



APPLETON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT Official Rules Girls Modified Softball (Grades 1&2) 2024

RAINOUT INFORMATION - (920) 832-3900 (Option 1)

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The following rules and regulations have been established to allow participants to compete in a safe and fair environment. Participants and coaches are to be familiar with these directives. These rules may be subject to change if during the season a team gains an unfair advantage over other teams due to a given rule in the league. All coaches and players will be notified of any rule changes made during the season.

A. General League Rules

1. This league is for girls who have completed 1st or 2nd grade in the school year immediately preceding the softball season.
2. While scores will be kept during game, results and standings will not be recorded. All players will receive a participation ribbon at the end of the season.

B. Players, Field, & Equipment

1. Regular lineup will consist of 10 players; four of these will be playing the outfield, with the remaining six in the infield. The four (4) outfielders are required to be on the grass outfield.
2. Appleton Parks & Recreation operates on an equal playing time philosophy. Players should sit / sub out no more than one inning before re-entering the game.
3. Teams must have a minimum of eight players to begin the game. Games must start on time, so there will be no grace period for teams having less than eight players. In the event a team is shorthanded we will do everything possible to ensure a game is played, including sharing of extra players from the opposing team. All "borrowed" players must bat at the bottom of the batting order.
4. All players must wear protective headgear up to bat and on base. Do not exchange batting helmets between teams. Each team has been issued five helmets. Catchers shall wear catcher's helmet, throat guard, shin guards, and chest protector.
5. Participants must remove any jewelry, watches or other potentially dangerous items prior to the start of the game for the safety of all participants. No metal spikes are allowed.
6. The Infield Fly Rule will not be used.
7. While batting, all players (with the exception of the batter and on-deck batter) must remain IN the dugout.
8. After the first game of the season, the batter will be reminded once to not throw their bat after a hit. Repeated occurrences may result in an out being called in an effort to reinforce the importance of bat safety.
9. Base distance is 60 feet; pitching distance is approximately 35 feet. This can be modified by the coach/pitcher depending on the needs of their batter. The player occupying the "pitcher" position shall start each play on the pitching rubber that is 46 feet away.
10. The ball will be an 11" RIF U8 level softball (Easton Incrediball, or similar).

C. Game Length

1. Games shall last for a maximum of 5 innings or 75 minutes, whichever occurs first. No inning will start with less than 10 minutes of time remaining.

D. Pitching

1. This league is "Coach Pitch", meaning each head coach (or designated assistant coach) will pitch to their players while at bat. Coaches will pitch with a "modified" underhand pitching motion. Coaches are encouraged to pitch from a distance and from a profile (on knees, for example) that will allow them to deliver a high frequency of "hittable" pitches.
2. It is required that coaches pitch underhand and at least 25 feet away from the hitter. A designated area will be lined for coaches to pitch.
3. Head coaches and assistant coaches may alternate responsibility for pitching as needed.

E. Batting

1. All players that are present for the game must be included in a continuous batting order.
2. Only swinging strikes are called, no called strikes or walks. Batters will be allowed a maximum of 10 pitches from their coach, and should be encouraged to swing at hittable pitches.

- a) **A Strikeout will be called after a total of 5 swings and misses during weeks 1 and 2.**
 - b) **A Strikeout will be called after a total of 3 swings and misses during weeks 3 through 7.**
3. A time at bat will consist of either three outs or 6 runs scored, whichever comes first.
 4. Bunting is not allowed.

F. Base Running

1. The runner shall use the orange safety base when running through first base. This is for the safety of both the runner and the fielder. Repeated failure to do so will result in the player being called out for interference.
2. A base runner cannot leave the base until the ball crosses the plate. There is no stealing.
3. **Base runners may NOT advance on an overthrow or a wild pitch. Overthrows will be considered a dead ball, and the runner will be kept at their current base. This is an age-appropriate rule to help introduce defensive players to the concept of force outs, and recognize where force out opportunities exist.**
4. A base runner may not intentionally interfere with a fielder in position to make a play on the ball. The runner will be called out if interference occurs.

G. Coaching Staff

1. Only one offensive coach is allowed in each coaching box in foul territory. ONE defensive coach will be allowed in the field, but must not interfere with play or offensive coaches, i.e., one coach on each foul line. All other coaches will remain in team bench area.
2. Only coaches and players are allowed in the dugout, unless permitted by the coach.

H. Weather Cancellations & Early Game Completion

1. In the event of inclement or dangerous weather, the league may cancel and/or reschedule games. If a game is canceled, information will be posted immediately to the Appleton Parks & Recreation Facebook page, and to our APRD weather line at 920-832-3900 (Select Option 1). If weather is questionable, but no cancellation has been posted, teams should report to their field. While we may play in conditions that are less than ideal, we will never play in conditions that put the health and safety of our participants at risk.
2. If there is a visible lightning strike/audible thunder during the game, the game will be suspended immediately.
3. All games called due to weather by the umpire shall be regulation if three or more complete innings have been played, or if the team second at bat has scored more runs than the other team at the end of 2 ½ innings.
4. Teams unable to play a scheduled game should contact the APRD at 832-5905 (preferred 48 hour notice) as a courtesy to their opponent and the staff. Games will not be rescheduled by the APRD for any reason except for inclement weather.

I. Sportsmanship

1. The goal of the APRD youth baseball / softball program is to introduce and help children develop the skills that will allow them to fully enjoy the game of baseball. We strive to create a safe a fun, inclusive, stress free atmosphere for children to learn, and sportsmanship and fair play is emphasized. Parents and spectators are EXPECTED to enthusiastically uphold and endorse our core beliefs of skill development, sportsmanship and fun through both their words and behavior.
2. Our coaches receive training that communicates the beliefs and goals of the Appleton Parks & Recreation department youth sports program, and are provided with tools, materials, and support to help them deliver quality baseball instruction to our young players. We expect our coaches to be shining examples of good sportsmanship and ethical behavior, as well as enthusiastic ambassadors of our program beliefs and goals. Coaches should openly discuss proper sportsmanship with their players and parents.
3. The program coordinator and site supervisor will not tolerate abuse, foul language, and inappropriate behavior from coaches, players, parents, or fans, and for the good of the program, this behavior will be dealt with promptly and decisively.
4. Appleton Parks and Recreation reserves the right to assign penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct upon review. Appleton Parks and Recreation also reserves the right to further the penalty upon assessment of the situation.

J. Appleton Parks and Recreation Staff

1. One umpire will work your game and assist with providing instruction for players if needed throughout the game.
2. The site supervisor will be present if issues arise.
3. Please report any concerns, questions, or problems to the site supervisor or program coordinator.

K. Lost & Found

1. If you find any lost equipment, please turn it in to the site supervisor.

