

2013 FALMOUTH AAA Softball Rules

AAA league is a developmental, instructional league intended to have the girls continue to learn the game of softball and have fun.

UMPIRES: Generally, umpires are either a parent or coach. If coaches are umpiring, typically they will call balls and strikes when their team is up to bat. This makes it convenient to assist the batters with stance or positioning in the batter's box. There should be NO complaining to umpires on balls and strikes. The strike zone will be defined as shoulders down to just below the knees AND 3 inches on either side of the plate. Umpires can stand behind the plate or behind the pitcher (wherever they feel most comfortable).

*No one is allowed outside the dugout during the inning other than the defensive team, the base coaches, the hitter and base-runners (and coach pitching if walk limit is reached-see below under DEFENSE).

GAME TIME: Games are 2 hours. There needs to be allotted time for field maintenance by the home team AFTER the game and to allow the next teams on the field if there is a game after you. On weeknights, games start promptly at 5:30pm, no inning should begin after 7:15. On weekends, when there is a game following your game, no inning should start after 1 hour and 45 minutes has elapsed **from the scheduled start time of your game**. This means that you need to work to get your game started ON TIME. If you are late getting started DO NOT punish the teams that follow you by delaying their game. The games must stop 15 minutes prior to the start of the next scheduled game to allow for field maintenance, clean up and pick up and to allow the next teams to get onto the field for warm-up. PLEASE be courteous and thoughtful of others.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION: There should be no conflicts between coaches, parents, spectators etc. If you witness an unruly or aggressive person or potentially volatile situation (coach, parent, spectator, etc.) the head coach of the team with the unruly person should take charge and ask that person to stop or leave. If the unruly person is a head coach, then the umpire should ask the coach to stop and calm down. If that fails, end the game and report it to the Little League Board immediately. NO ONE should get into any type of conflict in front of the kids. STOP THE GAME.

FIELD AND DUGOUT SAFETY: While in the dugout, no climbing on the benches or fences AND no player may have a bat in their hand at any time except when preparing to leave the dugout for their turn at bat. This is a real safety issue and must be constantly monitored by coaches. **'One bat rule'**

When the fields are closed, the fields are closed. This decision will be made by the Town of Falmouth or Little League Board and must be adhered to by the coaches. The decision to close the fields will be posted on the town website and communicated via email whenever possible.

OFFENSE:

- Continuous batting order. All girls will hit. Only one bat in use at all times!!
- 3 outs switch offense to defense
- If a team scores 6 runs OR bats through the batting order, that half inning is over and the other team bats.
- Stealing...generally there is no stealing in AAA softball. The girls typically have not developed the skills as pitchers or catchers to make stealing feasible. However, if as the season progresses and both coaches feel their players have progressed to the point of being ready to attempt stealing, they may choose to allow stealing. **No stealing home!!**
- No sliding into first base. No sliding head first into any base. If a runner does not slide when a defensive player is making a play (other than at 1st base) then the runner is automatically out.
- A runner may only advance from 3rd to home on a batted ball or walk/hit batter with bases loaded.
- A runner may only take 1 base on an errant throw on a batted ball that is fielded and thrown.
- No advancing on throws back to the pitcher from the catcher

DEFENSE:

- 9 Players play in the field. Other players should either be watching and learning or working with a coach on the side. Outfielders should be placed at least on the outfield grass edge as we do not want to have 7 infielders.

PITCHING: It is strongly encouraged to allow ALL kids the opportunity to pitch. If a child or parent prefers not to pitch, that is fine and the coaches can work with that player in practices and on the side during a game in hopes of gaining the confidence and/or ability to pitch in a game.

- WALKS...A pitcher will only be allowed to walk/hit 3 batters in an inning. After the third walk/hit batsmen of the inning, if another batter gets to 4 balls, the coach will come in to pitch and the batter assumes the strike count and will either hit or strike out.

FIELDING: In a 4 inning game, no player sits more than 1 inning. In a 6 inning game, no player sits more than 2 innings.

- It is recommended that every player play every position as equally as possible during the season. If a player or players parent communicates with the coach that the player chooses not to play a particular position that is fine. No player is allowed to play in the same position for more than two innings of each game. Moving an outfielder from left field to right field is not within the spirit of this rule. Outfielders must be moved to the infield.

PLAY BALL & HAVE FUN!!!!!!