**North Andover Booster Club softball**

**Rookie Division – Grades 3 and 4**

**Games:**

* Game days are Fridays and Saturdays, with some weekday games to accommodate the number of teams we have.
* Weekday games start at 6:15pm. Weekend game times are TBD. No inning can begin after 7:45 p.m.

**Game fields:**

* Our games will be played at the McEvoy Fields (Sutton Street).

**Innings:**

* A half inning will last for the traditional three outs or **a maximum of five runs**.
* Games will go up to six innings.
* Three innings will count as a complete game.

**Scoring:**

* Five runs maximum per inning.
* Even if you already have four runs in and someone hits a bases-clearing triple, only the fifth run will count.

**Base-running:**

* Steals: allow advancements (3 total) to include steals of 3rd base - and **only 3rd base**. This would be in line with the U10 Middle Essex rule the girls play under in the summer league. This provides an opportunity to start teaching the catchers what to do on a steal. Most players at this age cannot throw down to second as a catcher. The player can leave the base to steal only when the ball crosses home plate. *As a learning tool, we instructed the pitcher, catcher, baserunner, and batter (and anyone listening), that we were going to steal before the pitch. This way the batter doesn’t swing, the catcher can hopefully receive the pitch and attempt to throw out the runner. Up to coaches.*
* Three advancements per team, per inning, on a wild pitch or passed ball.
* There is no advancement from third to home on a passed ball or wild pitch.
* Sliding is permitted.  Although head-first sliding is not permitted.

**Pitching:**

* A pitcher can pitch for three innings maximum per game.
* A pitcher can be removed and re-enter the game as pitcher.   However, the maximum is three innings per game, consecutive or non-consecutive.
* Coach’s decision on when a pitcher should be removed.
* The pitching distance from the mound to the plate is 35 feet.

**Walks**

* Four balls is a walk.

**Equipment:**

* Aside from the batter, only the on-deck batter can have a bat in hand.
* Pitcher must wear the mask.
* The coach can decide who else wears the mask - 1st baseman, 3rd baseman, etc.
* Catchers must wear a mask with a throat guard.
* All batting helmets must have the face mask and a chin strap.

**Game postponements:**

* If the league does not close the fields, the decision to postpone the game will be decided by the two coaches **at least one hour before the game time**.

**Make-up games:**

* To be determined on a date agreeable to both coaches, based on field availability.

**Umpires:**

* The home team shall pay the umpire ($25 for one or $20 each if there are two).
* If a game is postponed or cancelled, the home team is responsible for notifying the umpire. The coach must notify the scheduler of umpires, Luke Maus, **at least one hour before game time**. His cell phone is 978-809-8011, and his e-mail is lukemaus24007@yahoo.com.

**Post-Season**

* We will not have playoffs at this level.
* On the final weekend, we will have a skills competition or something similar.

 **Game Results:**

Please send game results to mhollyv@gmail.com