

Greencastle Girls Rookie League Softball Governing Rules

Article I – Purpose

Section I:

The Greencastle Girls Rookie League Softball Program is governed by the By-Laws of the Greencastle-Antrim Baseball/Softball Association.

Section II:

The purpose of the Greencastle Girls Rookie League is for the training of girls for the purpose of improving and developing their softball skills in an atmosphere where good sportsmanship and fair play will be practiced and promoted. The objective is to teach the girls the game of softball. This is an instructional league, not T-Ball. The girls need to learn softball positions and how to play these positions, along with the rules of the game, such as; how to get outs, fair and foul ball, force and tag-outs, cutoff throws, etc. Rookie League is a very important developmental stage of softball, especially for those girls who will be moving into Major League next year.

Article II – Chairpersons

Section I:

The Greencastle Girl Rookie League Softball Program will be governed by Chairpersons appointed and approved by the Greencastle-Antrim Baseball / Softball Association each year at their October meeting. Our league will also follow rules that are governed by the AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION (A.S.A.) with amended rules covered in Article VII and Article V-Section VIII.

Section II:

The League Chairpersons are responsible for the following.

**Managers
All Protest and Problem
Game Scheduling / Field Practices
Rescheduling Postponed Games**

**Organization Registration
All Needed League Meetings
Organization of all work days
Rookie League All-Star Game**

Section III:

When a protest or problem arises involving a team who is managed or coached by a Girls Rookie League Director, the softball committee will assist on any situations deemed necessary.

Article III – Managers

Section I:

All managers will be approved at the March Board Meeting, if possible. Manager approval will be based on their previous years' conduct. The Girl Rookie League Chairperson must recommend all managers. New managers will be approved by the Greencastle-Antrim Baseball / Softball Association Board of Directors.

Section II:

All managers / coaches shall conduct themselves in a sportsman like manner at all times. Failure to do so could lead to dismissal as manager.

Section III:

Managers will select all of their own coaches. Managers are then responsible for their coaches' actions. If a manager is unavailable for practices or games, appointed coaches shall be in charge on a temporary basis.

Section IV:

The All-Star game will be managed on a joint effort by all of the Rookie League Managers and/or coaches.

Section V:

Managers' responsibilities are to be in control of their players, coaches, and their fans at all times. The manager must also:

- 1 Appoint a team Mother / Father
- 2 Support all fundraisers conducted by the association.
- 3 Cover all team concession stand assignments.
- 4 Assist on all scheduled field clean-up days.
- 5 Cleanup the dugout area after all games and practices.
- 6 Be responsible for all league equipment and uniforms.

Article IV – Games

Section I:

Each Girls Rookie League Team will play 16 games for a regular season schedule. Playoffs Seating will be based teams name drawn from hat by a board member from the baseball side of the league. The playoff game format will depend on number of team.

Section II:

During the last half of the season there will be a Girls Rookie League All-Star Games. All Girls in the league will be available for the All-Star game.

Article V – General Rules

Section I:

The set number of players for all teams will be based upon the total number of registered players.

Section II:

When a Majors league team doesn't have enough players to play a regular season

game due to illness, school function, vacation, etc., they may select a player from the Rookie league to play their scheduled game. The Major/Rookie league directors will keep a list of all eligible Girls Rookie league players, and it will be used on a rotating basis. When a team needs a player, the directors must be called and given a 24 hour advanced notice for any of the above reasons.

Section III:

When a Major league team loses a player for the year, they are entitled to select a Rookie league player to replace the lost player for the remainder of the season under the following conditions:

- 1 The player either quit, moved, season ending injury, or illness.
- 2 The loss occurred before the end of the teams 9th game.
- 3 Teams may select only 9 year olds from the Rookie league list.

Section IV:

No games shall be rescheduled without the approval of the Rookie League Chairperson/Director. Games should only be rescheduled for the following reasons.

- 1 Elementary/Middle School Functions
- 2 Religious Functions
- 3 Abundance of missing girl
- 4 Inclement weather. Every attempt must be made to play each game when scheduled.

Section V:

Any injuries that occur during practices or games, that require medical attention, MUST be reported to the league Chairperson within 24 hours. This is for insurance purposes.

Section VI:

Any player, manager, or coach ejected from a game for language, physical abuse, equipment abuse, or substance use, will:

- 1 **FIRST OFFENSE** – Sit out that game and the next scheduled game.

- 2 **SECOND OFFENSE** – The suspension is the same with the addition that the offender or player, with guardian, must attend the next Association Board Meeting to discuss appropriate discipline or be suspended until board approval to play is granted.

Section VII:

Saturday Games and Make-up Games: All teams must be at the playing field 30 minutes before the scheduled starting time and ready to play 15 minutes before the scheduled start.

Section VIII:

The home team shall occupy the third base dugout, supply a new and good back-up 11", .47 cores or less, approved A.S.A. softball, which is supplied by the league for every game. The home team manager is also responsible for setting the bases, lining the field and getting the equipment out of the equipment shed. Both managers are responsible for putting all equipment back in the shed. Field time is as follows:

- 1 The visiting team is scheduled for infield practice ½ hour prior to the start of the game.
- 2 The home team is scheduled for infield practice 15 minutes prior to the start of the game.

Article VI – Umpires

Section I:

The Greencastle Girls Rookie League Softball shall be sanctioned with the Amateur Softball Association (A.S.A.) however, umpires will not be provided for Rookie league games. Rookie league games do not utilize umpires. The manager from the batting team acts as the umpire and has the final say.

Article VII – Playing Rules

- 1. All players must wear league-approved uniforms.**
- 2. Batting helmets must be worn when batting and running the bases in all practices, games, and tournaments. Chin straps must be used.**
- 3. Catcher’s masks must be worn at all times by the catcher while catching at practice, games, and tournaments. This is for insurance purposes. Chest protectors are optional and are located in the equipment shed.**
- 4. No jewelry of any type may be worn during practice or games. This is for insurance purposes. Emergency bracelets are permitted.**
- 5. The managers, prior to the start of the game, will determine the fitness of the playing field. Once the game begins, every attempt must be made to complete the game. No game will be played while lightning is in the area.**
- 6. Rookie League Games will fall under the following time condition:**
 - 6 innings per game or a 2 hour time limit, whichever comes first.**
 - The exception to the above rule occurs when your team is the last scheduled game on the field. If this occurs the game will fall under the 6-inning rule.**
 - In the event that inclement weather sets in during play, games are final after 4 innings.**
- 7. An inning will end when one of the following occurs.**
 - 1 The batting team scores 5 runs.**
 - 2 The fielding team records 3 outs.**
- 3 Unlimited runs allowed in the 6th inning, and Please Note: No EXCEPTION to this rule. It’s 5 runs or 3 outs!**

8. All postponed games will be rescheduled and played within 2 weeks of the original game, with the exception of the last 2 weeks of the regular season which will be rescheduled and played within 1 week.

9. Lineup Guidelines:

- **All players will be in the starting batting order and bat the entire game.**
- **Each team will field 10 players on defense.**
- **All players are required to play a minimum of 2 complete innings on defense.**
- **A minimum of 9 players is required to play. Games can be rescheduled in advance, prior to game time, in accordance with Article V, Section VI. In the event that a team has less than 9 players at game time, they will forfeit the game. The game however can still be played for development purposes. (This rule is based on 12 or more players to a team.)**
- **Teams that field only 9 players will play 3 outfielders.**

10. Games will be player pitch for the first 3 innings the first ½ of the season. The last 3 innings will be coach pitch. Players will pitch 3 pitches and if there is no hit then the coach will pitch 3 pitches. 6 pitches max per batter. After 6 pitches the batter is Out. The coach pitcher shall be on the field positioned behind the player pitcher ready to step in if needed. Coaches that are pitching must make every attempt to stay out of the way of a player trying to make a play.

11. Games will be player pitch for the first 3 innings the second ½ of the season. The last 3 innings will be coach pitch. Balls and Strikes will be counted during player pitch. A pitch that results in a Hit By Pitch will be called a ball, and not an automatic walk. If the Hit By Pitch results in ball 4, the batter may then take 1st base. The emphasis to the batter is to hit the ball and not stand there and take a walk. Once the player pitcher walks 4 batters in a single inning the coach will then come in and pitch. The coach pitcher shall be in the dugout while the player pitcher is pitching and ready to step in if needed. Coaches cannot pitch walks. Batters will either hit the ball or strikeout while the coaches are pitching. Coaches that are pitching must make every attempt to stay out of the way of a player trying to make a play.

12. The pitching distance will be 35 feet.

13. Allow extra bases on a good hit, runners can advance on hits into the outfield until the ball is released and thrown towards the infield. Teach the girls to listen to their base coaches. No advancing on overthrows from the outfield. Runners may advance 1 base on overthrows at first base only. If the first base player touches the ball in any way, the runner cannot advance.

14. The bases will be set at 60 feet.

15. Verbal abuse of opposing players, managers, coaches, fans or umpires will not be tolerated.

16. Individual medals will be awarded to all girls who participate in this league. Individual First Place Trophies will be awarded to the winners of the Championship Game. Individual Second Place Trophies will be awarded to the runners-up of the Championship Game.

17. Trophies will be available by the Championship Game.

18. Any rule not covered in these Playing Rules, will be per A.S.A. Official Rule Book.