

# Chariho Girls Softball League Rules

(Not governed by USA Rules)

## General League Rules:

1. Game times will be approximately 80 minutes in duration, or 7 complete innings. The last inning will be declared as the game reaches 80 minutes in duration. All recreational league games, including playoffs, will have an 80 minute time limit in place: **No new inning can begin after 80 minutes has elapsed, the final score of the game will be determined based on the score of the last completed inning. Should the score of the previous inning have been tied, revert to a prior inning until a winner can be determined. Umpires cannot “declare” last inning unless there are 10 minutes or less left on the timer.** Run limits are not applied in the last inning, as such the last inning will be declared at the top of the inning. It is the responsibility of both managers and the umpire to ensure that the last inning is called, and to monitor the game so that it can be concluded in approximately 80 minutes. Should the last inning continue past 80 minutes, the game will continue until the final inning is complete unless directed by the umpire due to weather or darkness. If game is called by the umpire due to weather or darkness, the score reverts to the last completed inning. A 3 inning game shall be considered a full game. No field warm ups after the 3rd inning. Any game called prior to 3 complete innings will be scheduled to continue, exactly how suspended, at a later date.
2. All games will have a 15 minute grace period from the official start time. After the 15 minutes, the team without the proper amount of players will have to forfeit the game. But games will start when each team has 8 players. If a forfeit occurs, the forfeiting team shall borrow a player(s) so the game can be played as a scrimmage.
3. A team must play with 9 players in the field with a continuous batting order. At a minimum, a team may play with 8 players. If a team cannot field the minimum required 8 players then the team will forfeit the game. (**Note:** Should teams need to borrow players from one another in order to meet the minimum player requirement, they are allowed to do so. Whether or not the game is counted in league standings is immaterial, play the game.)
4. Where applicable, ALL players must sit at least one (1) inning in a game AND all players shall sit one (1) inning BEFORE any player sits two (2) or more innings. A player cannot sit for consecutive innings.
5. A pitcher cannot pitch more than 2 consecutive innings in a game and no more than 4 innings in a game. For juniors, an “inning pitched” is defined as  $\geq 1$  out achieved by a pitcher in an inning. For minors it is defined as  $\geq 2$  outs.
6. Any pitcher that hits 2 batters in an inning must be taken out of that inning only. In the event a pitcher hits 5 batters in a game then that pitcher will not be allowed to pitch for the rest of the game. The batter must make a good attempt to get out of the way of the pitch (a batter hit by a “rolling” pitch does not count as a hit batter). Umpire's discretion.
7. Bunting is allowed at all times in both divisions.
8. Unlimited walks in both divisions.
9. For all “non-force” plays at a base where there is a legitimate chance to tag the runner out, the runner must slide into the base (this legitimate chance for a tag out is at the discretion of the

umpire). The runner will be called out in the event she does not slide. Note: the field player cannot block the base without possession of the ball (interference would be called).

10. Any debate or discussion with the umpire will include both managers at the pitcher's mound to discuss the problem. In the event the discussion cannot be resolved then an E-Board Member will be brought in to resolve the situation.
11. All other rules are governed by USA rules unless specified by league.
12. Umpires will call balls and strikes during the entire game.
13. A round robin playoff will start at the end of the season. A team's seeding in the play-offs is based on their league record. The play-offs are based on double elimination.
  - a. For Playoffs Only: For extra innings, you may have any player pitch for only one inning at a time (ex. Pitcher "A" could pitch an entire extra inning (Inning #8) but may not pitch the next extra inning (Inning #9). Pitcher "A" may however pitch the following inning if needed (Inning #10). This rule would be followed until the tie is broken or the game is called due to time or darkness. All playoff games, including minors, are solely player pitch.

### **Additional Rules for the Minor Division ONLY**

1. Face masks will be worn by all girls playing the infield.
2. Teams may choose to play 10 players in the field.
3. There will be a 3 run "cap" per inning, with the exception of the last inning, where teams will go through their batting order once **or** until three outs are made, whichever comes first.
4. Coaches will pitch the 1st, 3rd and 5th innings of an official game to their own team for the first half of the season. During the second half of the season, the opposing coach will relieve a pitcher, if the pitcher is struggling.
  - a. During coach pitch, the player in the pitcher's position should handle exchanges between the pitcher and the catcher and stand in the circle next to the coach pitching. The coach should not be the one receiving the ball from the catcher.
  - b. Walks are not permitted during coach pitch.
  - c. During a regular season game, a coach may relieve their pitcher if the pitcher is struggling to maintain the adequate pace of the game with agreement between coaches. If a coach chooses to relieve his/her own pitcher, the switch cannot be made during the middle of an at bat.
  - d. Upon the umpire declaring the final inning, a player must pitch the final inning. In the event of an extra inning game, all previous inning limitations are not considered.
5. The second half of the season and playoffs will be player pitch only.
  - a. Playoffs rules will be evaluated pending outcome/success of player pitch as agreed by the board with input from coaches.
6. Allowed 2 successful steals per inning to home on pass balls only. No stealing of home during coach pitch unless a coach relieves a struggling pitcher. At this point, a player may steal home as long as the 2 successful steals have not been recorded for that inning.

7. Runners may advance a base only on a pass ball outside the catcher circle. In the event a runner takes a lead off of a base and the ball is controlled within the batter's circle, the catcher can throw to the base the runner is leading off of as a force out. No runner may advance on the catcher throw.
8. Infielders may not be positioned closer than the pitcher's mound as the pitch is thrown. Infielders will be able to charge after the pitch is thrown when the batter is bunting.

Special Note:

If during the second half of the season, there is an agreement between coaches that coaches should continue to pitch during the 1st, 3rd, and 5th innings due to lack of skills, this may take place. However, both coaches must agree on this change. If both coaches are unable to agree, the above rules remain in effect.

**Additional Rules for the Junior Division ONLY**

1. Face masks will be worn by all girls playing first base, third base and pitching.
2. There will be a 4 run "cap" rule per inning.
3. A runner can steal after the pitcher releases the ball. Teams are allowed 2 steals to 2nd base per inning. A runner can advance anytime on a pass ball and does not count as a steal.