

## General Rules 2021

1. No Jewelry
2. Metal Cleats can be worn by Jr High and High School teams
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 the 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. Season game rules will not change for Tournament games.
16. 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.
17. No tied games. All games ending with a tie will use the international tiebreaker 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 tiebreaker rule with the last batter on second base.
18. 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.
19. Tournament dates must be set by the 1st game so players can schedule around the tournament.
20. Tournament dates can't be changed once scheduled.
21. 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.
22. Tournament cedes will be placed according to the win/loss record of reg season.
23. All scores (except Coach Pitch) need to be turned in one week prior to the tournament with a list of what games & dates you still need to play. Scores for that last week prior to the tournament need to be turned in the night of or next day after the game. Tournaments can not be seeded until all scores are turned in so reporting in a timely manner is required. Tammy Meeker will be sending Town Reps a link to the Google Document that scores can be reported to. If coaches cannot access Google document they are to text scores to Tammy at 660-35-1160.

24. All teams must participate in the tournament in order to participate in the Harrison County League.
25. 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.
26. Players must wear the appropriate uniforms. Any player wearing a skirt must wear shorts under the skirt.
27. 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 with all other divisions 60ft. If a pitching mound is permanent, it may be left where it is located.
28. 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.
29. 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.
30. The Harrison Co Board is to be notified of any mentally/physically handicapped child not playing in their respective age group.
31. TEAM ROSTERS ARE SET after rosters are turned in at the county meeting. A player may not play on another Harrison Co team during the season or tournament. No player may be added to the roster unless the team falls below 9 players in all divisions except Coach pitch and we will accept an addition if the 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.
32. If a player quits, then the coach needs to notify the Registrar.
33. 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 add a player. Insurance must be paid for and the player must be registered before the player is eligible.
34. 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.
35. A player can play in the school district in which they attend or the school district in which they reside. If towns co-op during fall ball season, those teams can co-op for summer league.
36. No one except players, coaches and umpires are allowed on the field during the game unless approved by the home plate umpire.
37. 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.
38. All rules not specifically mentioned in the general or age specific rules will follow the USA Rule Book.
39. All players MUST have a birth certificate on file in order to be insured and played. Hospital certificates are NOT accepted.
40. All towns playing in our league must have USA Insurance.
41. 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

### 3rd & 4th Grade Rules 2021

1. Time Limit: 1 hour 15 minutes or 4 innings. Play out the inning if the home team is not ahead.
2. Game time is forfeit time.
3. 60 ft bases and 35 ft from Pitchers Rubber to Home Plate.
4. Use an 11" ball. The home Team will provide the game ball.
5. Player's age is determined to be the grade level the player will be entering next fall. If a player is currently in the 2nd grade, she must play in the 3-4 grade division.
6. NO MORE THAN 10 players on the field at one time. The 10th player must play in the outfield.
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. At bat rules: (3) OUTS or (5) RUNS.
9. Roster batting and free substitution will be used in the 3rd-4th grade 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.
10. If a team roster bats and a player becomes injured, then the injured player's turn at bat will be skipped without penalty. However, the injured player may not return to the field if she missed her turn at bat.
11. A courtesy runner is allowed for the catcher after 2 outs. The courtesy runner will be the player that made the last out.
12. All players MUST play sometime during the game.
13. The pitcher will start each count for a new batter. If the pitcher pitches 3 balls, the coach for the batting team will enter the game and assume the current count. All pitches from the Coach are STRIKES. The coach will pitch until the ball is hit fair or batter is out on strikes. There is not a limit on fouls. Exception: If the player pitches a full count, we will grant the pitcher one additional pitch for a strike out. If the pitch is a ball the coach will pitch 1 pitch. Examples:
  - a. The count is 2-1. If the next pitch is a ball, the coach will enter with the count 3-1 the coach will be granted up to 2 pitches to finish the count.
  - b. The count is 3-0, the coach will be granted up to 3 pitches. If the player doesn't swing, the player is out as all pitches from the coach are strikes. Remember, if a player hits a foul ball on 3rd strike, the player will have another pitch.
14. Coach has to stand on the pitching rubber when they come into pitch.
15. Face masks are mandatory for all pitchers. It is not mandatory but is highly recommended for 1st and 3rd base players to wear a face mask. All other infield players are allowed to wear face masks if desired.
16. Face masks must be on all helmets. Helmets need to be free of cracks. Chin Straps are optional, but not required.
17. No stealing bases. Players are encouraged to take a lead off after the ball leaves the pitchers hand. Unless pitch is hit, girls must tag back at base.
18. 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.**

19. No walks are allowed. Hit by Pitch rule applies to kid pitchers ONLY . Batter who is hit by a pitch (from a kid pitcher) will be allowed to take base.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. Tournament rules need to be the same rules that were played all season. Exception: The championship game will not have a time limit. It will be 4 innings unless one team is ahead by 15 runs after 3 innings.
23. During the tournament, rain dates will be played the next tournament day. Teams that do not show up for their game will forfeit their game.
24. Tournament seeds will be placed according to the win/loss record during the regular season.
25. USA Rules will be used if not mentioned above. See USA Rule book for questions.