

**BRUNSWICK YOUTH SPORTS
SENIOR PONYTAIL RULES
14-18 YEAR OLD GIRLS**

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RULES – GENERAL - RULES

The Home Team shall occupy the 1st base dugout. The Away Team shall occupy the 3rd base dugout.

NO SMOKING OR EATING IS PERMITTED IN THE DUGOUT. (BYS RULE.)

Both teams are to clean up their dugout after the completion of their game. Teams should leave the dugout as quickly as possible after the completion of their game so that the next game can start.

The Home Team shall supply a new ball at the start of the game. The Away Team shall supply a good used ball to be used as the back-up ball.

The Home Team shall provide the “Official Scorekeeper”. No game shall start until the official scorekeeper is ready. All changes must be given to both the official and visiting scorekeeper.

A line-up shall be turned into the official scorekeeper 10 minutes prior to the start of the game. The scorekeeper shall record the start time of the game in the scorebook.

Each girl listed on each teams line-up at the start of the game, shall play a minimum of 3 innings of that game or that game shall be declared a forfeit. An inning consists of 3 outs on offense and 3 innings on defense. (Exception:

If the Mercy Rule applies, or a girl arrives to the after the 1st inning has been completed, or if the Discipline Rule is being used, then the 3 inning rule will not apply.) If a game ends prior to 6 innings and a player does not get the minimum 3 innings in that game, then the coach is to make sure that the player gets the minimum 3 innings in the next game by starting the player in the next game, or that game shall be declared a forfeit.

Managers have the option of playing their players 3 consecutive innings, or they may rotate their players every other inning, as long as they play 3 innings of that game.

Teams must field at least “8” players in order to start a game. As soon as the 9th player arrives, she must be added to the bottom of the line-up or the game will be declared a forfeit. (The same applies if a team shall start with 9 players. As soon as the 10th player arrives, then she must be added to the bottom of the line-up.)

If you start a game with 8 players, the 9th position in the batting order

WILL NOT be an automatic out.

If a player has to leave the game for any reason, such as injury, work, ejection, emergency, etc., their position in the batting order will not be an automatic out. You will skip that player's position in the batting order and proceed to the next batter.

You must finish any game with at least "8" players or that game shall be declared a forfeit.

All players bat in a continuous rotation. Any player who is late is added to the bottom of the batting order.

Mercy Rule: If the Home Team is ahead by 15 runs after 4 ½ innings, or the Visiting Team is ahead by 15 runs after 5 innings, then the umpire shall call the game. This shall be an "Official Game".

Brunswick Youth Sports Senior Ponytail plays under the USSSA Rules and Guidelines and the BYS Rule Book.

Delete the USSSA 2 strike foul rule .

Delete the USSSA rule concerning a designated homerun hitter.

ALL make up games will have a 1 1/2 hour time limit. Whether the make up game is a weekday or weekend game, it will still have a 1 1/2 hour time limit.

There will be a 10 minute grace period for **ALL** Saturday and Sunday Games.

PINCH RUNNERS will no longer be allowed. If a player can hit and field, they can run the bases.

TIME LIMITS

Games shall be 7 innings. (In the event that a team is ahead by 15 runs after 5 innings, then the game shall be called due to the Mercy Rule.)

The first game during the week shall start at 5:30 pm. There will be a 1-½ hour time limit for this game. A new inning cannot start after 6:55 pm. A new inning begins as soon as the final out of the previous inning is made, not when the defensive team takes the field. (If, after 1 ½ hours of play, and 4 innings have been completed, or the Home Team is ahead after 4 ½ innings, it will be deemed a regulation game.)

The second game during the week shall start at 7:00 pm. This game has a 1 ½ hour time limit.

All Saturday games shall have a 2-hour time limit. A new inning cannot start after 1 hour and 50 minutes have been played.

If the 5:30 game is unable to start due to a lack of players or coach, then that team shall be given a 10-minute grace period. If after 10 minutes, they are still

unable to start, then that game shall be declared a forfeit. If a game starts after 5:30 and before 5:40, the game shall end at 7:00. (A 10-minute grace period may be allowed for ALL games on Saturdays.)

There is a 10 minute grace period for the weekday 7:00 game. There is a grace period for ALL Saturday games.

The USSSA Rule pertaining to suspended games shall apply.

Mercy Rule: If the Home Team is ahead by 15 runs after 4 ½ innings or the Visiting Team is ahead by 15 runs after 5 innings, the Umpire shall call the game. This shall be an “Official Game”.

IF, in the Umpire’s judgment, he feels that either team is stalling, he may begin to call balls and strikes on the batter. IF, in the Umpire’s judgment, he feels that the stalling is excessive, he may warn the offending manager. If the stalling continues, the Umpire may then declare a forfeit.

EQUIPMENT

Senior Ponytail will use 11 or 12 inch restricted flight softball. It may be a USSSA or ASA approved softball. (BYS will provide the balls for the league.) Any approved softball glove may be used.

A first baseman’s mitt may be used, but only be the 1st baseman or catcher.

Only “USSSA approved” softball bats may be used. (A list of “USSSA Approved” bats may be found on the USSSA web site at www.ussa.com)

Batting helmets do not have to have a chin strap.

Catcher’s equipment shall consist of a facemask, helmet and chest protector.

Metal cleats cannot be used.

No metal jewelry may be worn by any player. (An exception will be made for Medical Alert bracelets, necklaces and jewelry of a religious nature. *They must be taped down.*) *String bracelets will be allowed.*

Any coach that is caught switching or replacing the official ball with any other ball shall be suspended for 2 games and that game will be declared a forfeit.

If a team is found to be using a non-approved bat, then that bat shall be removed from the game with no penalty to the player or the team.

Any player that enters the batters box without a helmet will be declared out. (This is a BYS Rule.)

Chin straps are not required. However, if a helmet has a chin strap attached, then it must be strapped.

There is to be no alterations made to the uniforms. (Example: Cutting off the

sleeves or cutting the seams of the shirts.) Putting names on the back of the shirts will be allowed.

PITCHING

A starting pitcher may, after being substituted for, re-enter as a pitcher.

Coaches may rotate their pitchers every other inning.

At the beginning of an inning or when a pitcher relieves another pitcher, one minute may be used to deliver no more than 3 practice pitches to the catcher, coach or another team-mate.

Preliminary to pitching, the pitcher shall take a position with her pivot foot firmly on the ground and in contact with the pitcher's plate. The foot must be in contact with the pitcher's plate when the pitched ball is released. There are no restrictions on the pivot foot after the release of the ball.

The ball must be pitched underhanded at a slow speed and must be at least 6 feet off the ground before crossing home plate to a maximum of 12 feet off the ground. (The height of the arc is up to the umpire's discretion.)

Senior Ponytail will pitch from "**50 feet**". (USSSA is 50 feet.)

A manager or coach may make 2 visits to the mound in the same inning. The pitcher's automatic removal is required after the visitation limit has been reached.

The manager or coach is prohibited from making a second visit to the mound while the SAME batter is at bat. If a pinch-hitter is substituted for the batter during her at bat, then the manager may make a final trip to the mound, but must remove the pitcher.

If a manager or coach goes to the catcher or another fielder, and that player goes to the pitcher, or the pitcher goes to that player at her position, it will constitute a visit to the mound.

BATTING AND BASERUNNING

DELETE the USSSA Rule pertaining to the 3rd strike foul. (*Effect: When a batter has 2 strikes, she will be allowed one foul ball. After the first foul ball, the next ball that the batter hits must be fair or the batter will be declared out.*)

DELETE the USSSA Rule pertaining to a designated homerun hitter.

The USSSA Rule pertaining to a starting batting count of 1 ball & 1 strike **WILL APPLY.**

All batters must wear a batting helmet with two earflaps.

One intentional walk per game is allowed.

Throwing the bat: The first time the batter will receive a warning. The second

time, the batter will be declared out, play is dead and no runners may advance.

Safety Base: Any batted ball hitting the white portion of the base should be fair. Any ball hitting the orange portion of the base should be foul. On the initial throw to first base from the infield or the outfield, the batter/runner must touch the orange or red portion of the base. This applies only on the initial play at first base, which does not include returning to the base after over-running or advancing to second base on a hit to the outfield or when tagging up to advance on a fly ball.

Sliding is permitted. Base runners may slide feet first or head first.

SLIDING IS NOT MANDATORY. Runners may go into the base or try to score standing up as long as there is NO MALICIOUS contact. (Malicious contact will be up to the Umpire's discretion.) Any base runner called out for malicious contact will be immediately ejected from the game and will be suspended for the next 2 games.

Pinch runners are not allowed. (Exception: If a player is injured running to a base, a pinch runner may be used for the injured player. If a pinch runner is used, then the injured player must be removed from the game for the remainder of that game. This is for the safety of that player.)

INFIELD FLY: The batter is out if she hits an infield fly with runners on first and second OR first, second and third with less than 2 outs. The runners may advance at their own risk AFTER tagging up if the ball is caught. If the ball is dropped or touches the ground, the base runner does not have to tag up to advance. The Umpire should call the batter out (forcefully) as quickly as he can judge the ball to be able to be caught with reasonable effort. This is entirely up to the Umpire's judgment. (An infield fly does not have to be caught.)

GROUND RULES

These ground rules shall apply for all games

Any over thrown ball in fair or foul territory: the runner's advance is not limited in fenced-in field only.

If an overthrown ball goes into the dugout or over the fence, the runner gets the base she is advancing to plus one base.

If a live ball hits any equipment that is not being used, outside the dugout, the ball is dead at that point. If it is the offensive team's equipment, the batter is declared out and no runners may advance. If it is the defensive team's equipment, all runners are allowed to advance 2 bases. The 2 base advance will be from the position of the base runner(s) at the time the ball makes

contact.

INJURIES

If a defensive player is injured running for the ball or while making a play, and is forced to leave the field due to the injury and is replaced by another player, then the injured player must be removed from the game for the remainder of that game. (This is to prevent any further injury to that player.)

Any player that is bleeding from an open wound must be removed from the game.

If a player has a scrape or a minor cut, then a bandage may be applied to the wound and the player may remain in the game.

If the Umpire can visibly see a player is injured, time is to be called before the play is completed. The runner shall be given the base to which she was advancing. If, in the Umpire's opinion, he feels that the runner may have reached more than one base had the injury not occurred, then he may award the runner 2 bases.

COACHES

1. Each team is allowed a total of 4 coaches including the team manager.
2. All coaches and managers must submit their name for a background check.
3. All coaches and managers must be approved by the BYS Board.
4. All approved coaches and managers must attend a BYS sponsored coaching clinic before taking the field if one is scheduled.
5. All coaches and managers must submit their name each year for a background check and BYS Board approval even though they may have coached the previous year.
6. Coaching one year does not mean that you will automatically coach the next year. You must go through the BYS approval process each year.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Unsportsmanlike conduct of any kind will not be tolerated.

Types of conduct that will be construed as Unsportsmanlike is fighting, threats and profanity directed at the Umpire, players, managers, coaches or spectators.

Malicious throwing of the bat, batting helmet or any other equipment.

Any other type of conduct, which may be construed, to be Unsportsmanlike.

A manager, coach, player or spectator may be ejected from the game and the field for Unsportsmanlike conduct, use of ANY profanity or ANY violation of BYS rules WITHOUT A WARNING. Any player, coach or manager

ejected from a game must sit out the next 2 games.

Any player, coach or manager may be ejected from the game for deliberately throwing his/her bat, helmet or any other equipment for any reason, on completion of the play. *This is the Umpire's decision.*

Fighting will result in the automatic suspension of the offending players or coaches.

All ejections will carry a 2 game suspension.

SOCIALIZING (BYS RULE)

Players in uniform shall not address or mingle with spectators, nor sit in the stands during the game. ALL players are to remain in the dugout during the game. One warning will be given to each team. The next infraction will result in the ejection of the offending player(s). Exception may be made for player(s) going to the restroom.

No manager, coach or player shall address any spectator during a game except to restore order to that team's fans.

BYS DISCIPLINE RULE

A manager or coach of any BYS team may waive the "3 inning" rule for one or more of the following qualified reasons: A.) Late arrival to games. B.) Unsportsmanlike conduct. C.) Non-attendance to scheduled practices without a legitimate excuse or prior notice to the manager or coach. D.) Any other reason acceptable to the BYS Board of Directors.

Any manager or coach waiving the "3 inning" rule, shall instruct the opposing coach, Umpire and both scorekeepers prior to the start of the game and indicate in the scorebook the name of the player and specify which sub-rule is being used.

The manager shall, within 48 hours of the completion of the game, submit to the League Commissioner, in writing and in detail, justification for use of this rule.

A parent of the player, the player or the opposing manager/coach, who feels that this option has been unfairly used, shall submit to the League Commissioner, in writing, their opinion within 72 hours. They shall list all facts, in detail, supporting their viewpoint.

Each manager will be held responsible for handling the BYS Discipline Rule in a fair and equal manner to each and every player on his or her team.

The committee to review this rule shall consist of the League Commissioner the Umpire-in-Chief and the President (or appointee) of BYS. They shall present their findings to the BYS Board of Directors within 7 days of the complaint. The Board of Directors will issue a judgment as soon as possible within a

maximum of 14 days from the initial complaint.

HIGH SCHOOL RULE

Any BYS Player (male or female) who is playing baseball or softball for Brunswick High School may not participate in any BYS games until the High School baseball and softball season is completed.

PLAYOFFS and ALL-STAR GAME

The Playoffs will begin as soon as the regular season is completed. **This may before or after the All Star Game.**

The Playoffs may be a division format or may be a single or double elimination tournament.

Division format playoffs, first round will be single elimination.

Division Championship will be double elimination.

The World Series will be double elimination.

Playoff format is subject to change.

All players must play a minimum of 1/2 of the scheduled games to be eligible to participate in the playoffs.

All players must have played in 1/2 of the scheduled games in order to be eligible to participate in the All-Star Game.

All-Star Managers will be determined by won-loss record one week prior to the All-Star Game.

DRAFT AND ROSTERS

The order of the draft will be in reverse order of the league standings, with the last place team drafting first to the first place team drafting last in each round of the draft. The World Series teams will draft in the last two positions regardless of season record.

The number of rounds will be determined by the number of players in the draft and the number of draft picks each team will receive.

Players in the draft may not request to play for a specific team or coach.

The League Commissioner reserves the right to honor any or all hardship cases.

All returning players that sign-up on or before the deadline will be guaranteed a roster spot on the team that they played for the previous season, unless they request to re-enter the draft.

ANY players that sign-up after the deadline will automatically be placed into the

draft. There will be no exceptions.

Any players that sign-up after the draft will be placed on a waiting list or may be placed on any team that has an available roster spot.

Any player in the draft is available to all teams that are able to select that player. (Exception: If the player requests not to play for a specific team or coach on their registration form, then that team will not be able to draft said player.)

Any player that re-enters the draft is available to all teams that are able to draft that player, except the team that said player is leaving. (Example: Player #1 played the previous season for Team A. Player #1 enters the draft. All teams able to draft Player #1 may select her with the exception of Team A.)

Any player that played for a team in previous years and had re-entered the draft, then the following year, re-enters the draft again, may be selected by the former team. (Example: Player #1 played for Team A and re-entered the draft. Team B selected Player #1. The next year Player #1 re-enters the draft. All teams that are able to draft Player #1, including Team A, may select her. Team B would not be able to select that player.

The number of teams in the league will be determined by the number of players that sign-up to play ball and the number of players in the draft.

The roster limits will be determined by the number of players signed-up to play ball and the number of teams in the league.

Any player that, during the tryouts for the draft, that purposely tries to disguise her playing ability in order to discourage teams from selecting her, in order to be drafted by the team of her choice, will automatically be placed into the “Blind Draft”. (This is at the discretion of the League Commissioner.)

The uniform rule will still be in effect.:

Uniforms:

(a) All players on a team shall wear uniforms, hats or shirts identical in color, trim and style. All players uniforms shall include minimal six inch numbers on their backs. No player whose uniform does not conform to that of his/her teammates shall be permitted to participate in a game.

(b) **No player shall wear ragged, frayed or slit sleeves.**

(c) No player shall attach to his/her uniform tape or other material of a different color from his/her uniform.

(d) No part of the uniform shall include a pattern that imitates or suggests the shape of a baseball or softball.

(e) Glass buttons and polished metal shall not be used on a uniform.

(f) No player shall attach anything to the heel or toe of his/her shoe other than the ordinary shoe plate or toe plate. Shoes with metal spikes or cleats are not permitted. Shoes with molded cleats are permissible.

(g) No part of the uniform shall include patches or designs relating to commercial advertisements.

(h) **No player may alter their uniform in any way by cutting off their sleeves or cutting the sides of the uniforms.**

(i) Players names may be added to the back of the uniform.

(j) If a player comes to a game with the sleeves cut or altered in any form, that player will not be eligible to play in that game.

Language: Foul or vulgar language WILL NOT be tolerated. ANYONE, (player, coach or spectator) that violates this rule MAY and WILL be tossed from the game WITHOUT a warning by the umpire, by the commissioner or any other BYS Board Member.

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