

# Bridge City Little League

## Major Coach Pitch Girls SOFTBALL

### Ground Rules

#### Rules and Regulations

#### FUNCTIONAL PURPOSE OF THE SOFTBALL LEAGUE PROGRAM

The Little League Coach Pitch Girls Softball League is for girls to continue their development in Softball. They continue to develop their skills appropriate to their ages. The game is structured to develop an understanding of softball, and the strategies of the game.

#### MANAGERS/COACHES

The Manager/Coach must approach these leagues with the attitude of helping girls through the learning process of Softball. **They should not be concerned only with the winning and losing of the game.** Skill development is the key ingredient of this league.

Managers and coaches should stress good attitudes to the parents, and will be responsible for the behavior of the assistants on the team.

#### GAMES AND PRACTICE

THERE WILL BE A **ONE (1) HOUR AND THIRTY (30) MINUTE** TIME LIMIT OR SIX (6) INNINGS FOR EACH GAME. If the time limit is reached during an inning, play will continue to finish the inning.

#### RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **Age:** 7 – 8 years old girls.
2. **Scorekeeping:** **There will be official scorekeeping!** The **visiting team** will occupy the **first base dugout**, and will be responsible for operating the **scoreboard** for the game. The **home team** will occupy the **third base dugout**, and will be responsible for the **official scorebook** and for **marking the field** before any game. All managers playing on the field that day are responsible for field preparation after rain or rainouts.  
**Scorekeepers are to sit between the dugouts. Scorekeepers sitting in the stands will not be permitted. Scorekeepers are not to point out any scorekeeping infractions, and should not initiate any conversations with either manager.**
3. A maximum of **five (5) runs** scored allowed in an inning. There will be no limit of runs scored in the **sixth (6) inning only.**
4. **Dress:** Jersey will be provided by the league and considered the **official league uniform**. Any player not in **official league uniform** will not be allowed to play. The player will provide shoes and pants. No jewelry will be allowed in a game. (The exception will be needed medical information). Shirts will be tucked in at all times.
5. **Boundaries:** Same as parent Little League. The home team coaches will be responsible for marking all field lines prior to the game. The visiting team should help prepare the field.
6. **Assignment of Players:** Tryouts will be conducted, and the managers will make a draft of the players.
7. **Teams:** Roster of teams should not exceed 13 players. New players will be placed on a team in the order that each team is drawn.

8. **Number of Players:** Defensive team: **ten (10) players**. Offensive team: **all players present for the game**. All players must play their mandatory time for all games according to the Little League rule book. A MJCPG League team may start with eight (8) players. If a team starts with 8 players, the ninth slot in the batting order is an automatic out. **No exceptions**. A MJCPG team must have 8 players to continue a game. If, during a MJCPG League game, a team does not have eight (8) players to continue, the game will stop immediately. The game will be forfeited unless for player injuries. Scheduling the game will be the responsibility of the Softball Vice President and/or the Player Agent.
9. **Defense:** No player will be withheld from any game because of non-participation in practice or previous games. The defensive team will play **ten (10) players**, with the **rover in the outfield only**. The catching position must be filled. **Only six (6) players in the infield**. Infielders must play normal infield positions (pitcher, catcher, first, second, shortstop, third). **Infielders may be positioned no more than five (5) feet in front of the baselines. Outfielders will be positioned no closer to the base paths than twenty (20) feet.**
10. **There will be free substitutions** at the end of each inning. Any player that was not in the field the previous inning must play a defensive position the next inning.
11. **Pitching: the coach must pitch the ball underhand.** The player who occupies the defensive position of pitcher must keep both feet in the pitchers' circle until the ball is hit. The adult pitcher must pitch from 35 ft. **The adult pitcher will have 5 balls in his position, and the catcher will not return balls until 5 are pitched.**
12. **Batting Order (Offense):** All players are listed in order they are to bat and each batter will bat in a rotation sequence. The batting order will include all players present for the game, and will be followed, with no regard to which team members are playing defense. No swinging of bats in the dugout or on-deck area will be allowed.
13. **Base running:** The runner must stay in contact with the base until the ball crosses the plate. When a ball that has been hit into the outfield is thrown back across the baseline, the ball is dead. If a runner is more than halfway to the next base, they may advance to the next base. When players have advanced as far as possible without being put out, the umpire will call "time", and call the next batter to the plate. When a player is put out, or retired, she will return to the dugout immediately. When all defensive players are in the proper positions, the umpire will call "play ball" and the next batter takes a turn at bat. No base will be allowed on any overthrown balls to any base. **Runners may not steal for any reason. Runner on third must be batted in by the batter.**
14. **Side Retired:** When the batting team makes three (3) outs, or five (5) runs are scored, the side is retired. The next batter in the batting order will start the next inning.
15. **Bases:** Bases will be 60 feet apart.
16. **Foul:** Same as conventional Softball.
17. **Strikeout: A batter will be allowed five (5) pitches or three (3) strikes.** The batter must hit one of the five (5) pitches, or the batter shall be called out (**EXCEPTION:** Foul ball on third swing—Batter will bat until hitting the ball fair or striking out).
18. **Hitting:** The batter will not be allowed to bunt.
19. **Coaching:** First and third base coaches will be allowed. The defensive team may have two (2) coaches in the outfield. No coaches will be allowed in the infield at any time.

20. **Managers/Coaches are to remain in the Pitcher's circle at all times. No coaching runners from the pitching circle. If coaching happens from the pitchers circle, time will be called immediately and the runners will go back to the bases they were advancing from.**
21. **Schedules:** First team listed on the schedule will be the **visiting team**, and will occupy the first base dugout. All games will be played according to the schedule. Any exceptions will have to be with the approval of the Vice President or the Player Agent of Softball. Interleague play will not be permitted.
22. **Managers/Coaches will be responsible for the actions of his fans and their assistants.**
23. Each team should be ready to leave the dug out immediately after the game. Hold your team meeting at a different location.
24. It will be illegal to jump a defensive player attempting a tag.
25. Each manager/coach will be responsible for selecting a person to be their team's pitcher. **This person will not coach or umpire.** This adult will have 5 balls in their possession and the catcher will not return balls until all five have been pitched.
26. Any batted ball hitting the "coach" pitching will be a live ball.
27. **Any Manager/Coach ejected from a game will be suspended for a minimum of two (2) games, and will be brought before the Board to explain his actions. The manager/coach ejected will not be allowed to be on Little League property for the two suspended games. A second offense will be reviewed with possible removal from the team.**
28. If a Safety bases – The Orange base is for the runners going from home to first only. Once reaching first, the Orange base is no longer in play. It is never in play for the defense.
29. A request to reschedule a game because of school functions must be accompanied with a list of students involved in the function. If a team can field eight (8) players, the request will be denied.
30. Manager/coach is ejected from the last game of the season, the suspension will be enforced on the first two games of the following season.
31. **ALL MANAGERS AND TEAMS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEANING UP THE TRASH IN THE DUGOUT AFTER THEIR GAME.**
32. There will be no soft-tossing against the fences allowed anytime or anywhere on the fields, period. Violators will be given a warning and if not heeded, can be subject to further action to be considered by the board.