

## 2009 Lake Norman Sports Softball Association 12u Rules

### PURPOSE:

- A. To sponsor and develop a complete athletic program for the many rather than the few, with major emphasis on teaching sportsmanship, competition, and teamwork.
- B. To develop physically fit children who will grow to be good, clean, healthy adults.
- C. To develop individual competencies for our youth through the practice of individual skills to develop a child's ability to understand how to work as part of a team.
- D. To teach the fundamentals and the rules of the game.

Age Requirements: See attached Babe Ruth Softball Age Chart

1. There will be a maximum of 15 girls per team

### 2. Equipment:

- A. Tennis shoes or rubber molded cleats. No metal spikes allowed.
- B. A protective helmet with face mask must be worn by all batters at the plate, base runners, players on deck and player coaches.
- C. Catchers must wear complete protective equipment including helmet, mask, throat protector, chest protector and shin guards.
- D. A 12" softball with a ball COR of .470 or under and a ball compression of 375 lbs. or under will be used.

3. Playing Rules: The Stumpy Creek Softball Association will adopt the Babe Ruth Softball playing rules with modifications as described below.

- A. Any of the starting players or substitutes may withdraw and re-enter as many times as desired provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever she is in the lineup.
- B. Minimum of 8 players must be used to start and finish a game.
- C. Scheduled game time is forfeit time.
- D. All players present at a game must be included in the batting order. Players arriving late for a game must be added to the bottom of the batting order.
- E. No penalty for playing short handed.
- F. The home team is the official scorebook.
- G. The coach of the participating team must present the official scorekeeper with a complete line-up card 10 minutes before start of game.

- H. All players present must play at least 2 innings in the field and must bat at least once during a game.
- I. A regulation game consists of 6 innings (turns at bat) or 1 hour 15 minutes. A new inning will not be started after 1 hour 10 minutes of a game is completed.
- J. It is a regulation game if terminated by the umpire or league supervisor on account of darkness, rain, or other causes which prevent further play, provided 4 innings have been played or the home team is leading after the visiting team has completed 4 at bats.
- K. 10 run limit per inning
- L. If either team is ahead by ten runs at any time after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning or 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead, the game will be stopped and considered a completed game.
- M. Base stealing: The ball must leave the pitchers hand before the player is allowed to steal. Any player who leaves early will be called out.
- N. A batter shall be called out when: a third strike (in flight) is not caught, provided a runner occupies first base at the time of the pitch and there are less than 2 outs. Note: If there are 2 outs or if no runner occupies first base, the batter is not out unless the third strike is caught. The batter is entitled to try to reach first base before being tagged out or thrown out.
- O. Contact Rule- If a runner attempting to reach home plate intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of home plate, she will be called out on the play. The objective of this rule is to penalize the offensive team for deliberate, unwarranted, unsportsmanlike action by the runner for the obvious purpose of crashing the defensive player, rather than trying to reach home plate. Obviously, this is an umpire's judgement call.
- P. A defensive player is not allowed to block home plate if she does not have the ball in her possession. Once she has the ball she may move into position to make the tag or play at home plate.
- Q. Speed-Up rules: Courtesy runner for the catcher or pitcher any time they are on base. (Mandatory for the catcher with 2 outs). Runner must be the player who made the last official out.

Note: If at anytime an unforeseen problem develops, any rule may be modified, changed or added to better the Stumpy Creek Softball Association.