

DEBUTANTE SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

The following rules have been adopted by the executive Board of the Ramsey Baseball Association. All rules of the various national baseball and softball organizations with which the RBA is associated will be official except where superseded by Ramsey Local Rules as published. Local rules for in-town play only.

GENERAL PROCEDURE GOVERNING CHANGES IN LOCAL RULES:

Changes in rules will normally originate within the individual leagues. The League President and managers meet and recommend changes to the rules. These recommendations are passed on to the Rules Committee in writing prior to February 1st in order to be acted on for the current season. The League President meets with the Rules Committee for the discussion of the recommendations. The Rules Committee shall present its opinion and the original recommendations to the Executive Committee for finalization.

The Rules Committee must submit any recommendations they initiate to the individual league before forwarding to the Executive Committee.

The various leagues should meet at the end of the season to discuss rules and recommend changes if needed.

This document is intended as an aid to the coaches and players participating in the RBSA Softball Program. The normal playing rules by which all games are played are in the current Official Softball Playing Rules. The exceptions used in the Senior League are intended to improve the play in the league to allow greater participation and development of the individual players.

THE PLAYING FIELD

1. Both managers shall approve the condition of the field before the start of the game
2. **The official diamond shall have 55ft. baselines with pitching distance of 36ft from the back of the plate.**
3. Two first bases will be used. The inside one is for the first baseman to tag and the outside one is for the base runner to touch
4. No new inning will begin after 8:10
5. Stop playing at 8:20 (revert back to inning before if not finished)

EQUIPMENT

1. SHOES: Sneakers, multi-purpose sport shoes, or molded rubber cleats are the only type of shoes to be worn in practice and at games

DEBUTANTE SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

2. UNIFORMS: Each player is provided with a full uniform (hat, shirt & pants) which must be worn at each game. Safety regulations require that shirts be tucked in.
3. Long hair shall be kept away from the face and should be tied back in some fashion.
4. Any player functioning as a catcher must wear a mask, chest protector and shin guards.
5. Batters must wear batting helmets.
6. All base runners must wear helmets.
7. No player is allowed to wear jewelry of any kind.

PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTES

1. A team shall consist of ten (10) players on the field. The tenth, a rover, shall play no closer than 3ft behind second base.
2. Substitutions: A player may re-enter a game as fielder.
3. Each player on a team shall take a position in the field for at least 3 innings. (Does not apply to rain or dark shortened games)
4. No player should be borrowed from other teams.
5. A minimum of seven (7) players per team are required to make the game official.
6. Shortstop and second baseman must play outside the baseline.
7. No player shall play more than three (3) innings at one (1) position.

THE GAME

1. Regulation game shall consist of six (6) innings with no regular season inning starting after two hours from beginning of game. (Playoff games will not have a time limit)
2. Official game is 3 ½ innings if home team is leading (Losing team has to bat 4 times).
3. Lopsided score: If one team has scored thirteen (13) more runs than its opponent after the losing team has batted (4) times, the game is official over. This is the official score. The game may be continued for practice purpose providing that the game is stopped a half-an-hour prior to the start of the next game.
4. A half inning is over upon 3 outs or when a team bats around based on the highest number of girls that each team has, regardless of the number of outs, except for the last inning or any extra innings (in these innings you continued until there is a winner).
5. If a regular season game is tied at the end of the six innings, the game will end in a tie. Playoffs game will be continued until there is a winner.

PITCHERS

1. Players will pitch the entire game.

DEBUTANTE SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

2. **No pitcher can pitch more than three (3) innings per game.**
3. One pitch constitutes an inning.
4. A pitcher is allowed to re-enter once during the game in the same game, as long as it is not in the same inning.
5. If a pitcher hits three batsmen in the same inning the pitcher must be removed for the remainder of that inning. If a pitcher hits four batsmen in the same game the pitcher must be removed for the rest of the game.
6. Balls that hit the ground first are not considered as having hit the batter.
7. A pitcher is allowed up to ten (10) warm up pitches between innings.
8. Pitcher must start with one foot on the rubber and must release the ball before that foot leaves the rubber and same foot must then also maintain contact with the ground.
9. For the purpose of the above pitching rules extra innings will be counted as a new game. (e.g., a pitcher removed for hitting four batsmen would be eligible to pitch in extra innings.)

BATTING:

1. All players in attendance shall be put into batting order and shall bat per their order throughout the game whether or not they are in the field at their time of bat.
2. When all batters on a team hit (based on the highest number of batters per each team) the half inning is over. If one team has more batters than the other team both teams will bat the number of the team with more players.
3. If 3 outs are made in an inning (prior to batting around), the batting order for the next inning will begin with the player who was scheduled to bat when the last out was made (if hitter number 5 makes last out, number 6 leads off the next inning).

BASE RUNNING:

1. No stealing, bunting, leading, or infield fly rule.
2. Base runners less than half way to the next base must return to the previous base once a fielder has control of the ball in the pitching circle (16-20 feet in diameter).
3. One base will be awarded to the base runner when a ball goes out of play.

UMPIRING:

1. It is up to the home team to provide one adult umpire. Umpire must be positioned behind home plate when calling balls and strikes. Base Coaches will umpire the bases.

DEBUTANTE SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

SCOREBOOKS:

1. Each team shall keep score. The home team will keep the official score and shall call the League President with the results of the game.

RAINOUTS:

1. Rainouts will be determined by the coaches. Rainouts will be rescheduled by the League President.