

Pigtail League Playing Rules - 2008

The purpose of this division is to teach basic softball skills and sportsmanship. The official rules as adopted by the Amateur Softball Association of America shall be adhered to except where amended by these rules.

1. Game time is 6:15 p.m. on weekdays and 11:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. on weekend games. No new inning will start after 8:30 p.m. on weekday games, or 1:15 p.m. or 4:15 p.m. on weekend games.
2. On a school night, practices will not exceed 8 p.m. The combination of games and practices will **NOT** exceed 3 per week.
3. Complete uniforms must be worn for a player to be permitted to play. Steel spiked shoes are not permitted to be worn by players, managers or coaches.
4. A NOCSAE compliant facemask on the batting helmet is **MANDATORY**.
5. No jewelry or accessories shall be worn by any player. Managers must check the players prior to the start of the game.
6. All players present are to play both offense and defense. Six players may play in the infield. All other players are to be in the outfield and must stand at least 10 feet behind the base lines.
7. All players bat in order (round robin). If a player arrives late to the game and has missed her turn at bat, she will drop to the bottom on the lineup. The first half of the line up will bat in the first inning. The second half of the line up will bat during the second inning regardless of the number of outs or runs scored. Each team will bat an even number of players each time. After the first 2 innings are complete, a regular game with a coach in the position of pitcher will be played for 4 more innings.
8. Two coaches are permitted in the outfield for defensive support.
9. No one may touch or physically assist a player to run or to be stopped from running. If a runner is assisted, the runner is out.
10. If the field is not lined, the home team is responsible for this. The pitching rubber is 25 feet from home plate. The distance from home plate to second base is 57 feet. A mid-point mark will be used. A circle with a diameter of 8 feet must surround the pitchers mound. The distance from home plate to 1st base and 3rd base is 40 feet.
11. A ten-inch ball will be used.
12. Players will pitch during the first and second innings. The coach will pitch during innings three and six. No pitcher can pitch more than one inning per game, or two innings per week. In a week with three games, the rotation may start over. Pitchers will be given one extra inning. If a player pitches one pitch to a batter during an inning, that is counted as a full inning pitched for that player. During the first and second innings, the umpire or defensive coach will call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher. During the first and second innings, 4 balls constitute a walk, and three strikes constitute an out.

13. If a pitcher hits two batters in the same inning, she must be removed from the pitching position. The defensive coach has the right to determine if the batter did not make an attempt to avoid an errant pitch. In this event, the pitch may not be counted against the pitcher for the sole purpose of enforcing this rule. The batter will be awarded first base as a result of being hit by the pitched ball unless the pitch was in the strike zone. In this case, it is considered as a strike and the player will not be awarded first base.
14. No stealing or lead-offs are permitted. No extra base is awarded for an overthrow at first base when the ball is hit in fair territory.
15. After a fair ball is hit the defensive team must get the ball to the pitcher and the pitcher must have control of the ball within the 8-foot circle for the play to stop. Base runners must be at least halfway to the next base to be entitled to that base, before the play is dead. This is at the discretion of the base coach.
16. Sliding is encouraged. If a player does not slide and interferes with the fielder, she may be called out for interference. The defensive coach will make this call. Headfirst slides are not permitted. The runner will be called out if they use a headfirst slide.
17. The infield fly rule is not in effect.
18. Modified eight run rule only.
19. An injured player may return to the lineup in her original batting order only once. If the player leaves the game twice, they are removed from the batting order and will be out for the remainder of that game. No penalty will be assessed for that player.
20. Unsportsmanlike conduct including throwing the bats or equipment and verbal abuse will not be allowed. Managers are to warn their teams prior to the start of the game. A first offense by any player will result in ejection from the game. This rule includes the conduct of managers, coaches and spectators.
21. No tobacco product of any kind is permitted within 20 feet of any playing area.
- 22. The home team is responsible to return the bases. Home team gets to keep the game ball. Home team sits on first base side.**
23. The catcher may not make any remarks to the batter. No player from an opposing team can make any remarks to a player in position by calling her by name, number, position, etc. Negative chatter is not allowed. This will draw a warning and subsequent offenses will result in ejection from the game.
24. Players may not remove batting helmets until they are in the dugout area. A warning will be issued to each team before the start of the game. Subsequent offenses will result in the runner being called out. If the runner crossed home plate before removing the helmet, the run will score.
- 25. Each team is responsible for working at the concession stand one night in the season (three adults).**
- 26. All teams are responsible for the clean up of the field area after each practice and game.**

Remember that a goal of the Pigtail Division is to be an instructional league that teaches the basics of the game and good sportsmanship. While winning and losing are part of the game, emphasize the good things that you see in your players and teams.