

**2011 DISTRICT 32
GIRLS ROOKIES DIVISION
INTERLEAGUE RULES OF PLAY
PITCHING MACHINE LEAGUE**

GENERAL RULES

1. Both managers & coaches **must sign** the umpire's scorecard before the game starts and the winning coach must initial the scorecard at the end of the game.
2. Weeknight games will start at 6:00 P.M
3. Time limit – no inning will start after 8:00 P.M. until May 15th, thereafter 8:15pm. (This is up to the umpire's discretion).
4. Games will be 6 innings long or 2 hours in length.
5. Little league rules apply, except where noted.
6. This division is instructional. We want to play the games. Both managers to cooperate if opposing team needs players.
7. Coaches must be on the field to instruct their players.
8. Only the manager or acting manager of the game may approach the umpire for any reason. It is encouraged to review with the umpire any of the rules below before the game if you have questions.
9. No one is permitted behind the backstop during the games. This includes all coaches, parents & children.
10. There is **ZERO** tolerance policy for any type of abuse towards an umpire. Managers are responsible for behavior of the parents and spectators of their team.
11. Please be respectful of the umpire, they are young adults trying to give back to the organization. Please treat them, as you would wish a coach would treat your child. If you have any issues with the umpire please contact your division leader immediately following the game.
12. No one not on your team can ever practice/play or participate with your team. This includes siblings.
13. All player's must be in full uniform at all times. Top, bottom, socks and hat.

PITCHING MACHINE RULES:

1. 11" dimple softball will be used.
2. Pitching machine distance will be about 32 feet. Coach's judgment if it needs to be adjusted. No closer than **30 feet** will be allowed.
3. Only the manager or coach is allowed to feed balls in to the machine at any time.

4. The machine will be set to between 4 and 5 speed to allow all hitters to hit the ball. If you feel the speed needs to be adjusted, both managers must be in agreement.
5. No players are permitted to feed balls into the machine.
6. An adult must be standing right next to the pitching machine at all times. Especially between innings to ensure that players do not touch the machine. The defensive coach in the outfield will walk over to the machine after the inning is over relieving the manager that just pitched and wait guarding the pitching machine from the girls that are passing it. **The pitching machine must never be left unattended.**
7. Coaches will pitch to their own team.
8. If the battery loses power and/or the machine is not functioning properly stop using the machine and remove it from the field. Coaches should now manually pitch to their teams as to continue the game without any disruption. A batted ball which hits any part of the pitching machine (including the bucket of balls) will be a ground rule single with all batters advancing one base.
9. Beginning May 31st, we will have the girls pitch the first 4 innings of the game using an 11” safety “soft” softball. The girls will pitch the first 4 innings and then use the pitching machine for innings 5 and 6. Each girl should not pitch more than 2 innings if there are others who are able to pitch and find the strike zone. After 4 walks in an inning a coach will come in to pitch to his own team and be allowed 6 pitches per batter. Please practice this skill with the girls beginning by mid-May to get a feel for which girls have the potential to pitch. Only the girls with the strongest ability (primarily 3rd graders) will be permitted the opportunity to pitch in a league game. All others are welcome to pitch in practice games arranged privately by their respective coaches. If the game is moving along well with the girls pitching you may extend the amount of girl pitched innings if each coach agrees.

FIELDING:

1. 10 players in the field, extra players will have to be on the bench during an inning.
2. Must have 4 across in the outfield, no short centerfielder.
3. Please make sure that the outfielders are not in the infield and are beyond the edge of the dirt for the infield.
4. No athlete should play 2 consecutive innings in the outfield. They must be alternated from outfield to infield each inning.
5. There will be a girl to the right or the left of the pitching machine playing pitcher. These “pitchers” do not pitch as they just field the

- position. Make sure they are 3 feet behind and 3 feet to the side of the machine as to stay away from running into the machine while fielding.
6. It is strongly suggested that each manager make an organized list/chart prepared before the game of fielding positions and batting order. Please post this for all players to follow. Garry will provide a computer generated program for all to use.

BATTING:

1. Universal batting will be in effect throughout the entire season.
2. Keep records and alternate the order from game to game. The same girls must not be batting in the lower half of the order on consecutive games.
3. When girls are pitching, any batter that is hit by the pitch will be awarded 1st base as long as they try to move out of the way of the pitch. This includes a ball that hits the ground first and then hits the batter. This is at the umpire's discretion.
4. **Innings are 3 outs or 4 runs scored. Which ever comes first.**
5. Games are 6 innings: 2 hour time limit.
6. Players must play a minimum of 4 innings in the field and 2 innings at an infield position. No one can sit 2 innings in a row.
7. There is a **4 - run** limit per inning per team during the season. This includes the last inning.
8. All players must wear a batting helmet with an approved face guard. No exceptions to this rule.
9. While using the pitching machine, each batter will get 5 pitches to hit. Umpires have the discretion of replacing any pitch that they feel was not a hittable pitch.
10. When the girls are pitching balls and strikes to be called per regulation softball with a liberal strike zone, please discuss this with the umpire before the game.
11. Batter can't foul out on the fifth pitch from the pitching machine. The batter must either hit the ball or strike out.

BASE RUNNING:

1. Bases will be set at 50 feet.
2. No stealing of any base.
3. Runners may not take extra bases on any over throw.
4. No advancing to an extra base on any errors. A cleanly hit ball either to the outfield or through the infield (in the umpire's discretion) can be a double. All other batted balls are a maximum of a single.

5. Two out catcher rule in effect. Courtesy runner must be used to replace the catcher when on base in order to speed up play. Courtesy runner is last recorded out.
6. **NO NEGATIVE CHANTING**
7. No infield fly rule.

MANAGERS/COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Home team manager/coach must pick up the pitching machine and battery from the rear of Garry's house at 7 Whitlock Street, Plainview prior to the game. Please treat the machine tenderly as we would like it to last for years of enjoyment. Do not drop the machine into your trunk or drop it out of your trunk onto the floor. Please lower it slowly. It has wheels to wheel it to and from the field. You should utilize your coaches/parents as helpers once the machine is at the field to help carry your bags and equipment as we want only managers/coaches setting up the pitching machine. Jericho pitching machine will be in the shed at Seaman near the basement.
2. You must have the machine set up at the field ready to go 15 minutes prior to game time.
3. The machine must be returned to Garry's house and replaced in the storage box behind his home after each game. Jericho pitching machine should be placed back in the shed including the battery casing and hardware after each game. Only the battery should be taken home to charge.
4. The used battery must be connected to the trickle charger and check to see that the battery is charging after each game.
5. Place the battery upright on the floor of your car or trunk. Do not place it upside down as the battery acid could leak out and damage whatever it touches.
6. The machines must never be taken for the use of anything except a scheduled softball game on your league schedule or a scheduled practice.
7. Anyone wishing to borrow the machine for a team practice must arrange this with Garry at least 2 days before. A team practice must have more than half your team present. No exceptions.
8. The machine may never be borrowed for any other purpose.

MANAGER/COACHES PREPARATION

1. Managers are responsible to come to their games with a prepared fielding plan and batting order. Instruct your teams by e-mail to let you know in advance if they can't make a game or practice. This is a courtesy that parents should show their teams.

2. Managers and coaches must come to practices with a prepared practice plan. Write it out on an index card with a time table to follow so that you cover all you planned to cover.
3. For practices, try breaking the girls into smaller groups, circuit training, and illicit parents to help assist with each group. As an example, a team with 12 girls would not want to place all 12 in the field and hit to them one by one. This would be quite a boring drill and not recommended unless you were teaching cut offs or calling for the ball. Instead, to provide more touches and swings set up a hitting group, fielding group and base running group. Each group should have a third of your total and then rotate groups after roughly 10 minutes or everyone gets up. Keep them moving in their group and in the practice plan. Variety fights boredom. No one should be waiting in a line for their turn. Give it a shot.