**Randolph Girls Softball**

**Clinic League Rules**

**2018**

**Field Size:**

Use the drop-down bases at each field.

Bases should be at least 10 feet shorter than the permanent bases at each field. Since the permanent bases have a hole, leave those bases in for safety reasons (it’s easier to avoid stepping on an extra base than it is to avoid a hole).

**Games:**

Go through the entire batting order for each half inning.

If a player is out at a base, they should be instructed to hustle off the field.

Trying to keep them on the field (so as not to hurt feelings) is counter-productive since it is confusing. We’re trying to teach the game, too. But 3 outs does not end a half-inning.

Go through the entire batting order.

**Please change the lineup every inning so different girls get a chance to hit first or last. Play as many innings as time/interest allows, but you must be off the field 1 hour and 45 minutes after your scheduled start time.**

**Baserunning:**

Go one base at a time, just like tee ball.

No need to run out a double or triple.

The last batter legs out a homerun.

Defense can make the play at first but does not need to try to get the batter out at the other bases.

Instruct players not to throw the bat. Bat should be dropped before the player runs to 1st base.

**No advance on overthrows – one base at a time.**

**Pitching:**

A coach of the offensive team pitches to his/her players. Get fairly close to home plate and, if possible, throw from a knee. A 5’11” coach throwing to a 3’0” first grader is challenging, kind of like high arc softball.

Teams may designate up to two coaches per game to be their pitchers for that game; for the sake of keeping games moving, please don’t allow each parent to pitch to his or her own kid!

No strikeouts, but at bats cannot last forever.

After 6 swings, grab the tee and have the player hit off the tee (this is MANDATORY). Leaving a 1st or 2nd grader up at bat for 10, 11, or 12 missed swings is the real torture. Keep the tees handy and use them. This is imperative to keep the games moving and the kids awake. Multiple balls may be used to speed up the game.

**OPTIONAL: Have all batters hit off the tee in the first inning, then coach pitch in subsequent innings with the tee on “stand by.”**

**Fielders:**

Do not line up 13 players on the field. Very few players can hit the ball hard enough to reach the outfield, so you’ll have a lot of kids standing around.

Please don’t have the infielders start closer than the pitcher’s distance (approximately 35’) from the batter. Infielders can move in to field a ball, but we don’t want fielders standing right in front of the batter.

Have a coach or parent take a few players in the outfield and roll them grounders and work on throwing/catching skills.

Keep one player on the pitching mound (they really need to pay attention) and fill up the infield positions. Catcher is optional. If you have players that want to suit up, that’s great. Just don’t make your catcher the last batter (it takes a while to get all of the hardware on).

If a player is not catching, a coach needs to, not a 12 year old brother or sister. Even if a player does suit up to catch, a coach needs to get behind the catcher to field errant balls and return them to the pitcher.

Be sure to rotate the positions so you don’t have girls in the outfield every inning.

**Keeping Score.**

Don’t bother. We’re letting the kids bat around whether 2 outs are made or 5, so keeping score isn’t necessary.

**Develop your Players.**

These are young girls. No one will be impressed if you have 3 kids who can catch and throw and no one else gets involved.

Change positions every inning.

Give everyone a chance to play in the infield every game.

**Safety:**

One coach is pitching, another coach is catching or backing up the catcher.

A bench coach is imperative to keep the kids on the bench (in batting order); to keep them from swinging bats; to keep them from climbing up the backstop, etc. For the record, bench coaches do not need to have any experience in anything relating to sports. If they are a parent, they qualify.

***On-deck batters should swing a bat only when a coach is with them in an area not occupied by other players or siblings.***

Uniform:

Players must have their team shirts on during the games.

Proper footwear is required, cleats are optional.

Not recommended to have players in shorts. Ask them to wear leggings or sweatpants.

No hanging jewelry is allowed.