

Montville Softball Rec Rules

D League—K & 1st Grades

Effective March 1, 2011

RULES COMMITTEE

- *Bob Shalongo*
- *Scott Holmes*
- *Frank Prudente*
- *Lisa Strickland*
- *Karl Monaco*
- *Scot Campbell*
- *Scott Van Koppen*

(please contact any of the members of the committee with any questions)

GOVERNING RULES

- *Current high school rules, as amended by the document, shall be used.*
- *Since all rules and situations cannot be addressed by this document, any problem that arises during a game that cannot be ruled on by the umpire, will be brought to the attention of any Board Member or member of the Rules Committee present at the field(if available). This Rules Committee or Board member will then interpret the rules and make a decision to the best of his or her ability. His/Her decision will be final.*

RULES

Safety

- *All coaches must possess a current Montville Township coaching certification.*
- *Each batter **MUST wear a helmet(with a face mask)** when at bat and in the on-deck area.*
- *All base runners shall wear a helmet(with a face mask)*
- ***All pitchers MUST wear heart guards.***
- *All long hair shall be tied back.*
- *Jewelry of any kind shall not be worn.*
- *Sneakers or cleats(non-metal) shall be worn.*
- *Catchers shall wear a throat protector.*
- *Players shall remain in the dugouts(or designated bench area) at all times, except when on deck, batting, or playing the field.*
- *All games shall immediately stop and players shall leave the field when there is lightning and/or thunder. Games shall not be resumed until at least 30 minutes have elapsed from the last sound of thunder or sighting of lightning.*
- *Players must be warned about throwing the bat when they are hitting.*

- *Runners shall slide or avoid the fielder.*
- *Only feet first sliding shall be permitted going to any base. A runner may dive head first back to a base.*

CONDUCT AND SPORTSMANSHIP

- *No words or sounds of discouragement shall be exchanged between coaches, assistants, players and/or spectators during a game.*
- *No coach, player or spectator shall stand behind the backstop.*
- *No coach, player or spectator shall encourage a batter from the opposing team to swing.*
- ***Since there are no umpires at this level, coaches will have to agree to "safe/out" calls (give close calls to the runner.)***
- *Teams shall shake hands with the opposing team at the end of the game.*

TIME LIMITS

- **For games when there is a game scheduled to follow:**
 - **No new inning after 1 hour and 30 minutes from start time.***
 - **Drop dead at 1 hour and 45 minutes.***
 - **If the last inning has not been completed, the game result shall revert to the previous completed inning.***
- **For games starting at 7:30pm (Muni 2):**
 - ** No new inning after 9:15pm.***
 - **Drop dead at 9:30pm***
 - **If the last inning has not been completed, the game result shall revert to the previous completed inning.***
- **For games with no games scheduled to follow on any field(except Muni 2):**
 - **Play to completion unless the game is stopped due to inclement weather or darkness.***

GAMES

- *Regulation games are at least 3 innings. Teams may play additional innings, if time permits.*
- *Games are instructional only; no score shall be kept.*
- *There shall be no umpires.*
- *Only one head coach and three assistants shall be permitted on the field and/or in the dugout area during a game.*

- Coaches shall discuss and agree on the ground rules prior to the start of the game.
- All players in the lineup shall hit each inning. The "3 out" end of inning rule does not apply.
- Coaches shall call outs, including removing runners from the field, as part of teaching the game.
- Each team shall have a minimum of six(6) players to start a game.
- If during a game, the number of players for a team drops below six(6), the game shall continue.
- Any player arriving after the start of the game shall be added to the bottom of the batting order.
- Players shall be in full uniform with a uniform number visible on their shirt.

PITCHING

- The pitching distance shall be no closer than 25 feet.
- An 11 cushioned softball shall be used.
- Coaches shall pitch to their own players.
- No balls or strikes shall be called.

BATTING

- All players shall bat in each inning. The batting order may be changed from inning to inning.
- There shall be no bunting.
- There shall be no infield fly rule.
- **Players may advance up to two(2) bases on a batted ball.**

BASE RUNNING

- Play shall end when the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle, the ball is in the pitching circle or a fielder has attempted to throw the ball to the pitcher in the pitching circle and the ball passes through the circle.

****A base runner may proceed to the next base if she is more than halfway at the time the ball has been returned to the pitching circle.*

- Runners shall not advance on an overthrow.
- Runners shall not leave a base until the ball has been hit and put into play. Runners violating this rule shall be warned, but not called out.
- Base runners shall not steal

FIELD AND FIELDING

- There shall be a distance of 45 feet between bases.
- All players shall play defense: 1 pitcher, 5 infielders and the remaining players as outfielders.
- There is no catcher at this level(a coach will catch).
- Outfielders shall start each play at least five(5) feet behind the bases.
- **When the coach is pitching, all infielders must start at least 30 feet from home plate.**
- Two(2) defensive coaches(in additional to the coach pitcher and coach catcher) may be allowed to be positioned in fair territory while his/her team is on defense.

