

**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**  
**G-K Softball Rules and Regulations**  
Revised 2009

**The league shall follow all ASA rules and regulations except for the following...**

**The Players:**

1. Players must be in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at the time of registration.
2. There will be a continuous batting order. Every girl will bat even if she is not playing in the field. There will be three outs per inning, each inning ends with the third out.
3. Each player must play at least 2 innings per game, 1 within the first 2 innings. Coaches are allowed to bench a player for behavior reasons. We not only want to teach the players how to play softball, we also want to teach them about respect, teamwork, and good sportsmanship. If a situation arises, we ask that the parents address this with the coach **after the game**.

**Ball, Bases, Pitching Mound:**

1. Teams play with an 11” inch SOFTIE softball.
2. Bases will be 55’ apart
3. Pitchers will pitch from a pitching rubber measured 25’ from the front of the pitching rubber to the back corner tip of home plate. There will be an 8’ radius lined around the mound.

**The Game:**

1. Game times are stated on the schedule. If a team has not shown up within 15 minutes after the scheduled game time, it will be an automatic forfeit.
2. All “home” cancellations (rainouts, darkness) and rescheduling must be done by home team calling the scheduling person of their board (G-K calls the secretary). Home team will give three makeup dates. The board member will call the visiting team with those dates. The visiting team will need to respond within 7 days with the final date. No response will result in a forfeit. If the home team does not make the initial call within 7 days, they forfeit.
3. Visiting team warm ups start 30 minutes before game time. Each team is allowed 15 minutes on the field. Games need to start on time in order to get the game in before dark.
4. A game consists of a maximum of 4 innings. If weather or darkness forces a game to end after 2 innings, the game is considered complete. If 2 or more innings have not been played, it will be suspended and continued where it left off at a later date. No inning will start after 7:45 pm

5. The strike zone should be **chin to shins** and softball's width on both the inside and outside of home plate in order to **get the girls to swing the bat.**
6. One coach will stand behind the catcher and help get the ball back to the pitcher. Catchers may not talk to batters. Negative chatter is not permitted by any team member. It is the coach's responsibility to ensure good sportsmanship. ***Only POSITIVE cheering for your team and pitcher will be allowed.***
7. Teams may play with a maximum of 10 players on the field (4 outfielders).
8. No infield fly rule.
9. No bunting.
10. The coach will stop the game for an injury on the field only after the defensive player has control of the ball and the play is over. Coaches will decide to award the player the next base or not. If there is an injury involving blood, the player needs to be removed and the bleeding stopped and bandaged before she can return to the game.
11. There is a limit of 5 runs per inning, except in the 4<sup>th</sup> or last inning, which is unlimited. If a game starts a half hour late or later due to weather or field delays, the game will be a 3 inning game, and runs will be unlimited in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning. (This would only apply if the coaches decide beforehand that the game will only be a 3 inning game.)

### **Pitching:**

1. No drop 3<sup>rd</sup> strike.
2. Pitchers may start with their back foot off the pitching rubber. The pivot foot may remain in contact or push off and drag away from the pitching rubber as long as the pivot foot remains in contact with the ground. An illegal pitch is a ball. Pitcher does not need to present the ball.
3. There are no restrictions on replacing pitchers- free substitution.
4. Pitchers are allowed 1 minute to throw not more than 6 warm up pitches. If the catcher is not ready, a coach needs to warm up the pitcher. It is the responsibility of the coaches to keep the game moving. (This includes all relief pitchers throughout the game.)
5. The coach will pitch the first half of the season. The second half of the season a player must pitch. When the player pitches, after the 2<sup>nd</sup> walk of each inning, the coach will come in to finish pitching to that batter (starting with the count the batter has) until she strikes out by swinging the bat or watching strikes called by the \*coach\*, or hits the ball. The girl pitching then faces the next batter. Coaches will continue the above for each walk in that inning. NOTE: Coaches that will pitch must be stated before the game so both teams know who will be coming in to pitch. Coaches are required to pitch from the

pitching mound also. \*Coaches behind the plate helping the catcher will call balls and strikes... there are no umpires for this level. \*COACHES WILL NOT WALK BATTERS\*

### **Base Running:**

1. Players must slide at any base (not 1<sup>st</sup>) when a play is being made at the base. Catchers need to be out of the way of home plate unless a play is being made at home.
2. When the ball is thrown out of play, the runners are awarded the base they are going to, plus one base. (including 3<sup>rd</sup> to home).
3. Play stops when the pitcher (coach) has the ball within the 8 foot radius of the pitcher's mound and when players are attempting to get the ball to the pitcher in the circle. If a runner is more than half way between bases, she may advance to the next base. If not, the runner must go back.
4. No stealing. Runners should lead off the base as soon as the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
5. If a fielder is in the baseline while fielding a batter ball and a runner hits the fielder, it is ruled interference and that runner is out. If a fielder is in the base line not fielding the play, and the runner hits the fielder, it is ruled obstruction and the runner is awarded the base. Runners may run 3 feet on either side of the base line, except when rounding a base to go to the next. These are judgment calls made by the coaches.

### **Safety:**

1. A game must be called if there is lightning visible or you can hear thunder. All players in the area must be removed to a safe place.
2. Any offensive player on the field must wear a helmet with a face mask. Helmets must be worn by batters, batters on deck, and base runners. Deliberate removal of a battle helmet at any time while the ball is in play is an out. Players must call time out to switch or adjust helmets after play is dead.
3. Catchers must wear full safety equipment- mask, helmet, chest protector and shin guards. The equipment must be worn during all practices and games.
4. When taking warm up pitches, all players must wear helmets with face mask.
5. The on deck batter should be warming up behind the current batter. (on deck batter should not face the current batter.)
6. Throwing a bat or helmet is an out after one team warning.
7. No Jewelry or hair barrettes.

8. Players, coaches, assistants, are the only ones who can be in the dugouts or on the fields. (especially keep all children not on the team away from both)
9. Do not leave any player unattended after a game or practice. Make sure all players have been picked up before you leave the field.

**Equipment:**

1. Home team supplies a new “game ball” for the game. Also have a back up ball to keep the game moving in case of foul balls.
2. The league recommends, but does not require soft rubber or polyurethane cleats. Metal spikes are not allowed.
3. Teams should look consistent in their uniforms. Shirts must be tucked in and must have numbers on the back.
4. Only ASA approved equipment may be used.
5. Call the equipment manager with any equipment questions, comments, or concerns. (see attached list of board members)
6. The park district should have the fields ready for play ½ hour before game time. After the game the home team needs to replace the equipment and lock it up for the next game.

**Miscellaneous:**

1. Coaches and assistants-(including parent helpers) No Smoking and No Profanity. If you must, remove yourself from the area of the diamonds and the stands. This applies to all practices and game...NO EXCEPTION
2. DO NOT practice on a field that has been prepared and lined for game. If may be hard to find a place to practice, but you must respect the fact that another team has a scheduled game to play.
3. The board will have the right to install or revise a rule during the season as they feel necessary.
4. Violation of any of the G-K softball rules and regulations or DeMcKane softball league rules and regulations may result in the termination of your position as coach or assistant coach.

