

# **Softball Rules**

League rules are based on the [USA Softball Participant Manual](#) with the following modifications:

## **6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Rules**

1. A game is scheduled for 5 innings or drop dead at 1 hour 15 minutes. If weather conditions begin to be unfavorable during the course of the game, 3 innings will constitute a complete game.
2. A team will have 9 players on the field.
3. A team must begin each game with at least 6 players.
4. A pitcher may begin delivery with one foot in contact with pitching rubber and may step back. Please practice pitching and be proficient before the 1<sup>st</sup> game.
5. A maximum of 5 runs per inning. Continuation of runners will be in effect, so a maximum of 8 runs may occur.
6. A thrown bat will result in a warning. A 2<sup>nd</sup> thrown bat will be an automatic out. This is for the safety of everyone.
7. Bunting is allowed.
8. Runners may not lead off. They may steal after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. Runners can advance as far as possible on an overthrow. Play is considered dead when the pitcher has the ball near the pitcher's rubber, or the ball goes out of play.
9. Please teach your players to slide where necessary (close plays at bases) to avoid collisions and injuries. Umpires will have discretion to call a runner out if a collision could have been avoided by a slide. Likewise, please teach your players covering the bag to not interfere with a runner's advancement to the next base. Umpires will also have the discretion to allow an extra base if they determine a fielder obstructs with a runner's advancement.
10. A batter may not run to 1<sup>st</sup> on a dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike.
11. No coaches on the field of play, except in between innings. You may have base coaches on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base sidelines.
12. Look-back rule: A walked batter may continue to run to 2<sup>nd</sup> if the pitcher is in the circle but not on the rubber and has the ball. However, if they hesitate or make a move back to 1<sup>st</sup> after continuing to 2<sup>nd</sup>, they are out. However, if the pitcher makes a move to try to throw out the runner, the runner has the right to return to the base without being called out.
13. No abusive language or behavior will be tolerated from coaches, teams, fans or umpires. Everyone please treat each other with respect. If questions arise, discuss the matter with the umpire before or after the game.
14. Rain Outs: Please check the City of Iona Facebook page or your email for rain outs. Coaches will then be responsible to contact all team members. Be prepared to play make-up games on Friday of the same week as the rainout. If your team has two rainouts in one week, you will only remake the first rained out game. Make-up games will not be rescheduled if you are unable to attend.

Rules may change at Director's discretion. Please be compliant.