is a safety issue. We don’t want collisions between catchers and runners.
1. Live pitching will be utilized as per NFHS rules. The following exception to these rules will occur when four balls are reached in the count:

\* \* \* \* \*FOUR BALL RULE\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

Purpose: Batters CAN NOT walk (unless Hit-By-Pitch).

How it works: Batters start with a 0-0 count; if the opposing pitcher at anytime in the at bat throws 4 balls before three strikes, the batter’s coach will come in and pitch the remaining at bat. At this point the pitcher remains in the circle to one side and behind the rubber to field her position. **The coach must pitch from within the pitcher’s circle. If the coach is hit by the batted ball while inside the circle it will be a dead ball and the batter will advance to first base. If the coach is hit by a batted ball outside off the pitcher’s circle the batter will be called out.** The umpire is still officiating as normal. Note: *The only time a batter can advance to first base without getting a hit is to be hit by a pitched ball by the other team’s pitcher (Not the Coach).*

Example: If the count is 4 balls, 1 strike, the coach of the batting team will come in and pitch to his/her batter. This batter will have two opportunities to get a hit or strike out. If the count is 4 balls and 2strikes, the batter will have one chance to get a hit strike out. And so on . . . .

Note: The coach is not going to be throwing extremely difficult pitches to hit. The idea is to promote batters to develop good hitting zone skills with the chance at hitting the ball at every at bat to build confidence in the young hitter’s minds. The pressure to throw strikes will be on the coach when brought in, that is just part of the rule that we all adhered to.

Benefits of this Rule:

1. Pitcher’s confidence not destroyed by having a bad day in the circle. Good pitchers have bad days, and nothing feels worse than walking the bases loaded.
2. Keeps your defense on their toes, and not picking dandelions in right field; batters have a better opportunity to hit, and therefore so is the chance of fielding and making the right plays.
3. Holds the attention of the players and parents, the games flow smoother, and more participation from all players, not just the standouts.
4. Either windmill or slingshot pitching styles may be used by pitchers.
5. A dropped third strike by the catcher is to be recorded as a strikeout, with the batter having no opportunity to attempt to advance to first base.
6. Players in the game are prohibited from wearing jewelry such as rings, watches, earrings, bracelets, necklaces (including cloth or string types) or other hard cosmetic or decorative items. Religious and medical-alert medals are not considered jewelry. A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical-alert medal must be taped and may be visible. (PER NFHS RULE BOOK)
7. New rules must be approved at a regular meeting of the LCGSA.

Rules originally adopted January 7, 1996

Revised April 4, 2002

Revised by Gene Hogan(Newport) & Leroy Tharp(Toledo/Siletz) March, 2006.

Revised by Lance Johnson & Gene Hogan and adopted by NBSA, February 11, 2010.

Revised by Lance Johnson & Robert Smith March 2016