

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## SOFTBALL RULES OF THE GAME 2008

All softball rules as defined by the Amateur Softball Association of America (Current ASA Fast Pitch) are applicable except as modified below:

### **WALKS**

There are unlimited walks allowed in all age brackets, with the maximum of 9 in the 10 batter brackets (with the exception of the 7/8 bracket - see 10<sup>th</sup> batter rule); and limitless in our 9 player brackets where you need three (3) outs to end the inning.

### **TENTH BATTER RULE**

This rule applies to all divisions in the first half of the season. In the second half, it only applies to the 7-8, 9-10, 11-12 (B & C only), 13-14 (B & C only) and the 15-18 (B & C only) divisions. Ten (10) batters shall be permitted to bat per inning (if only nine (9) players are in the line-up, there will be a maximum of nine (9) players per inning). The tenth batter of an inning cannot walk; she must hit or strike out. If only 9 players are available, the 9<sup>th</sup> batter is subject to the same rule, she cannot walk, she must hit or strike out. In the 7-8 bracket, only eight (8) batters shall be permitted to bat per inning and the 8<sup>th</sup> batter can walk. However, if the last batter is hit by a pitch, the coach has the option of having the batter continue the at-bat or take a base. Game situations for the 10<sup>th</sup> batter rule are in the event that there are less than two (2) outs. When the ball is put in play and there are less than two (2) outs, play is ongoing until the ball is brought to the plate and controlled in all divisions except the 7-8 division where the play will end when the ball is in the vicinity of the pitching rubber (8' radius).

### **BASE RUNNING RULES**

Continuous walks are not allowed in any divisions except the (9) player brackets.

No runner shall be allowed to barrel into a fielder. The "Slide or Surrender" rule is applicable in all cases and is to be strictly enforced. Any player that intentionally tries to injure a fielder shall be called out and be ejected from the game.

### **SLIDE, SURRENDER, OR "GO AROUND" RULE**

Note: This rule is for the safety of the players—If there is a play at a base or the plate, the runner must slide, go around the fielder (within the base lines), or give up or she is automatically out. If there is not a play and a fielder is blocking a base or the plate, the runner must slide, go around the fielder (within the base lines), or give up. In this case, the umpire will give a delayed-dead ball signal and after the play has stopped, call obstruction on the fielder and award the runner the base she would have reached in the umpire's judgment had the obstruction not occurred.

Incidental contact in this situation will be allowed. However, if in the umpire's judgment, the runner deliberately runs into the fielder, the obstruction will be waived off and the runner will be declared out.

### **POSITIONS**

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

In the ten (10) player brackets, each team will have players at all ten (10) positions. This means you will use four (4) outfielders (no short fielder). Nine (9) player brackets will use three (3) outfielders.

## SOFTBALL RULES OF THE GAME 2008 (Cont'd)

### **APPEAL PLAY**

If a runner fails to touch a base, only a coach may make an appeal. This shall be a "Dead Ball" appeal, which will be initiated in the following manner:

1. The coach will inform the umpire of the appeal.
2. The pitcher, from the mound, will throw the ball to the appealed base where the fielder will catch the ball and tag the base.
3. At this point, the umpire will render a decision.

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## TEAM EQUIPMENT

### **HATS/VISORS**

Any or all players may wear a cap or visor. The caps or visors must be of the same color and style. This is completely optional and can vary from player to player on the same team.

### **HEADGEAR AND HELMETS**

Protective headgear with earflaps and a face cage is **mandatory** for **batters and base runners**. (Must meet the NOCSAE Standard. Further information regarding this standard can be found at [www.nocsa.org](http://www.nocsa.org)). Runners on the basepaths must wear a standard protective helmet with earflaps and a face cage.

### **CATCHER'S EQUIPMENT**

All catchers must wear a standard protective helmet with ear flaps (No skull caps), a mask with a throat guard, shin guards, and a chest protector (women's version recommended) are mandatory. Under no circumstances shall any player be allowed to catch without this equipment (the game will be considered a forfeit).

### **BATS**

Official softball bats only—No little league or hardball bats are permitted. T-Ball bats are permitted in the 7-8 Pony Division only.

## HOME TEAM EQUIPMENT & RESPONSIBILITY

### **SOFTBALLS**

Two (2) new softballs - white or yellow (ASA) approved only.

### **BASES**

All teams will use the double-base at first base (orange-white safety base). This is mandatory. The defense must use the white portion and the offense must use the orange portion when there is a play at first base. The only exception to this would be if the throw to first base is coming from foul territory. In this case, the offense should use the white portion and the defense should use the orange portion. Please keep in mind that the purpose of the safety base is to eliminate collisions.

### **PITCHING RUBBER**

Official softball rubber (24x6). Pitching rubber will be mounted for all games. Mandatory.

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## HOME PLATE

Measured 18.5 inches wide (this is the black-bordered home plate).

## FORFEIT CHART

### 1<sup>st</sup> HALF MINIMUM NUMBER:

AGE/DIVISION	NORMAL # OF PLAYERS	MUST HAVE AT LEAST THIS # OR IT IS A FORFEIT	FORFEIT WITH THIS #
ALL AGE GROUPS AND DIVISIONS	10	9	8 or less

### 2<sup>nd</sup> HALF MINIMUM NUMBER:

AGE/DIVISION	NORMAL # OF PLAYERS	MUST HAVE AT LEAST THIS # OR IT IS A FORFEIT	FORFEIT WITH THIS #
15-18 GOLD (A)	9	8	7 or less
15-18 SILVER (B)	10	9	8 or less
15-18 BRONZE (C)	10	9	8 or less
13-14 GOLD (A)	9	8	7 or less
13-14 SILVER (B)	10	9	8 or less
13-14 BRONZE (C)	10	9	8 or less
11-12 GOLD (A)	9	8	7 or less
11-12 SILVER (B)	10	9	8 or less
11-12 BRONZE (C)	10	9	8 or less
9-10 GOLD (A)	10	9	8 or less
9-10 SILVER (B)	10	9	8 or less
9-10 BRONZE (C)	10	9	8 or less
7-8 GOLD (A)	10	9	8 or less
7-8 SILVER (B)	10	9	8 or less
7-8 BRONZE (C)	10	9	8 or less

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IS A GAME PERMITTED TO BE PLAYED WITHOUT THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS PRESENT ACCORDING TO THESE CHARTS.



# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## TOURNAMENT, VARSITY & CHARTER SCHOOL PLAYERS

**A TOURNAMENT TEAM/PLAYER** includes players and teams who compete in sanctioned tournaments on a regular basis (i.e. entering and playing in multiple tournaments throughout the season). If an NEPL team registers in a tournament, and they only play in one tournament, they are not considered to be violating the TOURNAMENT TEAM/PLAYER rule. If, however, they register for a tournament and have players who play on another tournament team but they did not report them at the time of the team registration or to their director by the 3<sup>rd</sup> game of the season in writing, they are in violation of the TOURNAMENT TEAM/PLAYER rule. Any violations to this rule will result in a forfeit of all games in which the tournament team/player played in, as covered under the “penalty” section of the PROTESTS/ELIGIBILITY rule above.

### **Varsity Players**

Includes players whose High School team competes at the Varsity level of the Philadelphia Public or Catholic Leagues on a regular basis (players who “dress” for Varsity games are considered to be Varsity level players). As noted in the PROTESTS/ELIGIBILITY rule, these players must be reported to the division director at the time of the team’s roster approval. Any additions must be approved by the 3<sup>rd</sup> game of the season in writing. Any violations to this rule will result in a forfeit of all games in which the Varsity player played, as covered under the “penalty” section of the PROTESTS/ELIGIBILITY rule. Please see the age bracket specific rules for more in depth clarification of these players' status.

### **Charter School Players & Status**

Charter High School players shall be considered to be “Varsity” players if the charter school that they play for is registered and competes in either the Philadelphia Public or Catholic Leagues, and competes at the Varsity level of the same. Charter High School players whose charter school team is not yet competing in the Philadelphia Public or Catholic leagues are not to be considered “Varsity” players. Many charter school teams are not well enough established to provide a Junior Varsity level or Freshmen level team and therefore, their teams may play in an “intra-mural” charter school league as opposed to the more established Philadelphia Public and Catholic Leagues. The rules regarding charter school players and their status will be subject to change over the next several years as these schools become more established and the teams begin to be on the same competitive level as the “Varsity” teams.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Tournament and Varsity level pitchers must pitch in the (A) division of their age bracket (unless a special exception is made by the Division Director and the Softball Commissioner, and approved by the NEPL Sports Director.) A Tournament or Varsity **player, *other than a Tournament or Varsity pitcher*** can pitch in the (B) bracket of their age bracket. (Please review the complete rules regarding Tournament and Varsity pitchers found in the age specific rules.)

Under no circumstances may a TOURNAMENT PLAYER or VARSITY PLAYER pitch in the (C) division of their age bracket.

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## N.E.P.L. PONY (7-8 YEARS) SPECIFIC LEAGUE RULES

### AGE LIMITS

Cannot be 9 years old before January 1<sup>st</sup>.

### OFFICIAL SOFTBALL

Eleven (11") white or red-stitched softball - (ASA) approved.

### OFFICIAL BAT

- A. T-ball bats are allowed in this division only.
- B. Official softball bats only. No little league (boys) or hardball bats are permitted. Exceptions, see letter (A).

### OFFICIAL BASE

All teams must use orange and white first base bags. Any team not using this base will be fined \$10.00 per incident.

### FIELD MEASUREMENTS

- A. Bases—50 feet
- B. Pitching distance—26 feet from the back tip of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber.

### GAME TIME LIMITS

- A. All night games are to start at 6:00 P.M. Promptly.
- B. No inning will start after 8:00 P.M.
- C. All day games—no inning will start after 2 hours from the beginning of the game.
- D. No game should start more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the game. This will be considered a forfeit unless weather is the cause of the delay. If weather delays the start or interrupts play after the game has started, then a decision to start or postpone the game is to be made 15 minutes after the delay. After 15 minutes, the umpire will make a decision whether or not to continue the game, wait another 15 minutes, or call the game. After 30 minutes, there will be no further delays.

### GAME LENGTH

Six (6) innings, no overtime, except in the playoffs. All games are to be played for a full regulation six (6) innings unless as noted in the termination of the game in play (see below).

**Legal game:** If home team is ahead after 3 and 1/2 innings, or the visiting team is ahead after the fourth inning.

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

**Termination of a game in play:** The umpire shall determine that the weather conditions or darkness shall prohibit the continuation of play. Please note: If the game is called in the middle of an inning, the score reverts back to the last inning played.



# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## PONY (7-8 YEARS)

### **BASERUNNING RULES**

Fair play rule: (for instructional training)—if a ball is hit to the infield and an attempt is made to throw out a runner and the ball is either dropped or overthrown, the runners cannot advance. We want coaches to encourage these young girls to make the throw to first base and not have to worry about a run scoring. (A single is a single). (Infield is that part of the playing field, in fair territory between home plate and the base lines, including the entire portion of the base).

**No stealing.**

**Leads**—During the first half of the season, no runner may leave a base until the ball is hit. During the second half of the season, a runner may leave a base after a pitcher releases the ball. If a player leaves a base early, there will be one (1) team warning issued and after that all runners in violation of this rule will be declared out.

**Pick-off attempts** by the catcher: Since there is no stealing in this division, the runner must return to the base of origin unless the ball is hit. If a catcher tries to pick a runner off (i.e. because the lead is too big), then the play will be a TAG play. Runners cannot advance on these plays, but they are liable to be put out.

Coaches are not allowed to touch or push runners on base. Such runners will be declared out.

**Infield fly** rule is not in effect in this division.

On any **ball hit to the outfield**, the play ends when the ball reaches the vicinity of the (8') radius (ball does not have to be controlled by the pitcher). If a ball that is hit to the outfield is thrown into dead ball territory, the runners get the base they are going to when the ball becomes dead (if a runner is on a base, she stays there unless forced by a runner on her way to that base). There are to be no extra bases awarded on overthrows in the 7/8 bracket. Please remember the intent is to encourage the fielders to throw the ball and attempt to make a play. It is not to teach the girls to take advantage of overthrows and continue running around the bases.

**Dropped third strike**—batter is out, runners stay.

**Bunting** is not permitted in this division.

No **overthrows** in this division on infield plays.

Continuous walks are not permitted.

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## PONY (7-8 YEARS)

### PITCHING RULES

1. No pitcher may pitch more than four (4) innings, twelve (12) outs. A pitcher may be removed from the pitching position and later return to that position no more than once in a game. But she may play a fielding position.
2. A pitcher must have both feet in contact with the pitching rubber, before attempting to pitch.
3. If a pitcher hits (3) batters in a game, she will be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game. Note: A batter must attempt to get out of the way of the ball.
4. If a ball hits a batter after bouncing in the dirt first, it will be ruled a ball.
5. The pitcher cannot wear any white batting or fielding gloves while pitching.
6. Pitchers may not wear long-sleeve white jerseys while pitching.

### FIELDING RULES

1. All infielders shall take up their positions at a greater distance from the hitter than the pitching distance (i.e. all players must play behind the pitcher until the pitcher releases the ball).
2. All outfielders (4) shall take up their positions behind the base paths (minimum of 3 feet behind the baselines).

### RUN RULE

If a team is behind by 9 runs or more after five (5) innings of play, the game shall be declared over by the umpire. This applies to all divisions.

### DEFENSIVE COACH

Only one (1) defensive coach will be permitted on the field (must stay behind the base paths). The coach may set players into position before an inning and aid players before and after the play. Under no circumstances shall a coach be permitted to direct players during a play in progress, or at any time voice their opinion. If this occurs, the umpire will direct the coach to control their mannerisms or be replaced. **A defensive coach should be a teacher and a motivator, with quality skills.**

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## N.E.P.L. PEEWEEES (9-10 YEARS) SPECIFIC LEAGUE RULES

### AGE LIMITS

Cannot be 11 years old before Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>.

### OFFICIAL BALL

Eleven (11") white or red-stitched softball - (ASA) approved.

### OFFICIAL BAT

Official softball bats only. No little league (boys) or hardball bats are permitted. No exceptions.

### OFFICIAL BASE

All teams must use orange and white first base bags. Any team not using this base will be fined \$10.00 per incident.

### FIELD MEASUREMENTS

- A. Bases: 55 feet
- B. Pitching distance: 32 feet

### GAME TIME LIMITS

All night games are to start at 6:00 P.M. promptly.

No inning will start after 8:00 P.M.

All day games—no inning will start after 2 hours from the beginning of the game.

No game shall start more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the game. This will be considered a forfeit unless weather is the cause of the delay. If weather delays the start or interrupts play after the game has started, then a decision to start or postpone the game is to be made 15 minutes after the delay. After 15 minutes, the umpire will make a decision whether or not to continue the game, wait another 15 minutes, or call the game. After 30 minutes there will be no further delays.

### GAME LENGTH

Six (6) innings, no overtime, except in playoffs. All games are to be played for a full regulation six (6) innings unless as noted in the termination of the game in play (see below).

**Legal game:** If the home team is ahead after 3½ innings, or the visiting team is ahead after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning.

**Termination of game in play:** The umpire shall determine that the weather conditions or darkness shall prohibit the continuation of play. Please note: if the game is called in the middle of an inning, the score reverts back to the last inning played.

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## PEEWEEES (9-10 YEARS)

### BASERUNNING RULES

No stealing is permitted until the second half of the season. Once the second half begins, stealing is permitted with exception of home plate. A runner may not advance or score on a catcher's overthrow to 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **Pick-off attempts by the catcher:**

1<sup>st</sup> Half: Since there is no stealing in the first half, the runner must return to the base of origin unless the ball is hit. If a catcher tries to pick a runner off (i.e. because the lead is too big), then the play will be a TAG play. Runners cannot advance on these plays, but they are liable to be put out.

2<sup>nd</sup> Half:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Base: If a catcher tries to pick a runner off at third base, the runner must return to that base but she is liable to be put out. This will be a TAG play. In the event of an overthrow to 3<sup>rd</sup> base during the pickoff attempt, the runner may not advance to home. She must return to 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
- 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Base: If a catcher tries to pick a runner off, the player must either return to the base of origin or advance to the next base when the catcher releases the ball. The runner cannot advance on the catcher's overthrow (i.e. once she commits to 1<sup>st</sup> base, she cannot go to 2<sup>nd</sup> if the ball is overthrown to 1<sup>st</sup>).

No **lead** until after the ball has left the pitcher's hand. Each team will be given one team warning if this occurs. After the warning, players in violation will be declared out.

Coaches are not allowed to touch or push runners on base, such runners will be declared out.

**Infield fly** rule is not in effect in this division.

**Overthrow rule**—runners take two (2) bases from the time of the throw (the base they are heading to plus one).

**Dropped third strike**—batter is out, runners cannot advance.

**Bunting** is permitted during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the season. A player is considered to have “offered” at a bunt if they move the bat toward the ball or attempt to hit the ball with the bat (simply leaving the bat out over the plate is not considered offering at the pitch).

Continuous walks are not permitted.

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## PEEWEEES (9-10 YEARS)

### PITCHING RULES

Pitchers may pitch no more than four (4) innings, or twelve (12) outs. A pitcher may be removed from the pitching position and later return to that position no more than once in a game. She may play another position.

A pitcher must have both feet in contact with the pitching rubber, before attempting to pitch.

If a pitcher hits three (3) batters in a game, she will be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game. Note: A batter must attempt to get out of the way of the ball.

If a ball hits a batter after bouncing in the dirt first, it will be ruled a ball.

A pitcher cannot wear any white batting or fielding gloves while pitching.

Pitchers may not wear long-sleeve white jerseys while pitching.

### FIELDING RULES

All infielders shall take up their positions at a greater distance from the hitter than the pitching distance, i.e. all players must play behind the pitcher until the ball is released by the pitcher.

All outfielders (4) shall take up their positions behind the base paths (minimum of 10 feet behind the baselines).

### RUN RULE

If a team is behind by 11 runs or more after five (5) innings of play, the game shall be declared over by the umpire. **This applies to all divisions.**

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## N.E.P.L. MIDGETS (11-12 YEARS) SPECIFIC LEAGUE RULES

### AGE LIMITS

Cannot be 13 years old before January 1<sup>st</sup>.

### OFFICIAL BALL

Twelve (12") white or red-stitched softball - (ASA) approved.

### OFFICIAL BAT

Official softball bats only. No little league (boys) or hardball bats are permitted. No exceptions.

### OFFICIAL BASE

All teams must use orange and white first base bags. Any team not using this base will be fined \$10.00 per incident.

### FIELD MEASUREMENTS

- A. Bases: 60 feet
- B. Pitching distance: 38 feet from the back tip of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber.

### GAME TIME LIMITS

All night games are to start at 6:00 P.M. promptly.

No inning will start after 8:00 P.M.

All day games—no inning will start after 2 hours from the beginning of the game.

No game shall start more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the game. This will be considered a forfeit unless weather is the cause of the delay. If weather delays the start or interrupts play after the game has started, then a decision to start or postpone the game is to be made 15 minutes after the delay. After 15 minutes, the umpire will make a decision whether or not to continue the game, wait another 15 minutes, or call the game. After 30 minutes there will be no further delays.

### GAME LENGTH

Seven (7) innings, no overtime, except in playoffs. All games are to be played for a full regulation seven (7) innings unless as noted in the termination of the game in play (see below).

**Legal game:** If the home team is ahead after 3½ innings, or the visiting team is ahead after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning.

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

**Termination of game in play:** The umpire shall determine that the weather conditions or darkness shall prohibit the continuation of play. Please note: if the game is called in the middle of an inning, the score reverts back to the last inning played.



# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## MIDGETS (11-12 YEARS)

### NUMBER OF FIELD PLAYERS

In the second half of the season, the “A” division will have 9 players in the field. All other divisions will have 10 players in the field.

### BASERUNNING RULES

Stealing is permitted with the exception of home plate. No advance or score on a catcher’s overthrow in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the season. When the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the season starts, the stealing of home plate will be permitted *and runners can advance on catcher’s overthrows*.

**Pick-off attempts by the catcher** (if leads are “too big”):

#### 1st Half:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Base: If a catcher tries to pick a runner off at third base, the runner must return to that base but she is liable to be put out. This will be a TAG play. In the event of an overthrow to 3<sup>rd</sup> base during the pickoff attempt, the runner may not advance to home. She must return to 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
- 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Base: If a catcher tries to pick a runner off, the player must either return to the base of origin or advance to the next base when the catcher releases the ball. The runner cannot advance on the catcher’s overthrow (i.e. once she commits to 1<sup>st</sup> base, she cannot go to 2<sup>nd</sup> if the ball is overthrown).

2<sup>nd</sup> Half: All stealing is permitted and runners can advance on any throw made by the catcher.

No **lead** until after the ball has left the pitcher’s hand. Each team will be given one team warning if this occurs. After the warning, players in violation will be declared out.

Coaches are not allowed to touch or push runners on base, such runners will be declared out.

**Infield fly** rule is in effect in this division, i.e. runners on first and second or bases loaded with less than two (2) outs, the batter is declared out and the runners advance at their own risk. **Note:** If runners advance at their own risk in an infield fly situation, any play on them is not a force out, it is a TAG PLAY.

**Overthrow rule**—runners take two (2) bases from the time of the throw (the base they are heading to plus one).

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## MIDGETS (11-12 YEARS)

**Dropped third strike**—2<sup>nd</sup> half of season only in (A & B) divisions. No dropped third strike in the (C) division (the batter is out). If the catcher drops the third strike or the third strike bounces in the dirt before being caught (the third strike must be a clean catch), the third strike rule is in effect:

- a) The batter is permitted to run only if first base is unoccupied at the time of the pitch when there are less than 2 outs.
- b) The batter is permitted to run anytime there are 2 outs.
- c) If the bases are loaded with 2 outs, there is a force out at home plate.

**Bunting** is permitted. A player is considered to have “offered” at a bunt if they move the bat toward the ball or attempt to hit the ball with the bat (simply leaving the bat out over the plate is not considered offering at the pitch).

Continuous walks are permitted in (9) player brackets only (A Division).

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## MIDGETS (11-12 YEARS)

### PITCHING RULES

Pitchers may pitch no more than five (5) innings, or fifteen (15) outs. A pitcher may be removed from the pitching position and later return to that position no more than once in a game. She may play another position.

2<sup>nd</sup> Half: (A) bracket (9 players): A pitcher may pitch unlimited innings. Also, she may be removed from that position and later return to pitch no more than once in a game. (B) and (C) brackets will be the same as the rules in the first half.

A pitcher must have both feet in contact with the pitching rubber, before attempting to pitch.

If a pitcher hits three (3) batters in a game, she will be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game. Note: A batter must attempt to get out of the way of the ball.

If a ball hits a batter after bouncing in the dirt first, it will be ruled a ball. Except in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half in (9) player brackets—it is a hit batter. Note: A batter must attempt to get out of the way of the ball.

A pitcher cannot wear any white batting or fielding gloves while pitching.

Pitchers may not wear long-sleeve white jerseys while pitching.

### FIELDING RULES

All infielders shall take up their positions at a greater distance from the hitter than the pitching distance, i.e. all players must play behind the pitcher until the ball is released by the pitcher.

All outfielders (4) shall take up their positions behind the base paths (minimum of 10 feet behind the baselines).

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, the (A) division will have three (3) outfielders. All outfielders shall take up their positions behind the base paths (minimum of 15 feet behind baselines).

### RUN RULE

In (10) player brackets, if a team is behind by 11 runs or more after six (6) innings of play, the game shall be declared over by the umpire.

In the (9) player brackets, if a team is behind by (15) runs or more after six (6) innings of play, the game shall be declared over by the umpire.

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## N.E.P.L. JUNIORS (13-14 YEARS) SPECIFIC LEAGUE RULES

### AGE LIMITS

Cannot be 15 years old before January 1<sup>st</sup>.

### OFFICIAL BALL

Twelve (12") white or red-stitched softball - (ASA) approved.

### OFFICIAL BAT

Official softball bats only. No little league (boys) or hardball bats are permitted. No exceptions.

### OFFICIAL BASE

All teams must use orange and white first base bags. Any team not using this base will be fined \$10.00 per incident.

### FIELD MEASUREMENTS

- A. Bases: 60 feet
- B. Pitching distance: 40 feet from the back tip of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber.

### GAME TIME LIMITS

All night games are to start at 6:30 P.M. promptly.

No inning will start after 8:30 P.M.

All day games—no inning will start after 2 hours from the beginning of the game.

No game shall start more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the game. This will be considered a forfeit unless weather is the cause of the delay. If weather delays the start or interrupts play after the game has started, then a decision to start or postpone the game is to be made 15 minutes after the delay. After 15 minutes, the umpire will make a decision whether or not to continue the game, wait another 15 minutes, or call the game. After 30 minutes there will be no further delays.

### GAME LENGTH

Seven (7) innings, no overtime, except in playoffs. All games are to be played for a full regulation seven (7) innings unless as noted in the termination of the game in play (see below).

**Legal game:** If the home team is ahead after 3½ innings, or the visiting team is ahead after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning.

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

**Termination of game in play:** The umpire shall determine that the weather conditions or darkness shall prohibit the continuation of play. Please note: if the game is called in the middle of an inning, the score reverts back to the last inning played.



# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## JUNIORS (13-14 YEARS)

### NUMBER OF FIELD PLAYERS

In the second half of the season, the “A” division will have (9) players in the field. All other divisions will have (10) players in the field.

### BASERUNNING RULES

Stealing is permitted including home plate. A runner may score or advance on a catcher’s overthrow.

No **lead** until after the ball has left the pitcher’s hand. Each team will be given one team warning if this occurs. After the warning, players in violation will be declared out.

Coaches are not allowed to touch or push runners on base, such runners will be declared out.

**Infield fly** rule is in effect in this division, i.e. runners on first and second or bases loaded with less than two (2) outs, the batter is declared out and the runners advance at their own risk. Note: If runners advance at their own risk in an infield fly situation, any play on them is not a force out (TAG PLAY).

**Overthrow rule**—runners take two (2) bases from the time of the throw (the base they are heading to plus one).

**Dropped third strike** is in effect in the (A) and (B) divisions **only**. (The dropped third strike rule will *not* be in effect in the (C) division in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.) If the catcher drops the third strike or the third strike bounces in the dirt before being caught (the third strike must be a clean catch), the dropped third strike rule is in effect:

- a) The batter is permitted to run only if first base is unoccupied at the time of the pitch when there are less than 2 outs.
- b) The batter is permitted to run anytime there are 2 outs.
- c) If the bases are loaded with 2 outs, there is a force out at home plate.

**Bunting** is permitted. A player is considered to have “offered” at a bunt if they move the bat toward the ball or attempt to hit the ball with the bat (simply leaving the bat out over the plate is not considered offering at the pitch).

**Continuous walks** are permitted in (9) player brackets only (“A” Division).

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## JUNIORS (13-14 YEARS)

### PITCHING RULES

Pitchers may pitch no more than five (5) innings, or fifteen (15) outs. A pitcher may be removed from the pitching position and later return to that position no more than once in a game. She may play another position.

2<sup>nd</sup> Half: (A) bracket (9 players): A pitcher may pitch unlimited innings. Also, she may be removed from that position and later return to pitch no more than once in a game. (B) and (C) brackets will be the same as the rules in the first half.

A pitcher must have both feet in contact with the pitching rubber, before attempting to pitch.

If a pitcher hits three (3) batters in a game, she will be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game. Note: A batter must attempt to get out of the way of the ball.

If a ball hits a batter after bouncing in the dirt first, it will be ruled a ball. Except in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half in (9) player brackets—it is a hit batter. Note: A batter must attempt to get out of the way of the ball.

A pitcher cannot wear any white batting or fielding gloves while pitching.

Pitchers may not wear long-sleeve white jerseys while pitching.

### FIELDING RULES

All infielders shall take up their positions at a greater distance from the hitter than the pitching distance, i.e. all players must play behind the pitcher until the ball is released by the pitcher.

All outfielders (4) shall take up their positions behind the base paths (minimum of 10 feet behind the baselines).

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, the (A) division will have three (3) outfielders. All outfielders shall take up their positions behind the base paths (minimum of 15 feet behind baselines).

### RUN RULE

In (10) player brackets, if a team is behind by 11 runs or more after six (6) innings of play, the game shall be declared over by the umpire.

In the (9) player brackets, if a team is behind by (15) runs or more after six (6) innings of play, the game shall be declared over by the umpire.

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## N.E.P.L. INTERMEDIATES (15-18 YEARS) SPECIFIC LEAGUE RULES

### AGE LIMITS

Cannot be 19 years old before June 30<sup>th</sup> of the current year. (This extended cutoff applies only to this division.)

### ELIGIBILITY

Players may NOT be rostered on any college team. No team shall carry more than five players who have turned 18 between June 30<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous year.

### OFFICIAL BALL

Twelve (12") white or red-stitched softball - (ASA) approved.

### OFFICIAL BAT

Official softball bats only. No little league (boys) or hardball bats are permitted. No exceptions.

### OFFICIAL BASE

All teams must use orange and white first base bags. Any team not using this base will be fined \$10.00 per incident.

### FIELD MEASUREMENTS

- A. Bases: 60 feet
- B. Pitching distance: 40 feet from the back tip of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber.

### GAME TIME LIMITS

All night games are to start at 6:30 P.M. promptly.

No inning will start after 8:30 P.M.

All day games—no inning will start after 2 hours from the beginning of the game.

No game shall start more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the game. This will be considered a forfeit unless weather is the cause of the delay. If weather delays the start or interrupts play after the game has started, then a decision to start or postpone the game is to be made 15 minutes after the delay. After 15 minutes, the umpire will make a decision whether or not to continue the game, wait another 15 minutes, or call the game. After 30 minutes there will be no further delays.

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## INTERMEDIATES (15-18 YEARS)

### GAME LENGTH

Seven (7) innings, no overtime, except in playoffs. All games are to be played for a full regulation seven (7) innings unless as noted in the termination of the game in play (see below).

**Legal game:** If the home team is ahead after 3½ innings, or the visiting team is ahead after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning.

**Termination of game in play:** The umpire shall determine that the weather conditions or darkness shall prohibit the continuation of play. Please note: if the game is called in the middle of an inning, the score reverts back to the last inning played.

### NUMBER OF FIELD PLAYERS

In the second half of the season, the “A” division will have (9) players in the field. All other divisions will have (10) players in the field. In the (B) and (C) divisions (10 player brackets), there will be a (10) batter limit and no continuous walks will be permitted.

### BASERUNNING RULES

**Stealing** is permitted including home plate. A runner may score or advance on a catcher’s overthrow.

**No lead** until after the ball has left the pitcher’s hand. Each team will be given one team warning if this occurs. After the warning, players in violation will be declared out.

Coaches are not allowed to touch or push runners on base, such runners will be declared out.

**Infield fly** rule is in effect in this division, i.e. runners on first and second or bases loaded with less than two (2) outs, the batter is declared out and the runners advance at their own risk. Note: If runners advance at their own risk in an infield fly situation, any play on them is not a force out (TAG PLAY).

**Overthrow** rule—runners take two (2) bases from the time of the throw (the base they are heading to plus one).

**Dropped third strike** is in effect in the (A) and (B) divisions **only**. (The dropped third strike rule will *not* be in effect in the (C) division in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.) If the catcher drops the third strike or the third strike bounces in the dirt before being caught (the third strike must be a clean catch), the third strike rule is in effect:

- a. The batter is permitted to run only if first base is unoccupied at the time of the pitch when there are less than 2 outs.
- b. The batter is permitted to run anytime there are 2 outs.
- c. If the bases are loaded with 2 outs, there is a force out at home plate.

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## INTERMEDIATES (15-18 YEARS)

**Bunting** is permitted. A player is considered to have “offered” at a bunt if they move the bat toward the ball or attempt to hit the ball with the bat (simply leaving the bat out over the plate is not considered offering at the pitch).

**Continuous walks** are permitted in (9) player brackets only (A Division).

### FIELDING RULES

All infielders shall take up their positions at a greater distance from the hitter than the pitching distance, i.e. all players must play behind the pitcher until the ball is released by the pitcher.

1<sup>st</sup> Half: All outfielders (4) shall take up their positions behind the base paths (minimum of 15 feet behind the baselines).

2<sup>nd</sup> Half, the (A) division will have three (3) outfielders. The (B) and (C) divisions will still have 4 outfielders. In all divisions, all outfielders shall take up their positions behind the base paths (minimum of 15 feet behind baselines).

### RUN RULE

In (10) player brackets, if a team is behind by 11 runs or more after six (6) innings of play, the game shall be declared over by the umpire.

In the (9) player brackets, if a team is behind by (15) runs or more after six (6) innings of play, the game shall be declared over by the umpire.

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

## INTERMEDIATES (15-18 YEARS)

### PITCHING RULES

Pitchers may pitch unlimited innings in all brackets. Also, she may be removed from that position and later return to pitch no more than once in a game.

A pitcher must have both feet in contact with the pitching rubber, before attempting to pitch.

If a pitcher hits three (3) batters in a game, she will be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game. Note: A batter must attempt to get out of the way of the ball.

If a ball hits a batter after bouncing in the dirt first, it will be ruled a hit batter. Note: A batter must attempt to get out of the way of the ball.

A pitcher cannot wear any white batting or fielding gloves while pitching. Pitchers may not wear long-sleeve white jerseys while pitching.

#### **Special Note regarding Pitchers in the 15/18 age bracket:**

In the spirit of fair play... If a pitcher is found to be overly talented for our (B) or (C) level of play, yet she is not a "Varsity" or "Tournament" pitcher, but is of equal caliber to those pitchers in the NEPL's (A) bracket, she can be determined to be eligible to pitch only in the (A) bracket at the discretion of the Division Director.

If the talent level of the remainder of the team is not equally competitive with that of their (A) level pitcher, and placement in the (A) division would be detrimental to the competitiveness of the team as a whole, the coach may ask to be re-considered for placement in the (B) division, based on the rest of the team's performance. But *the (A) caliber pitcher may not pitch at all* in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half or Playoffs. She may play any other position, but she may not pitch at all in the (B) division.

Conversely, if a Varsity pitcher (as defined in the General Rules) is not of a level equivalent to those in the (A) division, but would not dominate in the (B) division, and the remainder of her team would not be able to fairly compete at the (A) level, the coach may ask the Division Director for re-consideration of the team's placement into the (B) bracket.

These determinations will be made by the Division Director and the Softball Commissioner, and must be reviewed and approved by NEPL Sports Director before the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. Their decision shall be final. If the team is found to be in violation of this decision at any time in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half or the Playoffs, any game in which the team was in violation shall be declared a forfeit.

If a problem arises, these will be defined as eligibility issues. As with all eligibility issues the burden of proof lies with the coach lodging the "protest". All protest procedures must be followed. All protest fees will apply. (See NEPL General Rules)

# NEPL SOFTBALL RULES 2008

These exceptions will not apply to Tournament pitchers. Tournament pitchers **must** pitch in the (A) division of this age bracket.

