

# PALO ALTO GIRLS SOFTBALL 10U LEAGUE RULES (SPRING 2013)

## Game Rules

1. Game starts at start time. Warm-ups must be done ahead of time.
2. Game time of 1 hour, 30 minutes. No new inning may start after the 1:30 mark. Game play halts immediately at 1:50 regardless of where game progress is at that point. The official score, if being kept, reverts back to the score at the end of the previous full inning.
3. Games have a maximum of six innings.
4. Limit of 4 runs per inning for the first 3 innings, and then all subsequent innings are unlimited.
5. Teams ideally have 10 players on the field (4 outfielders) but can play with less.
6. There are no walks. After the Player Pitcher pitches 4 balls (as opposed to strikes) to a batter, the Coach comes in and pitches 4 pitches to the batter. The batter has 4 more opportunities of putting the ball in play (regardless of what the count was when the coach came in to pitch). If the batter cannot put the ball in play in those 4 pitches, she will be out (even a foul ball on the 4th pitch would be an out). The coach can pitch from anywhere inside the pitching circle (to encourage throwing pitches that the batters can hit).
7. A player hit by a pitch is awarded first base, as long as the batter did not swing at the pitch, the pitch was not a called strike and the batter made some attempt to avoid being hit by the ball (per ASA Rules). A batter hit by a pitch from a coach pitcher is not awarded first base.
8. No forfeits. OK to loan players for fielding.
9. No coaching in the field during the games. OK to coach from the dugout.
10. Stealing allowed once the ball has left the pitcher's hand.
11. Stealing of home is allowed, **ONLY** if the runner slides into home. If your player does not slide into home (regardless if there is a play at home plate), she will be called **OUT**. **A player should NOT steal home if she cannot or will not slide properly and safely.**
12. Sliding is permitted and player is out at any base if she doesn't slide to avoid a collision.
13. Base runners must avoid fielder who is fielding a hit ball.
14. Dropped third strike rule is in effect.
15. Keep score for runs and innings pitched. No official standings.

## Batting Rules

1. All players on the team present at the game are on the batting roster. Players bat in continuous order as designated by batting roster.
2. Late players can be added to the end of the lineup.
3. If a player leaves the game early, her spot in the batting order shall be skipped with no penalty to the team.
4. Bunting is permitted when player pitcher is in the game (not permitted off coach pitcher).

## Fielding Rules

1. Outfielders must be stationed on the outfield grass, not the infield.
2. If a runner is stopped while off a base when the pitcher within the pitching circle receives the ball or the pitcher with the ball enters the pitching circle with both feet, then this runner must immediately either; 1) advance to the next base without stopping; or 2) return without stopping to the last properly achieved base. In other words, runners can't tease pitchers by faking attempts to advance to next base.
3. Pitcher must control the ball with both feet inside the pitching circle for play to stop.
4. An uncontrolled throw or a bobbled ball is "live" and the base runner can advance until the defensive player throws the ball back to the pitcher.
5. Baserunner gets base plus one on an overthrow if the overthrown ball goes out of play.
6. Fielders cannot block base path unless fielding a ball hit by batter.

## Pitching Rules

1. Pitching week is Sunday thru Saturday.
2. Maximum seven innings, per pitcher, per week.
3. One pitch in an inning and that inning counts.
4. If a pitcher hits three batters in a game, the pitcher must stop pitching for the rest of the game.

## Position and Substitution Rules

1. All players bat: no pinch hitters.
2. Players may be openly substituted in the defense without limitation. There is no limit as to the number of times a player can return to the pitching position as long as the player has not left the batting order, or has not been removed from the pitcher's position by rule.
3. By the 4th inning, all players should have played in the infield.
4. Players who cannot protect themselves should not be played as pitcher.
5. Attempt to give all players, who fully participate in practice, equal playing time.

## ADDENDUM

### **Mid-Season 10U Pitching Rule Change**

- The fourth called ball from a Player Pitcher will result in a walk (batter will be awarded first base).
- Exception: Whenever bases are loaded, and therefore a walk would advance the baserunner on Third Base to home (and a run would be scored), then the Coach Pitch backup rules will again be in effect (and work the same way they did in the first part of the season).