

KINGSVILLE RECREATION – GIRLS SOFTBALL RULES

(Revised 01/31/2012)

Playing Fields

The Baltimore County Recreation Supervisor will determine if the fields are playable by 4:30pm – 1 ½ hours prior to 6:00pm game time. A message will be placed on the phone line 410-893-4427. Once the game has started, the umpire and/or the field leader can call an end to the game due to darkness or inclement weather. The clinic coaches can make this decision themselves.

Make-Ups

Rain-outs will be re-scheduled on Saturday mornings as needed & determined by the commissioner of the age group. Each coach will get 1 request & if teams are unable to play, the softball chairperson will assign a date. If a team is unable to play, that team will take a forfeit. This will take place within a 2 week window as not to back up the season. The game will pick up where left off. Saturday make ups have a 2 hour time limit.

Games

Start time for games is 6:00pm with forfeit of 6:15pm. When playing an away team forfeit time is 6:30pm but has been agreed that teams will play with lesser than regulation number of players. If both coaches are willing to start the game on time with limited players, the game may be played.

Practice times - 5:30-5:45pm for visitors & 5:45-6:00pm for home team.

All players bat, even when not playing the field. If a player leaves the game for any reason, her spot in the order is skipped without penalty. All players must play at least 3 innings in the field. Kingsville Softball will follow the USSSA rules and regulations with modifications herein:

	<u>Clinic</u>	<u>8-10</u>	<u>11-13</u>	<u>14-19</u>
Maximum Players	ALL	10	10	9
Minimum Players	ALL	6*	6*	
Number of Innings	Coach decides	5½-6 3½-4 dark/rain	5½-6 3½-4 dark/rain	6½-7 4½-5 dark/rain
Ball Size	SAFE-T	11"	12"	12"
Pitch Distance	NO	30-35 feet	See below	43 feet
Bunting	NO	NO	YES	YES
Infield Fly	NO	NO	YES	YES
Stealing	NO	NO	See below	YES
Sliding	NO	NO	YES	YES

*Out taken for 7 Spot

Batting Order

Batting order will be made up prior to the start of the game. Late comers will be added to the bottom of the batting order. All players will bat as in the regular line-up. On field #2, a ground rule triple will be called for any batted ball that reaches the woods to the left of the light post in left-center field. A ball that hits that post, or is to the right of it, remains in play. A ball that lands in the woods, or on the hillside in front of the woods, is a home run.

End of Play

Play will come to a stop when a fair hit ball is fielded and in control by the infielder for 8-10 and the pitching "circle" for 11-13. Runners may continue to advance until the ball is in control as ruled by the umpire. If a runner has started to advance to the next base but is not over half way at the time the ball is in control, the runner will be required to return to the base from which she left directed by the umpire. Overthrows passed first or third base when the ball travels off the playing area, runners will be awarded one base and play will stop (unless on steal rule). In the 14-19 league time must be called by in-fielder or pitcher and awarded by umpire.

Maximum Number of Runs

8-10 – may have a maximum of 5 runs per inning except for the last inning for both teams which is unlimited. If a player hits a ball that drives in more than 5 runs, the runners will run the bases but ONLY 5 runs will be scored for that inning.

11-13 and 14-19 – The maximum number of runs is 5 with a cap of 8. The inning will end after the umpire calls time on a live play when the 5th run has crossed the plate with a maximum of 8 being scored in any one inning. The last inning is unlimited. There is NO SLAUGHTER RULE.

Pitching

The league will use USSSA pitching rules.

For the 11-13 – Travel pitchers who pitch windmill must pitch at the distance of 43 feet. Other windmill pitchers, including non pitchers who may play travel ball, may pitch at 40 ft and underhand/slingshot pitchers at 35 ft. The Strike zone is any part of home plate below the batter's shoulders and above the batter's knees as the girl would be if standing regular.

Hit by the Pitch – If a batter is hit by a ball if an attempt is made to be missed, she is awarded a base even if it bounces prior to hitting her. Any pitcher who hits two batters in one inning will be removed as pitcher. She may re-enter the game later as a pitcher, but on hitting her third batter of the game, will be removed as pitcher for that game. She may still play at any other position.

Maximum Innings

11-13 – A pitcher may pitch a maximum of 3 innings in any game (each pitcher gets one additional inning only if the games goes into extra innings). The three innings do not have to be consecutive; however, one pitch in an inning will constitute a full inning for this rule.

8-10 – The batter will have a normal count by the pitcher but when she has 4 balls on her, the coach will come in and pitch to her. The pitcher stands next to coach on either side. The strike count continues over but only when the player swings is a strike added to the count. A maximum of 5 pitches are given by the coach to the batter and the batter either hits or is out.

Stealing

8-10 – player is not allowed to lead off.

11-13 – Stealing is allowed from 2nd to 3rd after the ball crosses the plate with no advancement to home on an overthrow. No other runner advances on that play no matter what the outcome. Leading off 2-3 steps after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand is allowed. A runner on base may not advance on an errant throw back to the pitcher.

14-19 – Stealing is allowed after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. **Third Dropped Strike** is only in effect in 14-19. If the bases are loaded and the third strike is dropped, the batter is out regardless of how many outs there are in the inning. If a steal is taking place to vacate 1st base, on a third dropped strike the batter is out.

Bench

During a game it is distracting to your children as well as the coaches to have people other than the team mates on the bench. Please keep the bench cleared for the team players only. No one is allowed to stand behind the back stop. No smoking in the park.

Please clean up bench & field after every game.

Clinic

Parents are encouraged to “stand” in the field with their children to assist them in learning the game. The emphasis of clinic is not so much winning a game, but rather to help teach the children the basics of softball. Pitching and catching will be done by the coaches.

Trophies

Awards will be given the last night of play.