

HARRISON COUNTY GIRLS FASTPITCH SOFTBALL

GENERAL RULES 2018

- 1 No Jewelry
- 2 No Metal Cleats
- 3 USA approved equipment
- 4 Helmets must have face masks. They also must be free of cracks. Chin straps are optional.
- 5 No dented bats.
- 6 Good Sportsmanship is required from all players, spectators, coaches and umpires at all times.
- 7 Game time is forfeit time.
- 8 Game will be called if one team is ahead by 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings, or 8 runs after 5 innings.
- 9 Home team provides the game softballs.
- 10 Batters/Runners need to use orange bag at first base, fielder uses white base for safety reasons and per USA rules.
- 11 Tournament host provides umpires and softballs for all tournament games.
- 12 5 divisions of play: Coach Pitch includes 1st-2nd grades, 3rd-4th grades, 5th-6th grades, 7th-8th grades and 9th-12th grades. It no longer matters if the player has a birthday after Jan 1 when registering for Harrison County Leagues. The grade level for the following school year will be what is used when determining playing level. Players can always play up a level, but not down. Town reps will need to request approval by the board if age divisions listed above can not be filled and you have players needing to play. We will look at the best options for that individual and proceed as needed.
- 13 Girls that are currently in the 8th grade must play in the 9-12th grade division for summer ball. A 6th Grader will play in the 7-8th grade level. ONLY exception if the girl going into 9th grade is age eligible for 14 under (age 14 as of January 1 of current year).
- 14 Home team provides home plate umpire and 1 base umpire, visiting team may place 1 base umpire on field if desired.
- 15 Double header games for high school and jr high games. Umpires for home plate and 1 base will be provided by the town that the game is played in. Visiting team may provide 1 base umpire if desired. Each team will provide 1 game ball each night.
- 16 Season game rules will not change for Tournament games.
- 17 Exception to tournament play: No time limit on championship game. The run rule will be in effect. If one team is ahead by the run rule after both teams have a chance to bat, then the game is over. Coach pitch will play 4 innings or 1 hour. 3-4th grade will play 4 innings or 1 hour 15 min, 5-6th grade will play 5 innings or 1 hour 15 mins, 7-8th grade will play 7 innings, 9-12th 7 innings.
- 18 No tied games. All games ending with a tie will use the international tie breaker rule. Team at bat will place their last batter of the previous inning on second base and then complete their turn at bat. After 3 outs, the home team places their last batter on second base and completes their turn at bat with until 3 outs or if they score more runs than the visiting team. If neither team is ahead, then continue another inning using the international tie breaker rule with the last batter on second base.
- 19 During the tournament, rain dates will be played the next day the field is available if a team is unable to play they will forfeit that game.
- 20 Tournament dates must be set by the 1st game so players can schedule around the tournament.
- 21 Tournament dates can't be changed once scheduled.
- 22 Tournaments need to be scheduled M-F since that is when the regular season is played. Tournament games will not be played on Sunday, regardless of a rainout.
- 23 Tournament cedes will be placed according to the win/loss record of reg season.

- 24 **Coaches (EXCEPTION Coach Pitch) need to call/text or email their games scores to the Harrison Co President after each game. If games are rescheduled, then that information needs to be provided.**
- 25 All teams must participate in the tournament in order to participate in the Harrison County League.
- 26 All age groups may take the field with at least 7 players. There will be NO SHORTHAND PENALTY for the elementary age divisions. Jr High and High School have to take 1 out if playing with 7 or 8 players. The out must be listed as the last player on the roster.
- 27 Players must wear the appropriate uniforms. Any player wearing a skirt must wear shorts under the skirt.
- 28 Only 1 set of bases and pitching rubbers are allowed on a playing field at all times because if it causes too much confusion for younger players. Coach pitch bases must be set at 45ft while all other divisions 60ft. If a pitching mound is permanent, it may be left where it is located.
- 29 Games cancelled for any reason other than the weather and unable to be rescheduled, the team needing to reschedule will take the forfeit. Please try to reschedule all games.
- 30 Mentally and physically handicapped girls may play down an age division. This will be up to each individual town to determine what age group a mentally/ physically handicapped child should play in while taking into consideration the safety of the other players on the team. The player will not move up until it is determined by their local board that she has advanced enough to do so safely.
- 31 The Harrison Co Board is to be notified of any mentally/physically handicapped child not playing in their respective age group.
- 32 TEAM ROSTERS ARE SET after rosters are turned in at county meeting. A player may not play on another Harrison Co team during the season or tournament. No player may be added to roster unless the team falls below 9 players in all divisions except Coach pitch and we will accept an addition if roster falls below 10. EXCEPTION: Jr High players that are already registered may play with the high school division if the high school team would have to play shorthanded.
- 33 If a player quits, then the coach needs to notify the president.
- 34 **If the roster falls below 10 players in Coach Pitch or 9 players in all other divisions, then the president needs to be notified to allow a player. Insurance must be paid for and the player must be registered before the player is eligible.**
- 35 All rosters must have at least 8 players when they are turned into county. The team will be allowed to play with 7 players but it can't be registered with less than 8.
- 36 Player can play in school district in which they attend or school district in which they reside. If towns are co-oped during fall ball season, those teams can co-op for summer league.
- 37 No one except players, coaches and umpires are allowed on the field during the game unless approved by the home plate umpire.
- 38 Anyone causing a disturbance/distraction to the game should be asked by the home plate umpire to leave immediately and the game will be stopped until the person has left the area.
- 39 All rules not specifically mentioned in the general or age specific rules will follow the USA Rule Book.
- 40 All players MUST have a birth certificate on file in order to be insured and played. Hospital certificates are NOT accepted.
- 41 All towns playing in our league must have USA Insurance.
- 42 Practice may start April 1st assuming all players on your team have turned in the information so your team may be registered. If your team is not registered, you can not practice.

HARRISON COUNTY GIRLS FASTPITCH SOFTBALL

COACH PITCH RULES 2018

1st-2nd Grade

- 1 Time Limit: 1 hour or 4 innings
- 2 Game time is forfeit time
- 3 45 ft bases and 10 ft pitching circle must be marked on field
- 4 Use an 11" ball. Home Team will provide the ball.
- 5 Player's age is determined to be the grade level the player will be entering next fall in school.
If a player is currently in the 2nd grade, she must play in the 3-4 grade division.
- 6 NO MORE THAN TEN (10) players on the field at one time. The rover can play infield or outfield. Rover can't be located in front of or next to the pitcher's circle. Rover must be located behind the pitchers circle. If you choose to locate the rover infield, then ideally they should be placed between 1st and 2nd base. Pitcher(kid) will begin play in pitcher's circle. NO player should be placed in front of circle.
- 7 A team must have at least 7 players to play. If playing with 7 or 8 players, the Short Hand Penalty will not be in effect.
- 8 Roster batting and free substitution will be used in the coach pitch level. All players will be listed on the batting roster. All players will bat before any player bats a second time. Players can be substituted defensively any time for any player. The batting order will not be altered when substituting defensively. Since free substitution and roster batting is being used, there is no need to worry about a player batting for the person they are substituting for since they are already in the batting order. Any player can enter the game multiple times for a different player each time.
- 9 All players MUST play sometime during the game.
- 10 Runners will be awarded one (1) base per overthrow. Every time an overthrow is made the ball is live so the runners may advance at their own risk.
Example- If a girl has made an attempt towards the next base when the ball touches the pitcher's circle runner may advance to 3rd base. If the runner can be put out while trying to advance, then the runner also should be awarded an additional base if another overthrow is made.
- 11 Coach pitches to his/her own team.
- 12 Coach can pitch from in the pitcher's circle or in front of. Pitcher (kid) has to be in the circle.
- 13 When the ball touches the pitchers circle either by ground or above the play is over. Umpires need to call time when play is over so it is clear when the play ends. The runners can't advance when play is over. It is not considered an overthrow if the pitcher missed a ball that hits the circle (or above the circle as stated above).
- 14 There is NO "halfway line" and/or NO "send back" rule for runners.
Example- If a girl has made an attempt towards the next base when the ball touches the pitcher's circle they are free to advance on with the risk being thrown out or tagged out.
- 15 Face masks must be on all helmets. Helmets need to be free of cracks. Chin Straps are optional, but not required.
- 16 No stealing bases. No lead-offs. Girls can advance after the ball is hit.
- 17 **Each player will get 5 pitches ONLY.**
Batter will get 5 pitches or 3 strikes whichever happens first.
Examples a. batter swings at first 3 pitches batter is out. b. batter swings at first 2 pitches but does not swing at next 3 pitches batter is out. c. batter does not swing at first 4 pitches but swings at 5th pitch and misses the ball batter is out. 5 pitches ONLY Remember, if a player hits a foul ball on 3rd strike or 5th pitch, the player will have another pitch.
- 18 No walks are allowed.
- 19 An inning will consist of 10 batters OR 3 outs. The 10th batter will usually be a different player since you are roster batting. It is your responsibility to announce and know when your 10th batter is up to bat in every inning.

1st-2nd Grade Con't

- 20 A change of sides occurs after 3 outs OR 10 batters have batted in the same inning, whichever occurs first.
- 21 If playing with less than 10 players, the first batter of the inning may bat twice in that inning. Example, the first batter may also be the 10th batter to the plate. It's not the last girl listed on the roster but the 10th girl to bat in that inning.
- 22 If the 10th batter is up:
 - a- The batting team must announce the 10 batter before the 1st pitch. If no notice is given then sides will change and no runs produced by that batter will count.
 - b- 10th batter must hit or strike out.
 - c- Inning is over after the 10th batter hits the ball into fair territory and an out is made on batter or if a defensive player touches home plate before the 10th batter reaches home. Goal is for the 10th batter to get a homerun so the fielders need to learn to throw the ball home to get the runner out. The runner does not have to be tagged out at home, the defensive player only needs to touch home plate. Runs will count that have crossed home plate before the defensive player touches home plate.
 - d- Umpires should announce how many runs cross home plate after the inning is over so both score keepers have the correct amount of runs at time of play.
- 23 If a ball hits the coach, the ball is still live. Coaches must get out of the way for the defense. If a coach tries to interfere with the defense, the batter will be called out. We will NOT tolerate coaches who intentionally interfere with the defense making plays.
- 24 Find your own umpires for home games. Home team will be responsible for home plate and one base. Visiting team will be responsible for one base umpire.
- 25 ASA Rules will be used if not mentioned above. See ASA Rule book for questions.