

**MONTVILLE SOFTBALL RULES**  
**D LEAGUE – K AND 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE**

February 19, 2008

**RULES COMMITTEE**

- Members
  - John Haugh
  - Bill Mulligan
  - Scott Holmes
  - Scot Campbell
  - John Hill
  
- Please contact any of the members of the rules committee if you have questions.

**GOVERNING RULES**

- Current high school rules as amended by this 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 who will interpret the rules and make a decision to the best of his/her ability. His/her decision shall be final.

**RULES**

- **Safety**
  - All coaches must possess a current Montville Township coaching certification.
  - Each batter shall wear a helmet when at bat and in the on-deck area. Use of helmets with face masks are encouraged, but not required.
  - All base runners shall wear helmets.
  - All long hair shall be tied back to prevent it from falling in front of the player's face.
  - Sneakers or cleats (non-metal) shall be worn.
  - Jewelry shall not be worn. Jewelry includes, but not limited to, rings, watches, necklaces, bracelets and earrings.
  - Players shall remain in the dugouts at all times during the game except when batting, on deck or playing in the field.
  - Coaches and umpires shall be responsible for keeping the areas adjacent to home plate and the on-deck area clear of traffic.
  - 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.
  - Coaches shall issue a team warning when a player throws the bat during batting. The second team occurrence shall result in an automatic out for the batter, the ball shall be considered dead and all runners shall return to the base they occupied prior to the start of the play.
  - Runners shall slide or avoid the fielder. Any runner who fails to slide and makes contact or interferes with the fielder shall be called out.
  - Only feet first sliding shall be permitted going to any bases. A runner may dive head first back to a base.

- **Conduct and Sportsmanship**
  - Intentional throwing of equipment by a player or coach shall initially result in a team warning. The second off shall result in ejection from the game.
  - No words 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.
  - Teams shall shake hands with the opposing team at the end of the game.
  
- **Time Limits**
  - Home teams shall have the responsibility to write the start time of the game in their scorebook. The start time shall be defined as the time when the first official pitch is thrown.
  - For games when there is a game scheduled to follow:
    - No new inning after 1 hour and 30 minutes.
    - 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 7:30 pm:
    - No new innings after 9:15 pm.
    - Drop dead at 9:30 pm.
    - 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:
    - Play to completion unless the game is stopped due to inclement weather or darkness.
  
- **Games**
  - Games are instructional only; no score shall be kept.
  - There shall be no umpires.
  - Games shall be at least three (3) innings. Teams may play additional innings, if time permits.
  - All players in the lineup shall hit each inning. The three (3) out end of inning rule shall not apply.
    - Coaches shall call outs, including removing runners from the field, as part of teaching the game.
  - 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.
  - 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 inch 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.
    - 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 leave a base until the ball has been hit and is put in play. Players violating this rule shall be warned, but not called out.
  - Base runners shall not steal.
  - Runners shall not advance on an overthrow.
  - 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.
    - Coaches shall catch.
  - Outfielders shall play at least 5 feet behind the bases.
  - The pitcher shall stand at least 30 feet from home plate within the pitching circle.
  - Two defensive coaches (in addition to the coach pitcher and coach catcher) may be allowed to be positioned in fair territory while their team is on defense.