

SARATOGA MISS SOFTBALL

Rules for T-Ball Division 2015 Recreation Season

1. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

There is a maximum of ten (10) players on the field in a defensive position. Up to two coaches for the defensive team may be in the field during an inning. The offensive team coach can instruct the batter when she is up. Teams may play with six (6) players. Any player showing up after the game has started will be placed at the end of the batting order. If a team can't field six (6) players, the Scheduler will reschedule the game. **There will be no forfeits.**

2. GAME TIME:

Weekday games to start at 6:00. There will be ½ hour practice before the game. No games to exceed 1 hour. [amended 4/12]

3. UNIFORMS

Complete uniforms must be worn at each game. A complete uniform consists of: uniform shirt and softball pants / shorts / sweat pants (all of which should be navy blue). If shorts are worn, players are to wear sliding shorts. **If player is not wearing proper uniform, then the player shall be benched for that game until the proper uniform is obtained. The coaches are responsible to enforce this rule, if not then the Board Member on the field will have the authority to bench the player!**

4. PLAYER SAFETY

Long hair must be properly tied back. No player may wear jewelry or unsafe articles during practices / games. This is to include, but not limited to, earrings, necklaces, watches, bracelets or body piercings of any kind. Umpires will not officiate games if any of the above mentioned is worn (or uncovered). The player will be removed from the game.

5. HELMET / BAT THROWING

If a batter throws the bat, she will receive a warning. If the same batter throws the bat again, the batter is called out and the ball is dead. If a player throws her helmet, anywhere, she will be benched up to and including removal from the game.

6. BENCHING:

Any player, for any reason of unsportsmanlike conduct or unsafe behavior in the field may sit for a determined time decided by the coach. [amended 2/22/11] Both scorekeepers must note the name of the player benched and the date.

7. PITCHING:

At the beginning of the season, a coach/designated parent will place the ball on the tee for the batter to hit. Any ball hit 10 feet from home plate in fair territory will be considered a fair ball and the batter shall try to advance to first base. There are no walks or strikeouts. Bunting or easy swings are not allowed. All runners may advance one base only on an infield hit. There will be no extra bases on an overthrow. On a ball hit in the air to the outfield grass, runners will be allowed to advance as many bases as possible until the ball is returned to the infield. Defensive players are encouraged to make a play at a base. There are no extra bases on an overthrow. Base runners may not advance on caught fly balls. There is no infield fly rule.

In the second half of the season, each batter will receive up to five hittable pitches from her coach. Following the fifth pitch to the same batter, if the ball has not been hit into fair play, the ball will be placed on the tee to be hit.

Any batted ball striking the adult pitcher is a single. With all runners advancing one base, and the ball being then declared a dead ball.

8. LEAGUE PLAY:

No player sits two innings until all players have sat one inning. [amended 3/17/10] A complete game will consist of three (3) innings or more. Coaches may jointly decide final inning of play, dependent on time, lighting conditions and player interest. The catcher will stay well back from the tee area when it is being used, playing defense only on balls hit into play, and throwing the ball back to the coach who is pitching. A defensive player may play in the location of the pitching circle as the "pitcher." Each team will follow their batting order until all batters have batted in an inning. There is no leading / stealing or sliding. Teams may keep a scorebook for record purposes, but there will be no game scores or official standings kept in the Tee-Ball division. In an effort to encourage defensive skill development, the team managers should keep track of outs recorded for their teams and used as an incentive to promote teamwork and track player development and improvement.

All players must play in the correct field position. Players cannot block the bases or the base path unless fielding the ball. With the exception of the players at bat or on deck, all players are required to stay on the bench when a team is at bat. For safety reasons, **horseplay will not be allowed during a game / practice.** Base coaches will consist of parents or coaches only. **Base coaches cannot make physical contact with the player while the ball is in play.** If this occurs, the runner will be called out.

The distance between each base will be fifty-five (55) feet. The distance between the pitching rubber and home plate will be thirty (30) feet.

9. FINAL INNING

Coaches may jointly decide final inning of play, dependent on time, lighting conditions and player interest.