

**HORSEHEADS GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**8 & UNDER DIVISIONS RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Revised April 2010 - REG

ALL RULES IN THE ASA RULEBOOK (FAST PITCH) WILL BE FOLLOWED WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS, EXCEPTIONS OR CLARIFICATIONS:

**8 & Under Specific Policies and Rules**

1. The official diamond will have 50 feet Baselines with a 10-Foot pie chalked in front of home plate. A 35-foot Pitching distance will be used.
2. The players will bat off the tee for the first three (3) innings.
  - A. Rules which apply when using the tee:
    - 1) A ball batted from the tee by the bat making clean contact with the ball and partially with the tee is a legally batted ball.
    - 2) The ball must be hit past the 10' pie chalked in front of the plate. If ball does not pass out of area, it is foul.
    - 3) A strike is called when: the batter swings at and misses the ball, the batter strikes the tee without making contact with the ball, and for each foul ball not legally caught on the fly when the batter has less than two (2) strikes.
    - 4) Umpire should adjust batting tee to the size of the girl.
    - 5) Base runners must stay in contact with the base until the batter hits the ball.
    - 6) No defensive infielder can play closer to the batter than the halfway mark on the baselines.
3. The last three (3) innings the coaches will pitch to their team.
  - A. Rules which apply when the Coach Pitches to their team:
    - 1) Seven pitches are allowed per batter. The batter is out if she does not hit the ball within those 7 pitches.
    - 2) Ball and strikes are not called. Foul balls are allowed and if the last pitch is fouled off, it doesn't count.
    - 3) The coach who is pitching may not interfere with play. If a hit ball hits the coach who is pitching, the ball is dead, a no pitch is declared, and runners do not advance.
    - 4) The coach will pitch from approximately 23 feet. The exact location is not critical.
    - 5) If batter is hit with a pitched ball she does not advance to 1st base and it is counted as pitch.
    - 6) Bunting is PROHIBITED. However, if the batter takes a full swing during coach pitch, the ball doesn't need to leave the 10-Foot Pie Chalk Area and is live if hit in field of play.
    - 7) The coach must make every attempt to leave the playing field after the ball has been hit. If this isn't being done, coaches should confer and correct the situation.
4. The pitcher shall take a position with both feet firmly on the ground within the circle, so that she has a view of the batter. The pitcher must be in this position when the batter strikes at the ball.  
Effect: No pitch is called if the pitcher is not in position.
5. Base Runners are NOT allowed to steal bases or to steal home plate.

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6. The acting umpire will issue a warning after first offense of throwing the bat. Each time that player subsequently throws the bat she is out.
7. Dropped third strike rule is NOT in effect.
8. Infield fly rule is NOT in effect.
9. An 11inch standard-core (375 Compression) ball will be used. The home team must provide one new ball to start game.
10. Bunting is PROHIBITED.
11. A ball hit on the ground into the playing field shall be in play until it has returned to the "pitchers fielding area", herein defined as an 8' radius circle around the pitching rubber. The umpire shall then declare it a dead ball. The returned ball does not have to be caught or in possession of the pitcher. The ball only has to cross the plane of the pitcher's circle to be declared dead. A base runner halfway or more to a base when the ball is declared dead is entitled to the base she was advancing to.
12. Only two (2) offensive coaches on the field at one time and they must stay within the coaching boxes at 1st and 3rd bases. One coach (or two coaches if both teams agree prior to the game starting) will be allowed out on the field while on defense to help position players. Coach interference negates any defensive out during that play.
13. Base coaches are not to aid the runners in any way by physically touching the runners. Girl will be required to return to last base. This will be an acting umpire's judgment call.
14. All Outfielders must start with their feet in the outfield grass until the batter swings.
15. Runners are allowed to advance only one base on an overthrow. Thus the play is called dead and players are allowed the next base.
16. Each girl must play four (4) innings per game. All subs must be in the game by the 2nd inning and should not sit two (2) innings consecutively. Each player must play in the infield a minimum of two (2) innings per game. **NOTE: catcher is not classified as an infield position in this situation.**
17. A regulation game consists of 6 innings.
18. For the first Five (5) Innings, if the Offensive team is limited to Five (5) Runs Scored before Three (3) outs are made. Five outs or Three defensive outs completes an inning. There is no "continuation rule", however for safety reasons, acting umpire(s) should allow a play to end before declaring the five runs have scored to end an inning. The 6<sup>th</sup> Inning is unlimited and three putouts must be recorded to end the inning.
19. Required number of starting players is 10 maximum and 8 minimums. With 10 fielders four outfielders must be utilized. If both teams have eleven (11) players the coaches may agree to allow all eleven (11) to play defense; but five (5) outfielders must be used in this situation.

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20. Girls wearing glasses should provide their own safety straps.
21. Each team is to provide one umpire. Umpires will alternate between bases and the plate per agreement between managers before the start of the game. These umpires are the only ones to make a call and their decisions are Final.
  - A. The Home plate Umpire is responsible for calls at 3<sup>rd</sup> Base, Home and Ball through the Pitchers Circle.
  - B. The Outfield Umpire is responsible for calls at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Base.
22. Home team bats last. Home team is determined on schedule, i.e., Team #1 vs #2 (#1 is home team).
23. A Batting helmet with throat protector may be worn by catcher
24. In case of an injury on the field, play will be called dead. This is left to the discretion of the acting umpires and coaches. An infield hit will be a ground rule single; an outfield hit a ground rule double.
25. Coaches are allowed one defensive change during an inning except in the case of an injury.
26. In the event of a lopsided contest where the visiting team is leading another by 15 or more runs after 5 innings. The losing team will bat, then become the visiting team for the 6th inning (thus bat consecutively). The original visiting team will become home team.
27. **The Division Coordinator must make all call-ups, except in extreme circumstances.**  
Volunteer substitutes must be of a 6-year-old league playing age to play up in this division.
28. A game will be called if one team is ahead by 15 runs at the end of five innings (4 1/2 if home team ahead).
29. The Winning Manager MUST e-mail or phone-in Final Score to the Division Commissioner ([commissioner8U@hgsainc.org](mailto:commissioner8U@hgsainc.org)) within 24 hours of a completed game.