

# MINI-MIDGET RULES

(Updated for 2015 season)

The following rulings shall apply to both **TEE BALL** and **COACH PITCH** except as shown in bold type.

## TEE-BALL ELIGIBILITY

A player whose 8<sup>th</sup> birthday is prior to September 15<sup>th</sup> of the current year is ineligible to play **TEE BALL**.

## COACH ELIGIBILITY

A player whose 9<sup>th</sup> birthday is prior to August 1 of the current year is ineligible to play **COACH PITCH**.

## SEASON

The Mini Midget Leagues will consist of at least 8 games plus a tournament after the regular season.

## EQUIPMENT

1. **TEE BALL shall use 11" FLEX style softball**
2. **COACH PITCH shall use 11" FLEX style softball.**
3. Each team shall supply their own batting tee.

**SCOREKEEPER** – scorekeepers should confer with the opposing scorekeeper after each inning.

## UMPIRES

The umpires are sponsored by the Girls' Softball League of Jefferson County (GSLJC). This program is established to recruit and train umpires who have the experience of personal participation in the sport of baseball/softball and can put their experience to work in the area of officiating. These umpires are fully trained and knowledgeable of the rules and have the full authority normally designated an umpire on the playing field. Although these umpires may be lacking in years, coaches are expected to provide their full support and ensure each team displays good sportsmanship. In situations where inclement weather may create hazardous conditions, coaches are expected to assist umpires in making the decision to play or call the game.

**RULES:** Rules shall be as in GSLJC with the following exceptions:

### A. COACHES

1. A team shall have a head coach and any number of assistant coaches as determined by the head coach.

Coaches are restricted from moving down foul lines to provide instructions. With the exception of a "high five", base coaches shall not touch, push or pull their runners as players run the bases.

2. **TEE BALL LEAGUE**

**During the regular season games, no more than two coaches may take the field with their team and provide defensive instructions from the outfield positions.**

### **3. COACH PITCH LEAGUE**

**During defensive play, the offensive pitcher-coach shall take the field to pitch to his/her own players. The pitcher-coach may communicate with their batters without leaving the pitching circle. Such communication shall be held at a minimum to avoid delay of game.**

4. Only the head coach, (or in his absence, the designated head coach), has authority to protest an umpire's call. Coaches shall not question an umpire's decision. The head coach (or the designated head coach) is expected to use proper conduct and demonstrate good sportsmanship conversing with umpires. Violations of this rule will result in a warning to the coach, parents and team. Further violations will result in a forfeit. The umpire's decision is final.
5. Home teams for the regular season games will be assigned on the schedule. For tournament games, the coach winning the coin toss at the start of the game has the option of his team batting first or last.

### **B. TEAM**

1. Teams shall not have more than 15 players on their official roster unless approved by the Board.
2. All players of a given team, present for a game, shall take part in the entire game unless prevented from doing so by illness, injury or bathroom break. The player may re-enter the game at any time and must resume the player's original place in the batting order without penalty.
3. All players of a given team go into the field on defense each inning. The number of defensive players in the infield will be limited to pitcher (fielding only), catcher, 1<sup>st</sup> baseman, 2<sup>nd</sup> baseman, 3<sup>rd</sup> third baseman and shortstop. The defense may include a short fielder who must play behind 2<sup>nd</sup> base until the ball is hit. The remainder of players must remain in the outfield at least 10 feet behind an imaginary line connecting the bases until the ball is hit.
4. The batting order must include all players participating in the game, i.e., 9, 10, 11, etc.
5. At least 8 players of each team (both defensively and offensively) must be present at game time or it will be a forfeit for the team with less than 8 players.
6. If a player arrives after the game has started, that player must bat in the last position of the batting order.
7. Each batter is required to wear a batting helmet and to continue to wearing it as long as the player remains on the playing field.
8. It is mandatory that all catchers will wear full gear which is: face mask with helmet, shin guards, chest protector and throat protector.

### **C. PLAYING FIELD**

1. Playing field will be as follows:
  - a. bases shall be 50 feet apart
  - b. pitching rubber distance is 27 feet
  - c. a circle with 8-foot radius is centered about the midpoint of the pitching rubber. This is to confine the movement of the pitcher-fielder until the ball is hit by the batter.
  - d. an arc of 8 feet, from the back point of home plate extends between the foul lines. A batted ball must travel to this line or beyond to be in play. Exception: See Rule G.2.
  - e. a chalk line shall be placed halfway between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> bases, halfway between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bases and halfway between 3<sup>rd</sup> base and home.

#### **D. GAMES**

Games will be 1 hour and 15 minutes and will be concluded after 4 complete innings or during the inning when the 1 hour and 15 minute time limit is reached. In such cases, the entire inning shall be completed and the game declared official (unless time has expired and the home team trails by 11 or more runs.) In the case of a tie, there is no tie breaker. In case of unfavorable field conditions, 1 inning constitutes a full game.

#### **E. PITCHING**

**TEE BALL LEAGUE – there will be no pitching by coaches or players.**

**COACH PITCH LEAGUE – pitching will be inside the pitching circle with the coaches entire body staying in the front half of the pitching circle by the coach.**

- 1. A coach, or someone designated, shall pitch underhand to his/her own players.**
- 2. If the coach-pitcher is struck with a hit ball, the ball is dead. All runners on base return to their bases. Replay the pitch.**
- 3. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the coach-pitcher intentionally interferes with a batted or thrown ball, the batter shall be called out and runners returned to their original bases.**
- 4. The pitcher-youth must play even with or behind the coach-pitcher who will not interfere with defensive play. The pitcher-youth must have both feet within the pitching circle until the ball is hit.**
- 5. Quick pitches shall not be allowed. The coach-pitcher shall signify beginning of play by raising the ball with an out-stretched arm before each pitch. If, in the judgment of the umpire, a quick pitch is made, a “dead ball” shall be called immediately and play restarted.**
- 6. Coach-pitchers may communicate with their batters without leaving the pitching circle, however, should keep it at a minimum to avoid delay of the game.**

#### **F. BATTING**

- 1. The home plate umpire will set-up, adjust and place the ball on the tee (if necessary). There will be no coach at home plate.**
- 2. TEE BALL LEAGUE**  
**A batting tee is set up at home plate and the batter is allowed 5 swings (and only 5 swings regardless of how/if/and/or/where) to hit the ball into fair territory or the batter is retired.**
- 3. COACH PITCH LEAGUE**  
**A maximum of 3 pitches will be pitched to a batter. If the ball is not hit into play, a batting tee is set at home plate and the batter is allowed 3 swings to hit the ball into fair territory. If the ball is not hit into fair territory from the tee, the batter is out and retired. Upon hitting the ball into fair territory from the tee, the batter is allowed first base only. Runners on base may advance 1 base only in case of an overthrow.**
- 4. When the 10<sup>th</sup> batter hits off the tee, that player is allowed to advance to 1<sup>st</sup> base only. Base runners on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> would advance 1 base only. A base runner occupying 3<sup>rd</sup> base would advance and score unless tagged or forced out at home.**

5. Bunting is not permitted. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the batter attempts to bunt the ball, the batter will be charged with a swing.
6. Sliding is permitted.
7. A batter throwing the bat intentionally or unintentionally shall be called out. At the pre-game conference, umpires will inform coaches of this ruling which will be the only warning.
8. Maintaining proper batter order is the responsibility of the head coach and assistants. Recognizing the excitement and eagerness of young players, the handling a situation in which a player bats out of order will be to recall the batter, return all runners to their original bases and replay from the point of error.
9. At Bat Clarification (10<sup>th</sup> batter). A team shall remain at bat until 10 batters have batted.
  - a) In the case of the 10<sup>th</sup> batter, play will continue until the third out or the ball is controlled by the catcher at home plate.
    - 1) After each set of 3 outs, the bases will be cleared and the batting order resumed and scoring continued.
    - 2) A run will be scored for each player crossing home plate without being put out, except when a third out occurs.
    - 3) **In the case of the 10<sup>th</sup> batter in Coach Pitch, the half inning will be complete when:**
      - 1) **The 10th batter hits from coach-pitcher with play continuing until a third out or the ball is controlled by catcher at home plate or**
      - 2) **10<sup>th</sup> batter hits from the tee as outlined in F4**
  - b) The lead-off batter of the next inning will be the batter following the 10<sup>th</sup> batter of the previous inning.
  - c) The scorekeeper/coach of the team at bat is responsible for informing the home plate umpire that the 10<sup>th</sup> batter is at the plate. If the "at bat" team fails to notify the umpire of the 10th batter and the outcome of the play is affected, the play will be nullified, all runners returned to bases, and the 10<sup>th</sup> batter will hit again.

#### G. FIELDING

1. The umpire shall call the ball dead (upraised hand) when the ball is returned to the pitcher, within the pitching circle. Accordingly, each runner attains the base to which she was advancing at the time of the possession by the pitcher, if she is over halfway to the next base.
2. If a player, including the catcher, touches the moving ball before the ball reaches the 8-foot arc, the umpire shall declare the ball live and is played out accordingly.
3. An overthrow to first or third base which rolls out of the field of play, or any other wayward throw which results in the ball leaving the field of play, shall be deemed a dead ball. Each runner shall receive the base to which she was advancing at the time the throw was made plus one additional base. A base runner standing on their achieved base shall not advance unless forced.
4. The field of play is defined as: "The area between the imaginary lines extending from the backstop parallel to the foul lines, and continuing through the outfield."
5. The infield fly rule will not apply.
6. Once the ball is called "dead", no further play can be made prior to next pitch (i.e. if ball is dead, pitcher makes a throw to a base to make an out... ball is still dead), runner returns to base or receives base (if over half way). Runner may not advance further as a result of thrown ball. Ball is not considered "back in play" until hit by batter.

## H. BASE RUNNING

1. Runners may not lead off from a base. At least one foot of the runner shall remain in contact with the bases until the ball is struck by the batter. There is no base stealing.
2. If a runner is not on her own base at the time the ball is hit, the umpire will immediately call the ball dead. The runner will be called out and all other runners will return to their original bases. Since the play was effectively dead before the ball was hit, no pitch will be charged to the batter.
3. An injury to a player shall result in the immediate stoppage of play with the base runners achieving only the base to which they were advancing. The umpire is responsible for signaling the cessation of play based upon an injury.
4. A base runner hit by a batted ball prior to it being touched by a defensive player will be called out. The ball is "dead", other runners return to bases; if last pitch, batter is awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base. In the case of the 10<sup>th</sup> batter, the ball is "dead", no runs will score and the inning is complete.
5. Runners may not advance an extra base on any throw to any base by any infielder or short fielder who has played a batted ball.
6. When a ball is fielded by an outfielder, the following rules shall apply:
  - a. Runners may advance until the kid-pitcher controls the ball securely in her glove or hand and is standing in the pitching circle.
  - b. Runners who are less than halfway to the next base must return to the previous base once the kid-pitcher controls the ball.
  - c. Runners who are at least halfway to the next base once the ball is controlled by the kid-pitcher may continue to the next base.
  - d. Once the ball is called "dead", no further play can be made prior to the next pitch (i.e. if ball is dead and pitcher makes a throw to a base to make an out, ball is still dead), runner returns to the base or receives base (if over halfway). Runner may not advance further as a result of thrown ball. Ball is not considered "back in play" until hit by batter.

## I. UMPIRES

1. **One or two umpires will be assigned to games depending on umpire's experience. Should no umpires arrive at game time, coaches shall recruit parents (1 from each team) to umpire.**
2. The umpire behind home plate shall be the umpire in charge.
3. The home plate umpire will set-up and adjust the tee (as necessary) for each batter.
4. **The home plate umpire will put the ball into play by showing it to the fielding team, announcing, "Play ball" and placing the ball on the tee for each batter. (T-Ball only)**
5. The home plate umpire will be responsible for removing the batting tee from the home plate area after a batted ball.
6. The home plate umpire shall call the ball dead promptly. This is to avoid the unnecessary continuation of play and confusion.
7. Umpire/s shall have complete control of games at all times. Umpire/s have the authority to warn coaches, assistant coaches and/or parents who exhibit unsportsmanlike behavior or behave inappropriately during the game and to declare a forfeit and recommend further action be taken against the offending party.