

# PLEASANT HILL BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

## GIRLS SOFTBALL – INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE (AGES 4- 6)

2018 Season

### GENERAL PHBA RULES

1. All games will have a one & one-half (1-1/2) hour time limit. All weekday games begin at the scheduled time. A new inning begins immediately following the last batter rounding the bases and touching home. No new inning will start after one & one-half (1-1/2) hours of play for any/all games (including weekend games). Once a new inning is started within the one & one-half (1-1/2) hour limit, the inning will be played to completion, unless called in accordance with Rule #9.  
The one & one-half (1-1/2) hour limit pertains to starting a new inning, not finishing the inning once it has been started.
2. All forfeiture times are ten (10) minutes after starting game time.
3. The team roster for all teams will be set on Roster Night. Players will be removed from the roster for the following reasons:
  - a) Player experiences a season ending injury
  - b) Player becomes automatically ineligible when he/she participates in another league during the PHBA season
  - c) Player moves out of town
  - d) Player officially quits in writing for personal reasons
  - e) Player is removed from the league for disciplinary reasons.

Extra/Late Sign-up/New players after Roster Night will be placed on a league waiting list as replacement players, and will enter the league on a first registered/first opening basis. Replacement players can only be added to team rosters from the waiting list by approval of the Head Commissioner or his/her designee.

4. One team will be designated the HOME TEAM for each game. Both Home and VISITING TEAMS are responsible for the preparation of the field. Each team will be scheduled as the HOME TEAM approximately one half of the games so no team has an undue advantage. The HOME TEAM will occupy the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) base dugout; the VISITING TEAM will occupy the first (1<sup>st</sup>) base dugout. The VISITING TEAM will practice first.
5. No practice on lined fields until (20) minutes before game time. Each team is allowed ten (10) minutes practice prior to the start of the game (time permitting). IN the event the field is not ready twenty (20) minutes before the game, practice time available will be equally split between the two teams.
6. Each team must have a minimum of six players throughout the entire game or forfeit.

7. Five (5) innings shall constitute a regular game.
8. The Home Team Manager must call a game because of any unsafe playing conditions such as, but not limited to: darkness, foul weather, and rain. Applicable to all PHBA playing fields: "Darkness" will be determined as 10 minutes after published sundown time for that day. A listing of sundown times will be posted on the PHBA website as well as the Snack Shack window. Managers have no discretion in regard to this rule.
9. No one (including coaches and managers) may stand behind the backstop unless bleachers are positioned there.
10. ALL PLAYERS, MANAGERS AND COACHES will be subject to the PHBA Code of Conduct.
11. No Manager, Player, Substitute, Coach or Batboy shall at any time, whether from the bench, the coach's box or on the playing field, or elsewhere
  - a) Incite, or try to incite, by word or sign a demonstration by spectators;
  - b) Use language which will in any manner refer to or reflect upon opposing players or any spectator.
12. No fielder shall take a position in the batter's line of vision, and with deliberate unsportsmanlike intent, act in a manner to distract the batter. PENALTY: the offender shall be removed from the game and shall leave the playing field, and, if a balk is made, it shall be nullified.
13. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES & SMOKING ARE NOT ALLOWED in the playing or spectator area. Smoking and/or chewing tobacco by a Manager, Coach or Players are not allowed during practice or a game.
14. No player will be allowed to play with steel spikes. Rubber cleats may be used.
15. Each player must play at least one (1) inning in both the infield and outfield within the first three (3) innings of each game. The Manager will bat every player present (whether playing defensively or not), through the complete roster, in every game. Managers may be suspended for violating this rule.
16. Players must remain in the same batting order during the entire game.
17. All team members, Managers and Coaches must be in the dugout area. The only exceptions are the hitter, the on-deck player, the two (2) base line coaches, and the coach or designated adult behind the catcher (optional). Absolutely no swinging of bats outside the on-deck circle or the batter's box is allowed. The batter and on-deck player must wear helmets and remain in their appropriate designated areas. Two (2) designated adults from the defensive team may be on the field during play to coach the defense provided that each person:
  - a) Stays in the outfield.

- b) Does not distract the batter.
  - c) Does not interfere with the play of the game.
18. Any player warming up a pitcher, regardless of location, must wear a Catcher's mask. In case of an injury, the Manager may permit anyone on the field if, in his/her judgment, it is deemed appropriate.
19. When a defensive player is attempting to make a play on a runner at any base including home, unless the runner is sliding, the runner will be called out if they intentionally collide with the defensive player.
20. Any player removed from the game by their Manager may re-enter during a natural break in play.
21. Protests are NOT allowed in Instructional League games.

#### **GIRLS INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE EXCEPTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS:**

22. All batters will bat each inning. The last batter will run through the bases.
23. Bunting is NOT allowed. If a player in the judgment of the Managers intentionally bunts a ball, the player is out.
24. Runners may not lead off. If the runner leaves the base before the ball crosses the plate, the runner will be called out.
25. Feet-first sliding is allowed, but discouraged for safety reasons.
26. HEAD-FIRST slides are NOT allowed except when a runner is returning to a previously occupied base. If a runner slides head first other than when returning to a base, the runner will be called out.
27. Infield fly rule does not apply.
28. Stealing is NOT allowed.
29. Official Diamond dimensions are 55 feet and the pitching distance is 25 feet from the rear tip of the plate; a sixteen (16) foot diameter (8 foot radius) pitching circle will be marked around the pitching rubber. The double base will be used at first base.
30. Outfielders and rover (optional) must stay out of the infield area; this is, outside the baseline with at least one foot on the edge of the grass. Pitcher and catcher positions must be filled at all times.
31. All batters must wear batting helmets with facial protection. Personal helmets will NOT be allowed if they do not have commercially available facial protective devices installed.

## PITCHING RULES

32. All adult pitchers must pitch underhand.
33. In returning the ball to the pitcher, an overthrow from the catcher will not constitute a play, and no advance of bases will be allowed.
34. Adult pitcher must start with both feet on the pitching rubber.
35. A batter hit by a pitched ball will NOT take first base
36. Each batter will receive five (5) pitches. If after five (5) pitches the batter has not gotten a hit, the batter will hit from the tee.
  - a) It is the responsibility of the adult to stay out of the way of the defense. If the manager or designated adult is hit by the ball the ball is live and play will continue.
  - b) A defensive player must be in the pitching circle when the adult is pitching.
  - c) **Coach pitching will be in an underhand fashion** from the 25-foot pitching rubber.
37. A circle, sixteen (16) feet in diameter (8 foot radius), will be marked around the center of the pitching point thirty (25) feet from the rear tip of home plate.
38. During field preparation, a line will be marked on each baseline, one half the distances between the bases. If play is stopped by the Pitcher being in control of the ball with at least one foot inside the pitching circle, the ball is dead. The Pitcher must have control of the ball in her glove or hand to constitute a dead play, once this is established, runners will be allowed to advance to the next base provided the runner has passed the applicable half way mark. If the runner has not passed the applicable half way mark, the runner will be required to return to the previous base. **No further play may be made on the runner!**
39. When a play is made on a runner and the ball goes past the fielder (overthrow) where the play is being made the runner may advance no more than one (1) base.

## DUGOUT RULES

40. ONLY managers, coaches, and team parent volunteers with PHBA ID badges (must have badge on person) and players are permitted in the dugout or on the playing field. **No exceptions.**