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**Branchburg – Bridgewater Softball**

**3rd-5th Grade Division**

***ASA Rules apply:***

1. **COACHES**
2. All coaches must be Rutgers-Certified to be allowed to coach
3. Parents who are not certified are not allowed on the field - kids not playing softball are also not allowed on the field during practices & games.
4. ***PLAYERS***
5. **Only players registered in the recreation program may play in the games. No substitute players are allowed at any time - this includes brothers or sisters of players. There are no exceptions to this rule at any time during the season.**
6. All players will bat, regardless if they are playing the field or not. All players in attendance at the game when it starts will be in a continuous batting order. Anyone arriving after the start of the game will be placed at the end of the line-up.
7. Ten defensive players will be the maximum number of players allowed on the field at one time. (pitcher, catcher, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, short stop, right center, left center field, right field and left field).
8. The outfielders, including the short fielder, must play at least ten feet behind the bases or be on the grass area of the outfield. Standing behind second base is not a position.
9. If one team is short on players, players from the competing team can be shared on a rotating basis each inning - The shared players should play the outfield only & will only bat on their own team not on the team short on players
10. ***EQUIPMENT***
11. Only equipment approved for use by the Branchburg & Bridgewater Softball leagues shall be used in practices, clinics or games. This includes bats, gloves, helmets and catcher’s gear.
12. All helmets must have a cage attached. Helmets without a cage cannot be used.
13. Sneakers or rubber cleats may be worn. (No metal cleats.)
14. Uniforms will be worn at all games.
15. Pitchers masks are available to each team in the 3-5th & 6-8th divisions.
16. An 11 inch “soft” ball will be used for all practices & games.
17. ***FIELD***
18. Base paths should measure **60** feet.
19. Pitching rubber should measure **35** feet from the back of home plate.
20. ***PITCHING***
21. Only the girls will pitch during games – coaches will not be allowed to pitch.
22. Pitchers should start their delivery with both feet on the rubber. A coach may use his/her discretion to move a pitcher in by no more than 2 feet if a pitcher is

missing the plate. The pitcher must finish their delivery within the pitching circle. **Girls who are not able to reach the plate from two feet in front of the pitching mound will not be allowed to pitch.** This is a safety issue for pitchers, catcher and batter. **There are no exceptions.**

1. A pitcher change is recommended if there are four (4) consecutive batters walked or hit during the same inning upto the coach’s discretion.
2. A pitcher is not to pitch more than three (3) innings per game unless absolutely necessary.
3. ***GAME***
4. Coaches shall not positioned on the field during play.
5. Games are scheduled for six innings. No new innings are to be started after 8:00 p.m in Branchburg (7:45 in Bridgewater).
6. There is a three (3) out or five (5) run rule per inning
7. Only ONE person at a time in the batting cage and wearing a helmet . Players cannot swing bats outside of batter’s box when warming up.
8. Umpires have the final say regarding all field calls. Please respect the umpire and his calls.
9. A base runner may not lead off a base & there is NO stealing allowed.
10. At the end of a play, runners may not advance once the pitcher has control of the ball within the vicinity of the mound.
11. One base on an overthrow to first and third base.
12. A batter is allowed to bunt.
13. Infield fly rule **IS NOT** in effect.
14. A player is allowed to slide, but the must slide rule will not be enforced.
15. When a batter gets hit with a pitched ball the umpire will give the batter the option to either take the base (1st) or bat again.
16. ***Sportsmanship***
17. The goal of our program is to promote learning, develop skills, encourage sportsmanship and to HAVE FUN!
18. GOOD SPORTMANSHIP IS EXPECTED AND SHOULD BE STRESSED AT ALL TIMES BY COACHES, PLAYERS, & SPECTACTORS!
19. Coaches will not play players in the same position for an entire game unless it is a safety issue (such as outfield only). Rotating players between infield and outfield is important to developing skills in a recreational league.
20. Each player will not have to sit out more than 2 innings per game.