

3rd/4th Grade Softball Rules 2022

All games played at Golden Spike Park West Field- 1260 West 5050 South Riverdale

Weather updates will be sent via text. Text "Softball22" to 801-621-6084 for the accurate information on game play and weather for that day.

Rules Governing play will be the National Federation of State High School Associations rules with the following additions, exceptions, changes:

Equipment/Field:

A regulation 11" softball will be used in this league.

Players must wear a uniform and running shoes or rubber cleats. No metal cleats.

Players must wear a helmet, mask, or safety equipment when required. Specified later.

Base path distance is 50ft. Pitching distance is 30 ft. Home team takes 3rd base dugout.

All equipment must be kept in the dugout. The on-deck batter should be the only player out of the dugout.

Game Play:

Games will be 6 innings or 1 hour. No new inning after 50 mins. Games will end when the inning in progress is over, even if the game is tied.

Three outs or one time through the line-up will end each half inning. However, the coaches and umpires will meet before the game and each team will be allowed to bat the number of batters equal to the team with the most players. Free substitution allowed on defense. All players must play at least two innings in the field. Please substitute players equally.

A mercy ruling of 10 runs after the 3rd inning will be observed. If at the end of the 3rd inning, one team is ahead by 10 runs or more, the umpire will call the game.

All players present and playing defense must be in the batting lineup and will take their turn at bat.

There will be no walks in this league. After the fourth ball is pitched, the batter's coach will enter the game to continue pitching until the batter hits the ball in fair territory, strikes out, or is called out when **the coach pitches a maximum of four pitches**. Umpires will call balls or strikes on the coach pitch.

Play can begin with 7 players. When another player arrives, that player can be inserted into the end of the line-up. Games will be ruled a forfeit if the number of players fall below 7 on a team. If fewer than 7 players are present at game time, a 5-minute grace period will be given before a forfeit is declared. If a player in the line-up must leave the game early for reasons other than injury, the coach must notify the opposing coach and the umpire.

Make-up games will be played for rainouts or other weather-related issues only.

Rules:

Batters: Batters must wear a helmet. **Throwing the bat is an automatic out.** Umpire may issue warning before declaring batter out, umpire judgement. Bunting is allowed; however, the pitch must be delivered by a player pitcher. No bunting off a coach pitcher is allowed. If a batter is hit by the pitch with BASES LOADED, the player may take the base or may choose to have a coach pitch. There is **no dropped third strike rule** in this division.

Runners: Runners must wear a helmet. **Stealing is allowed except for home plate.** Runner cannot leave the base until the ball crosses the plate. No stealing is allowed off a coach pitcher. You can steal home only if directly played upon at 3rd base. If the catcher throws down to second, this doesn't constitute being played upon at third.

Defensive Players: 9 defensive players will be allowed to take the field with 6 standard infield positions (including catcher) and 3 outfield positions. Please rotate positions played. If teams are short a player, they may distribute their players for the best field coverage. **Catchers MUST wear a face mask, chest protector, and knee/shin-guard protection. All players in the field must have a softball glove/mitt.**

Umpires: Any umpire's decision which involves judgment is final. If there is only one umpire, he/she shall have complete jurisdiction in administering the rules. If a player or coach is ejected from the game, they will have an automatic one game suspension. The player or coach will not be allowed to be at the ballpark during this suspension. Failure to comply will result in his/her team forfeiting.

Sportsmanship:

We strive to follow the Junior Bees *Lead Together* initiative. This initiative invites everyone to be a leader and calls on everyone involved to be kinder and more respectful with our words and actions. Avoiding the negative, we focus on the positive and empower those that show respect, leadership, kindness, sportsmanship, and positivity. If we all take the lead together, hate falls behind.

The purpose of this league is to have fun, develop skills, and practice good sportsmanship.

Questions/Concerns: Baylee Cascaddan bcascaddan@riverdalecity.com 801-621-6084