

2013 Falmouth Little League AA Softball Rules

AA Softball is an instructional league. As with all of little league, we want to have the girls have fun, do their best and show good sportsmanship. Along the way, they'll grow their softball skills and prepare for the AAA level. The following are the rules/guidelines for the league:

General:

- You should take the first 15-20 minutes of the scheduled game time to practice with your team. Work with the coach from the other team to determine when to start the first inning.
- Coaches will pitch to their own players. We will incorporate kids pitching selectively.* (see DEFENSE below)*
- 3 innings per game or as many innings as time permits in the 90 minutes allotted. You can adjust this as necessary based on weather and how quickly the game is moving. When there is a game following yours, please be respectful to those teams and leave ample time to clear the dugouts and repair/prep the field for the next game.

Offense:

- **Only the person at bat can be holding a bat.** ONE BAT RULE!!
- Every player hits every inning. Teams can play outs as long as both coaches agree to it. One suggestion is to simply clear the bases then continue through the order after the defense gets 3 outs. The inning does not end until every player hits. If coaches wish to not play outs, that is fine as long as there is mutual agreement. Most players usually like to play outs, and it does prepare them for AAA.
- No stealing.
- There are no official scores or standings.
- Mix up the batting order every inning. It's not a lot of work and the girls like hitting in different spots.

Defense:

- Players should rotate to different positions each inning (or at the very least, each game). Each coach can decide whether to rotate by inning or by game.
- All positions follow typical softball positions. Do not have 2 fielders standing on either side of the pitcher's mound. Infielders would be best positioned playing in (on or near the edge of the grass). Outfielders will likely be positioned in the deep infield or just barely on the outfield grass.
- **Players pitching:** Players can pitch with the following restrictions: the player must wear a protective face mask (provided by the league), the player must be capable of throwing a fair percentage of hittable pitches, the player must be capable of fielding her position sufficient to protect herself. It is likely that not every player will be ready to pitch, nor want to pitch, and that is fine. The goal of introducing kids pitching is to give them some experience for AAA the following year, so this is intended for 8 year olds primarily. Also, the goal is NOT to strike batters out. The goal is to have the girl pitching to try to throw accurately in an attempt to allow the batter to hit the pitch. If the player pitching throws 4 balls to a hitter, the coach should step in and pitch until the ball is put in play. The player can then pitch to the next batter. If the player needs help/relief from the coach for 4 batters in a row, then another player should try to pitch or simply have the coach finish the inning. It's a good idea to have a coach run a bullpen session by the outfield fence. This allows for practice and 1-on-1 evaluation of a players ability to pitch.

As the season progresses, with mutual agreement by coaches prior to the game:

- You can take more than 1 base per hit. Coaches must agree on whether to allow 2 bases or 3 bases.
- For errors, players can advance one base.
- You can play outs, but please make every effort to allow both teams the same number of at bats.

Make sure you educate the girls on any rule changes that you agree to with the other coach before the game starts.

Have fun and play ball!