

Eastlake Girls Softball - 2011 Rules for Majors and Ponytail Divisions

Any/All situations not covered in these rules will be governed by the official USSSA rules of softball.

1. All games will be played on the date and time indicated on the official schedule. There will be a 10 minute grace period for the 6:00pm starting games. These 10 minutes do and will count as part of the 70 minute game time.
 - a. Majors will play on Mondays and Wednesdays
 - b. Ponytails will play on Tuesdays and Thursdays
 - c. First game for both divisions has a start time of 6:00 pm
 - d. Second game for both divisions has a start time of 7:15 pm
2. Ponytails must field a minimum of 9 players and maximum of 11 players (5 outfielders or 4 outfielders and a Rover). Majors must field a minimum of 9 players and maximum of 11 players (4 outfielders and a Rover). When a Rover is used, they **MUST** be in the grass outfield and **NOT** in the dirt infield.
3. There will be a maximum of 14 players per team.
4. If a team cannot field the minimum number of players the umpire will declare a forfeit.
5. Call-ups of 12 year-old girls from the division directly below the Majors are permitted. Girls can only be called to avoid a forfeit and those called up **MUST** play in the outfield.
6. Each city is responsible for scheduling and paying umpires for games to be played on their field(s).
7. Rainouts will be decided by each city. Coaches are to call the city where they are scheduled to play to check game status.
8. There will be one week set aside mid-season and one week at the end of the season for the scheduling of make-up games as needed. If there is not a need for make-up games, the entire season schedule may move up one week.
9. The league board members and division directors will schedule make-up games.
10. Games in progress will be called due to weather conditions or darkness at the discretion of the umpire. Incomplete games are to be handled as any other cancelled games being replayed during the weeks set aside at mid-season and end of season. Games will be replayed in their entirety.
11. Official complete games consist of:
 - a. 5 complete innings (4 and ½ if the home team is winning) A complete ½ inning in the Majors is defined as 3 standard outs. A complete ½ inning in the Ponytails is defined as 3 standard outs OR upon the 12th run to cross the plate - whichever occurs first.
 - b. No inning may start after 1 hour and 10 minutes has passed. Time limit supersedes the inning rule.
 - c. If after the end of 5 complete innings one team has a lead of 12 runs or greater the game will be considered complete.
 - d. In regular season, if the time limit has been reached and the game is tied, the game will be considered complete and each team will receive ½ a point for victory.

12. Player Uniform Guidelines:

- a. Players are required to wear their league provided shirt with team name and number. Shirts are NOT to be altered in any way (NO cutting, tearing, tie-ups, etc.)
- b. Shorts/pants must be athletic in style and designed for playing sports (NO cutoffs, pajama bottoms, exposed metal [such as zippers/buttons, etc.], loops, ties, etc.). All shorts/pants will be of solid color in nature and be representative of the team's colors (no clashing or obnoxious color combinations). All shorts must be worn at the appropriate length (nothing shorter than midway between knee and inseam; NO volleyball shorts permitted). All shorts/pants will be decoration free (NO writing/advertising/logos/etc. on front or back sides. Small athletic manufacturer writing or logos may be permitted on front or side of shorts/pants).
- c. Socks should be worn and can NOT be distracting (multi-colored, dotted, etc.). Sock height should NOT be higher than below the knees. Ankle socks are permitted.
- d. Rubber-soled athletic shoes or rubber cleats are to be worn. Footwear that exposes the foot/sock is not permitted. Metal spikes are not permitted.
- e. Hats/Visors may be worn. Hats/Visors will be or solid color in nature and be representative of the team's color (NO clashing or obnoxious color combinations). Hats/Visors shall be decoration free (NO writing/advertising/logos/etc. Small athletic manufacturer writing or logos may be permitted).
- f. All player uniforms are subject to visual inspection by league board members, division directors, and league coaches. If a player's uniform is found to be questionable, it should be reported to a league board member for resolution. If the league board member determines that the uniform does NOT conform to the essence of these guidelines, the league board member can direct the team coach to bench the player for the remainder of the game or until the non-conformity has been resolved.

13. Coach's Uniform:

- a. All team coaches are required to wear the league provided coach's shirt to allow the umpire to visually identify authorized team coaches.

14. Any player on deck, at bat, on base paths, or in the coach's box must wear a helmet. Chinstraps on helmets will be based on specific city specifications.

Eastlake Girls Softball REQUIRES chinstraps.

15. All players in the field must be wearing a mitt.

16. Catchers must be wearing a face mask and chest protector.

17. Bats:

- a. Bats can be either slow pitch or fast pitch as long as they are ASA/USSSA stamped.
- b. NO solid wood bats regardless of approval stamp. NO composite bats regardless of approval stamp.
- c. Any bat that is questionable in nature, composition, or design, can be visually inspected by the opposing team's coaches, the umpire in charge of the game, or a member of the Board of Directors. All questionable bats may be removed from game play by the umpire or a Board Member until all questions are resolved.

18. Unless a player is being benched for disciplinary reasons or injury, all players in attendance and in uniform must bat the entire game and play in the field for at least half the game. (3 of 6 innings, 2 of 4 innings). Everyone participates in the batting order and players must be rotated from bench to field.
19. Opposing manager is to be notified prior to the start of a game of all players benched for disciplinary or injury reasons.
20. If a player is injured during the game, the opposing manager and umpire must be notified immediately. The injured player's batting turn is skipped without any penalty or out assessed to the team.
21. If a player is injured while running the base paths, a courtesy runner is permitted. This runner must be the last batted out player.
22. Players injured and removed from a game are free to return to the game in their previous line-up position when able. The opposing manager and umpire are to be notified prior to allowing the return of the player into the game.
23. For safety, no player will be permitted to play while wearing a cast or hard brace. "Ace" bandages or neoprene braces are permitted. For safety, NO player will be permitted to play while wearing jewelry, especially in any body piercing.
24. Managers must exchange line-ups prior the start of a game and must inform each other of changes to the line-up during the game.
25. Home team is the official scorekeeper. To avoid disputes, the visiting scorekeeper, should verify and agree on the score after each inning.
26. Home team has the choice of benches and home team for the last game on a field for the day is responsible for putting the bases away. Only players, coaches, and scorekeepers are permitted in the bench area.
27. Pitching distances are:
 - a. Ponytails - 45 feet
 - b. Majors - 50 feet
28. Base paths are:
 - a. Ponytails - 60 feet
 - b. Majors - 65 feet
29. Sliding is permitted in both divisions. For safety reasons, in the event of a close play, the runner must slide or give up the play to the fielder and take the out.
30. For both divisions the infield fly rule is in effect.
31. Unlimited foul balls are permitted.
32. Ground rules are determined prior to the start of the game by the umpire.
33. Base on Balls/Walks
 - a. If a pitcher has thrown four non-strike balls.
 - b. A manager may declare a walk and waive a player to first base. This is limited to one declared walk per player per game.
34. A Double Base will be used in both divisions as first base. Whenever a play is being executed on the batter/runner, the defense must use the white base and batter/runner must use the orange base. If there is no play, the batter/runner may use either part of the base.

Disciplinary Action:

In order to provide an environment that is safe and enjoyable to all Eastlake Girls Softball, the league will not tolerate inappropriate behavior from its players, coaches or fans. Players, coaches and fans can and will be asked to leave the premises if deemed necessary by the umpire or a member of the Board of Directors.

Players may be suspended for up to 2 games for inappropriate and/or offensive behavior. The suspension must be enforced in the games immediately following the players notification by the Board of Directors that she has been suspended. The player must be in uniform and on the team bench in order for the suspension to count.