

## **D.Y.B.A. GENERAL SOFTBALL RULES FOR ALL HOUSE LEAGUES**

1. Bats must be marked by the manufacturer “Official Softball” or be issued by DYBA, and must have approved tape on the handle. Bats issued by DYBA that are marked “Little League” or “Official Baseball” should be returned to the shed for a trade-in.
2. When, in the opinion of an umpire, all immediate play is completed, he or she will call “Time.”
3. For Mustang and Bronco leagues, a runner may advance after a fair or foul fly is caught (with less than two outs) if the runner tags the base after the ball is first touched.
4. Any ASA approved form of underhand fast pitch shall be permitted, including slingshot and single-rotation windmill. The pitcher must keep two feet in contact with the rubber from the start of the windup and may take one step forward prior to the release of the ball. The pitcher shall not step backward as part of the windup or release. The pitcher shall not jump or hop forward as part of the release.
5. The strike zone is that space over any part of home plate between the batter’s armpits and the top of the batter’s knees when the batter assumes a natural batting stance. Any pitch that fails to meet this rule is automatically a ball unless offered at by the batter. If an illegal pitch is hit into play the ball shall be declared live and in-play.
6. Any pitch at which the batter has not offered, and which strikes any part of home plate on its first impact, shall be declared a ball regardless of whether or not it has passed through any part of the strike zone.
7. Double 1<sup>st</sup> bases: There shall be two bases placed at 1<sup>st</sup> base wherever possible, one in fair territory and the second in foul territory. The fielder shall use the base in fair territory to make the put out. The runner shall use the base in foul territory, unless the runner is making the turn to second base and can do so in a safe manner to avoid collision with the defensive player at first base.
8. All batters in leagues above T-Ball (Pinto on up) must wear helmets with facemasks.
9. The only jewelry permitted to be worn are small earrings akin to studs. No bracelets, rings, necklaces, or dangling earrings are to be worn. Ideally, players should not wear studs. If they do, they will do so at their own risk.
10. No texting or cell phones are permitted in the bench area for players. If phones need to be used, then they must be used away from the bench area.
11. Bronco and Pony travel pitchers may pitch in house league games at the combined discretion of the Directors of Softball and Directors of Travel Softball in consultation with the Commissioner of DYBA. It is understood that travel or travel caliber pitchers will be permitted to pitch in House Games.
12. The home team (the last or second listed team on the official DYBA Scheduling site) shall be responsible for field set up and clean up.
13. All coaches, managers, fans and players will adhere to the DYBA Code of Conduct.

## **SPECIAL RULES FOR D.Y.B.A. PINTO SOFTBALL LEAGUE (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> GRADE)**

1. All players will play in the field and bat. An 11" soft softball will be used.
2. Seven infielders. All other players will play outfield, behind base path.
3. Infielders besides catcher will play behind diagonal line between first and third base.
4. Coach will pitch to own team. Coach has obligation to avoid contact with batted ball or inhibiting fielder. If contact is made, or fielder is inhibited, batter will be awarded first base and all other runners will be awarded next base.
5. Batter will get up to seven "hittable" pitches to hit a fair ball. If this does not occur, the batter shall hit off a tee.
6. Batting team will bat one time through the lineup or until three outs have been made.
7. Defensive team may have 2 coaches positioned in the outfield.
8. Games will last 4 innings but no inning will start after 70 minutes of play. Games will be called for darkness or if the weather turns inclement. Safety of players is paramount.
9. NO SCORE WILL BE KEPT. ALL GAMES END IN A TIE.
10. The "Infield Fly Rule" shall not apply.
11. No player will play outfield two consecutive innings. A player may only play first base or pitch once until all players have played either position.
12. Player will rotate positions every inning.
13. All players must play an equal number of innings in the infield and in the outfield per game, as described in the Fair Play Guidelines in the General DYBA Rules, Section 1.16.
14. Bunting is prohibited.
15. Leadoffs are prohibited.
16. If the ball is hit into the infield, the batter shall go no farther than 1<sup>st</sup> base and each other runner shall advance no farther than one base.
17. If the ball is hit into the outfield, all runners may continue to run until the ball has been thrown into the infield. All runners will stop at the base to which they were on their way once the ball reaches the infield.

## **SPECIAL RULES FOR D.Y.B.A.**

### **MUSTANG SOFTBALL LEAGUE (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> GRADE)**

1. All pitching during games will be player-pitch up to 4 balls and then Coaches will relieve player and pitch to their own players. The coach pitcher must stand within 10 feet of the rubber when pitching. An 11” hard leather softball will be used.
2. The defensive team shall have a player-pitcher who shall stand to the side of the coach-pitcher and play her normal defensive position.
3. The player-pitcher shall stand adjacent to the area of the pitcher’s circle where the rubber would be located if one is not present.
  - a. The player-pitcher may not creep forward toward the plate during the pitch. (Note this may be contrary to the practice of more advanced and travel players.)
  - b. If the coach-pitcher comes in contact with a ball in play, or if, in the umpire's judgment, the coach-pitcher interferes with a player attempting to field the ball, the batter shall be declared out, the ball will be dead, and the runners will not advance.
  - c. Travel pitchers or players deemed to be of “travel quality” not currently playing on any travel team shall be limited to a total of 2 combined innings in any game. Example: A team has 3 travel caliber pitchers. That team may only pitch the players for a total of 4 innings though the 3 players could otherwise pitch a combined 6 innings.
  - d. Who is a travel pitcher or a travel quality pitcher shall be declared by the directors of travel softball and house
  - e. Any pitcher who hits two players in the helmet at any time must be removed immediately regardless of whether this occurs over one or two innings.
4. Infielders must play no closer than 8 feet from the baselines extended between 1st and 3rd bases until the ball is hit by the batter. (Note this may be contrary to the practice of more advanced and travel players.)
5. The umpire shall call balls and strikes to all batters. There are both called strikes and swinging strikes. Players do not walk after four (4) balls. However, after three (3) strikes, a batter shall be out.
6. If a batter is hit by a pitched ball that touches the ground before the plate, it shall constitute a ball; the batter is not automatically awarded first base.
- 6a. If a batter is hit by a wild pitch and makes a concerted effort to get out of the way, they will be rewarded first base.
7. The defensive team may field as many as ten (10) players, including one (1) pitcher and catcher. There is no minimum number of players necessary for the defensive team.
8. When players are fielded in accordance with Rules 1 and 5, there shall be no more than five (5) infielders at any time, not including the pitcher and catcher.
9. Outfielders must stand on the grass in their defensive position. They may only move on to the infield dirt to field a ball. They must throw the ball to a base to make a play. Outfielders may not run the ball to a base that is fielded. They may move forward to cover a base on a play, however.
10. All players must play an equal number of innings in the infield and in the outfield per game, as described in the Fair Play Guidelines in the General DYBA Rules, Section 1.16. Players may not play the same position in any game absent injury that reduces the number of available players to less than 7.
  - a. However, if there is an odd number of innings in a game, the requirement is for all players to play an equal number of innings in the infield and in the outfield per every two (2) games.
  - b. The equalization referenced in subpart (a) shall not apply during playoffs.
  - c. Players must play within one inning of each other.
  - d. Players must play within one inning of infield of each other.
  - e. The infield positions for the fair play rule shall be: P, C, 1B, 2B, SC, SS and 3B. If a team chooses to play 4 outfielders (stationed on the grass), all 4 positions shall be considered an outfield position.
  - f. Example: Two players – 1 player plays 5 innings total and another 4 innings total. Player 1 could play 5 innings and 4 innings in the infield while players 2 plays 4 innings and 3 innings in the infield. Fair play rules have been complied with for both innings played and infield play.

11. Games are seven (7) innings or 1:45 long, whichever occurs first. No inning shall start after 1:45 hours from the first pitch. An inning ends and a new inning begins when the third out is made in the bottom of an inning. There is no discretion to end a game early or to not play extra innings where time is left unless there is a safety issue with light, field conditions, etc.
12. A side will be out after three (3) outs or after the offensive team scores seven (7) runs in an inning. The “seven (7) run rule” will apply in all but the last inning. If the time limit of the game is approaching (as set forth in the preceding rule) or darkness is pending, the last inning shall be declared by mutual agreement of the managers and umpire(s) prior to the start of the inning.
13. The fifteen (15) run rule will prevail after four (4) innings of play, or 3½ innings if the home team is ahead, or at any similar point in subsequent innings.
14. The “Infield Fly Rule” shall not apply.
15. An eleven (11) inch hard softball shall be used.
16. Bunting is prohibited.
17. Base runners may leave their bases once the pitched ball crosses the plate.
18. Stealing is prohibited.
19. There is a wall at every base. No runner may advance on any over throws of any base.
20. The defensive team may have two (2) coaches in the field. Both must stand on the grass in the outfield. A third coach may stand behind home plate if the coach assists with missed balls by the catcher. Other coaches must stand along the fence line adjacent to the team’s bench.
21. Whenever possible and safe, a coach from either team shall stand behind the catcher and umpire and assist in the return of balls into play to expedite the speed of the game.
22. A scorebook must be kept in every game by both teams. Batting orders must be exchanged by the teams before every game. A lineup with positions assigned must be available for review by the opposing manager at any point during the game. Position lineups in addition will be exchanged by the teams before playoff games. Failure to comply with this rule in the playoffs shall result in an automatic forfeit by the offending team.
23. Coaches for both teams shall report the result of the game to the League President via e-mail within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the game. The League President shall use the results to keep track of the standings and to establish seeding for the playoffs. Standings shall not be published during the season.
24. A draft maybe used for the formation of teams as directed by the Co-Directors of Softball. Two coaches may coach together as a team as long as their daughters are not both rated as 1st round draft picks. No more than two coaches may pair up to coach together before the draft.

## **SPECIAL RULES FOR D.Y.B.A. BRONCO (6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE) SOFTBALL LEAGUES**

1. The defensive team may field as many as 9, with no official short center position. There is no minimum number of players necessary for the defensive team. A 12” hard leather softball will be used.
2. When players are fielded in accordance with Rule 1, there shall be no more than four infielders at any time, not including the pitcher and catcher. Outfielders must play on the outfield grass or at least 15 feet behind the infielders at the time a pitch is thrown.
3. All players must play a minimum of three innings in the infield and two innings in the outfield per game, as described in the Fair Play Guidelines in the General DYBA Rules. No player may sit out two innings before every player has sat out one inning.
4. Games are 6 innings or 1:45 long, whichever occurs first. No inning shall start after 1:45 from the first pitch. Playoff game time limits may be altered by agreement of the league president and the co-Directors of Softball in advance of any games.
5. The 15 run slaughter rule will apply after 5 innings of play or 4½ innings if the home team is ahead or at any similar point in subsequent innings.
6. The “Infield Fly Rule” shall not be in effect.
7. A side will be out after three outs or after having scored 5 runs in an inning.
  - a. The “five run rule” will apply in all but the last inning.
  - b. If it is apparent that because of the approaching time limit (as set forth in Rule 4) or pending darkness that the last inning will be an inning other than the 6th inning, the last inning shall be declared by mutual agreement of the managers prior to the start of the inning in consultation with the umpire(s).
  - c. Once the decision has been made to declare the last inning, the decision may not be altered.
8. A twelve-inch hard softball shall be used.
9. The strike zone will be from the batter’s shoulders to knees. One ball-width to the inside of home plate and one ball-width to the outside of home plate will be considered part of the strike zone.
10. If a pitched ball hits a batter, the batter shall be awarded first base, provided that the batter has made an effort to avoid being hit.
  - a. A ball that hits the ground first is considered a live ball and if it strikes the batter the batter shall be awarded first base.
  - b. A batter who swings at a pitched ball that subsequently hits the batter shall be called a strike and the batter will not be awarded first base.
11. Bunting is permitted.
  - a. Fielders may charge forward to field a bunt before the ball is hit by the bunting player if a bunt is shown by the batter in the judgment of the umpire.
  - b. Fielders do so at their own peril.
12. Only stealing of third base shall be permitted.
13. Runners shall not leave their bases prior to the ball crossing the plate.
  - a. Pick off attempts by the catcher shall be permitted, and the runners may advance.
  - b. However, no runner shall be allowed to advance if on 3rd base. The rule addressing the “wall” at third base shall remain in effect on a pick off attempt at third base. (See Rule 14 below).
14. There is a wall at 3rd base.
  - a. A runner cannot score from 3rd base on an overthrow (from anywhere on the field) on a play at 3rd base.
  - b. A runner at 3rd base can score on an overthrow anywhere else in the field as long as a batted ball started the play.
  - c. A runner may continue to advance to Home if the runner has clearly passed 3rd base prior to the ball arriving at 3rd base. This advancement will be ruled upon in the sole discretion of the umpire(s).
15. A player may pitch a maximum of two innings in one game.
  - a. One pitch thrown in an inning counts as an entire inning.
  - b. The two innings DO NOT have to be consecutive.

- c. Travel pitchers or players deemed to be of “travel quality” not currently playing on any travel team shall be limited to a total of 4 combined innings in any game. Example: A team has 3 travel caliber pitchers. That team may only pitch the players for a total of 4 innings though the 3 players could otherwise pitch a combined 6 innings.
  - d. Who is a travel pitcher or a travel quality pitcher shall be declared by the directors of travel softball and house softball with consultation by the league president.
16. A pitcher shall be removed from that position after walking (i.e. pitching 4 balls to) five (5) batters in an inning or hitting three (3) batters in an inning, and may not return as a pitcher during the same game.
- a. A walk to a player in an at-bat completed by the offense team’s coach shall count as a walk by the defensive team’s pitcher. (See Rule 18 below).
  - b. Any pitcher who hits two players in the helmet at any time must be removed immediately regardless of whether this occurs over one or two innings.
17. The pitcher will begin with both feet on the pitching rubber, step towards home plate when delivering the pitch, and complete the delivery no closer to home plate than one full stride from the pitcher’s rubber.
- a. No balks will be called.
  - b. Managers and coaches will be responsible for correcting their own pitcher’s delivery and should not discuss any aspect of an opposing pitcher’s approach or motion until the game is completed.
18. After a player pitches ball four with the bases loaded, a coach from the offensive team will pitch to the batter.
- a. The batter’s strike count will be continued when the coach begins to pitch.
  - b. The coach pitcher may pitch from any point from the pitching rubber to a safe distance in front of the batter – the coach need not pitch from the rubber.
  - c. The coach, however, does so at the coach’s peril.
  - d. The umpire shall continue to call balls and strikes. Balls will not be counted and a batter hit by a coach-pitch will not be awarded first base.
  - e. The pitcher shall stand to the side of the coach-pitcher and play her normal defensive position.
  - f. If the coach-pitcher comes in contact with a ball in play, or if, in the umpire’s judgment, the coach-pitcher interferes with a player attempting to field the ball, the batter shall be declared out, the ball will be dead, and the runners will not advance.
19. Standings shall be kept by the Bronco League President in consultation with the Co-Directors of Softball. The tournament shall be a seeded tournament.
20. A draft shall be used for the formation of teams as directed by the Co-Directors of Softball. Two coaches may coach together as a team as long as their daughters are not both rated as 1st round draft picks. No more than two coaches may pair up to coach together before the draft.

